

Margaret's Choir

with guest artist The Matriarchy

LOVELY DAY

a benefit concert for
MUSIC FOR LIFE



Sunday, May 5, 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: The Matriarchy

The Matriarchy is a new vocal trio comprised of 3rd year voice majors in the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. Sandra Goetz, Hannah Orr, and Isla Shea formed the ensemble in January of this year and have been performing regularly since. Finalists in the 2024 St. John's College Ensemble Competition at U of M, The Matriarchy is praised for their impeccable blend and crowd-pleasing tunes. When they are not singing together, the ladies of the Matriarchy can be found watching BBC period drama adaptations instead of doing their homework.

The Matriarchy are pleased to be collaborating with pianist Nathan Clark, recent graduate of the Desautels Faculty of Music Jazz program

Margaret's Choir Order of Songs

Song Title	Composer/Arranger
There's a Meetin' Here Tonight	Traditional; arr. Ron Smail
Fields of Gold	Sting; arr. Phillip Lawson
Loch Lomond <i>Sarah Fontaine-Sinclair, flute</i> <i>Sophie Caron, cello</i>	Scottish Folk Song; arr. David Lantz III
Flying Free <i>Sarah Fontaine-Sinclair, flute</i>	Don Besig
All Together We Are Love	Katarina Gimon
Closer to Fine	Indigo Girls; arr. Roger Emerson
Sway	Pablo Beltran Ruiz & Norman Gimbel; arr. Kirby Shaw
Lovely Day	Bill Withers, arr. Robert T. Gibson
Best Day of My Life	Zachary Barnett, et.al; arr. Roger Emerson
Why Can't We?	Robbie Smith, arr. Donna Rhodenizer

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 *Collaborative Pianist*

Charmaine Bacon is a classically trained pianist, organist, and flutist, based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She plays for Margaret's Choir, Joie de Vivre Choir, the 'Ladies' Choir, and is organist at McClure United Church. Charmaine is a guest organist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and recently performed 'Interstellar' in their Blockbuster Themes concerts. Charmaine directs and performs in her own concert series which features her woodwind quintet 'Canadian Bacon', who will be going on tour in Montreal this September. She teaches music lessons at her home studio in Charleswood and is a guest clinician across the province. Charmaine serves as a member of the board for the Music Professionals of Manitoba (Local 190), and is currently the president of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Winnipeg Centre. www.charmainebacon.com

Music for Life

Music for Life receives donations of money and used musical instruments to provide children and youth in First Nations and inner-city communities in Manitoba with opportunities to make music together. Started in 2018 by a group of volunteers, Music for Life has donated instruments and supported music programs in Cross Lake (Mikisew High School), Thompson (Wapanohk Community School), Kenora (Kenora Fellowship Centre) and Winnipeg (Indigenous Family Centre, Willow Place, St. Thomas Weston Anglican Church). As we all know, learning an instrument and playing and singing together gives kids a sense of belonging, mastery and pride along with the simple joy that music can bring. One parent in Cross Lake thanked the teacher with tears in his eyes for giving his daughter the skill that he failed to learn and pass on from his father, a master fiddler.

Proceeds from today's concert will be used to support a 2-week summer music camp for kids in Winnipeg's Weston neighbourhood, hosted by St. Thomas (Weston) Anglican Church. Our thanks to Margaret's Choir and today's audience for this support.

Please know that we welcome volunteers to help keep this program going. For information email co-chairs Robert Miller at community-works@shaw.ca or Ellen Wood at 1929dfwoo@gmail.com.

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 25th 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 \$260,000, 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

Music for Life and their volunteer staff

Rainbow Harmony choir for use of their risers.

**Margaret's Choir resumes rehearsals on Sunday, Sept. 9th, 2024,
at 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

No experience needed.
