Gerald Neufeld
conductor
Alison MacNeill
accompanist

Johann Sebastian Bach
ST. JOHN PASSION

Saturday April 1, 2017
River Run Centre | 7:30 pm

Musica Viva Orchestra
on period instruments

Sheila Dietrich, Soprano
Jennifer Enns Modolo, Alto
James McLean, Tenor (Evangelist)
Daniel Lichti, Bass-baritone (Jesus)
Gordon Burnett, Baritone (Peter & Pilate)

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JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)
ST. JOHN PASSION

PART I
Prologue
   Chorus: Lord, our Master

Christ is Betrayed
   Recitative: Jesus went with his disciples (Evangelist, Jesus)
   Chorus: Jesus of Nazareth
   Recitative: Jesus said to them (Evangelist, Jesus)
   Chorus: Jesus of Nazareth
   Recitative: Jesus answered and said (Evangelist, Jesus)
   Chorale: Oh boundless love, oh love beyond all telling
   Recitative: So that the word might be fulfilled (Evangelist, Jesus)
   Chorale: Your will be done, Lord God alone

Before the High Priests
   Recitative: The crowd of soldiers with their captain (Evangelist)
   Aria: From the bonds of my transgressions (Alto)
   Recitative: Simon Peter followed after Jesus (Evangelist)
   Aria: I follow you also (Soprano)

Peter’s Denial
   Recitative: That other disciple (Evangelist, Maid, Peter, Jesus, Servant)
   Chorale: Who was it that did smite you?
   Recitative: Now Annas ordered Jesus bound (Evangelist)
   Chorus: Are you not one of His disciples?
   Recitative: But Peter denied it, and said (Evangelist, Peter, Servant)
   Aria: O my soul (Tenor)
   Chorale: Peter, to his heart unwise

Intermisson

PART II
Before Pilate
   Chorale: Christ who knew no sin or wrong
   Recitative: They led away Jesus (Evangelist, Pilate)
Program cont’d

Chorus: If this man were not a malefactor
Recitative: Then Pilate said unto them (Evangelist, Pilate)
Chorus: For us all killing is unlawful
Recitative: And that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled (Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus)
Chorale: O mighty King, renowned and great forever
Recitative: Then Pilate said unto him (Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus)
Chorus: Not this man, no not him, but Barabbas
Recitative: Barabbas was a thief, a murderer! (Evangelist)
Arioso: Consider, O my soul (Bass)
Aria: Behold him, how each livid stripe (Tenor)
Recitative: The soldiers plaited for Jesus a crown of thorns (Evangelist)
Chorus: King, we hail you
Recitative: And then with their hands they struck him (Evangelist, Pilate)
Chorus: Crucify! Crucify!
Recitative: And Pilate said to them (Evangelist, Pilate)
Chorus: We have a sacred law
Recitative: Now when Pilate hear this clamouring (Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus)
Chorale: The bondage Lord, which you did own
Recitative: The Jews cried out and shouted to Pilate (Evangelist)
Chorus: If you let this man go
Recitative: Now when Pilate heard them shouting (Evangelist, Pilate)
Chorus: Away with him, away
Recitative: Pilate said to them (Evangelist, Pilate)
Chorus: We have no king but Caesar

The Crucifixion

Recitative: Then Pilate delivered him to them (Evangelist)
Aria: Run, you souls (Bass)
Recitative: And they Crucified him there (Evangelist)
Chorus: Do not write
Chorale: My heart in secret carries
Recitative: And then the four soldiers (Evangelist)
Chorus: Let us then not cut or tear it
Recitative: So that the scripture might be fulfilled (Evangelist, Jesus)
Chorale: All things fashioned He with care
Recitative: And from then on (Evangelist, Jesus)
Aria: It is fulfilled (Alto)
Recitative: And bowed down his head and died (Evangelist)
Aria and Chorus: O you my Saviour, give me answer (Bass)
Recitative: And then behold the veil of the temple (Evangelist)
Arioso: My heart, see all the world (Evangelist)
Aria: Release, O my spirit (Soprano)
Chorale: Help, O Christ, you Son of God

The Burial
Recitative: There came unto Pilate (Evangelist)
Chorus: Rest well, Beloved
Chorale: Ah Lord, your dear, sweet angel send

With sadness we dedicate
this concert to the memory of
Ken Carey
whose gift to the Guelph Chamber Choir was
his dedication and the serenity he imparted to all
around him, both as a choir member and as
Past President of the GCC’s Board of Directors.
May he rest well in peace.

