

For immediate release - April, 2024

Two provinces, three choirs, four soloists, and 23 orchestral musicians, bringing 150 performers together for the Ottawa Premiere of a new imagining of Mozart's Requiem

Rest and a New Day, a choral event, takes place on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 pm at the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre. Under the direction of Lee Carter, a massed choir will present an evening of contrasts. A new completion of the Mozart Requiem will be paired with Ola Gjeilo's 2008 Sunrise Mass for a harmonious balance of old and new, death and rebirth.

When Mozart died in 1791, his final composition, the storied Requiem in D Minor, was largely incomplete. The version we are most familiar with was finished at the request of Mozart's widow by his student, Franz Süssmayr. For hundreds of years, though others have tried their hand at it, the Süssmayr version has been the accepted interpretation of Mozart's vision.

Until now.

After years of painstaking research, German composer Michael Ostrzyga has produced a new completion, believed to be a closer musical representation of what Mozart would have likely written. "It seems unbelievable that we would be presenting a new Mozart Requiem," acknowledges Carter, "but this edition just provides a different look at what the dying composer might have written, and it's exciting to be bringing this new perspective to our audience in May."

The evening will also include Ola Gjeilo's beautiful Sunrise Mass which the composer firmly believes is a journey in which, "The self, having experienced each movement in the work, now has the perspective and understanding to peacefully contain everything it has gone through."

(<https://olagjeilo.com/admin/wp-content/uploads/SUNRISE-MASS-Kira-Rugen-paper.pdf>)

Artistic Director Lee Carter says the evening is also special as the soloists represent the high quality musicians that flow through the high school music programs in Ottawa. Soprano Bronwyn Kelly and bass Matthew Li are both graduates of Carter's program at Nepean High School, while tenor Morgan Hassel and mezzo-soprano Gabriela Comeau Gort sang at Glebe C.I. and Canterbury H.S. respectively. "All four of our soloists sang in OCDSB choral programs," says Carter. "and we're so delighted to have them join us on stage, bringing their years of learning and experience since leaving high school, for this huge project for our community choirs."

Castenchel Choir and Nepean Choir, with the Nepean High School Choirs, organist Jennifer Loveless, and our orchestra made of 22 members of the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, are, as Castenchel soprano Jennifer Currie says, "delighted and challenged to present the Ottawa premiere of the Ostrzyga completion" and are eager to soothe their audience with Gjeilo's cathartic Sunrise Mass.

Don't miss this remarkable one evening performance. Tickets are available through www.castenchel.com, www.nepeanchoir.ca, or at the door on performance night. General admission \$35; children 12 and under admitted free of charge.

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact.

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CHORALE CASTENCHEL CHOIR & CHOEUR NEPEAN CHOIR *avec / with*
LES MEMBRES DE L'ORCHESTRE SYMPHONIQUE D'OTTAWA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS
& LES CHOEURS DE L'ECOLE SECONDAIRE NEPEAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

Rest and a New Day

Mozart Requiem / Gjeilo Sunrise Mass

Repos et un nouveau jour

Requiem de Mozart / Sunrise Mass de Gjeilo

Lee Carter *Direction*

SOLISTES / SOLOISTS

Bronwyn Kelly *Soprano*

Gabriela Comeau Gort *Mezzo-soprano*

Morgan Hassel *Ténor, Tenor*

Matthew Li *Basse, Bass*

Jennifer Loveless *Orgue, Organ*



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SAMEDI, 19 H 30 / SATURDAY, 7:30 PM
MAY 11 MAI 2024

Le Centre Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre
355 chemin Cooper Street, Ottawa, Ontario

\$35 BILLETS / TICKETS / GRATUIT POUR LES ENFANTS DE 12 ANS ET MOINS
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE



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CASTENCHEL.COM & NEPEANCHOIR.CA