

Out of Bounds: Camerata Nova's 2016-2017 Season

Our 2016-2017 season goes out of bounds and delves into the deep heritage of choral music while taking daring strides with new material. Highlights include three very different and exciting concerts:

Euro Nova (November 26 and 27, 2016 at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church): This concert runs the gamut: interesting, beautiful 20th-century European Christmas music (including works with harp and glass choir), arrangements of well-known European carols by five different Manitoba composers and European electro-acoustic carols featuring Camerata Nova with the local Winnipeg group The Uncalled Four, led by James Magnus Johnson with synthesizer whiz Jakob Weirathmueller. Not exactly the Christmas we know, but a Christmas that stirs the imagination, evokes the familiar and renews our spirit. *Note: While we simply cannot afford to make this a free concert, we do wish to continue the tradition of making our holiday concerts highly accessible. The compromise is a nominal charge of \$10 per person; children under 12 free.*

Taken (March 4 and 5, 2017 at the Ukrainian Labour Temple): Meet Jeremy Dutcher, a Maliseet originally from New Brunswick, one of 500 people left who speak his language. Dutcher is a composer and performance artist who has a Masters in Voice (Lieder) and Piano from Dalhousie. Camerata Nova has commissioned Jeremy and other Indigenous artists to compose works on the theme of

“taken.” For Jeremy, the subject is his language while for Lindsay Knight (performance name Eekwol), the theme evolved to the other ways we can be taken, by addiction and suicide. Lindsay is a passionate, brilliant hip-hop artist from Saskatoon. Conductor Mel Braun is writing a beat-box choir part for us to sing under Lindsay’s performance – hang on to your seats! Last but not least, our own Andrew Balfour is writing a fascinating work on the explorer Frobisher taking Inuit back to England as “curiosities.” The fabulous Madeleine Allakariallak from Iqaluit will perform the part of a shaman while Jeremy Dutcher sings the role of a young kidnapped Inuk. Not to be missed!

Isolation (April 8 and 9, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church): John Wiens has selected an exceptional array of early music on this theme – the Portuguese composer Manuel Cardoso isolated by writing music 50 years behind his times; Robert Carver, a Scotsman geographically isolated from his Renaissance colleagues, or *Stabat Mater Dolorosa* by John Browne whose music expresses deep feelings of isolation. A beautiful, contemplative start to Easter week.

Tickets for individual concerts are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, by phone (204-918-4947), at cameratanova.com, or at the door. Full subscriptions and two-concert mini-packages are available. See our 2016-2017 season brochure for full details.

Announcement: The winner of our early-bird draw (among people who subscribed before July 31, 2016) is Ila Patel. Congratulations! We look forward to seeing you at our concerts!

In other news...

Take the Indian at CMHR

On May 25, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) invited Camerata Nova to perform *Take the Indian: A Vocal Reflection on Missing Children and Selkirk Avenue*, two recent performance art compositions by Andrew Balfour. Performed in the large entrance hall of the CMHR, the dramatic presentation was followed by a panel discussion with Indigenous elders speaking about the residential school experience. The evening was part of CMHR’s commitment to contribute to the national conversation about truth and reconciliation. Go to the cameratanova.com home page to see a great video performance!

Andrew Balfour at the Montreal Baroque Festival

The internationally acclaimed group Ensemble Caprice invited Andrew to collaborate on a composition and perform in *La Grande Gigue*, a Métis-themed concert that they presented at the 14th Montreal Baroque Festival on June 24th. The experience was a major feather in Andrew’s cap and helped Camerata Nova get closer to the movers and shakers in the Montréal music scene. Andrew will be touring with Ensemble Caprice in 2017. If funding allows, it may be presented in Winnipeg... Stay tuned!



Camerata Nova performing in November 2015.

Photo: Chris Black

New Curators/Conductors on the Roster

We have made some changes to our creative team. Joining Andrew Balfour and Mel Braun is Vic Pankratz. Vic brings his creativity, experience and knowledge of choral repertoire to our group. You’ll get your first taste of his exciting output with Camerata Nova at *Euro Nova*. We also welcome the passionate and equally knowledgeable, John Wiens. Recently returned from Montréal, John replaces Ross Brownlee as our early music curator/conductor. John’s first concert with us was the masterful *British Mysteries* last April. More exceptional music-making can be expected next April with *Isolation*.

Collaboration with Polycoro at 2017 New Music Festival

Thanks to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO), we will be returning to the New Music Festival on Choral Night at 7:30 pm on January 30, 2017, at Westminster United Church. This time, Camerata Nova conductor Mel Braun has collaborated with Polycoro director John Wiens and the WSO curators to guarantee spice, surprise and serious fun in true New Music Festival fashion!

Year Two of our Northern Manitoba Outreach Program

Following last year’s success of the *Four Directions* pilot project, Camerata Nova is delighted to continue its partnership with Frontier School Division – Canada’s largest – and offer musical outreach to northern Manitoba communities for the 2016-17 school year. Camerata Nova music specialist team, Andrew Balfour and Michael Thompson, will once again work with K-12 students using voice, didgeridoos, percussion and other innovative techniques to encourage the children to express themselves through soundscapes that culminate in end-of-day group performances. The continued success of the far-reaching *Four Directions* program is dependent on funding by Camerata Nova and our annual supporters. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the impact of this valuable outreach and/or contributing to our annual costs.