

The Vermont
CHORAL UNION



presents

Eric Milnes, Director

George Frideric Handel



MESSIAH

ORATORIO
1741

*featuring Montréal's Juno Award-winning
period instrument orchestra*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

College Street Congregational Church
Burlington, Vermont

The Vermont
CHORAL UNION

Sopranos

Karen Chickering
Bridget Zurn Garibay
Amy Heneveld
Laura Labrie
Alison Love
Kiera Manion-Fischer
Kayla Tornello
Lindsay Warner
Claire Whitehouse
Deborah Wright

Tenors

Mark Bleeke
Lucas Bull
Laurence Dean
Frank Hassler
Robert Liotard
Maarten van Ryckevorsel

Altos

Celia Asbell
Clara Cavitt
Amy Dandurand
Kathryn Farmer
Michele Grimm
Carol Hassler
Mary Ellen Jolley
Dylan Levene
Roxann Nickerson
Charlotte Reed
Sharon Trani
Melinda White-Bronson

Bass

Jim Bentlage
Joseph Comeau
Dennis Delaney
Michael Ellis
Tevan Goldberg
Adam Grundt
Nicholas Hardin
Thomas Hyde
Cole Marino
Darrell Meulemans
Richard Reed
Daniel Velleman

ENSEMBLE L'HARMONIE *des SAISONS*

Mélisande Corriveau, *Artistic Director* Eric Milnes, *Musical Director*

Maude Fréchette-Gagné, Sasha Koukarina, Cathy Stadecker, Ellen Torrie, *sopranos*
Nicholas Burns, Rachel Duval, Shane Hansen, Hannah Milnes, Matthew Muggeridge, *altos*
Philippe Gagné, Aldéo Jean, Adam Wills Begley, *tenors*
William Kraushaar, Léo McKenna, Sumner Thompson, *basses*

Violins: Julie Wedman, Karin Cuellar, Jimin Dobson, Jessy Dubé, Marie Nadeau-Tremblay, Cristina Prats-Costa

Violas: Hélène Plouffe & Isabelle Douailly-Backman

Violoncellos: Mélisande Corriveau & Eliana Zimmerman

Violone: Pierre Cartier

Oboes: Matthew Jennejohn & Karim Nasr

Bassoon: Mary Chalk

Trumpets: Roman Golovanov & Henri Ferland

Timpani: Matthias Soly

Harpichord: Eric Milnes

MESSIAH, AN ORATORIO

G. F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

Our excerpts are presented without interruption, with the exception of two short tuning intervals.

Due to the solemnity of the program, kindly withhold any applause until its conclusion.

We Thank You.

