

THE NEW CANON

ANDREW BALFOUR Ambe

CAROLINE SHAW The Swallow

SHERRYL SEWEPAGAHAM Sleepy Song

KATHLEEN ALLAN Distancia

TRACY WONG Jauh/Dekat

MARIA SCHNEIDER arr. REJEAN MAROIS Winter Morning Walks - Perfectly Still

ALEX VOLLANT Nukum

GEORGE GERSHWIN Our Love is Here to Stay

DOMINIQUE FILS-AIMÉ To Walk A Way

musica intima performs and operates on the stolen territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), sḵwḵwú7mesh úxwumixw (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔł (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

HERITAGE HALL

Singers

Paula Brewster

John Carpenter

Renee Fajardo

Anja Kelly

Kate Medcalf

Danny Najjar

Elizabeth Peters

Asitha Tennekoon

Gloria Wan

Jaime Yoon

Patrick Zhu

Board of Directors

Troy Topnik, president

Dan McFaull, treasurer/vice chair

Katherine Evans, singers rep

Brigid Lumholst-Smith, director

Lisa Slouffman, director

Are you enthusiastic about musica intima and passionate about decolonization in the arts? Talk to us about getting involved with our **Board of Directors** - now is the time you can help us make a difference! Introduce yourself tonight or email manager@musicaintima.org.

Staff

Artistic Manager – Risa Takahashi

General Manager – Rita Ueda

a message from artistic manager Risa Takahashi

I am so grateful that we get to share some beautiful music with you all. The chosen pieces are not only our favourites, but also some of your favourites as well. Tonight, we take our deep breath and deliver our passion - singing with those who we love and the community.

We also wanted to give you a sneak peak of our season. What's ahead this season is beyond exciting. The curators and collaborators will be sharing a lot of their knowledge with us so we can expand our musical journey and deliver more arts that is available and should be heard and seen.

On behalf of musica intima, I would like to thank each one of you. Without you all, we wouldn't be here and we would not be able to do what we love doing. I know we all say this. But truly tonight, our hearts are full because you are here. Because we get to share our love of music and what it does for our souls.

2025 / 2026 season

WINTER MORNING WALKS | Dec 6 at The Red Barn, Dec 7 at ACT art centre, Dec 12 at Blueshore, Dec 14 at Vancouver, Dec 14 at Evergreen

SANKOFA | Curated by Dawn Pemberton | June 6

details at www.musicaintima.org

Sponsors

Musica intima is generously supported by Colourstrings conservatory of Music, SOCAN Foundation, Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation, City of Vancouver, British Columbia Arts Council, Province of British Columbia, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



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sung texts and translations

AMBE Andrew Balfour

Ambe
Ambe Anishinaabeg
biindigeg Anishinaabeg
Mino-bimaadiziwin omaa
Ambe

Come in
Come in, two-legged beings
come in all people
There is good life here
Come in!

THE SWALLOW Caroline Shaw

How beloved is your dwelling place,
o lord of hosts,
my soul yearns, faints,
my heart and my flesh cry out.
The sparrow found a house,
and the swallow her nest,
where she may raise her young.
They pass through the Valley of Bakka,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn also covers it with pools.

DISTANCIA Kathleen Allan

Amor mio que tienes mis noches
que tienes mis días
que tienes pesares, y las alegrías
Amor distancia lejana
Amor, que la distancia leja na maldita distancia
Hace que mi alma vuele la acerca a
tu espíritu
Y que las noches mañanas y tardes
y noches y tardes lejanas
Noches, mañanas, tardes, días (repeated)
Me quitan aliento, me cansan
Tienes mis noches, mi llanto sonrisas.
Quiero que sepas que te amo
Amor que distancia

My love, you hold my nights,
you cradle my days
their sorrows, their joys.
Distant love, so far away,
you make my soul take flight
to draw nearer to your spirit.
And in the nights, the mornings,
the afternoons, the days, you are there
you steal my breath, you weary me.
You hold my nights, you hold my smiles.
I want you to know
that I love you
though distance lies between us,
it cannot keep my heart
from yours.

