

Friends of Music

First-St. Andrew's is known throughout the London area and beyond for its outstanding music program. This important commitment to musical outreach through year-round concerts is supported, in part, by donations from our generous donors to Friends of Music. Donations can be made to honour a birthday or anniversary or as a memorial, to help support our programs

All donors receive a tax receipt and are recognized in the Friends of Music list on the FSA website at <https://www.fsaunited.com/donor-page>

Donations can be made online through the Donor page using the link above. You can also donate by cheque payable to "First-St. Andrew's United Church" memo: "Friends of Music – Donation" and mailed to:
First-St. Andrew's United Church, 350 Queens Avenue,
London, ON. N6B 1X6.

Music at First-St. Andrew's is also supported by the following:

- Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship
- Dr. Elmer Butt Shekinah Fund
- Terry Head Memorial Fund
- Clark Wilson Fund (established Jan. 1983 by the Music Committee)



MUSIC
at First-St. Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

FSA Strings
Igor Saika
Conductor

Presents
Autumnal Reflections

Special Guests
Chris Fischer, organ
Lynda Kennedy, piano
FSA Senior Choir
Chris Fischer, director

PROGRAM
Including Works by
Respighi
Elgar
Shostokovich

Premiere
of Choral Works by
Robert Grenier

Wednesday November 8, 2023
7:30pm

Freewill Offering

350 Queens Ave at Waterloo
519-679-8182 | www.fsaunited.com
facebook.com/First-St-Andrews-United-Church

Program

Sospiri op. 70 Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Chris Fischer - Organ, Lynda Kennedy - Piano

Waltz No. 2 Dimitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
Lynda Kennedy - Piano (arr. Paul Lavender)

Indian Summer Robert Grenier (b. 1951)
FSA Choir

In Paradisum Robert Grenier (b. 1951)
Sonja Gustafson - Soprano, Lynda Kennedy - Piano,
FSA Choir

Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 3 Ottorino Respighi
(1879-1936)

1. *Italiana*
2. *Arie di Corte*
3. *Siciliana*
4. *Passacaglia*



We acknowledge and honour the land upon which we gather today as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations People. In particular, we recognize and thank the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation; Oneida Nation of the Thames and the Munsee-Delaware Nation for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

Upcoming Concerts at FSA

Dec 9 at 3:00pm – Sing-along Messiah with London Pro Musica and FSA Senior Choir; FSA Strings - Paul Grambo, conductor; Grace Yip & Melanie Cancade, pianists

Friday Noon Advent Recitals 12:00-12:40pm

Dec 1 – Lynda Kennedy, piano;
Katerina Juraskova, `cello;
Gary McCumber, clarinet

Dec 8 – Laudamus Bells, Richard Frank, director

Dec 15 – Chris Fischer, organ; Ken Baldwin, trumpet

Worship at FSA

Sundays at 10:30 am

- ◆ Dec 3 – Advent 1 – Lesson and Carols
- ◆ Dec 10 – Advent 2 – Communion
- ◆ Dec 17 – Advent 3 – with Brass Quartet
- ◆ Dec 24 at 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Family Service with Communion – including FSA Strings (come at 6:30pm for carols and festive music)

Robert Grenier Bio

Robert Grenier, a native of London Ontario, is retired Associate Professor in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at South Carolina State University. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree in Honors Music History at the University of Western Ontario, he enrolled in the Opera School at the University of Toronto. While completing his diploma in operatic performance he appeared as a soloist with the Canadian Opera Company, Opera in Concert and with the Toronto Symphony. He was invited to the Ecole d'art lyrique at the Opéra Comique in Paris where after a year's study he was offered a contract to sing at the Paris Opera.

For four years he sang at the Opéra working with the great artists such as Hildegard Behrens, Luciano Pavarotti, John Vickers, Seiji Ozawa and Ken Nagano. A highlight from this period was collaborating with Olivier Messiaen on his opera, Saint François d'Assise, in the role of Frère Bernard. Robert Grenier earned his DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts) from the Eastman School of Music and began his teaching career at Florida International University. In Miami he came into contact with the Haitian community. FIU provided the Dr. Grenier with a grant to teach at the École Saint Trinité in Port-au-Prince giving him the first sustained contact with the culture. Groves Dictionary of Music and Musicians commissioned him to write the article on Haiti's art music. Oxford University Press has commissioned several biographical entries for their Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography. His research has also resulted in a number of public concerts and CD's featuring rarely heard and newly discovered compositions of the Haitian repertoire.

Apart from his own published vocal and instrumental compositions, Dr. Grenier has published scholarly papers on the art music of Haiti notably one, "Werner Jaegerhuber's Messe sur les airs vodouesques: the inculturation of Vodou in a Catholic Mass"- coauthored with Claude Dauphin, has entered the archive of the Vatican. As part of his effort to reveal the musical culture of Haiti, he has recently completed a nine-volume edition of the Piano Music of Haiti.

FSA Strings

Violin I

Tyson Moxley (concertmaster)
Suzanne Witt
David Cunningham
Thomas Krause

Violin II

Anita Louwerse
Pat Thornton
Kathleen Klyn-Hesselink
Natalie Lampman

Viola

Peter Bartley
Hallie Ashman

Cello

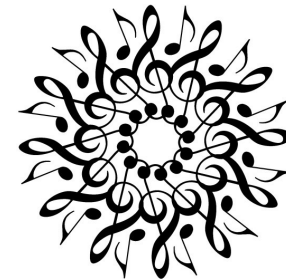
Brenda McLeod
John Krisak
Barrie Evans

Double Bass

Anne Pin

Conductor

Igor Saika



Many thanks to Chris Fischer, Merran Neville, Kathryn Skelly, Jim Silcox, George Jolink, and the FSA Music Committee for assistance and support.

Choral Texts

Indian Summer - William Campbell

Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.

Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.

Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.

In Paradisum (translation from Latin text)

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs greet you at your arrival
and lead you into the holy City of Jerusalem.
May the choir of Angels greet you
and like Lazarus, who once was a poor man,
may you have eternal rest.

Program Notes

Sospiri, meaning 'sighs', was first performed in 1914. Elgar had originally intended the music to depict sighs of love, but the end result was far more intense and brooding.

Originally coming from his 'Suite for Variety Orchestra', the **Waltz No. 2** by Shostakovich has been made famous by its use in many film soundtracks, most notably, Stanley Kubrick's 1999 film, 'Eyes Wide Shut'.

Indian Summer, by Robert Grenier is one of a series of brief, lyrical choral settings of secular poems, many by Canadian poets.

The *In Paradisum* is the twelfth and final movement of a concert Requiem Mass composed by Robert Grenier. Each movement employs a different ensemble of singers and two movements are a cappella.

Respighi, a notable musicologist, created his **Ancient Aires and Dances** by transcribing Italian lute music from the 16th - 18th centuries.