Choirs Ontario

CHOIRS ONTARIO ANNOUNCES JAMIE LOBACK AS THE WINNER OF THE 2026 PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2026 | Toronto, Ontario - The Board of Directors of Choirs Ontario is thrilled to announce that *Jamie Loback* has been selected the winner and recipient of the 2026 President's Leadership Award.

Jamie's extensive career as a choral conductor, artistic director, and mentor have identified him as a prominent leader within Ontario and beyond. The breadth and longevity of his contribution to choral music in Ottawa extend well beyond his artistic accomplishments and have helped shape the future of the choral art in Ontario.

"It is a privilege to be the recipient of Choirs Ontario's President's Leadership Award. My work in the field of choral music would not be possible without the support of the many volunteers, singers, collaborative pianists, arts administrators, and board members who contribute so much to the success of choral performance and music education. I share this award with them and thank them for all that they do to support this artform. Thank you to Choirs Ontario for this honour." - Jamie Loback

Jamie Loback holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Ottawa, and is the Artistic Director of the Capital Chamber Choir, Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, and the Director of Music at St. Joseph Church in Ottawa.

An advocate for the promotion of modern choral repertoire, much of Jamie's work has centered around advocacy for contemporary choral composers, premiering numerous Canadian compositions, as well as the Canadian premiers of works by international composers. Jamie led the Capital Chamber Choir on Canadian tours in 2018 (St. John's, NL) and most recently in May 2026 (Victoria, BC) to perform at Choral Canada's bi-annual *Podium Choral Conference and Festival.* He regularly prepares choruses for performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

In the context of the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, Jamie focuses upon the development of choral leadership skills for students, including the training of intern conductors, collaborative pianists, arts administrators, and music educators, in addition to providing opportunities for aspiring composers.

In 2025, Jamie was appointed as the conductor of the 2025 Ontario Youth Choir.

"Jamie demonstrates an exceptional ability to foster connection, trust and community across Ontario's choral landscape. His leadership combines artistic excellence with pedagogical skill, and a deep commitment to mentoring future musicians and championing Canadian composers" - 2026 President's Leadership Award Committee

Nominations for the President's Leadership Award are adjudicated by a committee consisting of three past-presidents of Choirs Ontario. This year's committee included Charissa Bagan, Matthew Otto, and Dean-Jobin-Bevans.

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Established in 2001 to commemorate Choirs Ontario's 30th anniversary, this award recognizes individuals who, through their support or engagement in choral music-making, have made an exceptional contribution to the promotion and advancement of choral music in their communities.

The Award is presented annually and alternates between those who support choral music – executive directors, administrators, volunteers, corporate sponsors, philanthropists, and those who are directly involved in the performance of choral music – singers, conductors, and accompanists. Candidates must have demonstrated an exceptional leadership role, vision and cultural activism and must be nominated by a Choirs Ontario member choir or individual member.

Previous recipients include: Frieda and Vern Heinrichs, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, Linda Beaupre, Emily Burgetz, Marilyn Ala-Kanti, Albert Greer, Robert Henderson, Mark Sirett, Jessie Iseler, Gerald Fagan, Barbara Clark, Jean Ashworth Bartle, Andi Murphy, and Carol Woodward-Ratzlaff.

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