



MUSIC WESTERN  
The University of Western Ontario  
**D O N W R I G H T**  
Faculty of Music

# Information

## UWO SYMPHONY AND COMBINED CHOIRS JOIN FOR FINAL CONCERT

“*BEHOLD, THE SEA ITSELF!*” With a bold statement from the brass and this majestic exclamation from the choir, we are launched into Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Symphony No. 1, “A Sea Symphony.”* The University of Western Ontario Symphony Orchestra and the combined choirs of the Don Wright Faculty of Music come together under the baton of Maestro Jerome Summers to perform this dramatic and powerful work on Sunday, March 23, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The symphonic/choral collaboration is the traditional close to Music Western’s season, and while there are still a number of concerts scheduled after it, it is definitely the last major production of the year, and one of the largest.

Participating choirs and their directors are the University of Western Ontario Singers (Victoria Meredith), Les Choristes (Jennifer Moir), The Thames Scholars (Gerald Neufeld), The Chorale (Mark Bartel) and the St. Cecilia Singers (Mark Bartel). The soloists are two Western alumni who have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in Canada and abroad: soprano Jackalyn Short and baritone Alexander Dobson. Biographies of the performers are found on the following pages.

Two other works appear on the program: Mendelssohn’s *Hebrides Overture*, and “Nimrod” from Elgar’s *Enigma Variations*, the latter offered in memory of trumpeter Erik Schultz, who passed away late last year.

Vaughan Williams used poetry by Walt Whitman as the texts for this work. The selections explore the indiscriminate power of the sea, the wandering spirit of the mariner, and the vastness of creation. The work ends — in contrast to its bold and confident opening — quietly and reflectively, drawing analogy between the sailor’s aquatic voyage, and the soul’s journey through life. Vaughan Williams’ *A Sea Symphony* has recently been the subject of renewed attention, following last month’s Grammy Awards. The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s recording of the work (under conductor Robert Spano) won Grammys for Best Classical Album, Best Engineered Album, and Best Choral Performance.

Tickets for this concert can be purchased at the door, and are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information on this or any Music Western event, call (519) 661-3767.

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## **JACKALYN SHORT**

soprano

Jackalyn Short is one of Canada's busiest and critically acclaimed sopranos. She has appeared with symphonies and opera companies across Canada and the US including Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Dallas, Chicago and New York. Her opera roles encompass a wide range of composers from Handel to Stravinsky and beyond. Ms Short is also highly regarded for her concert performances and collaborates frequently with Maestro Bramwell Tovey and Maestro Franz Paul Decker in a wide range of repertoire, from Baroque to Modern. Her concert and opera work has been recorded and broadcast by the CBC on numerous occasions. Internationally, Ms Short's career has taken her to Israel, Japan, New Zealand, the UK and Singapore where she performed and recorded with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. Ms Short is an alumni of UWO and the University of Toronto's Opera Division, and has received many awards and scholarships including both a Canada Council Short Term Study Grant and Career Development Grant.

## **ALEXANDER DOBSON**

baritone

Praised for his musicality and dramatic awareness, Alexander Dobson was most recently commended as Belcore in L'Opéra de Montréal's *L'Elisir d'Amore* for both his vocal and acting talent. He has been lauded on both the opera and recital stage as a "positively charismatic" "vibrant baritone," with a "lovely timbre" and the "greatest stage presence." The British born baritone holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Western and has been a prizewinner at both national and international competitions. Mr. Dobson has been heard on CBC in solo recital, and in concert with the Gryphon Trio. Recent engagements include another recital with Aldeburgh Connection, a concert with L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, his debut with Opera Ontario as Frederic in *Lakmé*, and a return to L'Opéra de Montréal as Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*.

## **UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Jerome Summers, conductor

The eighty-member Orchestra is one of the University's "showcase" performing ensembles. Over its history, the UWOSO has gained widespread critical acclaim through numerous appearances and radio broadcasts, including a performance on the American Public Radio Network.

The UWOSO's range of repertoire is very broad, as it has an educational mandate to study and perform all representative works from the standard symphonic repertoire, including concerti, opera, contemporary and oratorio idioms. As well, an annual concerto competition allows a select number of student performers from the Don Wright Faculty of Music to present a full concerto at one of the four concerts given each season.