Musica Viva Orchestra

Violin 1
Joe Lanza
Rona Goldensher
Stephen Marvin

Violin 2
Julie Baumgartel
Andrew Chung
Elizabeth Andrews

Viola
Anthony Rapaport
Mary McGeer

Cello
Kerri McGonigle
Laura Jones (Viola da Gamba)

Contrabass
Marylin Fung

Flute
Alison Melville
Anthea Conway White

Oboe
Gillian Howard
Ruth Denton

Bassoon
Heather Carruthers
In 1723 Bach accepted the invitation of the town council to provide music to four churches in Leipzig in addition to his duties as Cantor and instructor at the choir school of St. Thomas's Church. Those duties included providing a cantata for each Sunday of the year and special music for Christmas, Easter and other festivals. For Bach's first Good Friday service in 1724, he chose the Gospel of John to set the Passion story to music. John's narrative includes detailed dialogue between Jesus, Pilate and "the Jews," a faction of the people in Jerusalem who supported the elite priesthood, a regional governing body under Roman rule.

Bach's St. John Passion is a musical drama depicting and commenting on the arrest, trial, crucifixion and burial of Jesus. A major role is sung by an Evangelist who declaims the narrative through "recitative" which includes words by Jesus, Peter, Pilate and other minor characters. Another key actor in the drama is the chorus which plays the role of the people.

Designated the *turba*, or the "rabble," they shout their demands for Jesus' conviction and crucifixion. However, the chorus also interjects Lutheran chorales, familiar to the people in Bach's congregation, that are a personal response to the events unfolding in the drama. Solo arias are interpolations that prompt Bach's listeners to experience emotionally the deeper significance of a narrated event.

In striking contrast to the drama, the Passion begins with a chorus, accompanied by an agitated figure in the orchestra, that introduces the tragedy that will unfold, but also extols the majesty of Jesus, the main character in the story. A final chorus, like a lullaby, reflects the sorrow in Jesus' death with a gentle reiteration of the words "rest well" while a final chorale reminds us that Bach's *Passion* was originally performed as a liturgical work on Good Friday afternoon.

_Gerald Neufeld_
Guest Artists

Canadian soprano **Sheila Dietrich** is a versatile and in-demand young performer whose style and vocal technique shine in both concert and operatic roles.


Last season, Sheila made her Carnegie Hall debut and was also a finalist in the prestigious 2015 New York Oratorio Society Solo Competition where she received the Johannes Somary Award.

For more information and other upcoming performances, please visit www.sheiladietrich.com.

Canadian mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Enns Modolo** has delighted audiences across the country with her clear, unaffected voice and meaningful singing. As an accomplished concert soloist, and with a repertoire that ranges from early music to contemporary, she performs regularly with ensembles throughout Ontario and across Canada. She is a member of the Hamilton-based ensemble Capella Intima, which specializes in performing exciting concerts of lesser-known seventeenth-century vocal and operatic music. In addition to performing with large and small ensembles, Jennifer also delights in the art of the solo recital and collaborates regularly with lutenist Magdalena Tomsinska and pianist Lorin Shalanko. Jennifer is featured on several Aradia Ensemble recordings, including Handel’s *Israel in Egypt* (Naxos, 2008), Vivaldi Sacred Music, Volume 3 (Naxos, 2008) and singing the role of Eustazio in Handel’s *Rinaldo* (NAXOS 2005), all under the baton of Kevin Mallon. Engagements for the 2016-17 season include Handel’s *Messiah* with the Bach Elgar Choir, Bach’s *Cantata 133 “Ich freue mich in dir”* and *Mass in B minor* with the Spiritus Ensemble, a recital of French and English repertoire with pianist Lorin Shalanko, Bach’s *Cantata 66 “Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen”* and *Easter Oratorio* with the Nota Bene Baroque Players, and Haydn’s *Theresienmesse* with Chorus Hamilton.

