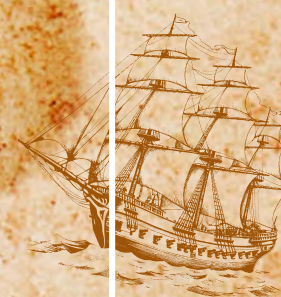


Sonus Voices Presents

WE ARE

A Musical Exploration



SONUS VOICES



OFFICE of the MAYOR
CITY of BURLINGTON

Message from Mayor Meed Ward

On behalf of the City of Burlington, I extend my warmest congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this extraordinary ensemble **Sonus Voices** to life. As Mayor, I would like to officially welcome this brand new low-voice ensemble to the Hamilton-Niagara Region. I am thrilled you have chosen Burlington for your inaugural performance *We Are*.

Tonight, Sonus Voices is embarking on a beautiful journey that I am confident will resonate with our community for years to come. I want to especially commend Sonu's commitment to supporting Canadian artists, with more than fifty percent of tonight's music composed by talented Canadian composers. Sonus Voices is not just about creating beautiful music but also about building community through song. This choir strives to promote learning, engagement, collaboration and meaning for both its members and audience.

To the members of Sonus Voices, I am confident that you will continue to enrich and inspire our community with every note you sing. And to all who have supported this new venture—thank you for believing in the power of music and its ability to bring people together. I wish you all a wonderful evening, filled with beautiful music and the joy of being together.

Here's to many more concerts to come!

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
City of Burlington





The Office of
MAYOR ANDREA HORWATH
CITY OF HAMILTON

April 12, 2025

On behalf of the City of Hamilton, I'm delighted to welcome you to the inaugural concert of Sonus Voices, a new and inspiring low-voice choir based in Hamilton and Burlington.

Formerly known as the Canadian Men's Chorus, Sonus Voices brings together a passionate group of vocalists dedicated to artistic excellence, inclusivity, and the powerful resonance of the lower vocal range. Through their debut performance, *We Are*, they are showcasing their remarkable talent, and reaffirming the importance of community, creativity, and the transformative power of music.

With a program that spans choral masterworks, Broadway favourites, folk songs, and proudly features Canadian composers, tonight's performance promises to be a celebration of both musical richness and cultural connection.

Hamilton is proud to be part of a region that values the arts as a vital part of who we are. Congratulations to everyone involved in Sonus Voices for bringing this exciting new chapter to life. I wish you all the very best for a memorable and successful first concert, and many more to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Mayor, City of Hamilton



Hamilton

71 Main Street West • Hamilton, Ontario • L8P 4Y5

Welcome Friends!

It is with great joy and gratitude that I welcome you to our very first performance. Tonight is more than just a concert—it is the realization of a vision, the spark of a new beginning, and a celebration of community through song.



Image by Matko Photography

Sonus Voices was born out of a shared passion for choral music and a desire to create a space where artistry, collaboration, and meaningful expression are at the heart of everything we do. Though we are a new ensemble, we carry with us the spirit of many voices—past and present—that have shaped our musical journeys.

Tonight's program brings together some of our finest repertoire—music that highlights the richness of tenor-bass choral music. Included are past commissioned works by some of Canada's most celebrated composers, pieces that have deeply resonated with both singers and audiences alike. We Are is not only a reflection of where we've come from, but a bold statement of who we are today, and the artistic path we are excited to forge ahead.

Thank you for being here with us at the very beginning. Your presence and support mean the

world to us. We invite you to listen with open hearts, to experience the joy and connection of live choral music, and to become part of the Sonus Voices story.

We hope you enjoy the show!

- Greg Rainville

Our Talent

Tenor 1

Matt Bean, Tyler Smith, Walter Mahabir

Tenor 2

Andrew Inman, Paul Hawkins, Shawn Oakes

Baritone

David Fletcher, Jordan Fang, Steven Barabash

Bass

Chris Bee, John Baxter, Lutzen Reidstra

Collaborative Accompanist

Gary Forbes

Conductor

Greg Rainville

Our Journey Begins

Be Thou My Vision
by Dan Forrest

When the Earth Stands Still
by Don Macdonald 🍁

Walking
by Mark Sirett 🍁 🎵

Drunken Sailor
by Alice Parker & Robert Shaw, arrs.

