

# RISING TIDE

presented by  
**CONCREAMUS**

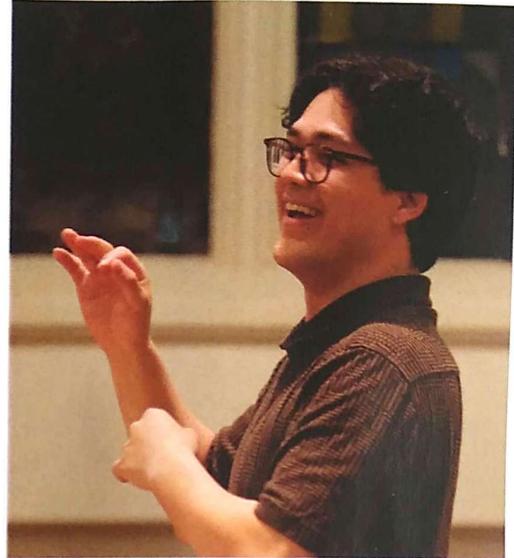
February 21, 2026  
Calvin Presbyterian Church



Modern  
Sound  
Collective

# Featured Artists

**Kai Leung** is a passionate choral conductor, singer, voice teacher, and composer. He is the Artistic Director and Executive Director of the Modern Sound Collective, an choral organization that provides youth and young adult musicians with accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration. He is also the Artistic Director of Oakville Choral, a dynamic non-audition community choir, promoting choral singing and music appreciation to the communities of Halton and beyond. Additionally, he sings baritone with the TMSingers and the Schola Cantorum of St. Basil's Catholic Church.



Kai holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, where he studied voice and composition.

His choral works have been performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, the Vancouver Youth Choir, the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, and many other choral groups around Canada, the United States, and Europe. Kai is the winner of the 2023 Debbie Fleming prize for choral composition, presented by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Kai's works are available for perusal and purchase on his website and through MSC presents.

Born in 1999 in Toronto, Ontario, **Nicholas Wanstall** began taking piano lessons at a very young age with his grandmother, Arden Broadhurst. He started singing with the Bach Children's Chorus during grade school, and this sparked his passion for choral music. In Grade 7 Nicholas began his studies at St. Michael's Choir School in downtown Toronto



where he developed a love for and knowledge of sacred choral repertoire. During his time at the Choir School, Nicholas also learned to play the pipe organ under the direction of Peter Daly.

Nicholas continued his studies at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music, completing a Bachelor's Degree in Organ Performance with a minor in Composition. He studied organ with John Tuttle and composition with Roger Bergs. Nicholas now works professionally as an organist, pianist, singer, choir director, composer, arranger, and more! He is the director of music at the Church of St. Mary and St Martha, and is a collaborative accompanist for a variety of children, youth, and young adult choirs around Toronto.

# Program Order

**Lonely Cloud** - India Gailey

**My Lighthouse\*** - Soroosh Kahmenyipour

-

**A Chrysalis Tale** - Kai Young Chan

**Life is But a Dream** - Kai Young Chan  
*Solos: Jamie Brown Hart and Tarquin Wongkee*

-

**Too Still for Dreams^** - Evan Hammell

**Far and Away\*** - Sean P. McIntyre

-

**Intermission**

-

**A Song About Rain^** - Sami Anguaya  
*Percussion: Joshua Holme, Nicholas Wanstall, Erik Kreem, Hayden Thomas*

-

**These Earths\*** - Andrew James Clark

**The Swallows\*** - Tyrese Walters

-

**Weavings** - Stephanie Martin

**The Hour of Separation** - Nicholas Wanstall

# About Modern Sound Collective

**Modern Sound Collective (MSC)** is a Toronto-based organization committed to building community and uplifting emerging choral artists. MSC aims to foster a nurturing community that inspires young artists through accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration, and to share their love of contemporary choral music through sincere and passionate performances. This mission is enacted through four choral ensembles - **Concreamus, Datsuzoku, Frisson, and Sehnsucht**. These choirs provide young people with fulfilling musical experiences in contemporary choral music. From high school students to seasoned university-level musicians and early-career professionals, MSC offers spaces for singers to take artistic risks, build lasting bonds, and engage with challenging and culturally diverse choral music at a high level.

MSC is a national leader in contemporary choral music advocacy and a champion of emerging composers. To date, the organization has premiered over **60 new works** by **more than 20 early-career composers**, many of which have gone on to receive national and international recognition. These premieres reflect MSC's broader commitment to equity in artistic representation, with a strong emphasis on uplifting underrepresented voices, including 2SLGBTQ+, racialized, and youth artists.

MSC also operates its own publishing initiative, **MSC Presents**, which provides an "artist-first" experience for young composers. This platform supports career development by bringing their music to Canadian and international choral stages, with a growing catalog of innovative and diverse choral repertoire. MSC also supports young composers through reading sessions, commissions, and an annual concert-recording project, where composers receive high-quality recordings of their new works. Works published by MSC presents have been purchased all across Canada, the United States, and Europe, including by notable choral ensembles such as the LA Choral Lab, Junges Vokalensemble Hanover, and the Orpheus Choir of Toronto.