Tenor **James McLean**'s singing encompasses a wide repertoire, from baroque to contemporary music, in opera, concert and recital. He has sung with major Canadian organizations including the Toronto Symphony (conductor: Sir Andrew Davis), Toronto Mendelssohn Choir (Elmer Iseler), Ottawa Choral Society and Calgary Philharmonic (Brian Law). In 1985, James launched his European career and made Germany his home for over 20 years. He was first lyric tenor of the opera houses in Nurnberg (Music Director: Christian Thielemann) and Essen (Wolf-Dieter Hauschild) while performing throughout Germany and Europe.

James presently teaches at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. He has given Master Classes on song interpretation in Canada, Germany and Italy. In 2015 he was awarded a Masters degree from the University of Toronto in Music Education and Vocal Pedagogy.
DANIEL LICHTI is firmly established as one of Canada’s most distinguished bass-baritones, performing with many of North America’s premiere orchestras and choral organizations. He is a frequent guest at major choral festivals and has performed internationally as a soloist in oratorio and opera, working under conductors such as Robert Shaw, Helmuth Rilling, Christopher Hogwood, Bruno Weil, Bernard Labadie, and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Daniel has gained acclaim as a recitalist and recording artist, recently celebrating 40 years on stage. His artistry continues to inspire admiration for the beauty, warmth, and richness of his voice, and respect for the dignity and sincerity of his interpretations.

Recent performances for this distinguished artist include Brahms’ Ein Deutsches Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, and Barber’s Dover Beach with the acclaimed Penderecki String Quartet. Daniel starred as Elijah with Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, was a guest soloist in Ottawa Bach Choir’s B Minor Mass, and presented Die Winterreise on tour in Western Canada and in Lyons, France.

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Engagements in 2016–17 include St. John Passion with Guelph Chamber Choir, St. Matthew Passion with Quad City Symphony in Davenport, Iowa and Elgar’s The Apostles with Pax Christie Chorale.

GORDON BURNETT enjoys an active career as a conductor, singer and voice teacher. He has been the artistic director of the Renaissance Singers in Kitchener-Waterloo since 2009. He currently is the bass section leader with both the Guelph Chamber Choir and St. Thomas Anglican Church, Toronto. Professional ensemble work includes time with the Elmer Iseler Singers, the Elora Festival Singers, Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Tactus Vocal Ensemble. He completed a Master of Music in Vocal Pedagogy degree at the University of Toronto in April 2016, and has opened a private voice studio at his home in Waterloo. He is delighted to be singing the roles of Pilate and Peter in the St. John Passion.
Next Season

our founding conductor’s farewell season

Guelph Chamber Choir

2017 2018
SEASON

Gerald Neufeld, Conductor
Alison MacNeill, Accompanist

CELEBRATION 150
Ontario and Canada Sesquicentennial
Guelph Chamber Choir welcomes Guelph Community Singers, Guelph Youth Singers, Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington, University of Guelph Choirs and internationally acclaimed local folk singer, James Gordon
Saturday, November 4, 2017
7:30 pm River Run Centre

CAROLS for Christmas
Guelph Chamber Choir welcomes Bells Ablaze and their conductor Susan Carscadden-Mifsud
Sunday, December 3, 2017
2:30 pm St. George’s Anglican Church

Handel’s MESSIAH
Guelph Chamber Choir welcomes four outstanding soloists with Musica Viva Orchestra on period instruments
Saturday, December 23, 2017
7:30 pm River Run Centre

