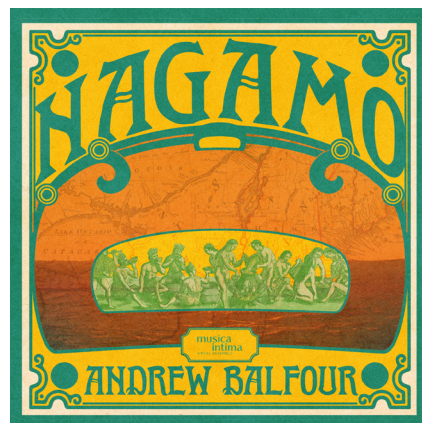


musica intima

VOCAL ENSEMBLE

annual report 2022-2023



board of directors

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Troy Topnik SECRETARY
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Anne Louise Aboud
Katherine Evans SINGERS REP
Brigid Lumholst-Smith
Steve Maddock, SINGERS REP
Cathy Wong

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Jacob Gramit ARTISTIC MANAGER
Lucy Smith OPERATIONS MANAGER

ensemble singers 2022 - 2023

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Danny Najjar
Carman J. Price
Taka Shimojima
Lucy Smith
Risa Takahashi
Asitha Tennekoon
Jaime Yoon



(re)birth: photo by Derek Stevens

A SUMMARY OF THE 22/23 SEASON

The 22/23 season was an exciting one, seeing musica intima's 3rd JUNO nomination for our collaboration with Cree composer, Andrew Balfour, NAGAMO, and our 2nd Western Canadian Music Award.

Hiraeth - through themes of nostalgia and longing in nature with music by Ramona Luengen, Sherryl Sewepagaham, Andrew Balfour, Seán Doherty, Joanna Ward, Nicol Muhly, Vjelo Tormis, Dale Trumbore, with lighting design by Andie Lloyd.

Winter Patterns - music about the winter season and solstice was sprinkled with Christmas favourites by Rodney Sharman, Karine Polwart, Rebecca Dale, Maria Thompson Corley, Vjelo Tormis, Shireen Abu-Khader, Andrew Balfour, Bo Holten, Melissa Dunphy, Andrea Siemens.

ding dong - with band Andy Hillhouse, Jodi Proznick, Nino Di Pasquale, and Kathleen Nisbet who accompanied us on our favourite celtic, jazz, pop and folk arrangements of Christmas tunes.

(re)birth - our thirtieth anniversary concert acknowledged our past while gazing towards the future, through music driven by ripe imagery of fertility, blossoming, and growth. Featuring Canadian composers Malika Tirolien, Stuart Beatch, and Tracy Wong, we also revisited Silver, our 25th anniversary commission by Vancouver composer Kris Fulton, alongside a world premiere of The Call by Canadian composer, Tawnie Olson, which sets words by Rosemary Brown, the first Black woman to be elected to the provincial government of British Columbia. A month before the concert was the tragic and untimely death of beloved Vancouver composer Jocelyn Morlock, and in remembrance of her, we were joined by cellist Jonathan Lo to perform her iconic work, and early mi commission, *Exaudi*.



Hiraeth: photo by Jan Gates



(re)birth: photo by Derek Stevens, with Jonathan Lo on cello

Digital Now - in Fall 2022, we produced a series of music videos to exhibit on our website, funded by the Canada Council for the Arts. In collaboration with Collide Entertainment, we created 6 works which featured cellist Jonathan Lo, singer and drummer Sherryl Sewepagaham, and Lil'wat film artist, Sydney Pickering, who created films based on two tracks from NAGAMO. We filmed in a variety of beautiful locations around Vancouver including the Celebration Hall at Mountainview Cemetery, and Nitobe Memorial Gardens.



