



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PODIUM 2022: CHORAL CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL

Reimagine, Rebuild, Reconnect | Toronto, Ontario | May 19-23, 2022

**Toronto, Ontario, April 22 2022** - Choral Canada and Choirs Ontario present *PODIUM 2022: Reimagine, Rebuild, Reconnect*, in Toronto and online from May 19-23, 2022

PODIUM is Choral Canada's national choral Conference and Festival. This multi-day celebration brings together participants who are passionate about group singing. PODIUM 2022 is an opportunity for singers, conductors, composers, music educators and audience members to join in celebrating choral music and group singing in one of the world's most multicultural and exciting cities. Virtual Festival concert tickets are also available for those who aren't able to attend in person.

For 5 days in May, PODIUM 2022's Festival line-up of 8 concerts will excite audiences with a variety of programs and styles of choral music. The diverse lineup features children's choirs, Indigenous voices, gospel and spiritual music, new Canadian works, and world premieres.

The opening concert on Thursday May 19 will feature the **National Youth Choir of Canada (NYCC)**, one of Canada's top youth choir programs which takes place every two years and includes singers from across the country. The NYCC performance will include 3 world premiere pieces by composers Andrew Balfour, Nicholas Kelly and Palestinian Jordanian composer Shireen Abu Khader.

Friday's schedule features Toronto's largest 2SLGBTQQIA+ community choir, **Singing Out**, performing an afternoon concert with Winnipeg's **Prairie Voices** – an award-winning choir of 18-25 year-old singers. The evening concert will bring the energy with the gospel sounds of Juno Award-winning **Toronto Mass Choir**.

Over the weekend of May 21 and May 22, audiences will be able to hear from the **Jason Max Ferdinand Singers** (Sat. May 21) and **Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble** (Sun. May 22), both of which are based in the United States. PODIUM 2022 is so pleased to be able to bring these groups to our Canadian audience.

Saturday evening (May 21) **Dead of Winter** will present their unique work *Captive* - the third in a series of Truth and Reconciliation concerts created by composer Andrew Balfour to acknowledge and honour the pain, sorrow, and beauty of the experience of Canada's Indigenous peoples.

**Shallaway Youth Choir** and **Winnipeg Boys' Choir** will fill the rafters with sound on Sunday afternoon (May 22) with more than 100 young singers on stage over the course of their concert. Shallaway Youth Choir is also collaborating with the NL Deaf Choir and their performance will include an ASL interpreter.

Monday's schedule rounds out the Festival with a Victoria Day (May 23) concert featuring the beautiful sounds of the **Exultate Chamber Singers** and the **Canadian Men's Chorus**.

Some of the afternoon concerts will also include a new initiative for 2022's Festival – the **Song Sharing** project is a participatory musical series led by Indigenous knowledge keepers and artists. During these Song Sharing sessions, the audience will learn about and honour Indigenous cultures and experiences.



# PODIUM

CHORAL CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL  
CONGRÈS ET FESTIVAL CHORAL

**Shannon Thunderbird**, an elder and artist from Coast Tsm'syen First Nations, alongside singer **Sandy Horne**, will share Indigenous knowledge and history through interactive song and rhythm during the Friday, May 20 @ 3:30 pm concert and the Monday, May 23 @ 3:30 pm performance. **Deantha Edmunds** is Canada's first Inuk classical singer and will lead the Song Sharing during the Sunday May 22 concert @ 4 pm.

Individual Tickets and Festival Passes for both in-person and virtual concerts are available.

Hear from:

- National Youth Choir of Canada
- Prairie Voices Inc.
- Singing Out
- Toronto Mass Choir
- Jason Max Ferdinand Singers
- Dead of Winter
- Shalloway Youth Choir
- Winnipeg Boys Choir
- Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble
- Exultate Chamber Singers
- Canadian Men's Chorus
- Deantha Edmunds
- Shannon Thunderbird
- Sandy Horne

For a full list of concerts, prices, and additional information, please visit the [PODIUM](http://podium2022.com) website for more information about the choirs.

PODIUM 2022 Festival | Learn more and get tickets at [podium2022.com/festival](http://podium2022.com/festival).  
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