Brahms’ A GERMAN REQUIEM
Conductor Gerald Neufeld’s farewell concert with Musica Viva Orchestra on period instruments
Saturday, March 31, 2018
7:30 pm River Run Centre

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Draw Date: Saturday, April 1st, 2017

Raffle held under lottery license: M772142

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Our People

The Guelph Chamber Choir was founded in 1980 to foster the development and appreciation of choral music in Guelph and the surrounding area. Consisting of highly talented mostly amateur singers from a wide range of occupations, the choir is proudly presenting its 36th season this year with four concerts. Its repertoire ranges from Renaissance masters to newly commissioned works, from classical styles to Broadway and vocal jazz, and from masterworks for choir and orchestra to choral gems for unaccompanied voices.

In addition to its regular series of concerts, the GCC has performed in numerous festivals, including the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in Wales (3rd place winner in the Mixed Choir Category), Luminato Festival, Toronto International Choral Festival, Guelph Spring Festival, Elora Festival, and festivals in Salzburg, Austria, and the Czech Republic. Exciting collaborations have included working with Dancetheatre David Earle, professional choirs, regional choirs, community choirs, and orchestras such as the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and Orchestra London. Many of our most engaging concerts for the past 17 years have been accompanied by period instrument specialists from Toronto and southern Ontario.

The GCC has performed in England, Wales, Ireland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Holland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark, has been broadcast on CBC Radio, and has won prizes in the CBC National Competition for Amateur Choirs. Recordings include Noel; On Christmas Night; Songs of the New World; Good Cheare: Christmas Celebrations Old and New, Christmas in the Royal City, and Remember.

Gerald Neufeld has been conductor of the Guelph Chamber Choir since its founding. He holds the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Iowa and is a Professor Emeritus in the Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University, where he conducted choirs and taught choral conducting. Previously, he taught in the music department of the University of Guelph and conducted the University of Guelph Choir with which he toured in Britain and Europe on two occasions. Under his direction, the Guelph Chamber Choir, the University of Guelph Choir, the Faculty of Music Singers, and the Thames Scholars from Western University all have won prizes in the CBC National Competition for Amateur Choirs.

Gerald Neufeld is a previous winner of the Leslie Bell competition for choral conductors. He has served on juries for the Canadian recording industry’s Juno Awards, the Leslie Bell Competition and the Guelph Spring Festival national vocal competition. He has been active as a choral clinician, festival adjudicator, and lecturer on topics of special interest in the choral field.

Alison MacNeill is a graduate of the University of Guelph music program, and of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. Born in Guelph, she returned to the area to live and work following graduate work at the University of Western Ontario, where she studied piano and theory with Ronald Turini and Richard Parks.

Alison is active as an accompanist and chamber musician, and has been, at various times through the years, pianist for the University of Guelph Choir, the Elora Festival Singers, the Guelph Youth Singers, and the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington, as well as with many other ensembles and soloists.

She maintains a large teaching studio and is the Director of Music Ministry at Harcourt Memorial United Church. She has been the accompanist for the Chamber Choir for much of its existence, performing and touring with the ensemble.

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We are an active, working Board and we have opportunities to serve. If you are interested, please contact Brad Halls at 226-383-7537.
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We would like to thank our supporters who made valuable financial contributions to the Guelph Chamber Choir.

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River Run Centre

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ACCESSIBILITY
River Run Centre is proud to be completely accessible for patrons and performers with special needs. Wheelchair locations are available in both halls. Please inform the Box Office when purchasing tickets. Infrared headsets for the hearing impaired are available at the Coat Check prior to the performances.

THEATRE ETIQUETTE
So that everyone can enjoy the performance, and in consideration of the artist, please note that latecomers will be seated at a suitable break; beepers and cellular phones and watch alarms must be muted; and the use of recording devices or taking of photos is prohibited.

SCENTS
In consideration of those who have allergies, please refrain from using perfume or cologne.

CHILDREN
We welcome children, but please remember that everyone must have a ticket, regardless of age. In consideration of the audience, and for safety, babies will not be admitted to the performance.

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