Ann Boyd's As I Crossed the Bridge of Dreams at Nitobe Memorial Gardens

A SUMMARY OF THE 22/23 SEASON

NAGAMO - after the inaugural performance and recording of the project in May 2022, several exciting things happened: we released a mini documentary on the process, NAGAMO and Andrew Balfour was nominated for a JUNO award, and we embarked on a 17 day tour of the country with Andrew. With stops in Toronto, London, St John's, Winnipeg, and Edmonton, we worked with close to a thousand youth and post-secondary music students on the themes of decolonizing Western art practice, and collaboration. Highlights included working Indigenous Song Keepers across the country including Rosary Spence (ON), Inuk opera singer Deantha Edmunds and Ullugiagâtsuk, the youth choir who traveled from Nunatsiavut to share their traditions and songs with us (NL), Cory Campbell (MB), and Sherryl Sewepagaham. (AB). The tour culminated in an official CD launch/homecoming event in Vancouver with special guest Cheri Maracle.



Andrew Balfour working with Kokopelli and Oran, Edmonton, AB



Bows after the performance with Shallaway Youth Choir St John's, NL

musica intima was also the busiest we've ever been in terms of 'sold services', being hired for a number of events, projects and concerts presented by local organizations including Vancouver Opera, Vancouver New Music, Vancouver Early Music, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Redshift Music, Allegra Chamber Orchestra, and Little Chamber Music to name a few. We were also involved in co-presenting a concert in memoriam of Jocelyn Morlock with Music on Main, Standing Wave Orchestra, Hard Rubber Orchestra, Canadian Music Centre, Little Chamber Music, and Queer Arts Fest.



Performing in the pre-show for Vancouver Opera's Opera in Deer Lake Park



Performing Erin Gee's Song of Seven, presented by Vancouver New Music



A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CO-MANAGERS

Jacob Gramit & Lucy Smith

What is the relevance of musica intima? Every ensemble meeting, survey, retreat, we always come back to this question as staff and ensemble. Past forms of musica intima championed new European music and brought it to Canada; pioneered movement during performance, sung new Canadian music at a level un-matched across the country, created new arrangements of folk songs that became timeless classics. But in our thirtieth anniversary season – where are we going? Why? Buzzwords like Equity, Diversity, Inclusion fill the arts community around the world, but what does that all mean? How is musica intima, a group of twelve professional singers, relevant to anything going on in this world?

Two elements of the 22/23 season stand out as answers. Our nineteen-day NAGAMO tour was centered around working with young choristers, and it was thrilling for the ensemble to learn from composer-curator Andrew Balfour on a daily basis, as well as share our own collaborative experience with these young artists. In our twelve years involved with mi as singers and administrators, we can't recall a more fulfilling, exhausting, or successful tour. This is why we exist; as a vehicle for the brilliance of artists like Andrew – in performance, workshop, and even our newly-launched publishing imprint, musica printima – to date we've published ten of his works, which are selling around the world.

At our thirtieth anniversary concert in April, we premiered an adaptation of *Oliassa*, a work by Guadeloupean-Canadian singer Malika Tirolien. Instantly, the piece felt at home in our voices, and audiences reacted (and continue to react) so strongly- there's something in the work that feels familiar, even on a first listen. It's not a familiar melody, or a favourite carol, but by the end of the piece you feel like it is. We were fortunate to get a good recording at that show which has surpassed 1500 views in less than a year. We also published this on musica printima, and one of the first purchases was our friend Carrie Tennant, Artistic Director of the Vancouver Youth Choir. Carrie needs no help programming, but knowing that we had brought this piece to the forefront of the Canadian choral arts – a work that is so different than anything else anyone is performing – was a huge accomplishment for musica intima. Watching the young singers experience the heart at the centre of this powerful music was simply thrilling.

Returning to the question of our relevance – both these answers centre around the same thing: We're striving to inspire the next generation of artists, singers, teachers, accountants, lawyers, marine biologists – the leaders of tomorrow. musica intima has done its time as 'the best' or 'the most adventurous', and while artistic excellence is still a crucial part of what we do, our focus is turning to human connection – specifically, how our collective of 12 individual artists can connect more humans together and inspire the next generation to collaborate even more boldly through repertoire, projects, collaborations, and most importantly through building relationships.

A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CO-MANAGERS

Jacob Gramit & Lucy Smith

musica intima is what it is today through the tremendous talents of singers and composers we're lucky to work with. We want to make special note of Christina (with us since 2020), Taka (with us since 2016), and Carman (with us since 2003) – all of whom sang their last with musica intima in the 22/23 season.

