



Simple Gifts

December 12, 2021

forever singing,
forever friends

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About the Winnipeg Youth Chorus (WYC)

Established in 1989, the WYC began as an avenue by which students from grades four through twelve shared their passion for singing and performing. Over the years, the original choir, under the direction of Ed and Andrea Hammond, produced seven full-length musicals, worked closely with Fred Penner, and supported the Children's Miracle Network on CBC as their resident choir. In 2011, after a six-year hiatus following Ed and Andrea's retirement in 2005, Garth and Lisa took over directorship of the choir to bring it back into action. They started with just 36 eager, unchanged voices.

Today, the WYC is composed of three auditioned choral ensembles, unique in their eclectic style, incorporating choral excellence, movement, and theatre. The **Junior Chorus** consists of children eight to fourteen years old and facilitates the development of young voices. These young singers amaze and impress all who hear them! Our largest ensemble, the **Senior Chorus**, includes singers ages twelve to twenty-two. These singers focus on more complicated repertoire and varied styles of music. Known beyond our borders, the Senior Chorus has performed in many exciting venues including corporate functions, community events, gala fundraisers, music videos and even on the stage at Lincoln Centre in New York City. This amazing group of young people continues to blossom and flourish. Singers in our small chamber group, **Enharmony**, are based on their ability to bring their individuality and voices together and blend into one sound. Their name, which is a reference to two notes in music which have different names but sound the same defines this ensemble perfectly. Enharmony singers are handpicked each year through a rigorous audition process and are typically made up of WYC's more seasoned singers. Enharmony has also performed in numerous venues from small coffee houses to large corporate functions, to private house parties. They have even been the featured guests across the pond in Murau, Austria.

The WYC is here to provide a positive experience for singers to develop their self concept and self esteem. Friendships, family, involvement, dedication, and hard work are always stressed within a structure that is always caring, but also demanding in terms of time, energy, drive and commitment.

Music Team

Garth and Lisa Rempel - Artistic Directors of WYC Inc., Music Directors of Senior Chorus & Enharmony



Garth and Lisa are a dynamic husband and wife director team. Between them, they bear a wealth of experience in music and the professional world. Garth is a musician, performer, arranger, and educator who enjoys making music vocally and instrumentally. He lives to share music with the students in his high school music program. Lisa is a lifelong vocal performer as a chorister and a soloist, and she has musical theatre as well as instrumental experience to round out her skills. Together, Garth and Lisa bring a unique energy and perspective to every project they work on. Passion and a drive for excellence are evident in every event they present. Their mission For the WYC is to provide a warm & intensive learning environment for the singers so they can excel in the performance of eclectic and excellent music by understanding what they are singing, why they are singing it, and what it makes them feel.



Jorrel Camuyong - Music Director - Junior Chorus



Music has always been a part of Jorrel's life. As a child, his grandparents always had music in the home; grandpa would play the drums, and grandma would sing. He started taking piano lessons at the age of 10 and continued to develop his voice singing in church and enjoying karaoke with the family. His passion for singing grew through his involvement in many choirs throughout his youth. After high school, Jorrel continued to foster his love of choral music, singing with the University of Winnipeg Downtown Vocal Jazz, SonoLux, and Ecco Singers.

A graduate of University of Winnipeg, Jorrel holds a Bachelor of Education with a focus in musical theatre. He worked on productions with Winnipeg Studio Theatre and Stage 16 and on multiple school

productions. He is involved with the Manitoba Choral Association, sitting on both the Provincial Honour Choir and ChoralFest committees, and is currently one of the artistic directors of Ecco Singers.

Melanie Spulnick - Choral Assistant - Junior Chorus

As a lifetime member of the original Winnipeg Youth Chorus, Melanie describes her role as Assistant Choral Director within the current WYC family like coming home. Throughout her younger years, she participated in musicals, TV productions and musical recordings with Fred Penner, Len Udow and Cindy Kane. She studied piano and voice. Melanie has a background in Early Childhood Education and is currently Executive Director of Razorback B.L.A.S.T.S.

Inc. School Age Program. She works to provide music and drama activities for all the children under her care. She is an active member of the Sisters of the Holy Rock where she is also one of the choreographers. Melanie also runs a music and drama group for youth at her church.



Katie Erickson - Accompanist



Katie is a Winnipeg-born and educated pianist. She graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Manitoba. Katie first fell in love with accompanying at the age of 7 when she was allowed to play Oh Canada for a school assembly. Since then, she has actively sought out all opportunities to play for others. Always up for a challenge, Katie has happily played for many varied groups of all ages and abilities - choirs, ballet schools, soloists, musicals, auditions, wedding, and church services. She has had the joy of playing for and seeing music impact everyone from 5 to 85!

Katie started with the WYC at its re-incarnation in 2011 and has been a member of the music team ever since. She loves spending her Wednesday nights seeing the singers grow and learn.

Katie lives with her husband Andrew (a guitar teacher) and daughter Olivia (an honorary WYC member and enthusiastic cheering squad).