Symphony

Recitative: *Comfort ye, my people*

Mr. Gagné

Aria: *Every valley shall be exalted*

Chorus: *And the glory of the Lord*

Recitative: *Thus saith the Lord*

Mr. Thompson

Aria: *But who may abide*

Chorus: *And he shall purify*

Recitative: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive*

Mr. Burns

Aria & Chorus: *O thou that tellest good tidings*

Recitative: *For behold, darkness shall cover the earth*

Mr. Krausbaar

Aria: *The people that walked in darkness*

Chorus: *For unto us a child is born*

Pifa: *Pastoral Symphony*

Recitative: *There were shepherds abiding in the field*

Mx. Torrie

Aria: *But lo, the angel of the Lord*

Recitative: *And the angel of the Lord said unto them*

Recitative: *And suddenly there was with the angel*

Chorus: *Glory to God*

Aria: *Rejoice, greatly*

Recitative: *Then shall the eyes of the blind*

Mr. Burns

Duet: *He shall feed His flock - Come unto Him*

Mx. Torrie

Chorus: *His yoke is easy and his burden is light*

Chorus: *Lift up your heads*

Aria: *How beautiful are the feet*

Mr. Gagné

Aria: *Why do the nations*

Mr. Thompson

Recitative: *He that dwelleth in heaven*

Mr. Gagné

Aria: *Thou shalt break them*

Chorus: *Halleluia*

Aria: *I know that my redeemer liveth*

Mx. Torrie

Chorus: *Since by man came death*

Recitative: *Behold, I tell you a mystery*

Mr. Thompson

Aria: *The trumpet shall sound*

Aria: *If God be for us*

Mr. Burns

Chorus: *Worthy is the Lamb - Amen.*

The Vermont CHORAL UNION

The Vermont Choral Union draws inspiration from more than ten centuries of classical vocal ensemble music. Sharing a passion for artistic and musical development, our singers strive to delight audiences with programs that portray the rich and diverse history of choral singing. Originally called The University of Vermont Choral Union, the ensemble was founded in 1967 by James G. Chapman, Professor of Music at UVM. Dr. Chapman (1927-2011) directed the choir until his retirement in 2004, after which the group's name changed to The Vermont Choral Union. Gary Moreau succeeded Dr. Chapman as director through 2010. Carol Reichard served as guest conductor in spring 2011, and the group welcomed Jeff Rehbach as director in fall 2011. When Jeff retired, Lisa Jablow became director in the fall of 2018, followed by interim director Steven Klimowski in the fall of 2019. In 2022 the Choral Union named Eric Milnes as its newest director.

In 1983 the Choral Union began to present its popular carol dinners at Southwick Hall at UVM. This series, with its music, dancing, and dining, soon expanded to Rutland and Stowe, and lasted for 22 years. The dinners inspired recordings – *Music for a Carol Dinner* and *Welcome Yule*. The Choral Union also produced recordings featuring composers who lived and worked in Vermont during the years 1790-1810, including the works of Justin Morgan. *Vermont Harmony*, the resulting recordings and companion scores, culminated a decade of extensive research by Dr. Chapman. Collaborations with other choral groups have included participation in the Vermont Sings for Peace concert, performances with the Bellows Free Academy Chorus directed by Armand Messier, with the Essex Children's Choir directed by Constance Price, and with the Middlebury Community Chorus. The group was honored in 2014 to premiere new works by Vermont composers Dennis Báthory-Kitsz and Michael Close. The ensemble has received grants from Choral Arts New England, The Vermont Arts Council, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the Vermont Community Foundation. At the 50th anniversary in 2017, the Choral Union commissioned a new choral suite, *Green and Gold*, by Christina Whitten Thomas. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Choral Union organized Zoom talks by leading figures from the world of choral music, inviting other members of the Vermont music community to join. The first concert post-pandemic was the premiere of the appropriately titled *Missa Pandemica (Mass in Time of Pandemic)*, composed by Maarten van Ryckevorsel, long-time Choral Union member.

Eric Milnes, The Choral Union's newest music director, is committed to a choral repertoire featuring masterworks of the classical canon, as well as programming which features collaborations with instrumentalists of distinction, particularly in historically informed performance style presented with period instruments. His career has been centered on the nurturing and training of all collaborators to be more fluent in their technical musical skills and more dynamic in their artistic expression.



ENSEMBLE L'HARMONIE *des* SAISONS

Ensemble vocal et orchestre sur instruments d'époque

Mélanie Corriveau & Eric Milnes, directeurs

Two-time JUNO Award winning *L'Harmonie des saisons*, Montreal's vocal and period-instrument ensemble, is dedicated through the expertise of its members to re-introducing audiences to the grand masterpieces of historic sacred music, principally through its series of large-scale performances. Based in the heart of the Eastern Townships region, the ensemble performs frequently throughout Quebec, Canada, the United States, South America, and Europe. The ensemble's growing discography on the ATMA Classique label (six CD releases so far) has been awarded Juno and Opus prizes, and garnered numerous critically acclaimed reviews. Each of their recordings has been described by CBC/Radio-Canada as among the most distinguished recordings produced in Canada. Apple Music named their *Marin Marais : Badinages* recording an international classical selection of the year, with more than 1.5 million downloads from their platform. Their album *Solfeggio* with soprano Hélène Brunet is a Juno 2022 winner. Most recent releases include Concerti of J. S. Bach and Concerti of A. Vivaldi. In recent seasons the Ensemble offers its performances on regional tours, collaborating with presenters who are passionate about sharing wonderful performances of this repertoire. This season, the ensemble has been presented by the Montreal Bach Festival in performance of Bach's Magnificat, by Ad Litteram/ATMA Classique in a tour of Handel's Messiah, by Music and Beyond in Ottawa as part of their tour of Bach's St. John Passion last March, and by the Arte Musica Foundation of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, participating in their complete cycle of cantatas by J.S. Bach. The directors of the Ensemble have also been invited this spring as guest artists at New York's Carnegie Hall (with The Orchestra of St. Luke's) and Montreal's Symphonic Hall (with the Montreal Symphony) in performances of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. *L'Harmonie des saisons* records exclusively for ATMA Classique, and its many activities are supported by The Canada Council for the Arts and The Quebec Council for Arts & Letters.

