



Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players
2019-2020 Season

A Message from Artistic Director Jane Perry

November 8, 2019

To our loyal long-time audience members and enthusiastic first-time ticket purchasers:

Welcome to Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players' 50th-Anniversary Season!

It was fifty years ago, in 1970, that Dr. Anthony Petti paid a visit to the offices of several of his colleagues at the University of Calgary with a single message: "Do you sing? Then come with me!" This impromptu chorus of professors, with Dr. Petti at the helm, presented what they thought would be a one-off demonstration of Renaissance music and culture for the university community. The thing was, they all had such a good time singing together that they kept on rehearsing. The group presented a Christmas concert under the auspices of the Faculty of Continuing Education in 1972, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fifty years on, CRSP has much of which to be proud. We are Calgary's original early-music ensemble. Among our accomplishments is the ground-breaking Canadian premiere of Monteverdi's hallowed *Vespers of 1610* (performed under Dr. Petti's direction in October 1977.) CRSP continues to prove its relevance today by introducing new audiences to Renaissance music, providing pre-concert lectures about Renaissance music and culture, and continuing to push itself to be a top-tier community arts group.

We open our 50th-Anniversary Season on **Sunday, December 8 at 7:30pm** at St. Stephen's Anglican Church with a concert entitled **Renaissance Treasures I: Gloria!** The performance will feature the music of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594), one of the most revered of all Renaissance composers. Audiences will hear a Palestrina setting of *Hodie Christus natus est*, his motet *Tu es Petrus*, and the CRSP choristers' particular favourite: *Sicut cervus*. Along with sacred music, the choir will perform secular madrigals such as *O Metaphysical Tobacco* and Thomas Weelkes' *Thule the Period of Cosmography*, the only Renaissance madrigal that mentions a place name in the lands that became known as Canada. The concert will also include a section entitled *Vox Femina*, a celebration of some of early music's outstanding female composers. Joining us onstage will be long-time CRSP instrumentalists John van Leeuwen (recorder) and Joan Kent (Baroque cello). Enhanced by the gorgeous sanctuary acoustic at St. Stephen's, this will be an unforgettable concert. Please join us!

Renaissance Treasures I: Gloria!

Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 7:30pm

Pre-concert talk at 7:00pm

St. Stephen's Anglican Church (1121 14 Avenue SW)

Early-bird ticket prices (online only, until November 24th):

\$20 regular, \$15 senior/student

www.renaissance-singers.com

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Our jubilee season continues in March 2020 with our annual “CRSP Presents” concert. This season, our featured guest is once again the prodigiously creative and utterly enthralling String Theory Music Collective, an ensemble of professional early-music instrumentalists from Calgary and surrounding area. String Theory’s collaborator in this performance will be the visual artist Jennifer Wanner, whose animated botanical drawings will be projected on a screen behind String Theory as the ensemble interprets various movements from “Florilegium” by the French Baroque composer Georg Muffat.

CRSP Presents: Florilegia Re-Animated

Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 7:30pm

featuring **String Theory Music Collective** and visual artist **Jennifer Wanner**

Pre-concert talk at 7:00pm

St. Stephen’s Anglican Church (1121 14 Avenue SW)

Early-bird ticket prices (beginning on December 1st): \$25 regular, \$20 senior/student

We close our 50th-Anniversary Season with a very special performance in May 2020 at the Rozsa Centre at the University of Calgary, the campus where CRSP made its debut. In this performance, the choir will give the world premiere of a CRSP commission from Canadian composer and former CRSP conductor Peter-Anthony Togni. The concert will also feature a return to the podium of six of CRSP’s eight past conductors, music from String Theory Music Collective and from soprano Katie Partridge, and a grand finale featuring a choir of alumni from over the last fifty years.

Renaissance Treasures II: Jubilee!

Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 2:30pm

Pre-concert talk at 2:00pm

Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall (Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary)

206 University Ct NW

Tickets will be available online in the new year

In this jubilee season, there’s never been a better time to donate to Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players. In fact, if you make your donation on or before December 15, 2019, our CRSP Matching-Donation Leadership Group will match your gift, up to a collected total of \$2,000. Your donation will assist CRSP in continuing to bring early music to Calgary audiences, both in this anniversary season and as we begin our next fifty years! To donate online, please visit our website at www.renaissance-singers.com.

Thank you for your warm support of CRSP. See you at the concerts!

Jane Perry

Artistic Director, Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players