

WHITE ROCK  
CONCERTS

SINCE 1956

2024-2025 SEASON

**ELEKTRA-FYING**

*Elektra Women's Choir*  
*Morna Edmundson, Artistic Director*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025



ELEKTRA

MORNA EDMUNDSON ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# Legacy

SUNDAY, MAY 25 | 3PM

Celebrating 38 years  
of Canadian artistry with  
Morna's desert island playlist.

Church of the Good Shepherd (2250 150 Street, Surrey)

Tickets at [elektra.ca](http://elektra.ca)



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EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER



Dorothee Mields, soprano  
&  
the Pacific Baroque Orchestra

## Bach Ties the Knot

*Wedding music by J.S. Bach to  
celebrate the Season of Love*

**Saturday, February 15 | 3pm**  
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

Tickets: \$25 - \$79 | \$10 Student Rush  
[earlymusic.bc.ca](http://earlymusic.bc.ca)

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## BIOGRAPHY



Since its founding in 1987 in Vancouver, Canada, Elektra has emerged as a pioneering force among adult treble-voice choirs. Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Morna Edmundson, Elektra is celebrated for its daring and imaginative programming, coupled with outstanding performances. The choir's excellence has been recognised with multiple national awards, and Elektra has had the honour of performing at esteemed choral conferences worldwide.

Elektra is steadfast in its mission to champion Canadian composers and expand the boundaries of choral repertoire. Over the past three decades, the choir has commissioned and premiered more than 100 compositions and arrangements, firmly establishing itself as a leader in the choral community.

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## BIOGRAPHY (cont.)

A standout achievement for Elektra is the release of *Snewíyalh tl'a Stakw* (Teachings of the Water), an 18-minute music video that delves into the water teachings of British Columbia's First Nations cultures. This innovative project, born from a three-year collaboration with First Nations communities, was envisioned by Co-Curator and ethnomusicologist Dr Jeanette Gallant. Featuring lyrics in the Squamish language and music by Métis-Canadian composer Patrick Carrabré, this work highlights Elektra's dedication to cultural diversity and artistic innovation.

### *About Morna Edmundson*

Morna Edmundson is one of Canada's best-known choral conductors with a strong reputation for excellence. Passionate since childhood about choral singing, she obtained degrees and diplomas in vocal music in Vancouver, Bellingham, and Stockholm, Sweden where her teachers included Eric Ericson. In 1987, she co-founded Elektra Women's Choir with Diane Loomer, a treasured partnership that lasted 22 years. In 2009, Morna became Elektra's sole Artistic Director, continuing the choir's strong leadership role in concert presentation, commissioning, recording, and mentorship.

In addition to her work with Elektra, Morna is the Artistic Director of EnChor, a Vancouver-based, auditioned, mixed choir for mature voices. For 14 years Morna shared her love of quality repertoire with a new generation of singers in her role as Associate Artistic Director of Coastal Sound Music Academy, where she was Music Director of the mixed-voice Youth Chamber Choir.

In 2021, she was appointed as President of Choral Canada, and in May of 2023 Morna was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters at the University of British Columbia. On Dec. 18, 2024, Morna was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada.

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# ELEKTRA

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## **Soprano 1**

Christine Foster, Danica Kell, Holly Kennedy, Cassie Luftspring,  
Ashley McConnell, Janine Magaw, Rachel Nelson, Janet Pritchard,  
Anna Turunen, Robyn Van Luven

## **Soprano 2**

Bonnie Arthur, Kaitlin Davis, Isabel Diavolitsis, Sophia Fan, Anita Jain,  
Katy LaVigne, Katrin Lohuaru, Jill McQueen, Allison Penner, Taryn Plater,  
Kim Taylor, Isabella Troche, Anisha Varghese

## **Alto 1**

Angela Adam, Susan Edwards, Katerina Gimon, Kirstin Hain, Shelley Koke,  
Stephanie Loo, Corinne Norbraten, Nancy Johnson, Alison Stillwell,  
Maggie van Seters, Patty Wagner, Brenda Wilson, Laura Jeanne Wirtz

## **Alto 2**

Stephanie Ching, Maureen Ciarniello, Ros Clark, Katherine Duncan,  
Elisabeth Finch, Caitlin Robinson, Deirdre Rogers,  
Stephanie Schollen, Stephanie Stephenson

Morna Edmundson, *Artistic Director*  
Ken Cormier, *piano*

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## PROGRAMME

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### **From The Light of Hope Returning**

Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

Bright Morning Stars (words and melody, traditional)

Fare Ye Well, Come What May (words and music by Shawn Kirchner)

The Light of Hope Returning (words by Susan Cooper)

### **From Teachings of the Water**

words by Rebecca Duncan

Identity (*Úxwumixw*)

music by T. Patrick Carrabré (b. 1958)

