

Ensemble Laude Women's Choir



FOR CLOSE TO TWO DECADES Ensemble Laude women's choir has enchanted audiences in Canada and, more recently, in France, with its creative blend of medieval repertoire and contemporary choral works from around the world. Ensemble Laude is a community of women united by a passion for choral music and the vision of our Artistic Director, Elizabeth MacIsaac. We celebrate the beauty and resilience of women's vocal traditions through the ages and seek to share this art form through joyful, soulful, and life-enhancing performances that gladden the heart, lift the spirit, and expand the mind.

Ensemble Laude began in 1998 with a group of 12 singers focused solely on medieval music. It has since expanded into a vibrant choir of about 50 vocalists. Today, our concerts offer an eclectic repertoire, mostly unaccompanied, encompassing early music, sacred and secular works, and folk and world music. We are committed to expanding choral repertoire for women's voices and regularly commission new Canadian works.

As an auditioned community choir, Ensemble Laude provides opportunities for women and girls from a wide range of backgrounds to perform at a high level of excellence. In 2015 Ensemble Laude won second place in our category in the national CBC competition for amateur choirs. In 2016 we represented Canada at the international Choralies festival in France and performed at the Église St. Pierre d'Arène in Nice and the St. Sauveur Cathedral in Aix-en-Provence. In 2016 we also hosted the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco.



*"Ensemble Laude seem to have positioned themselves in a new league.
From medieval to baroque to contemporary, they seem fearlessly at home."*
—Music in Victoria

DIRECTORS



Elizabeth MacIsaac is the founder and Artistic Director of Ensemble Laude. She hails from Victoria, Canada, where she was trained as both a pianist and vocalist. After graduate studies in musicology at the University of Victoria, Elizabeth's love of Early Music took her to England and France for six years, where she worked as a soloist and taught school choirs. Upon her return to Canada, she joined the music faculties of the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Brentwood College School, where her choirs and orchestras garnered provincial and national accolades. In 2012 MacIsaac was awarded the BC Choral Federation's Herbert Drost Award for "distinguished service and support of choral music in B.C.," and in 2016 she received the Elizabeth Massey award from the Canadian Federation of University Women. She is currently Assistant Conductor for the University Chorale at the University of Washington, where she is studying for her DMA in Choral Conducting under Geoffrey Boers and Giselle Wyers.



Carolyn Howe is Ensemble Laude's Associate Director. Carolyn received her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Victoria and is a long-standing leader in Victoria's music community. From 2006 to 2014 she directed the Mood Swing Chorus for the Friends of Music Society, a partnership program for people with mental illness. Since 2005 Carolyn has been the music teacher at South Park Elementary, a fine-arts-focused school in Victoria, where she directs two award-winning children's choirs and is recognized as an outstanding music educator.

AWARDS

- 2015 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation National Choral Competition 2nd place in Equal Voice
- 2013 Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Victoria Choral Society Award for most outstanding performance
- 2013 Performing Arts BC Barbara A. Hagerman Choral Award
- 2012 International Kathaumixw festival, 1st and 2nd place in Equal Voice

COMMISSIONS

- 2012 Seulete Suy, by Nicholas Fairbank
- 2013 O Viridissima Virga, by Andrea Young
- 2013 Aurora, by Nicholas Fairbank
- 2014 Sanctum: A Requiem on Vancouver Island, by Sarah Quartel
- 2015 Hummingbird, by Kathleen Allen
- 2016 Beyond the Violet Rays, by Georgina Craig
- 2017 How Can I Keep from Singing!, by Sarah Quartel

ACCOLADES

- Thank you so much for tonight's concert. A brilliant program, executed in a way that thrilled and energized. —Audience Member*
- INCREDIBLE! Our entire row was leaking salt water all over the place! —Audience Member*
- Quite, quite marvellous. We are well and truly hooked. Thank you, thank you, thank you. —New Audience Member*
- Congratulations, what a stunning concert! Jerusalem was absolutely breathtaking. Pitch, phrasing, diction maintained throughout, and such a sense of joy. Well done. —Audience member*

LINKS

- Website: www.ensemblelaude.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/EnsembleLaude/
- YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtvshyaMBWnzsvuKazdsfw
- CBC Music page: artists.cbcmusic.ca/artist/57947

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