In addition, we and the artistic community at large lost a visionary composer last March - **Jocelyn Morlock**. musica intima had a close relationship with Jocelyn, dating back to the premiere of her incredible *Exaudi*, commissioned by mi twenty years ago, in 2004.

In remembering Jocelyn and her incredible music, we gathered thoughts from staff and ensemble past -

"I think *Exaudi* is a masterpiece, and one of the most moving pieces of music that our country has ever produced"

David Pay, Ensemble Manager 1998-2005

"*Exaudi* is a piece that is no longer an abstract reflection on someone else's grief, but a 'very specific, meaningful, and painful' expression of our own grief at the sudden loss of Jocelyn. She was family, and we were so proud of her and this piece"

Troy Topnik, Ensemble Member 2001-2005, Board of Directors 2018 – present

"Jocelyn felt like a friend of mine, I think because like so many, I felt connected to her through her music. I was amazed at the brilliance of the piece and this wonderful, interesting, generous person...I grieve the loss of a profound musical voice, a dedicated and caring teacher, and a beautiful sensitive soul."

Siri Olesen, Artistic Manager 2017-2020, Ensemble Member 1997-2017

"Her music, her connection to people I love, and her quiet listening presence at concerts are how I will remember her...I mourn for the music we will never hear, the loss felt by our community, and most of all the deep loss felt by those who knew her well enough to remember not only her profoundness, but her joyful and quirky sense of humour. Jocelyn...aeternam habeas requiem."

Joanna Dundas, Artistic Manager 2012-2017, Ensemble Member 1999-2009



A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CO-MANAGERS

Jacob Gramit & Lucy Smith

As you look at the finances of the musica intima society for our 2023 year-end, you'll notice a substantially larger budget this year than last. This is largely due to the 19 day tour we undertook in March 2023 - we received almost \$100,000 in one-time additional funding. You'll notice \$36,000 in additional funding from the BC Arts Council as well- the last COVID-19 extra support money we received. This helped offset ticket defecits and filming expenses in the 22/23 season, though we still ended with a small deficit. As the City of Vancouver noted in their report on the finances of artistic organizations, we, like every organization, still have anxiety about what will happen when this support money dries up, and audiences continue to remain at 60% of pre-pandemic levels. For now, though, the society remains strong and stable.

We saw increases in grant funding from the City of Vancouver and the BC Gaming Commission in this season for the first time in many years - proof that funders believe we're walking the right path. Our private foundation funding continues to be strong, and the area we saw the most decline in was individual donations - though interestingly, we received more gifts, year-over-year. We're also happy to report, at the time of writing (January 2024), our individual gifts seem to be rising again, as we just had a very successful Year-End Campaign, raising funds closer to our 2020 or 2021 totals, making a low 2022 total an anomaly! Individual gifts continue to be the strong backbone of musica intima, and we are continually grateful for your support!

thanks to our 22/23 volunteers!

Thomas Dalton | Ashley Daniel Foot | Carolin Ford | Cy Fung | Emma Jang | Carl Lemer
Aubrey Maddock | Kate Medcalf | Chiara Susanto | Erin Valentine | Patrick Zhu

THE 2022 - 2023 SEASON *by the numbers*

total number
of in-person
concert attendees

4,228

youth worked
with across the
country

900+

streams on new
videos

10,993

total number
of donors

145
[+7%]

individual
donations

\$35,188
[-33%]

physical cds sold

139
[+148%]

Canadian
artists hired

39

Canadian
works performed

42

Works given
Canadian or
World premiere

23

thank you!

musica intima can only continue thanks to your generous support. We asked, and you answered; YOU allow musica intima to continue to offer the world-class performances we've become known for, and enable us to keep connecting throughout the Lower Mainland and across Canada in our 2022/2023 season. Thank you!