Membership in the orchestra is achieved by audition each year, with many opportunities for rotated seating and shared solo responsibilities within sections over the course of a season. Orchestra personnel are mainly students in Music Education and Performance, although some members are enrolled in other disciplines and faculties as well.

The UWO Symphony Orchestra concerts provide an indispensable forum for Western's finest performers, as well as a para-professional level of music-making for the University and community at large to enjoy.

Jerome David Summers was born and educated in British Columbia, where he became a member of the Vancouver Symphony and CBC Vancouver Radio Orchestras. After acquiring graduate degrees in composition from the University of British Columbia, he undertook studies in conducting at the prestigious Toho Gakuen in Tokyo, under Kazuyoshi Akiyama and Morihiro Okabe. A versatile musician, he has established a distinguished career as a conductor, composer, and clarinetist.

Since locating in Ontario, Maestro Summers has appeared with many of Canada's leading orchestras, and has broadcast frequently on CBC national radio. His conducting activities have embraced a broad spectrum of styles and genres, including opera and ballet productions, symphonic masterworks, World Premiere performances of new Canadian works, pops, theatre pieces, recording sessions and chamber orchestra performances

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throughout North America and Western Europe. He currently serves as Music Director of thriving orchestras in Southern Ontario, Michigan, and Toronto and frequently appears on the podium for Orchestras London and Windsor.

Jerome David Summers has acquired widespread recognition and critical acclaim as one of Canada's most vital musicians.

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO SINGERS**

Victoria Meredith, *conductor*

The University of Western Ontario Singers has long been recognized as one of Canada's most outstanding university mixed choral ensembles. The choir has been a repeat winner in the CBC Choral Competition and has placed first in the BBC International Choral Competition. They have toured in Canada and the United States and have sung for national conventions of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Kodaly Society of Canada. Selected by audition from students across the campus, most members are voice majors in UWO's Don Wright Faculty of Music. The choir performs between six and ten concerts each academic year both on and off campus, including regular performances with the UWO Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London Canada. The University of Western Ontario Singers recently released their first compact disc recording, *The King Shall Rejoice*.

### **LES CHORISTES**

Jennifer Moir, *conductor*

Western's advanced women's choir has a strong reputation across Canada as a result of their many national awards from both the CBC Choral Competitions and the Canadian Music Educators' Association. Les Choristes has been featured in concerts for MusicFest, Contemporary Showcase, the Ontario Music Educators' Association, and the American Choral Directors Association. Although the choir performs repertoire from all musical eras, they specialize in music originally written for treble voices, particularly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Les Choristes has commissioned and premiered new compositions from such esteemed Canadian composers as Nancy Telfer and Ruth Watson Henderson. While most members are voice majors in the Don Wright Faculty of Music, Les Choristes is open to all female students on campus, selected by audition.

### **THAMES SCHOLARS**

Gerald Neufeld, *conductor*

Thames Scholars is an ensemble of 12 to 16 singers who are dedicated to a high standard of a capella singing and historically informed performance practice of vocal music from the 15th to the 19th centuries. As part of the Early Music Studio at Western, the ensemble also performs together with the EMS orchestra of period instruments, and singers also have opportunity to perform solo and in small groups for which they receive extra coaching. The name "Thames Scholars" was prompted by the location of the Don Wright Faculty of Music near the Thames River which runs through the university campus, and members of the ensemble bring much of their own experience and scholarship to the rehearsal process.

### **CHORALE**

Mark Bartel, *conductor*

The Chorale is a select mixed choir made up of voice majors, instrumental majors, and non-music majors. Membership is by audition. The choir performs music from a wide variety of styles and eras, ranging from Renaissance madrigals to contemporary compositions. In addition to their own concerts each term, the Chorale joins Western's other choirs for the Choral Celebration concert each Fall, and large choral-orchestral concerts with both the UWO Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London Canada.

### **ST. CECILIA SINGERS**

Mark Bartel, *conductor*

The St. Cecilia Singers is the Don Wright Faculty of Music's recently formed women's choir. It has already distinguished itself as an exciting ensemble capable of performing varied and interesting music. Membership is by audition and is made up of both music and non-music majors from across campus. The St. Cecilia Singers perform their own concerts on and off campus as well as joining the other choirs for the annual Choral Celebration and large choral-orchestral works.