Loch Lomond
by Jonathan Quick, arr. 🍁
Jordan Fang, soloist

Chi Mi Na Morbheanna
by Stephen Smith, arr. 🍁
Andrew Inman, soloist
John Baxter, spoken verse

we are
by Craig Hella Johnson

~ Intermission ~

🍁 Canadian
🎵 Past Commissioned Works

And it Continues

The Awakening

by Joseph M. Martin

A Pickthall Triptych (Thoughts, Song, Stars)

by Matthew Emery 🍁

Sleep Now

by Matthew Emery 🍁

When you are Old

by Stephanie Martin 🍁 🎵

For Good

by Alex Rybeck, arr.

Steven Barabash, Matt Bean, soloists

Bring Him Home

by John Leavitt, arr.

Paul Hawkins, Chris Bee, David Fletcher, soloists

If Music Be the Food of Love

by David Dickau

Finlandia/This Is My Song

by Jean Sibelius

🍁 Canadian

🎵 Past Commissioned Works

About Sonus Voices



Image by Matko Photography

Sonus has a passion for good music, great friends, and fulfilling experiences.

We are a diverse community of low-voice musicians, welcoming singers of any gender, orientation, identity, or profession.

As a new ensemble we're looking to make our mark in the area's vibrant choral scene with the presentation of inspiring choral music at a high level, while creating unique collaborative opportunities for our performers, audiences, and community.

Sonus is the newest chapter of the previously named Canadian Men's Chorus, based in Toronto. The CMC was founded in 2010 with a mission to redefine tenor-bass choral music and secure its place within Canada's choral landscape. An amazing 12-year run culminated in a final performance at the Podium Choral Conference national festival in May 2022, presenting an all-Canadian program to a global audience.

Sonus will continue to build upon this mission with a renewed focus of bringing life to the best low-voice repertoire available. Our mandate places additional priority on Canadian works, and as major supporters of emerging composers Sonus will regularly commission and premiere new works. We've commissioned and premiered over 50 new Canadian works to date!

Ultimately our goal is to create an environment which enables each person to learn, be challenged, and be fulfilled by meaningful musical memories surrounded by collaborative and supportive partners in song!

Sing with Us!

Come sing with us in our 2025/2026 season. Information on auditions are available on our website.

Matko Photo

For the Bold,
Candid & Unapologetic

Capture the moment at:
matkophoto.com



About Greg



As a major advocate of the creation of new Canadian music, Greg is a dynamic conductor, vocal coach and music educator with an extensive traditional and contemporary repertoire. He has worked with concert choirs, church choirs, live theatre, and

vocal students in Canada and beyond. Greg is a sought-after guest conductor and is often called upon to lead master classes and workshops.

As Artistic Director of Sonus Voices (previously the Canadian Men's Chorus), Greg champions the creation of new Canadian choral music. Founded in 2010, the CMC commissioned and premiered over 50 new Canadian choral works. They performed at the Podium National Choral Conference, Stratford Summer Music Festival, CentreSpace for the Arts in London, Ontario, and the Muskoka Concert Association, and premiered new works with the Stratford Symphony Orchestra. With the Canadian Men's Chorus, Greg has been recorded as part of Aaron Jensen's album titled *From Sea to Sea*.

Greg is a past Assistant Conductor of the Orpheus Choir of Toronto (Robert Cooper), during which he made his Roy Thomson Hall (Toronto) debut.

As guest conductor for the Area All-State NYSSMA Conference in 2015, he had the privilege of directing the top 100 high-school voices in Western New York. In the summer of 2016, Greg conducted the Canadian Ambassador Choir during their Australia tour as part of the United Nations Choral Festival “Rhythms of One World”.

About Gary

Along with his duties as accompanist to Sonus, Gary Forbes is the Director of Music at St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church (Leaside), and serves as accompanist to the instrumental programs at Brock University (St. Catharines). Gary also runs a private piano studio based in Oakville, and is an active freelance collaborative pianist throughout Southern Ontario and the GTA.



Previously engaged as Accompanist to the Mississauga Children's Choir, Director of Music at Grantham United Church, and Director of Music for a variety of independent theatre companies throughout the Niagara Region, Gary has also worked closely with various choirs including the Niagara Men's Chorus, Chorus Niagara (Adult & Children's Choruses), Brock University Choruses, and Camerata Choralis.

