



Choral Gold!

with

**Elmer Iseler Singers
Lydia Adams – conductor
Shawn Grenke – piano**

**Saturday, October 17, 2026
7:30 p.m.**

Almonte Old Town Hall



Mississippi
Mills

PROGRAMME

Cum Sancto Spiritu (Mass in B minor, BWV 232) J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

Between the Alleys of the Stars Edward Enman (b. 1987) /
Lola Ridge (1873–1941)

Earth Song Frank Tichelli (b. 1958)

Long Road Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977) / Paulīna Bārda (1890–1983)
Soloists: Claire Renouf and Emily Taub

Nur a la Nur Hussein Janmohamed

Melodia Myroslav Skoryk (1938– 2020), arr. Mykola Hobdych
Soloist: Amy Dodington, soprano

Precious Lord Thomas A. Dorsey (1899–1993)

---Intermission---

For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter (b. 1945)

Paradise: A Song for Georgian Bay Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

The Celtic Heart (World Premiere) arr. Stuart Calvert

Sea Longing (as sung to Marjorie Kennedy-Fraser by Anne Monk, of the Isle
of Benbecula)

Ho ro mo nighean donn bhoidheach (Ho Ro, my Nut-Brown-Maiden) trad.

Thou Hast Ever Left Me, Jamie Robert Burns (1759–1976)

The Parting Glass trad.

An die Musik Franz Schubert (1797–1828),
arr. Derek Holman and Stephen Ralls

Here's to Song Allister MacGillivray (b. 1948), arr. Lydia Adams
Soloists: Emily Taub and Mitchell Pady

We Rise Again Leon Dubinsky (1941–2023), arr. Lydia Adams

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Elmer Iseler Singers

The Elmer Iseler Singers, led by Artistic Director Lydia Adams since 1998, mark their 48th concert season in 2026/27. This esteemed 20-voice professional ensemble, founded by Dr. Elmer Iseler in 1979, boasts a rich legacy of captivating audiences locally, nationally and globally with their exquisite choral performances. With a focus on Canadian composers, the JUNO Award-winning group has earned acclaim for their diverse repertoire and collaborations with renowned musical partners. Committed to nurturing talent, they actively support emerging singers, conductors, and composers through workshops and scholarships, embodying their dedication to artistic excellence and community engagement.

Lydia Adams, C.M.

Lydia Adams, the distinguished conductor and champion of Canadian choral music, celebrates her 28th year as Conductor and Artistic Director of the Elmer Iseler Singers and is Conductor Emerita of the Amadeus Choir, which she led for 35 years.

Honoured as an Ambassador of the Canadian Music Centre, and an innovative programmer, Ms. Adams has conducted the premières of hundreds of choral works and has recorded 18 acclaimed CDs with her choirs.

She has been awarded honorary degrees by Mount Allison University (2003) and by Cape Breton University (2018). Her work has been celebrated by the Toronto Arts Foundation, as recipient of the Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition in 2012, and by the Ontario Arts Council with the 2013 Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. In 2023, Lydia Adams was appointed to the Order of Canada.

Shawn Grenke

Conductor, pianist, and organist Shawn Grenke is Director of Music at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto, Collaborative Pianist with

the Elmer Iseler Singers, and Artistic Director and Conductor of the Peterborough Singers.

A native of Belleville, Ontario, he began his musical training as a chorister and pianist with the Hastings County Board of Education Concert Choir under the direction of the late Rudolf Heijdens. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Mount Allison University (New Brunswick) and a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto.

Shawn Grenke has performed in concerts across Canada, the United States, and Europe. Currently a Doctoral candidate (ABD) in Choral Conducting at the University of Alberta, he is completing his dissertation on a collaborative choral commission with composer Andrew Balfour. In support of this project, he was recently awarded a SSHRC Fellowship (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) through the federal government.

The Elmer Iseler Singers appear by arrangement with

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