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Conductor, harpsichordist and organist **Eric Milnes** has received critical acclaim for performances across North America, South America, Europe and Asia, appearing at festivals such as The Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, The Boston Early Music Festival, The Berkeley Bach Festival, The Santa Fe Festival, The Montreal Bach Festival, The Regensburg Festival (Germany), The Bremen Festival (Germany), The Passau Festival (Austria), The Utrecht Festival (The Netherlands), The Bruges Festival (Belgium), The Lufthansa Festival (London), The Bergen Festival (Norway), The Baroque Festival of Bolivia, and at celebrated venues such as Carnegie Hall (New York), Lincoln Center (NY), Symphony Hall (Montreal), Jordan Hall (Boston), The Glenn Gould Theatre (Toronto), Salle Gaveau (Paris) and Die Alte Oper Frankfurt). He has directed The New York Collegium, New York Baroque, Montreal Baroque, The Seattle Baroque Orchestra, The Portland Baroque Orchestra, Trinity Consort, Les Boreades de Montreal, The St. Lawrence Choir and The Philharmonic Orchestra of Santiago, Chile in performances of music spanning five centuries. Mr. Milnes' discography of over sixty CD releases includes recipients of two

Juno Awards (Canada's Grammy) for CD of the Year in 2016 and 2022, two Opus Prizes for CD of the Year, and awards from The Diapason (France), Toccata Magazine (Germany) and Gramophone Magazine (Great Britain.) In 2020 Apple Music named a recent release CD of the Month - it topped one million downloads. Milnes is also an award winning recording producer and a published composer. His degrees are from Columbia University and The Juilliard School. A new-comer to Burlington, he is Director of Music at College Street Congregational Church. He takes greatest pride in the accomplishments of his two daughters, Mary Leah, an analyst for the U. S. Department of Defense, and Hannah, a project management consultant with NASA.



A specialist in early-music performance, multi instrumentalist **Mélisande Corriveau** has been praised for her exceptional musical mastery. She is frequently a guest at major festivals across North America, South America, Asia and Europe, and is an active concert, touring, and recording artist. She regularly performs with a number of celebrated ensembles, and is a member of the ensembles Masques (France), Les Voix humaines, Sonate 1704, and Les Boréades de Montréal. Her discography comprises some 50 titles on the ATMA Classique, Analekta, Harmonia Mundi, Paradizo, and Alpha labels. Her two recent discs with harpsichordist Eric Milnes on the ATMA Classique label *Pardessus de viole* and *Marin Marais : Badinages* both won Opus prizes for early-music CD of the year. CBC Radio listed the latter two recordings, and the duo's most recent release, *BACH au Pardessus de viole*, among the best discs of the year (in 2016, 2020, and 2022 respectively). *Pardessus de viole* was named classical disc of the year by ICI Radio-Canada in 2016, while *Marin Marais : Badinages* was named "a classical album you must hear this month" by Apple Music in 2020. Recent appearances include as

gamba soloist with The St. Luke's Orchestra at New York's Carnegie Hall, with the Montreal Symphony in Bach's St Matthew Passion, and on tour with Jordi Savall. Mélisande Corriveau and her partner Eric Milnes co-direct the vocal and instrumental ensemble L'Harmonie des saisons, which they founded in 2010. In 2014, Mélisande completed, with honors, a doctorate in pardessus de viole performance at the Université de Montréal. She has become one of the world's few specialists on this instrument.