Chi Mi Na Mòrbheanna

(The Mist Covered Mountains of Home)



The Gaelic words of this song were written in 1856 by Highlander John Cameron of Ballachulish, Scotland, set to an air adapted from the English tune "Johnny stays long at the Fair". The song was performed on the bagpipes during the funerals of King George VI in 1952, John F. Kennedy in 1963, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in 2002, Queen Elizabeth II in 2022, Former Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley in 2023 and Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 2024.

O, chì, chì mi na mòrbheanna;
O, chì, chì mi na còrrbheanna;
O, chì, chì mi na coireachan,
Chì mi na sgorran fo cheò.

O, I see, I see the big mountains;
O, I see, I see the steep mountains;
O, I see, I do see the corries,
I see the mist-covered peaks.

Chì mi gun dàil an t-àite 'san d' rugadh mi;
Cuirear orm fàilte 'sa chànan a thuigeas mi;
Gheibh mi ann aoidh agus gràdh nuair ruigeam,
Nach reicinn air thunnachan òir.

I see without delay the land of my birth;
I am welcomed in the language I cherish.
I will receive there hospitality, and love when I
reach it
That I'd trade not for tons of gold.

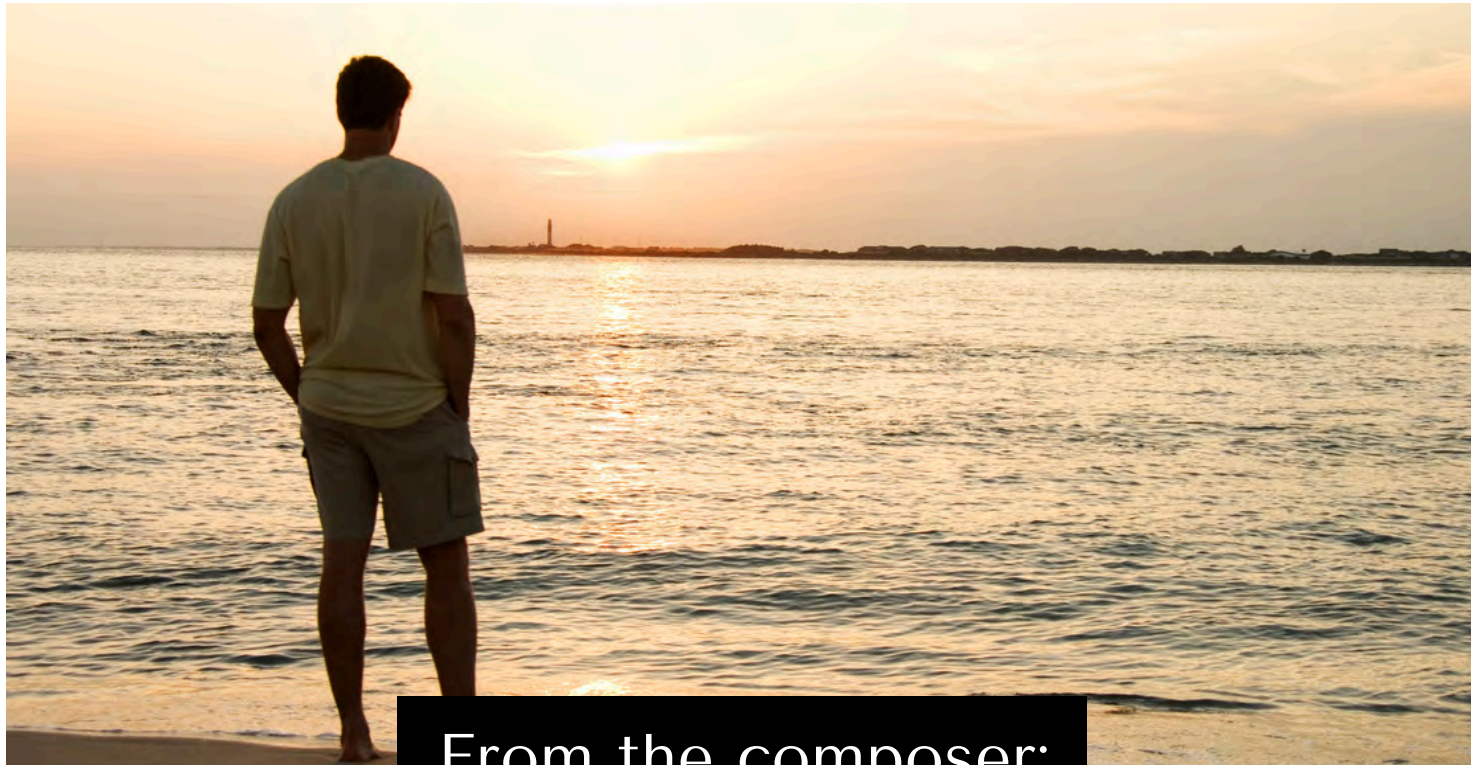
**Note: The poem spoken during this piece is
untitled, and the author is unknown. The text
of the poem is included below:**

