



MIDWINTER

musica
intima

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

MID

1. Winter Solstice RODNEY SHARMAN
2. The Wyandot's Realm ANDREW BALFOUR
3. In the Bleak Midwinter ARR. MARIA CORLEY
4. In the Bleak Midwinter REBECCA DALE

All tracks recorded on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations; the Coast Salish peoples.
Tracks 1-3 recorded at Pacific Spirit United Church, January 2023.
Track 4 recorded live at Christ Church Cathedral, December 2022.

WINTER

musica intima

Tabitha Brasso-Ernst

Christina Cichos

Oliver Dalton

Renee Fajardo

Jacob Gramit

Sarah Jo Kirsch

Steve Maddock

Danny Najjar

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Lucy Smith

Risa Takahashi

Jaime Yoon

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MIXING & MASTERING Don Harder

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER Jacob Gramit

PROJECT MANAGER Lucy Smith

COVER DESIGN Erin Nicholson

WINTER

“So cold. So dark. So lonely.”

So opens Rodney Sharman's 'Winter Solstice.' Certainly, in the Lower Mainland, we're learning more about the cold, and as we grapple with a post-pandemic world, loneliness and isolation are not unfamiliar feelings. The beauty of Sharman's text, though, is the reminder that "winter will wane, light will grow." The so-called 'Huron Carol' has been re-examined through the ears and voice of Cree composer Andrew Balfour; this is his 'statement' on the familiar carol. The classic Holst melody of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' is infused with Take 6 style harmonies by pianist and composer Maria Corley, and UK composer Rebecca Dale sets the same words to lush new music.

musica intima is always striving to build our 'new canon' of contemporary choral music. For our nostalgic December 2022 program, Winter Patterns, this happened in two ways - familiar melodies in new contexts, and new music we hope will become your holiday favourites. The four songs contained here are part of our new traditions, and it gives us great joy to share them with you. We hope that light grows in the music we share here, a bright and warm light to carry you through the holiday season and into the New Year. From all of us at musica intima, we wish you and yours peace, joy, and happiness.

MID

RODNEY SHARMAN *is the Victoria Symphony's Composer-Mentor-in-Residence, and has been Composer-in-Residence of Early Music Vancouver's "New Music for Old Instruments", the Victoria Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and Composer-Host of Calgary Philharmonic's Festival, "Hear and Now". In addition to concert music, Sharman writes for cabaret, opera and dance. He sings, conducts, plays recorders and flutes. 'Winter Solstice' was written for the UBC University Singers & Bruce Pullan, in 2003.*

ANDREW BALFOUR *is a Cree composer whom musica intima continues to be honored to work with. 'The Wyandot's Realm' is Balfours statement on the so-called 'Huron Carol'. He writes: my composition is powerful with flashes of anger. The concept was to superimpose the melody in medieval mode on an aboriginal rhythmic chant, representing the meeting of two worlds.*

MARIA CORLEY *was born in Jamaica and raised in Canada. Equally at home as a concert pianist and a composer, her arrangement was written for her family to sing together at Christmas, and inspired by the jazzy swing of groups like Take 6.*

REBECCA DALE *is a British composer who made history in 2018 when she became the first female composer to sign to Universal Music's Decca Classics label, and the first woman to sign to Decca Publishing. 'In the bleak midwinter' was commissioned by the Church of England and Classic FM in 2021.*

Winter Solstice

TEXT BY RODNEY SHARMAN

So dark. So cold. So lonely.
 The longest night. The briefest light.
 Winter will wane.
 Light will grow.
 So bright. So warm.
 So holy.

The Wyandot's Realm

BALFOUR'S SETTING USES CREE AND LATIN TEXT. THE CREE HE USES IS SET OUT PHONETICALLY, AS HE FOUND IN A 1930'S SCHOOL BOOK. WE INCLUDE THE TEXT IN THE WYANDOT LANGUAGE, AS WELL AS AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY JOHN STECKLEY.

Ehstennyahyan deh tsonweh Eesus ahatonyah.

Estennialon de tson8e les8s ahatonnia

Have courage, you who are humans. Jesus, he is born.

Onnahwahteh wahdokee nonwahdahskawaentak

Onna8ate8a d'oki n'on8andask8aentak

Behold, the spirit who had us as prisoners, has fled.

Ennonshyen skwahtreehotat nonwaknee yonrahshat torah

Ennonchien sk8atrihotat n'on8andilonrachatha

Do not listen to it, as it corrupts our minds.

WINTER

Eesus Ahatonyah. In excelsis Gloria.

les8s ahatonnia.

Jesus, he is born. Glory in the highest.

Teh heh kwah tah ten non ten ahheh kwahshyenduhen

Te ek8atatennonten ahék8achiendaen

We will give to him praise, honour for his name.

Teh hehkwan nonronkwah nyandehsonwentenran nuhdeh

Ti hek8annonronk8annion de son8entenrade.

Let us show reverence for him, as he comes to be compassionate with us.

Skawannoweheeshayyeh nnehah kehhon stahah,

8toleti sk8annonh8e ichierhe akennonhonstha

It is providential that you love us,

and think 'I should make them part of my family'

Eesus Ahatonyah. In excelsis Gloria.

les8s ahatonnia.

Jesus, he is born. Glory in the highest.

WINTER

In the Bleak Midwinter

TEXT BY CHRISTINA ROSETTI

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

MID

Founded in 1992, musica intima has grown from collaborative grassroots beginnings to a fully professional vocal ensemble which has championed Canadian music on stages around the world, garnering a Western Canadian Music Award and three JUNO Award nominations. The ensemble is now internationally known for pushing the boundaries of traditional choral performance and offering new perspectives on ensemble singing. One of Canada's most esteemed vocal ensembles, musica intima's unique shared leadership model invites each of the 12 members to be co-artistic directors of the group, exchanging ideas freely and exploring their individual musical creativity.

musica intima strives to be a role model in "going beyond the land acknowledgement" both in the arts communities, and beyond, as they weave Indigenous stories into the fabric of local and national society through collaborations with artists across disciplines and leadership in diverse programming. The groundbreaking collaboration NAGAMO, with Cree composer Andrew Balfour, demonstrates this commitment to art and society - generating both a JUNO and WCMA-nominated album, but also providing a platform for musica intima to demonstrate their commitment to education and outreach through multiple cross-Canada tours, working with thousands of young singers and artists on collaboration and fostering the decolonization of the choral arts.

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