



April 30, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Salut Printemps:

A bouquet of new works by Female Ontarian composers and classical favourites

Performed by the Heliconian Choir and Orchestra

Cheryll Chung, Conductor

Janet Catherine Dea, Barbara Fris, Alison Hodsmann and Catharin Carew, Soloists

Date + Times: Sunday May 27 at 2pm
Ticket Prices Regular \$25
60+ \$20
Post Secondary Student / Heliconian Club Members \$15
Youth 13-Highschool \$10
12 and under Free
Concert admission includes invitation to post-concert reception.

Venue: St. Clement's Anglican Church, 70 St. Clements (Duplex/Eglinton)
Box Office: Toronto Heliconian Club / 416.922.3618 / <http://hco.eventbrite.ca>
Websites: [Event Info and Tickets](#) / [HCO on Facebook](#) / [Heliconian Club](#)

The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra (HCO) celebrates their second season on May 27 with ***Salut Printemps***, a unique program juxtaposing choral and orchestral favourites with fresh new works by three Ontarian women composers.

Named for Debussy's ***Salut Printemps***, the music for this vibrant concert explores the heights and depths of human emotion in works of faith, love, nature, and change. The program includes excerpts from **Pergolesi's** *Stabat Mater* and **Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals**, movements from **Mozart's Symphony no.40 in G minor**, and a colorful solo by new Heliconian member and talented Soprano **Alison Hodsmann**. Also on the program are *SongBird* by **Sarah Quartel**; *Song For Abwoon* by **Joanna Estelle** (2012 Heliconian Member Composer for HCO); and *You Know Me* by **Monica Pearce** (2012 Winner of HCO New Music Competition for Emerging Female Composers). For a complete [program listing](#) visit the ticket website.

Joanna Estelle's 17-minute *Song For Abwoon* is sung in Aramaic, one of the world's ancient languages, and supported by a unique instrumental chamber ensemble. The piece reflects Estelle's lifelong interest in spiritual matters. The primary inspiration for the original text was alternate English translations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer by scholar, author and spiritual teacher Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos. The mezzo solo will be performed by **Janet Catherine Dea**, lauded by Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* as a Soprano having a 'fascinating range of colour in her low voice, a solid middle and effortlessly manages the

upper register.'

This year's winner of the HCO *New Music Competition for Emerging Canadian Female Composers* is **Monica Pearce**, founder of Toy Piano Composers and recipient of an honorable mention for the Canadian Music Centre's Toronto Emerging Composer award. *Salut Printemps* will feature Pearce's ***You Know Me***, specifically composed for The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra, and inspired by Pearce's fascination with the dichotomous combination of steeliness and vulnerability of the poetry of the late Gwendolyn MacEwen.

The soloists in Pergolesi's **Stabat Mater** will be soprano [Barbara Fris](#) and mezzo soprano [Catharin Carew](#). Heliconian Club member Fris has been described by the Luminato Festival as '*...one of Toronto's most artistic, creative and inspiring women.*' **Catharin Carew** astounded audiences in Canada and the UK and has been described by WhatsOnStage (UK) as '*a real personality with a dark edge to her mezzo as well as clear top notes.*'

About the HCO:

Now in the second season, HCO is under new management with four Co-Artistic Directors each fulfilling multiple roles. They are: [Jacqueline Leung](#) (General Manager, Pianist), [Cheryll Chung](#) (Conductor), [Alison Hodzman](#) (Choir Manager, Chorister), and [Katie Arnup](#) (Orchestra Manager, Clarinetist). Assisted by Toronto Heliconian Club General Manager Emma Walker, HCO has been able to implement new vision and ideas this season while spreading the spirit of the Toronto Heliconian Club further into Toronto's community. These new ideas include highlighting the talent of members of The Toronto Heliconian Club, through the selection of a featured Heliconian Club composer, soloists, and a competition for emerging young female composers. Following in the footsteps of The Toronto Heliconian Club, HCO strives to create opportunity for professional women in music as well as promote and stimulate an active interest in and advancement of the arts. Other changes to HCO this season include holding this season's concert in the beautifully renovated St. Clement's Church, following last season's standing-room-only performances at the historic and charming Heliconian Club.

The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of The Toronto Heliconian Club



The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra (HCO) is a women's choir and instrumental ensemble of approximately 23 musicians. HCO was co-founded by Michelle Kyle and Sarah John in 2010. Now in their second season, HCO is led by a new female Artistic Direction team; Cheryll Chung (Conductor), Jacqueline Leung (General Manager, Pianist), Alison Hodzman (Choir Manager, Chorister), and Katie Arnup (Orchestra Manager, Clarinetist).

Supported by and working directly with the historic and respected Toronto Heliconian Club, The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra carries the spirit of the Toronto Heliconian Club further into the Toronto community. The musicians of The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra include members of the Toronto Heliconian Club and nonmember musicians from the Toronto community.

The Heliconian Choir and Orchestra strives to create more opportunity for professional women in music. Like the Toronto Heliconian Club, HCO works to promote and stimulate an active interest in, and advancement of the arts amongst professional women. HCO works to program new compositions by Canadian female composers and promote the work of the members of the Toronto Heliconian Club.

ⁱ Ms. Fris appears courtesy of LANBAR Artists Management Inc. (Toronto)