Chelsea Hertzog - Rehearsal Assistant

Chelsea joined the choir in 2011 when the WYC first came back into the choral world and never left after she aged out. She has been singing since she was a young child and learned to play a few instruments during her school years. As a Rehearsal Assistant, Chelsea helps with the sections, chorister supervision, and sits on the WYC Executive where she provides support wherever needed. Through her involvement with the WYC, she was able to connect with a local artist to create school tours on anti-bullying. At each show, Chelsea would always speak about what a support the choir was to her and that it was a great place to gain confidence in herself.



Program

Junior Chorus

Hushabye, Nanita Nana

arr. Mary Donnelly &
George L.O. Ostrid

That's Christmas to Me

Kevin Olusola & Scott Hoying

Silent Night

arr. Mark Patterson
*feat: Isaac & Amelia Nichols,
Eden Jones, Anna Wiebe*

Can't Believe It's Christmas with 'Nuttin' for Christmas'

Phil Vishcer, Kurt Heinecke,
Roy Bennett & Sid Tepper
arr. Mark Hayes

Enharmony

Simple Gifts

Traditional Shaker Song
arr. Kirby Shaw

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Roger Emerson
feat: Niamh Leonard

Gesu Bambino

Music by Pietro A. Yon
arr. Bob Krogstad

Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

Words by Sammy Cahn
Music by Julie Styne
arr. Kirby Shaw
feat: Brandon Spulnick

Senior Chorus

Sing We Noel!

Bob Burroughs

Jingle Bells

Kay Thompson, Johnny Mandel,
J. Pierpont, adapted: Mac Huff

The Prayer

Carole Sager & David Foster
arr. Tom Fettke
*feat: Hudson Thiessen,
Livia Jones*

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
Arr. Albin C. Whitworth
*feat: Jayden Fraser,
Sadie Miniely*

As Long as There's Christmas

Music by Rachel Portman
arr. Mac Huff
feat: Renelle Thiessen, Niamh Leonard

Christmas à la Fa La La

Bob Burroughs

Combined Choirs

Ding-a Ding-a Ding

Greg Gilpin

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. Scott Hoying & Mitch Grassi
feat: Anah Rempel

Singers

Junior Chorus

Acorn, Kinley
Haider, Addison
Mathu, Mila
Penner-Murkin, Kolby
Rushworth, Julia
Wiebe, Anna

Basanta, Joanna
Jones, Eden
Nichol, Amelia
Profeta, Leah
Soloway, Aislinn
Zaluski, Brady

Bults, Cadence
Jones, Paige
Nichol, Isaac
Rowan, Hailey
Sullivan, Karsten

Senior Chorus

Bajus, Aaron
Blanco, Jocelyn
Dubik, Dariyan
Hartry, David
Jones, Livia
Loughren, Daniel
Pratt, Rebecca

Barrie, Kiana
Cannon, Sophia
Fraser, Jayden
Hildebrandt, Nina
Klassen, Emily
Miniely, Sadie
Profeta, Holly

Beinart, Kiernan
Conan, Paige
Guenther-Hoorman, Aria
Iwabuchi, Jessica
Leonard, Niamh
Miron, Emily
Rempel, Anah

Rowan, Chelsea
Spulnick, Grace
Thiessen, Hudson

Schmidt, Lexi
Surgeoner, Emily
Wall, Grace

Spulnick, Brandon
Thiessen, Renelle
Wright, Katie

Enharmony

Beinart, Kiernan
Leonard, Niamh
Rowan, Chelsea
Thiessen, Renelle

Dubik, Dariyan
Loughren, Daniel
Spulnick, Brandon
Wright, Katie

Klassen, Emily
Rempel, Anah
Spulnick, Grace

Scholarship Funds

The Rhonda McRorie Scholarship Fund

Rhonda (1954-2016) was heavily involved with music her whole life and loved working with young people everywhere. She was an amazing addition to the WYC music team and her joy for music and love for the children was evident in everything she did.

WYC Junior Choir Director - 2014-2016



The Helen and William Ramsay Scholarship Fund



Helen and William Ramsay were involved in music their entire lives. They never missed a Winnipeg Youth Chorus concert and loved being a part of the WYC community and their family.

It was because of their love of music and the support they provided to the Winnipeg Youth Chorus while they were alive, that this scholarship was created in their name.

The Winnipeg Youth Chorus is a not-for-profit Charitable Organization that gives back to the community with music as much as possible. We rely on the community to help support us in our endeavors and graciously accept all donations. Donations can be directed to either scholarship or the WYC general fund. Official charitable receipts will be issued for all donations over \$25.00. Envelopes for donations are available in the lobby.

Musicians

Katie Erickson - Accompanist

Garth Rempel - Guitar

Vaughan Poyser - Bass

David Rozgonyi - Drums

Special Thanks...

Malissa Rowan - Chief Administrative Officer

Lisa Rempel - Chief Executive Officer

WYC Board of Directors

WYC Executive

Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre (SOPAC)

Ben Ross - Theatre Manager SOPAC

All other volunteers that helped support this concert

Do you love to sing?

Are you energetic, positive, and committed?

Want to meet others who love music as much as you do?

Find out what we're all about at winnipegyouthchorus.com

Do you need beautiful singing at your next event?

Visit our website and use our booking form to start the booking process with any of the Winnipeg Youth Chorus ensembles

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