

# MARGARET'S CHOIR

WITH GUEST ARTIST QUINTABILE

# Be a Light

A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR  
ACORN FAMILY PLACE



Sunday, December 1, 2024

2:30 pm

Prairie Spirit United Church

207 Thompson Drive

# Program

## Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we operate on the original land and gathering place of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these lands, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we strive to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. Every time we acknowledge this truth, we have an invitation and an opportunity to reflect on what we do and the actions we can take to make Manitoba a better place for everyone who lives here.

## Opening: Quintabile

Quintabile is a lower voice choral ensemble made up of students from the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. Started in 2022 by Ian Olson, the group explores a wide variety of repertoire from barbershop and pop to part-song and liturgical works. Singing at events of all kinds, we use the ensemble as a fun excuse to get together and make challenging music that we hope you'll enjoy. Quintabile: Ian Olson, Brady Barrientos, Derek McGinn, Caleb Rondeau, & Dariyan Dubik.

## Margaret's Choir Order of Songs

Song	Composer
There Has to Be a Song	Bob Benson, Andrea Ramsey
May There Always Be Sunshine	Kostya Barannikov & Larry Nickel Russian folksong, arr. Larry Nickel
Shine on Me	Traditional spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth
Be a Light	Miller, Dragstrem, Thompson, Akins arr. Tim Hayden
Love Rescue Me	Bob Dylan/Bono, arr. Denis Donnelly
Oceans and Stars	Amy Bernon
Feel'n Groovy (59th Street Bridge Song)	Paul Simon, arr. Kirby Shaw
The Golden Hour	Ruth Elaine Schram
Aquarius/Let the Sunshine	MacDermot, Rado, Ragni, arr. Greg Gilpin

## **Margaret's Choir Musicians**

### **Katy Harmer** *Artistic Director*

Katy Harmer (she/her) is a choral conductor, singer, and educator based in Winnipeg. She is currently the Music Director at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church, Artistic Director of Margaret's Choir, and the founding Artistic Director of Winnipeg Upper Voices. She has recently also directed the University of Manitoba Singers, sung with Dead of Winter, and led choral workshops for choirs of all levels in and around Winnipeg. Katy believes strongly in the power of choir to bring people together in community and brings this philosophy to all her musical ventures and collaborations.

### **Charmaine Bacon** *Pianist*

Originally from Russell, Manitoba, Charmaine Bacon is a freelance pianist, organist, and flutist based in Winnipeg. She performs in her own recital series at St. Andrew's River Heights United featuring the Canadian Bacon Wind Quintet and the Wind Chamber Flute Orchestra. Charmaine is the pianist for Joie de Vivre and Margaret's Choir, organist at McClure United Church, and enjoys playing as an extra musician with groups such as the Royal Air Canadian Force Band and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. She teaches flute to students of all ages and levels at her studio in Charleswood and is a guest teacher at schools across the province. Charmaine is currently a full-time student at the University of Manitoba pursuing an MA in Music Research. [www.charmainebacon.com](http://www.charmainebacon.com)

## **Acorn Family Place**

An acorn is a nearly universal symbol of something which is small, yet strong, and that within lies great potential. A highly relatable icon, an acorn is whole and complete on its own, and with the right nutrients, conditions, and support, it can grow into a mighty oak tree, resilient and sheltering.

At Acorn Family Place, we walk alongside families, providing programs and services to help them thrive. These include parenting support, personal development opportunities, recreational activities, and assistance through our Essential Needs Program, which offers vital items like diapers, formula, and other basic necessities.

Just as an acorn grows into a mighty oak, Acorn Family Place fosters resilience and potential, helping families build strong foundations and a brighter future while strengthening the community around them.

## **About Margaret's Choir**

In 2000, when a group told Margaret Tobin that they couldn't sing, she encouraged them to try singing together. With mutual support and encouragement, and eventually with professional direction, that initial handful of "non-singers" grew to become "Spirit's Call Choir". In 2014, the name was changed to "Margaret's Choir" to honour its founder, Margaret Tobin (1946-2014).

Now into its 25<sup>th</sup> year, Margaret's Choir sings in joyous four-part harmony under the outstanding direction of Katy Harmer, accompanied by the talented Charmaine Bacon. As a non-audition, community choir, Margaret's Choir provides a welcoming and supportive environment for all who want to sing, whatever their experience. Singing soothes the soul and enriches the world of all who hear. Singing from the heart, the choir performs two benefit concerts each year and has raised over \$280,000, monies which have been returned to the community supporting many worthy organizations. These charities, in turn, support the wellbeing of disadvantaged Manitobans. Margaret's vision of a choir which sings for joy and for personal, choral, and global harmony is still flourishing.

## **Special Thanks to...**

Prairie Spirit United Church staff and technicians

First Unitarian Universalist Church for the use of their rehearsal space

Acorn Family Place and their volunteer staff

Rainbow Harmony choir for use of their risers.

**Margaret's Choir resumes rehearsals**

**Sunday Jan. 5th, 2025, 2:30PM**

at 603 Wellington Crescent,

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg.

New members and current members may register online at our website

[www.margaretschoir.ca](http://www.margaretschoir.ca)

**No experience needed.**

---