Ellen Torrie is an Ontario-born soprano, singer-songwriter, instrumentalist, and performance curator living in Montreal. Since 2020, they have been lead soprano at Montreal's Christ Church Cathedral and perform regularly with various ensembles in the city and across Canada. Mx. Torrie received their master's degree in Early Music vocal performance at McGill University under the tutelage of Dominique Labelle in 2022 and last summer, they were featured as inaugural Emerging Artist of Early Music Vancouver's Bach Fest alongside Marie Nadeau-Tremblay. Ellen received their Bachelor of Music Therapy at Acadia University in 2018 appearing frequently as a soloist with local ensembles and were lead soprano of the Manning Chapel Choir from 2014-2018. In 2017, Ellen was awarded the Canadian Federation of University Women scholarship which funded their participation in Accademia Europea Dell'Opera in Lucca, Italy, where they played Oberto in Handel's *Alcina*. Ellen is currently exploring

the practice of self-accompanying early music on baroque guitar. As a queer non-binary artist, Ellen is guided by the knowledge of their queer elders and ancestors in the research and performance of radically inclusive stories as they continue to develop musical languages to explore that which is most richly human. They have performed as soloist at the Montreal Fine Arts Museum's complete Bach Cantata cycle with *Ensemble L'Harmonie des saisons*, and as a soloist in Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Gounod's *Magnificat* with The Vermont Choral Union.



Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, countertenor **Nicholas Burns** has been described as possessing an "exciting voice" and Opera Canada calls him a "revelation." As an artist in the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program, Nicholas performed Bach cantatas under the direction of Philippe Herreweghe. He has performed with the American Bach Soloists Ensemble in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. Nicholas has also performed with Arion Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, Early Music Vancouver, The Theater of Early Music, Studio de Musique Ancien de Montréal, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, L'Harmonie des saisons and Orchestre symphonique de Longueuil. Upcoming engagements include performances at New York's Carnegie Hall, a US tour of Handel's opera *Partenope* with Les Arts Florissants, Bach cantatas at Bach Fest Leipzig and the world premiere of a new opera, *L'Orangerie*. His many performances with Eric Milnes include four Handel Messiah tours, Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Bach's *St. John Passion*,

Music from Versailles, and Bach Cantatas at Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts. As well as singing, Nicholas is an accomplished bagpiper, having won the World Bagpipe Championships in 2012. In recent seasons he has appeared as soloist with The College Street Choir in *Messiah*, and in Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* with The Vermont Choral Union.



Tenor **Philippe Gagné** is praised for his rich expressiveness, refined musical sensitivity, rare vocal agility, and beauty of his tone. Born in raised in Québec City, and based in Montréal, he specializes in the baroque repertoire, and has performed at many of the world's great venues working with many internationally renowned ensembles such as Les Talens Lyriques, Tafelmusik, Les Violons du Roy, Arion Orchestre Baroque, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, L'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Les Délices, Les Boréades, Blue Heron, L'Harmonie des saisons, Ensemble Caprice, Le Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Ex Tempore, La Bande Montréal Baroque, Clavecin en concert, Mannheimer Hofkapelle et Apotheosis Orchestra. He is recognized particularly as an exceptional interpreter of the French Baroque repertoire, as well as of the music of J. S. Bach, which occupy more than half of his professional engagements. He has been a featured soloist with *L'Harmonie des saisons* since the group's inception in 2012, including many performances of *Messiah*, Bach's *St John*

Passion, *Magnificat* and numerous cantatas, Handel's *Acis & Galatea*, and dozens of performances of 17th & 18th century French and German sacred programs. He appears on *L'Harmonie des saisons* Juno Award-winning CD, *Cities of Gold*.