Chris Aikenhead & Candace Knighton

Janet Allwork

Debra Anderson

Anonymous (4)

Elizabeth Aubert

Sam & Mary Balden

Kevin Barrington-Foote

Caitlin & Robert Beaupré

Allan & Elizabeth Bell

Jeremy Berkman

Noele Bird

Gwyneth Bowen

Henning Brasso & Fran Brinkley

Lisa Brasso

Cassandra Brondgeest

Don Brooks & Dana Devine

Ross Brownlee

Christina Burridge

Sandra Campbell

Mark & Mary Rose Chartrand

Reg & Laura Cichos

Jan Constantinescu

Sheila Cook

Tedd Cragg & Elaine Perry

Leanne Dalton

Shelagh Davies

Barbara Devlin

Joanna Dundas & Brad Gill

Dona Dutchak

Kerry Dyer

Peter Elliott & Thomas Roach

Linda Emigh

Dorothy Fairholm

David Fielding

Charles & Lucile Flavelle

Ashley Foot

Bruce Forster

Allen & Ruth Fowlis

Richard and Grace Fraser

Patricia French

Susan Furlong

Dale Gamble and Jane MacFadgen

Karen Gordon & Martin Smith

Ed & Elaine Gramit

Frieda Woodruff Gramit & David Gramit

Christer Hallberg

Liz & Keith Hamel

Don Harder

Derek Healey

Darby Honeyman

Irma Hoogendoorn

Chloé Hurst

Douglas Jameson

Elsie & Audrey Jang

Margo Keenan

David Klaassen

Evan Kreider

Yolande Lafleur

Darlene Lamb

Sheila Lindfield

Perri Lo

Constance Longworth

Alana & David Lopez

Janet Lowcock

Brigid Lumholst-Smith & Andy Smith

Stephanie MacLeod

Karen Mang Kennedy & Craig Kennedy

Elizabeth & Andrew Massil

Karen Matthews

Rob Mayhew

Luke McAndless-Davis

John McBain

Hugh McCreddie

Coral McFadden

Dan and Connie McFaull

Susan McKenzie

Elizabeth McLenehan

Harvey McLeod

Patricia Morris

Laura Munn

Brenda Naylor

James Neville

Art Newman

Joyce Olesen

Francesca Osburn

Patricia Phillips

Renate Preuss

Carman J. Price

Heather Pynn
 Vivian Rachlis
 Ann Ramsay & Chris Pollard
 Kelly Rayter
 Shane Riczu
 Manako Roberts
 E. Jane Robertson
 Kimberley Robinson
 Dmytro Robu
 Deirdre Rogers
 Deborah Rollins
 Mary Saunders
 Maxine Shu
 Debra Sloan & Terry Yip
 Edward Stringer
 Leigh & Nancy Taylor
 Margaret & Tom Taylor
 James Tigchelaar
 Troy Topnik
 Liz Tuck
 Olga Volkoff
 Marie-Theres von Dehn
 Claire Weeks
 Tom Whalley
 Ruta Yawney

THIS LIST ACKNOWLEDGES GIFTS MADE BETWEEN
 SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 AND AUGUST 31, 2023.
 WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



Photo by Wendy D.



Photo by Wendy D.

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LE JOURNAL DE CANADA CHORAL



FEATURE ARTICLES
NAGAMO:
**A Collaborative
 Experience of Creation
 and Reconciliation**
 By / Par Jacob Gramit and Andrew Balfour

The 'Power' of Music:
**A critical engagement with
 theories of community and
 empowerment in group singing**
 By / Par Laura Curtis



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 Canada Choral a pour vocation de célébrer
 et de promouvoir le chant collectif au
 Canada sous toutes ses formes.

JUNOS 

NOMINEE



**CLASSICAL ALBUM
 OF THE YEAR (SMALL ENSEMBLE)**

NAGAMO
ANDREW BALFOUR AND MUSICA INTIMA
 Redshift*Independent

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

More photos from our NAGAMO tour with Andrew Balfour - March 2-19 2023



Top left: Our very first workshop at Havergal College in Toronto

Above: Singing Andrew's Omaa Biindig with him in a chapel at his alma mater, University of Manitoba.

Left: Andrew Balfour's standing ovation in his hometown of Winnipeg, where we shared the stage with his group Dead of Winter, and the University of Manitoba singers, under Elroy Friesen.

Bottom Left: Andrew teaching Four Directions to the massed choir in St John's, NL, including Shallaway Youth Choir and Ullugiagatsuk.

Below: Andrew leads a workshop at the University of Western Ontario.