JAUH/DEKAT Tracy Wong

Jauh di mata, dekat di hati Lain padang,
lain belalang Ikut resmi padi,
semakin tunduk semakin berisi

Far from sight, (but) near at heart.
Different field, different grasshopper.
Observe different customs in different lands.
follow the way of padi (rice plant),
it bows lower the more it is filled.
The more knowledgeable and experienced one is,
the more humble one should be.

PERFECTLY STILL THIS SOLSTICE MORNING Maria Schneider/Arr. Rejean Marios

Perfectly still this solstice morning,
in bone-cracking cold. Nothing moving,
or so one might think, but as I walk the road,
the wind help in the heart of every tree
flows to the end of each twig and forms a bud.

NUKUM Alex Vollant

Nukum
tshipatshi a itapishtin uenapissish?
tshetshi tipatshimushtuin
ueshkat ka aussiuin
tan itenitakanipan nutshimit
anu mishapan

Grand-mother
Can I lay down next to you for a while?
Can you tell me about life
When you were young
When our land was bigger

SLEEPY SONG Sheryl Sewepagaham

Nipa, kisákihitin
Go to sleep, I love you

OUR LOVE IS HERE TO STAY

It's very clear, our love is here to stay.
Not for a year, but ever and a day.
The radio and the telephone and the movies that we know.
May just be passing fancies and in time may go.
But, oh my dear, our love is here to stay

TO WALK AWAY Dominique Fils-Aimé

To walk a way that leaves the pain behind,
To walk a way; leave it all behind
To walk a way to see the joy inside,
To walk a way; bring the joy you hide

LEAN ON ME Bill Withers

[verse1] Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, we all have sorrow.

But if we are wise We know that there's always tomorrow.

[verse2] Please swallow your pride

If I have things you need to borrow

For no one can fill those of your needs

That you won't let show

[chorus] Lean on me, when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on.

For it won't be long 'Til I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand.

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'll understand

We all need somebody to lean on

Words from the ensemble members

As we launch into this new season with musica intima, I am filled with gratitude, enthusiasm, and a sense of legacy. I am deeply moved by the patrons, both new and longstanding, who enable us to strive toward our goal of fostering human connection through music. This shared vision motivates me and inspires excitement for what we have planned this season.

Novel collaborations, renewed projects, and fresh perspectives — the innovation that first drew me to sing with intima. Empowered by the mentorship I have received over the years as part of musica intima, I am cognizant of the roots of the organization and legacy to which I now contribute.

It is an honour to be part of the continued evolution of musica intima, and to have a community that is keen to explore and grow with us.

-Kate Medcalf, Soprano

I'm thrilled to be joining musica intima this season — it feels like the perfect place to share my love of ensemble singing and making music with others.

I recently finished my Master of Opera Performance at UBC, where I sang Si Feng in Emily Pan's Thunderstorm on a nine-city tour of China. I was also runner-up in UBC's Concerto Competition and appeared in eleven opera productions with the UBC Opera Ensemble. This past year I sang the soprano solo in Beethoven's Choral Fantasia with the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra. I've performed with groups like Western University Singers, Les Choristes, Laudate Singers, and the Capilano University Singers, and I've explored early and Renaissance music through programs like the Canadian Renaissance Music Summer School and the Victoria Summer Baroque Institute.

Through every performance, I try to share my love of music and its power to connect and inspire.

-Elizabeth Petersen, Soprano

Musica intima is a special ensemble to me because the trust and connection between the singers in this group is unlike anything I've experienced elsewhere. Singing with this group has pushed me to grow as both an artist and a human. This is my second season with intimate, and I'm so excited to be back. I can't wait for another season of singing exciting new music, as well as old favourites with my friends! Who could ask for more?

-Patrick Zhu, Bass