Far from the ocean, far from my roots,
Far from the oilskins and long rubber boots.
Far from the boats and the clean salty air,
Far from the people I love and hold dear.
Pump up the oil and dig out the ore,
And there's bills in my wallet that weren't there
before.

But this really isn't where I want to be,
My heart is back there in my home by the sea.

Had I the choice I would leave here today,
Pack my belongings and be on my way.
Leave the tall skyscrapers far, far behind,
And put the big city right out of my mind.
I'd go where the bluebells still nod in the breeze,
Snack on bologna and Mrs. Lamb's cheese.
Buy a small cottage in some quiet bay
And take back my roots forever to stay.

We Are



From the composer:

“I set out to find the ideal text which could express a fresh and vibrant sense of the journey of being a man in the modern world, especially the adventures of being a young man in this beautiful and volatile world. In Michael Dennis Browne’s vigorous and lovely text, we are reminded, among many things, of the aliveness we experience when we make sounds together and of the unique privilege we have as musicians to sing our way into life’s answers.”

we are all sons of fathers and mothers
we are all sons

singing

we are all rivers
the roar of waters

what is the world to us
who can we be for the world

there is a star at morning and one at evening
they are no more the names we give them
than we are

everything singing beyond itself
beyond the names we love (O love) to give them

everything swelling beyond its powers
everything lifted up in the singing

we are sparks that scatter through the world
from original fire we come

we are the flow of sky and its unfolding
we are hundreds of hoofbeats on hard ground

sometimes no home for us here on the earth
no place to lay our heads

if you could know for one moment
how it is to live in our bodies
within the world

you ask too much of us
you ask too little

everything brimming in us
everything dark in its barrel

we
be
become
we
bless
we
dream
we are all sons
singing

.(We shall not look before and after.
We shall be, now.
We shall know in full.
We, the mystic NOW. *).

- Michael Dennis Browne

*underlined text, D. H. Lawrence, Manifesto

Sonus Voices grew from the Canadian Men's Chorus and generous support from:

Our Sponsors



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

THE LLOYD CARR-HARRIS FOUNDATION

Our Donors

We also acknowledge our past and present supporters, without whom we would not be singing for you today!

Director's Circle \$10,000+

Arlene Jillard
Greg Rainville and Urvashi Joshi

Leadership Circle \$1000+

Anonymous
Debra Chandler
Rose Cromie
Paul Hawkins and Roy Dahl
Carol Miller and Graham Knope
Adrian Mitchell and Bruce Yungblut,
In Memory Of Dr. Shamek Pietucha
MUFG Investor Services (Canada)
Linda and Tom Murphy
Diane and David Rainville
RBC, Leaside Branch
Dan Stapleton and Julian Kitchen

Chorus Supporters \$250+

Anonymous x II
James Allan
Gavin Brimer
Robert and Megan Cooper
Don Deathe and Randall Speller
Patrick Devine
Audrey and Ralph Dick
Ken Ferrell
Jim and Donna Simpson
Jonathan Smithson
Stephen Reich
David Ross
Dan Rutzen
Jay Wilson
Kenneth C. Veitch

For a full list of supporters please visit our website.

Make a Difference!

Did you love tonight's concert?
Please support our next season!

I want to be a supporter!



Sonus extends warmest thanks to each of the following people for their part in making this concert happen:

Paul Hawkins, Donor Relations
Tyler Smith, Reception Host
Andrew Inman, Community Relations
Chris Bee, Audio Engineer
Erika Matkovich, Matko Photo, Photography
Anthea Ariyajeyam, Blue Elephant Productions, Digital Marketing
Cathy Landolt, Blue Elephant Productions, Marketing Consultant
Front of House Volunteers
Catherine Wagg and Wellington Square United Church
Radius Restaurant, Community Partner

Let Us Know What You Think!

Sure! I've got 1 minute

Take a quick 1-minute survey about tonight's concert

Keep up with Us



SONUS VOICES

