

Ohio Choral Directors Association Conference 2018

North of the Border: Accessible Canadian Repertoire

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Canadian choral music scene:

- Overview and current status
- History
- Choirs (professional: Elmer Iseler Singers, Pro Coro Canada, Vancouver Chamber Choir; youth/children: Toronto Children's Chorus, Hamilton Children's Choir, Shallaway; single-gender adult: Elektra; Chor Leoni)
- Professional organizations (Choral Canada; provincial federations such as Choirs Ontario)

Major influences on Canadian choral music:

- Folk music element (esp. English, French and First Nations) -- look for Andrew Balfour for the latter; also be aware of the developing growth of choral music in Labrador where First Nations residents were colonized by the Mennonites
 - *Carrickfergus* (Sirett)
 - *Grandmother moon* (Daley)
- Nature elements (vast landscape)
 - *The cold demands a silence* (Chatman)
 - *Night vision* (Chatman)
- Art music (traditional western art music forms, similar to American trends)
 - From sacred roots – *Ave verum corpus* (Martin)
 - *All this night* (Daley)
 - From secular roots -- *The cloud* (Chatman)
 - *Music comes* (Henderson)
 - *Sing your song* (Emery)

Selected Resources on Canadian Choral Music and Composers

ABBOTT, P. (2005). "Hallelujah! Recommended Sacred Choral Repertoire from Canadian Composers." *The Choral Journal*, 46(4), 81-83.

APFELSTADT, H. (2011). "An Interview with Composer Eleanor Daley." *The Choral Journal*, 51(11), 17 – 34.

APFELSTADT, H. (2014). "Canada's Choral Music Development." *The Choral Journal*, 54(8), 34-41.

APFELSTADT, H. (2013). "Choral Works for Women by Prominent Canadian Female Composers." *The Choral Journal*, 54(5), 6-32.

Featured composers are Eleanor Daley, Ruth Watson Henderson and Nancy Telfer.

APFELSTADT, H. (2012). "Exploring a Treasure Trove: Secular Music for Mixed Voices by Ruth Watson Henderson." *The Choral Journal*, 53(4), 8-21.

APFELSTADT, H. (2017). *I Didn't Want It To be Boring: Conversations with Ruth Watson Henderson*. Toronto: Prism Publishers, Inc.

MORGAN, M. (2017). *Choral Art Music as a Reflection of Prairie Identity*. DMA Dissertation, The University of Toronto.

This includes detailed information on selected Prairie composers and their works.

PITMAN, W. (2008). *Elmer Iseler: Choral Visionary*. Toronto, Ontario: Dundurn Press.

RAMSAY, B. M. (2017). *A Conductor's Guide to Tenor-Bass Choral Music by Canadian Composers*. DMA Dissertation, University of Toronto.

There are more than 100 works cited with detailed information about each. This document also includes extensive resource lists.

RENSINK-HOFF, R. (2015). "The Life and Works of Four Female Canadian Choral Composers." *The Choral Journal*, 56(3), 34-60.

Featured composers are Kathleen Allen (b. 1989), Sarah Quartel (b.1982), Stephanie Martin (b.1962), and Ramona Luengen (b.1960). Additional composers listed are Eleanor Daley, Christine Donkin, Allison Girvan, Laura Hawley, Ruth Watson Henderson, Larysa Kuzmenko, Elise Letorneau, Jocelyn Morlock, Kelly Marie Murphy, Amy Stephen, Nancy Telfer, Leslie Uyeda, and Carol Ann Weaver.

SVENDSEN, J. (2016). *The Influence of Plainsong in the Choral Music of Healey Willan*. DMA Dissertation, Texas Tech University.

WONG, T. (2017) *From Page to Performance Through Pedagogy: The Choral Legacy of Nancy Telfer*. DMA Dissertation, University of Toronto.

This examines Telfer's compositions as well as her pedagogical materials on sight-singing, aural skills, and vocal technique.

Canadian Music Publishers

Cypress Music

<http://cypresschoral.com/Composers/Home.html>

Leslie Music Publications (1970)

http://www.lesliemusicsupply.com/catalogue/index.php?cPath=4147&manufacturers_id=2

Leslie represents over 150 Canadian composers.

Lighthouse Music Publications (2003)

<https://www.lighthousemusicpublications.com/pages/about-us>

Renforth Music (2008)

<http://www.renforthmusic.com>

Rhythmic Trident (1990)

<http://rhythmictrident.com>

Note: Many American publishers include Canadian composers in their catalogues. For example, Matthew Emery is published by Alliance Music, by Santa Barbara Music Press, Galaxy, etc. Eleanor Daley is published with Alliance and also with Oxford UP. Ruth Watson Henderson is with Boosey and Hawkes, and Roger Dean, among others.

Additional resources:

Check out the **Canadian Music Centre** website for information about many composers whose works are housed there. (www.musiccentre.ca)

Choral Canada provides information about national choral events, such as the biannual conference, Podium. (www.choralcanada.org)

Dawn of Night. (2017) CD recording by MacMillan Singers from the University of Toronto, featuring music by Stephen Chatman. Released by the CMC. (Also available on I-tunes and Spotify)