

*Join the Achill Choral Society on an unforgettable musical journey of soaring harmonies, stirring emotion, and poetry that speaks to the soul.*



**PRESENTS:**

# RETURN TO Spring

*Featuring Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass (Mass in Troubled Times),  
Brunner's Earthsongs and selections from  
Gilbert and Sullivan's The Pirates of Penzance and  
Rodgers and Hammerstein's The Sound of Music*

**Artistic Director: Shawn Grenke  
Collaborative Pianist: Nancy Dettbarn  
Guests: Organist, Christopher Dawes and Soloists**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 | 3:30 PM**  
**Westminster United Church, 247 Broadway, Orangeville**

**[www.Achill.ca](http://www.Achill.ca)**

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to our *Return to Spring* concert after such a **LONG** winter! We have been looking forward all this time to presenting this concert to you, our community friends and families. Our Artistic Director, Shawn Grenke, and Collaborative Pianist, Nancy Dettbarn, have prepared us with some fun music, as well as this very exciting presentation of the *Lord Nelson Mass* (originally titled *Mass in Times of Trouble*) by Haydn. It has been challenging but fulfilling to learn, and we hope you will sit back and enjoy it.

This is also our last concert with Shawn, as he is moving on, and we are so grateful for his nurturing and teaching over the last 9 years. We are sad to see him go but wish him all the best in his new post. Stay tuned for next season.

If you'd like to sing with us, come out on September 9th at 7 pm and see what we're all about.

As your community choir, we appreciate your support in purchasing tickets, advertising your businesses, and making donations through our website, [achill.ca](http://achill.ca). We couldn't do it without you!

*Susan Allen, President ACS*

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### SHAWN GRENKE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

Conductor, pianist, and organist, Shawn Grenke serves as Director of Music at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto, Collaborative Pianist with the Elmer Iseler Singers, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Achill Choral Society, and Instructor of Conducting at Brock University.

A native of Belleville, Ontario, he began his musical training as a chorister and pianist with the Hastings County Board of Education Concert Choir under the direction of the late Rudolf Heijdens. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Mount Allison University (New Brunswick), a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto, and is a doctoral candidate in Choral Conducting at the University of Alberta. There, his research focuses on a collaborative choral commission with composer Andrew Balfour and is supported by a Fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

His academic distinctions include the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship, the Opera Edmonton Assistantship Award, and the Centennial Bursary Fund Award.

During his time in Alberta, he served as Artist-in-Residence at St. George's Anglican Church and as a Teaching Assistant with the University of Alberta's Opera Program.

Mr. Grenke's career has included concerts throughout Canada at venues such as Roy Thompson Hall, the Winspear Centre in Edmonton, and the Loto-Québec World Choral Competition in Laval, as well as broadcasts on CBC Radio. Further, his career has taken him on tours and to choral festivals in Poland, the United States, South Korea, and China.



## **NANCY DETTBARN** **COLLABORATIVE ACCOMPANIST**

Pianist and organist Nancy Dettbarn is Minister of Music and Organist at Westminster United Church in Orangeville, Ontario, Collaborative Accompanist for the Achill Choral Society, and a member of the Music Faculty at the University of Toronto since 2007. With Achill, she recently collaborated on performances of the Ontario premiere of Elaine Hagenberg's acclaimed *Illuminare* and Mary McDonald's *Gloria*.

Ms. Dettbarn holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the honours program at the prestigious Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas. There, she studied piano performance with master teacher John Perry and organ with Clyde Holloway.

Her career spans over twenty-five years of teaching and performing in both the United States and Canada. She taught piano and pedagogy courses at Rice University and Frostburg State University in Maryland before moving to Vancouver, B.C., where she collaborated extensively at the University of British Columbia and the Vancouver Academy.

She is a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and is one of just a handful of performing pianists qualified to teach the Technique, which helps musicians maximize their potential by eradicating unnecessary effort and tension in their playing.

A dynamic adjudicator and clinician, Ms. Dettbarn has been a guest presenter at both the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and the World Piano Pedagogy Conference. She is a faculty member of the Lakefield Summer Music Festival and maintains private piano studios in Toronto and Orangeville.



