



White Rock Concerts *Presents*

Vancouver Chamber Choir



Friday, October 1, 2004

Jon Washburn

(Artistic & Executive Director)

Jon Washburn is the Conductor and Artistic Director of Canada's outstanding professional vocal ensemble, the Vancouver Chamber Choir. Well known internationally for his mastery of choral technique and interpretation, Washburn travels widely as guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and master teacher. In addition to Canada and the United States, he has performed in China, Russia, Finland, Estonia, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan.

He was one of the founders of the Vancouver Society for Early Music (now Early Music Vancouver) and a long-time member of its management committee. As a conductor of the Baroque repertoire, he has led over 300 performances of more than 80 large works by composers such as Bach, Buxtehude, Carissimi, Charpentier, Handel, Monteverdi, Pachelbel, Pergolesi, Purcell, Scarlatti, Schütz, Telemann and Vivaldi, as well as numerous smaller works.

Jon Washburn founded the Vancouver Chamber Choir in 1971, and has been providing its conducting and artistic direction ever since. He has always been a champion of new choral repertoire, having commissioned and premiered over 125 new works by Canadian, American and European composers. An active composer, arranger and editor himself, he has had many compositions published, performed and recorded around the world. He has recorded over 30 discs with the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Phoenix Bach Choir and various other ensembles for several labels. Each year Jon Washburn conducts approximately 50 concert, broadcast and CD performances of twenty separate repertoires along with many workshops for choral conductors, composers, students and singers. He has appeared as guest conductor with groups such as the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir in Tallinn, and prepared choruses for the Royal Swedish Chamber Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Mr. Washburn received a Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors in the spring of 1996 and the Louis Botto Award from Chorus America in June 2000. This award was presented in recognition of Washburn's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in the development of a professional choral ensemble of exceptional quality. In June 1998, he and the VCC were awarded the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. In 2000, he received the Friend of Canadian Music Award from the Canadian Music Centre and the Canadian League of Composers in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Canadian composers' music. In 2001, he was nominated to the Order of Canada.

Programme

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

THREE TRIUMPHS OF ORIANA

John Bennet All creatures now are merry-minded
Michael Cavendish Come, gentle swains
Thomas Weelkes As Vesta was from Latmos hill descending

AVE MARIA'S AROUND THE WORLD

Imant Raminsh Ave Maria Canada
Jonas Tamulionis Ave Maria Lithuania
Heitor Villa-Lobos: Ave Maria Brazil

AROUND THE PACIFIC RIM

Kosaku Yamada Aka tonbo Japan
Jon Washburn Balm in Gilead USA
Lionel Daunais Le Pont Mirabeau Canada
Carl Crossin Waltzing Matilda Australia

Intermission

CHORAL MASTERS

William Byrd Sing joyfully
Johann Sebastian Bach Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren
Anton Bruckner Virga Jesse

AROUND EUROPE

Heinrich Isaac Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen
Johannes Brahms In stiller Nacht
Vedro Midrilinnu mäng
Bardós Tambur

CELTS IN CANADA

McKennitt/Washburn Tango to Evora
Washburn Bonny Portmore
Washburn Tell my Ma

Programme Notes

VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR

The Vancouver Chamber Choir is Canada's outstanding professional vocal ensemble. Based on the Pacific Coast in British Columbia, conductor Jon Washburn and his twenty singers are noted for their diverse repertoire and performing excellence. The ACDA Choral Journal has declared the VCC to be "as fine a vocal chamber group as any in the world today." In 1998, the VCC and Jon Washburn won the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence for their outstanding contribution to the choral art. Mr. Washburn and the Choir were honoured with two awards at the 2000 Chorus America Conference, including the prestigious Louis Botto award, given in recognition of Washburn's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit in the development of a professional choral ensemble of exceptional quality.

The Choir impresses audiences with the depth and range of its repertoire and interpretive skills. Their concerts can include music from chant to folksong, traditional to avant-garde, a cappella to orchestra or jazz trio; Jon Washburn is noted for devising innovative and fascinating programmes and unearthing hidden choral treasures. The singers delight in acquiring foreign language skills and have sung in over 30 languages. A leading advocate of Canadian music and composers, the Choir has commissioned and premiered more than 100 new choral works in the last 20 years.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir has been performing at home and across Canada since its formation in 1971 by conductor Jon Washburn. The ensemble has gained international distinction through tours to the United States, China, Hong Kong, Finland, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. In 1994, they sang in Korea and Japan, where they were awarded gold medals and the overall Grand Prize in the 11th Takarazuka International Chamber Chorus Competition. During the summer of 1997, the Choir completed a highly successful tour Germany, France, and the Czech Republic, and in March 1999 they were featured guests at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association, performing to an audience of 6,000 of their peers. During the 2002-2003 concert season, the Choir will perform at Latin America's most prestigious festival, Festival Cervantino in Guanajuato, Mexico and at the 2002 Taipei International Choral Festival.

