

## TMC Concert

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is singing Mozart's *Requiem*, in Roy Thomson Hall on Friday March 21. The concert is described at <http://www.tmchoir.org/mozart.html> .

I hope this info package will entice you to buy tickets!

### Mozart *Requiem*



Mozart's final composition remained unfinished at his death. The *Requiem* was commissioned anonymously in mysterious circumstances (you might have seen this in the movie *Amadeus*). Mozart's student, Süssmayr, completed a version that has been around for a couple of centuries. However, we will be singing a version prepared in 1996 by **Robert Levin**.

"Levin's changes have added balance, symmetry, & cohesion" says Noel Edison, who conducts the concert. The changes (vocal & instrumental) add real substance to the music. There is a whole new *Amen* chorus not heard before!

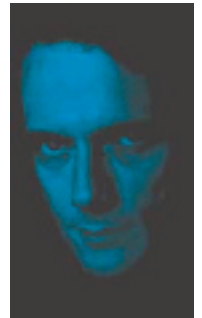
You can read about Levin at <http://www.sonyclassical.com/artists/levin/bio.html> .

To add to the excitement, some of Robert Desrosiers' dancers will be performing while we sing the Requiem.

Desrosiers is one of Canada's most innovative choreographers & dancers.

His company performs original works that integrate modern dance, theatre, & other media. With their distinctive choreography they promote the enjoyment of dance internationally, while enhancing understanding of Canadian people & culture. Hear Desrosiers talk about this venture by calling (416)598-0422 ext. 33.

Just how Mozart & dance work together remains to be seen (and heard), it's a new concept. And you're not guineapigs, you're *test-pilots*, up-front adventurers who can comment intelligently on the experience!



### Raminsh *A Shining Peace*

The Choir commissioned Imant Raminsh to compose a new work to open this concert. *A Shining Peace* draws text from the Bible and World War I poetry, showing how even in times of great strife, peace awaits us finally. Possibly the first 21<sup>st</sup> century music you will hear, it is in a gentle harmonic idiom that effectively illuminates the meaning of the words.

Raminsh is a Latvian-Canadian composer recognized internationally for his outstanding choral work. His distinctive textures, lush harmonies, & lyrical melodic sense have attracted numerous commissions. Doreen Rao wrote of his music: "Like Bach, there is always a dance. Like Brahms, there is always harmonic beauty."

Read more about Raminsh at [http://www.centremusique.ca/CMC/dac\\_rca/eng/p\\_/Raminsh\\_lmant.html](http://www.centremusique.ca/CMC/dac_rca/eng/p_/Raminsh_lmant.html) .

### Pre-Concert Chat

At 7:00 on the 21<sup>st</sup> Rick Phillips will give one of his famous free pre-concert chats in the Hall. Rick, whose voice you may know from the CBC (<http://www.radio.cbc.ca/programs/advice/host.html> ), will fill you in on the musical & cultural background. You'll find this really intensifies the concert experience.

### The Performers

#### The Soloists

**Jennie Such** - soprano – [http://www.colwellarts.com/pages\\_f/such.html](http://www.colwellarts.com/pages_f/such.html)

**Jennifer Enns** - contralto (sorry, I couldn't track down a bio on the internet)

**Nils Brown** - tenor – <http://www.deanartists.com/brownn.htm>

**Mark Pedrotti** - bass – <http://www.bach-cantatas.com/Bio/Pedrotti-Mark.htm>

The soloists sing in the Raminsh and the Mozart.

## ***The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir***

The Toronto Mendelssohn Choir is now in its hundred & something<sup>th</sup> season. More at [www.tmchoir.org](http://www.tmchoir.org) .

If you are new to choral music - there are 4 *sections* in the Choir, **sopranos** (women, high voices), **contraltos** (women, low voices, also called altos), **tenors** (men, high voices), & **basses** (men, low voices). Sometimes they all sing the same words together, as in a hymn. Sometimes they sing the same or similar words but at different times, so that several words sound together. It's surprising how effective this can be!

Anyone can join the Mendelssohn Choir, incidentally – that is, anyone who can pass the audition. But be warned: the singers have to re-audition every year. No one enjoys this, but it keeps standards high.

### ***Noel Edison***

Noel is the Choir's Artistic Director and Conductor. Go to <http://www.tmchoir.org/meetchoir.html> and scroll down.

### ***Roy Thomson Hall***

You will have heard that the hall was refurbished last summer to the tune of \$20 million. Critics at the Gala Reopening agreed that the acoustics had improved dramatically. Details you used to strain to hear, or had to imagine, are now clear. It's a revelation - like a new prescription for your glasses.

But why trust the critics? Come and decide for yourself!

### ***To Buy Tickets***

Ticket are priced at \$80, \$65, \$50, & \$36.

You can order through the Roy Thomson Hall box office, (416)872-4255.

### ***Anything Else?***

Anything else you'd like to know about the concert? Email [admin@tmchoir.org](mailto:admin@tmchoir.org) .

Comments on this email? Were you persuaded to buy a ticket? Tell [barry.clegg@sympatico.ca](mailto:barry.clegg@sympatico.ca) .