Praised for his "elegant style" by The Boston Globe, **Sumner Thompson** is one of North America's most sought-after baritones. His operatic appearances include roles in Boston Early Music Festival productions of Conrad's *Ariadne* and Lully's *Psyche*, as well as several European tours with Contemporary Danish Opera as Orfeo in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. He has performed as a soloist with many ensembles including Concerto Palatino, Tafelmusik, Apollo's Fire, Les Boréades, Les Voix Baroques, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the King's Noyse, Mercury Baroque, as well as the Memphis and Phoenix Symphony Orchestras. Recent activities include Monteverdi's *Vespers* and *New Vespers* of 1640 with the Green Mountain Project, *Membra Jesu Nostri* by Buxtehude with Les Voix Baroques and Ensemble Mercury Baroque (Houston), Mozart's *Requiem* at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York, a tour of Japan with Joshua Rifkin and the Cambridge Concentus, a return to the Carmel Bach Festival, and Britten's *War Requiem* with the New England Philharmonic. This season included performances at New York's Carnegie Hall as soloist with The Orchestra of St. Luke's. With Eric Milnes and *L'Harmonie des saisons* he has been featured in performances of Bach's *St John Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, numerous Bach Cantatas, and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. With Milnes and The Vermont Choral Union he was featured in Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*.



Born and raised in Montréal, **William Kraushaar** is classically-trained composer and self-taught singer, with a strong devotion to vocal music. He is a frequent soloist with such renowned ensembles as *L'Harmonie des saisons*, Ensemble Caprice, The Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montreal (SMAM) The Theatre of Early Music, The Choir of St Andrew & St Paul, as well as a member of Montreal's finest professional choirs. As a composer, his work as a film composer was twice awarded by the SOCAN Foundation, and his works have been performed by, among others, The Quebec Symphony, Voces Borealis, L'Ensemble Vocal Art-Quebec, The National Youth Choir of Canada, Music at St Andrew & St Paul, and Ensemble *L'Harmonie des saisons*. He has been featured with *L'Harmonie des saisons* as soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *St John Passion & Magnificat*, Biber's *Requiem*, and numerous French Baroque cantatas and motets.

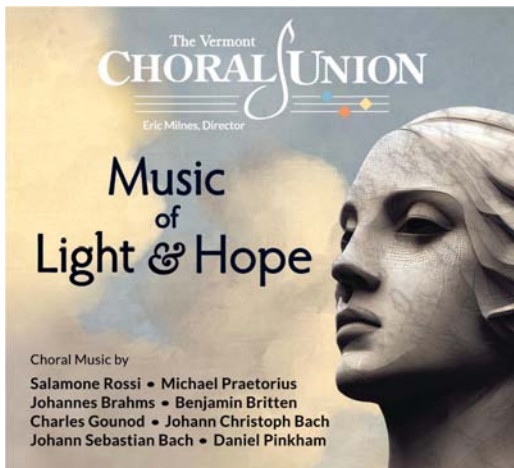
The Vermont CHORAL UNION

Celebrate with us as we release our newest CD recording!

MUSIC OF LIGHT & HOPE

PROGRAM

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Christmas Cantata (<i>Sinfonia Sacra</i>) | Daniel Pinkham (1923 – 2006) |
| 2. There is no rose of such virtue | Anonymous (14 th century) |
| 3. Es ist ein' Ros' (<i>Lo, how a rose</i>) | Michael Praetorius (1571 – 1621) |
| 4. Adon olam (<i>Lord of the world</i>) | Salamone Rossi (1570 – 1630) |
| 5. Bor'chu (<i>Bless the Lord</i>) | |
| 6. Qadish (<i>Magnified be God's name</i>) | |
| 7. Es ist nun aus (<i>Now my life is ended</i>) | Johann Christoph Bach (1642 – 1703) |
| 8. Der Mensch, vom Weib geboren (<i>Man that is born of woman</i>) | |
| 9. Matins Responsory for Advent | Eric Milnes (b. 1959) |
| 10. How Lovely Are the Messengers | Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847) |
| 11. Magnificat (<i>The Song of Mary</i>) | Charles Gounod (1818 – 1893) |
| 12. Ich lasse dich nicht (<i>I will not let you go</i>) | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750) |
| 13. Geistliches Lied (<i>Let nothing ever grieve thee</i>) | Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897) |
| 14. Rejoice in the Lamb | Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) |