In addition to touring and a busy season of concerts, broadcasts and recording in Vancouver, the Choir offers an annual array of educational programmes: the National Conductors' Symposium for advanced choral conductors, Interplay workshops for choral composers, Focus! for college and university music students, OnSite for elementary and secondary schools, the biennial Young Composers' Competition and various on-tour residencies and workshops.

The Vancouver Chamber Choir sings frequently with distinguished artists and ensembles such as The King's Singers and Chanticleer, the Stockholm and Moscow Chamber Choirs; conductors Eric Ericson, Frieder Bernius, Tõnu Kaljuste and Andrew Litton; singers Ben Heppner, Maureen Forrester, and Ian Partridge; guitarist Paco Peña, the Canadian Brass, Ancient Cultures, the Turtle Island String Quartet and many others. They can be heard on CBC radio in Canada and on National Public Radio's *The First Art* in the United States. They have released over 40 recordings and CDs, including several devoted to Canadian composers such as R. Murray Schafer, Imant Raminsh, Stephen Chatman and Jon Washburn.

The Choir's 1995 Healey Willan disc (EMI/Virgin Classics) was nominated for a Juno Award and won an award for Outstanding Choral Recording from the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors. The most recent release is *Earth Chants* (CBC).

A Message From the Artistic Director

Welcome to the 2004-2005 season. I am sure you will enjoy the superb caliber and the immense variety of this year's programme. With the wonderful support and encouragement of the committee I have tried to create a balance between vocal, strings, winds and keyboard.

Our opening concert tonight features the VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR.....several subscribers have asked us specifically for a choral programme. Our own VCC will present an elegant programme of conductor Jon Washburn's favourites.

In the piano department this year, watch for the final concert [no April Fool's joke, this!] with the great French artist, Pascal Rogé. His programme is full of the greatest French repertoire, Ravel, Debussy. He is a towering giant in the piano world who has appeared in most of the world's leading concert halls. Now White Rock Baptist.

Tafelmusik are with us at the end of October. We had the good fortune to catch them on their return from a Japanese tour. Their programme features a Vivaldi bassoon concerto [one of 39 that he wrote for that instrument]; "Fall" from the Four Seasons, the Great Brandenburg Concerto # 3, and an ebullient Telemann concerto for winds and strings. Jeanne Lamon promises some fascinating commentary and insights into the world of period instruments.

In January watch for a new feature - "Winter Winds". Following the success of our Alain Trudel Wind Serenade programme last April, we have decided to invite a leading wind player to create a programme each season. This year it is Lorna McGhee, formerly principal flute of the Academy of St. Martin the Field and the BBC Symphony in London. I'll be joining with Lorna in some remarkable duos and trios. We'll have a small string orchestra to accompany us, so it will be a unique opportunity to enjoy solo woodwinds in an intimate setting.

The Jerusalem Trio will appear in March...and by special request they are including the great Archduke Trio of Beethoven on their programme. They are one of the most widely recorded piano trios in the world, and this will be a special opportunity for White Rock Concert goers to hear them in person.

And don't forget our February concert - our string quartet for 04-05 - the Vlach Quartet from Prague in the Czech Republic - playing - you guessed it, the famous Dvorak "American Quartet". And, while on the subject of string quartets, here's a first glimpse at what will be happening in 2005-2006.

Erika and I spent the first week of September at the Banff International String Quartet Competition, and we agreed to present the 2004 winners as part of our 05-06 season [A Canadian tour is part of the prize and White Rock, as always, is considered an important stop on any major cross-Canada tour of this nature.] We listened to ten quartets a day for a week....the winners [thank goodness we weren't official judges - it would have been a near impossible choice!] were the Jupiter String Quartet from Boston. Watch for them in March 2006.

Meantime, enjoy this year's programme - six evenings of quiet repose from the rush of our daily existence.

Sincerely,

**George Zukerman. O.C., O.B.C.,
Artistic Director
White Rock Concerts**



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Our Next Concert:

Taffelmusik



*Friday,
Oct. 29, 2004*