### **GUEST SOLOISTS:**

Amy Dodington	Soprano
Emily Taub	Alto
Daevyd Pepper	Tenor
Bryan Estabrooks	Bass

### **GUEST ORGANIST:**

Christopher Dawes

## PROGRAM MUSIC AND DESCRIPTION

### Welcome - Choir President

#### **The Pirates of Penzance - Gilbert & Sullivan**

*The Pirates of Penzance* is a comic operetta about Frederic, a young man mistakenly apprenticed to a band of tender-hearted pirates. When he turns 21, he tries to leave piracy behind and live honestly, falling in love with Mabel. However, a bizarre technicality—being born on February 29—means his apprenticeship isn't over, leading to a series of humorous misunderstandings involving pirates, lovers, and an inept police force.

*Hail Poetry • Pour, Oh Pour The Pirate Sherry • When the Foeman Bares His Steel*

#### **Earthsongs - David L. Brunner**

David L. Brunner is a renowned composer, conductor, and teacher of choral music. He lives in Florida and is a professor at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. This composition expresses the wonders of nature and the importance of protecting animals and caring for plants and the natural world.

*In Safety and in Bliss* – text from *Sutta Nipata*, an early corpus of Buddhist teachings  
*The World is Full of Poetry* – text by 19th-century geologist, surgeon,  
and poet James Gates Percival

#### **Sound of Music (Choral Highlights) - Rodgers and Hammerstein**

It is hard to believe that the much-loved film *The Sound of Music* just celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2025! Many of the songs from this musical have become familiar to audiences worldwide. This is a story about a young nun, Maria, joining the von Trapp family as governess to the children and ultimately falling in love with and marrying their father, Captain von Trapp. These are some of the songs she teaches the children in her care. The end of the musical story follows the family's escape from the Nazis, fleeing across the mountains to freedom. The von Trapps eventually travel to the United States and continue their lives performing as a family.

*The Sound of Music • My Favourite Things • The Lonely Goatherd • Do-Re-Mi*

#### **The Lord Nelson Mass - Joseph Haydn**

Joseph Haydn was a prolific composer of instrumental and choral works that remain central to the musical repertoire. His music serves as an important bridge between the Baroque master Johann Sebastian Bach and the Romantic composer Ludwig van Beethoven.

*The Lord Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis)*, also known as the *Mass for Troubled Times*, is widely regarded as one of Haydn's greatest works. It was composed during the turbulent years of the Napoleonic Wars. Haydn wrote the piece for his patron, Prince Esterházy of Austria, to honour the name day of Princess Maria Josepha Hermenegild. Its first performance was in 1798, shortly after Horatio Nelson's victory over Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile. Because of this, the Mass became linked to Nelson's military success and was given the name "Lord Nelson Mass."

Composed primarily in D minor, the work is notable for its dramatic intensity and contrasts, moving from dark, contemplative passages to a triumphant, hopeful conclusion. Structured in the traditional Catholic Mass form, the work features four soloists, choir, and instrumental accompaniment across its movements:

*Kyrie • Gloria • Credo • Sanctus • Benedictus • Agnus Dei (Dona nobis pacem)*

## Text and Translation

### **Kyrie**

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison*  
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord,  
have mercy.

### **Gloria**

*Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
Glory to God in the highest.

*Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*  
And on earth peace to people of good will.

*Laudamus te*  
We praise you.

*Benedicimus te*  
We bless you.

*Adoramus te*  
We adore you.

*Glorificamus te*  
We glorify you.

### **Credo**

*Credo in unum Deum*  
I believe in one God.

*Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli  
et terrae*  
*The Father almighty, maker of heaven  
and earth.*

*Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum*  
*And in one Lord, Jesus Christ.*

### **Sanctus**

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus*  
*Deus Sabaoth*  
Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts.

*Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua*  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

*Hosanna in excelsis*  
Hosanna in the highest.

### **Benedictus**

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini*  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord.

*Hosanna in excelsis*  
Hosanna in the highest.

### **Agnus Dei**

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,*  
*miserere nobis*  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,*  
*miserere nobis*  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the  
world, have mercy on us.

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona*  
*nobis pacem*  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the  
world, grant us peace.



## JOIN THE CHOIR

Come sing with us for up to three introductory  
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