## The Choir

Rasa Ghaedi  
Jamie Brown-Hart  
Jerenev Shen  
Madison Kirkpatrick  
Amy Chen  
Monday Earle  
Sofia Moniz  
Meredith Wanstall  
Thea Nappert

Norah Hoff  
Sarah Mole  
Alex Rojik  
Teddy Kendall  
Tarquin Wongkee  
Maia Roberts  
Lissy Meyerowitz

Erik Kreem  
Nathan Gritter  
Thomas Macdonald  
Joshua Sutherland  
Tyrese Walters  
Hayden Thomas  
Kai Leung

Henry Paterson  
Joaquin Justo  
Lucas Kalechstein  
Jayden Browne  
Evan Hammell  
Reid McInroy  
Ryan Wong  
Nathaniel Kulin  
Martin Gomes

**Tyrese Walters** (he/him) is a graduate of Western University with a Bachelor of Music with Honours in Voice Performance, where he studied Voice with Prof. Torin Chiles and



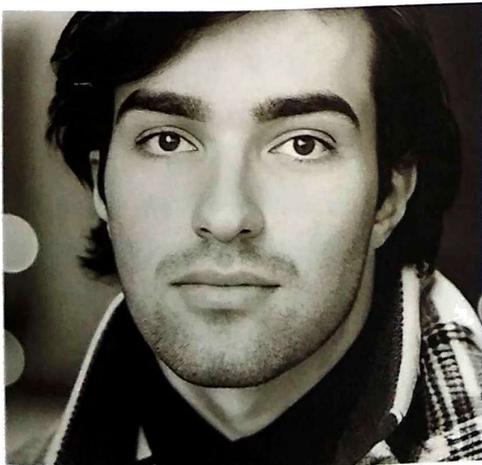
Conducting with Prof. Kathleen Allan and Dr. Mark Ramsay. In his final year at Western, he co-lead the Student Choral Initiative, a 20 member choir, within the Faculty of Music. He is the recipient of many awards including the Richard G. Manuel Music Award (2022), and the Deral Johnson Award (2022). Tyrese is continuing his studies at the University of Toronto where he will complete a Master of Music in Choral Conducting, where he holds the Elmer Iseler National Graduate Fellowship in Conducting.

Tyrese the conductor of the Cawthra Park Secondary School Junior Choir, an associate conductor of “Frisson” and “Datsuzoku” in the MSC Choirs organisation, and the Conductor of “Encore” with Young Voices Toronto.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, soprano **Jerene Shen** is currently completing her final year at the University of Toronto, pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Voice) with specialization in Opera. Jerene studies with Professor Lorna MacDonald and is a recipient of the 2023 Music Alumni Award.



Jerene’s musical journey started with The Hong Kong Children’s Choir, where she developed a strong belief in collaborative music making that shaped her aspiration to become a dedicated chorister. She sings with various ensembles, including SingFest (HK), the Choir at Grace Church on the Hill (CA) where she serves as their Soprano Lead; and JENGAH! (HK), a youth music ensemble she founded in 2024, where she conducted and sang as a soloist in their inaugural concert. Outside of music, she enjoys film photography.



**Jayden Browne** completed his master’s degree in Choral Conducting at The University of Toronto. Prior to moving to Toronto, Jayden grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where his love of choir developed from a young age. For his undergraduate studies, Jayden was a music major at St. Olaf College where he studied conducting with Anton Armstrong and Therees Hibbard.

In Toronto, Jayden sings and conducts in a number of choral and musical theatre projects including the Massey College choir, Candy Cane Carolers, That Choir, and many more.

# EDGE OF YOUR SEAT FESTIVAL II

Alex Pauk *Music Director & Conductor*  
Koerner Hall | 8:00PM Concerts | 7:15PM Musical Insights



## HEAT EFFICIENCY MARCH 26, 2026

Nils Mönkemeyer, *Viola*

Works by Aziza Sadikova, Dieter Ammann,  
Claude Vivier & Nicholas Ma

## HALLELUJAH SIM. APRIL 23, 2026

Elmer Iseler Singers & Concreamus Chamber Choir

Works by Ben Nobuto, Poul Ruders,  
Tristan Keuris & Chris Paul Harman



MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [ESPRITORCHESTRA.COM](http://ESPRITORCHESTRA.COM)

# ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

## Donors and Benefactors

*Through generous support, these donors provide critically important funding for our programs and directly contribute to the growth and development of young Canadian artists.*

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>\$1000+</b><br/>Sandra Lynn Mowat<br/>Nicholas Wanstall<br/>Anonymous Donor*</p>  | <p><b>\$200 - \$499</b><br/>Jackie Stothers<br/>Kelly Scott<br/>Marit Skuterud<br/>Bernasiewicz Family</p>   | <p>Mary Thomas Nagel<br/>Christopher Lewis<br/>Esprit Orchestra<br/>Erika Friesen<br/>Tristan Lipton<br/>Toronto Summer Music<br/>Nancy Smith<br/>Erik Skuterud<br/>Kristeen Kemp<br/>David Fuller<br/>Steven Duenkler<br/>Julie Winn<br/>Kenneth Ruffo<br/>David Broadhurst<br/>Issac Eng</p> |
| <p><b>\$500 - \$999</b><br/>David Beaton<br/>Kai Leung<br/>Sarah Mole<br/>Conrad Frank<br/>Emily Parker<br/>Christine Vernon<br/>Alex Ruffo<br/>Jennifer Mole</p> | <p><b>\$50 - \$199</b><br/>Melanie Yin<br/>Thomas Burton<br/>Alessandro Bresba<br/>Gary Leung<br/>Lisa Bendall<br/>Meredith Wanstall<br/>Art Gallery Of Ontario<br/>Carson Earle</p> |  |

*Modern Sound Collective is a registered charitable organization. If you would like to learn more about supporting our programs, please get in touch via email at: [admin@modernsoundcollective.ca](mailto:admin@modernsoundcollective.ca)*