

News Release

Lady Cove Women's Choir presents: Flurries of White

For release Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018

On Friday, Nov. 23, Lady Cove Women's Choir, joined by harpist Lori Gemmel and cellist Nathan Cook, will welcome the holiday season with a performance featuring the pairing of two of the most beloved Christmas suites, and a brand new commissioned work.

The choir will perform the iconic Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, and Snow Angel, a modern favourite by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. Britten's work, written primarily in Middle English and Latin, hearkens another time. In stark contrast, Quartel's work boasts a youthful and hopeful energy.

The evening will also feature Lady Cove's own contribution to the Christmas catalogue – Radiance in Winter – a new commissioned suite for women's voices by local collaborative pianist and composer Leslee Heys. This exciting song cycle explores the common and sometimes contradictory themes that winter brings forth: darkness and light, wonderment and introspection, joy and peace.

"Through these renowned works, Lady Cove will truly blend the old with the new, taking audience members on a Christmas adventure of song, exploring the varied traditions, emotions and colours of the season," said Kellie Walsh, Lady Cove's artistic director. "We are delighted to be debuting a special new piece by the inimitable Leslee Heys, and to be collaborating on this show with two exceptional musicians, Lori Gemmel and Nathan Cook."

Tickets are \$30 for general seats and \$25 for students and seniors, plus box office surcharge, and can be purchased in person, by phone or online at:

Holy Heart Box Office
55 Bonaventure Ave.
579-4424

www.holyhearttheatre.com.

Box office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 am – 5 pm.

Concert details:

Flurries of White, a Christmas performance by Lady Cove Women's Choir, featuring Lori Gemmel, harpist, and Nathan Cook, cellist
Friday, Nov. 23, 2018, 8 pm
Cochrane Street United Church

For more information or to set up an interview with Kellie Walsh, contact:

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Lady Cove Women's Choir is named after the community of Lady Cove in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador. The name Lady Cove is representative of the spirit and philosophy of the choir: a community of women – a haven where members come, not only to explore their own musicianship, but to share their lives and experiences in a sisterhood. Based in St. John's, the choir of over 50 voices was established by Kellie Walsh in September 2003. Over the past 16 seasons, Lady Cove has become known for its exceptional musicianship, intimate and expressive performances, and community engagement. Performing regularly on the national and international stage, Lady Cove has garnered a national and international reputation not only for its high level of performance but also for its innovation and creativity. Lady Cove also strives for excellence beyond singing and eagerly seeks opportunities to engage with the community.

Lori Gemmell started as a street-corner busker in Montreal. She is now Principal Harpist with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, has toured Europe and Japan with the Nouvelle Ensemble Moderne, and teaches both privately, and at Wilfred Laurier University. She plays regularly with the Toronto Symphony, and National Ballet orchestras. She is a member of the Four Seasons Harp Quartette. Her most recent recording is *Canadian Music for Harp*. She has also recorded as a soloist on Prelude, with Jennifer Swartz on their harp duo recording *The Garden of Peacocks*, with Trumpeter Larry Larson on *Divertissement*, on the soundtrack recording for *Bohemians in Brooklyn* and with songwriters Kevin Fox and Feist.

Nathan Cook is a performer with wide-ranging interests. He has appeared with groups as diverse as the Mercury Baroque Ensemble, the Foundation for Modern Music (Houston) and the Houston Symphony. Critically recognized for his "authoritative yet relaxed" playing and his "sweet and pliant" sound (Houston Chronicle), Nathan has performed and taught throughout North and South America at festivals ranging from the Chenango Summer MusicFest (New York) to the Festival Internacional de Música (Chile). Nathan is a full-time faculty member with Memorial University's School of Music.