### **From Heart Songs of the White Wampum**

words by E. Pauline Johnson

Rainfall

music by Timothy Corlis (b. 1972)

The Birds' Lullaby

### **Consider the Lilies**

words from the bible Matthew 6:28-33

music by Stephen Smith (b. 1966)

### **Ave Maria**

music by David MacIntyre (b. 1952)

### **Joy of Lilac-Time**

words by Walt Whitman

music by Katerina Gimón (b. 1993)

## INTERMISSION

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## PROGRAMME

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**From The Lost Words: A Spell Book** words by Robert Macfarlane (b. 1976)  
Wren (music by Don Macdonald, b. 1966)  
Lark (music by Carmen Braden, b. 1985)  
Kingfisher (music by Marie-Claire Saindon, b. 1984)  
Magpie (music by Alex Eddington, b. 1980)  
Starling (music by Stephen Smith)  
Raven (music by Don Macdonald)  
Heron (music by Katerina Gimon)

**Little Green** words and music by Joni Mitchell (b. 1943)  
arr. Kate MacColl (b. 1968)

**Sunrise Along the Shore** words by Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942)  
music by Laura Hawley

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

White Rock Concerts acknowledges that tonight's concert is being held on the unceded traditional and ancestral territory of the Semiahmoo First Nation.

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We are grateful for their stewardship of the land for thousands of years before us and for the Elders' teachings that remind us we are all connected.

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## PROGRAMME NOTES

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Our opening segment of three movements sung without pause comes from a delightful, larger work by American composer, Shawn Kirchner, **The Light of Hope Returning**, that marks the Winter Solstice and Christmas season. Our soloists are Stephanie Schollen and Stephanie Loo.

**Identity** (*Úxwumixw*) by T. Patrick Carrabré is sung in the Squamish language. The repeated word “*méymeyem*” means “ripple”. The mesmerizing texture of this *a cappella* work commissioned by Elektra reflects its message in Squamish Nation teaching that “everything is a ripple”.

BC-based composer Corlis wrote **Heart Songs of the White Wampum** for Elektra using poetry of E. Pauline Johnson. The title refers to carved white shells used in ancient North America as a symbol of prestige and respect. The shells were carefully carved and polished from conches and then assembled into strings or belts. The intricate weaving of the shells into belts was also a way of preserving important stories within a culture. In **Rainfall**, you will hear the piano providing a “watery”, arpeggiated accompaniment to a unison melody that describes a sudden, vibrant squall. **The Birds’ Lullaby** describes the sweet request by small birds, after singing in the cedars all day, who now wish the trees to sing them to sleep. Listen midway to the piano imitating bird calls.

Composer Stephen Smith has written more works for Elektra over the years than any other composer. His **Consider the Lilies** uses modal harmonies to evoke sounds from the Holy Land in an *a cappella* setting of the famous biblical passage Matthew 6:28-33 that builds to a dramatic climax and then relaxes in assured harmony and peace.

Arguably the work that put Elektra on the world choral map in 1996, David MacIntyre’s stunning **Ave Maria** puts the listener on the edge of their seat.

## PROGRAMME NOTES

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From our opening piece marking this dark time of year, **Joy of Lilac-Time** by BC composer and Elektra singer, Katerina Gimon, paints an uplifting picture of spring.

Elektra's most ambitious commissioning project and one of its most important legacies is based on a bestselling book by writer Robert Macfarlane, illustrated by Jackie Morris, **The Lost Words: A Spell Book**. The book is a whimsical and evocative response to the fact that, in 2007, the Oxford Junior Dictionary, widely used by 6-8 year olds in England, had replaced 40 words about the natural world with words about the digital one. "Adder" and "willow" had given way to "cut-and-paste" and "voice mail". It wasn't the dictionary's fault. They were reflecting, through their standard selection process, a loss of contact with nature in children's lives. Written in hope, Robert's playful "spells" are meant to conjure back twenty of the lost creatures and plants, and Jackie's stunning paintings hold the reader spellbound. In Elektra's musical interpretation, Canadian composers have set these words to music. For tonight's performance, we are singing just the seven movements about birds, starting with **Wren** and ending with **Heron**. You'll hear each "spell" read before it's sung.

Canadian icon, Joni Mitchell, wrote **Little Green** at age 22 after she decided her newborn baby would stand a better chance of a bright future if she were raised in a more stable family. Thinking into the child's future, she imagines "icicles and birthday clothes, and sometimes there'll be sorrow".

We close our program with the inspired **Sunrise Along the Shore** by Edmonton-based composer Laura Hawley, which is part of a suite co-commissioned in 2022 by six Canadian choirs including Elektra. The sweeping melody and deepening harmonic lines reflect the beautiful imagery of greeting the sunrise.

*Notes by Morna Edmundson*

## OUR NEXT CONCERT



### CARION WIND QUINTET

*On tour from Denmark*

Saturday, February 22, 2025

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