Sopranos

Betzi Bilodeau, Peggy Fritz, Bridget Zurn Garibay, Carol Hassler
Amy Heneveld, Laura Labrie, Ann Larson, Alison Love
Kiera Manion-Fischer, Cathy Stadecker, Kayla Tornello
Claire Whitehouse, Deborah Wright

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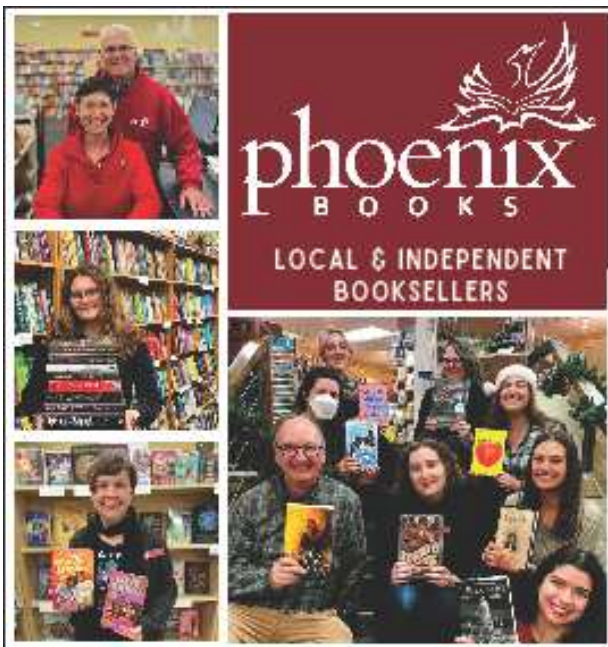
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The Phoenix Books advertisement features a dark red background. At the top left is the Phoenix Books logo, which includes a stylized white phoenix bird above the word "phoenix" in a serif font and "BOOKS" in a smaller sans-serif font below it. Underneath the logo is the text "LOCAL & INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS". The central part of the ad is a collage of four photographs showing various staff members and customers in a bookstore setting, some holding books. At the bottom, there are three columns of text listing the store locations: "ESSEX", "BURLINGTON", and "RUTLAND", each followed by a phone number. At the very bottom is the website URL "www.phoenixbooks.biz" and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram with the handle "@phoenixbooksvt".

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TO ALL Y'ALL.

DECEMBER 2023



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Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

College Street Church, Burlington

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 p.m.

Waterbury Congregational Church

Tickets: General Admission \$20 or Pay What You Can
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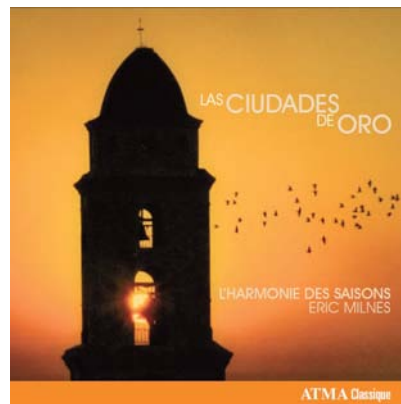
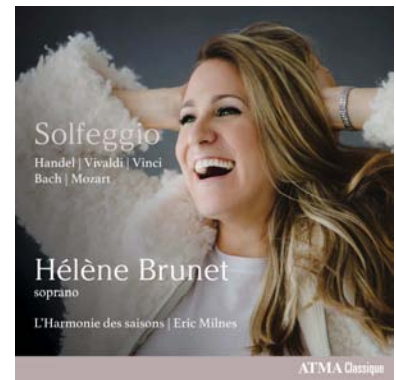
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Please inform us of any mistakes or omissions so that we may correct them for the future.

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The dedicated members and alumni of The Vermont Choral Union,
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and hath redeemed us to God by His blood."***

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Cathedral Church of St. Paul
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