



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Calgary Boys' Choir Invites Calgary as it Celebrates 50th Season**

*A cornerstone of the Calgary choral community, the choir is hosting a public concert to mark their milestone and recruit new choir members*

**CALGARY, MAY 8, 2024** – The Calgary Boys' Choir is celebrating the finale of its 50th season this month, marking a significant milestone of enriching Calgary's cultural scene and providing impactful programming to male youths. To commemorate the event and encourage new choral membership, the choir is hosting a series of celebratory events.

The Calgary Boys' Choir provides a variety of performance opportunities and formative experiences for boys of all ages focused on nurturing musicianship, cooperation, teamwork and leadership.

"The Calgary Boys' Choir has an impactful history and invites youth of all backgrounds and ages to enrich our city's vibrant art culture," says Kathryn Berko, Artistic Director for the Calgary Boys' Choir. "Our 50th season underscores the choir's resilience and commitment to fostering leadership, cooperation and musical excellence. This special event represents our dedication to intergenerational harmony, encouraging and welcoming young boys to join our choral journey and be part of our enduring legacy."

The choir will offer a public vocal workshop for tenors and basses between May 23 to 25, led by former artistic director of the choir and current artistic director of the Vienna Boys Choir, [Gerald Wirth](#). All local and alumni choral singers are invited to participate. A grand concert will take place on Sunday, May 26 at 3 p.m. at the University of Calgary's Rozsa Centre. Directed by past and present directors Julie Freedman-Smith and Kathryn Berko, the concert will feature performances by current choir members, workshop participants and special guest and alumni member, [John Wort Hannam](#), Canadian Folk Music Awards' Solo Artist of the Year.

The choir welcomes new members and invites youth from all backgrounds and music experience an opportunity to build their skills, perform and be part of a unique team-based choral environment. "Our choir members have a broad set of interests and talents, including a variety of sports, artistic and musical pursuits. Our choir is modern, dynamic and engaging," says Elizabeth Garrett, General Manager for the Calgary Boys' Choir. The choir rehearses weekly in Marda Loop.

[Chorus America](#) highlights many significant impacts that choir participation can have on child development:



- 92 per cent of educators note choir participation enhances students' social skills, and 83 per cent agree it helps students express a wider range of emotions.
- 61 per cent of parents report overall improvements in academic performance and 64 per cent note specific improvements in subjects like language arts and 57 per cent in mathematics.
- 77 per cent of parents say their child has become a better team player since joining a choir, contributing more effectively to group activities and classroom discussions.
- 90 per cent of educators believe choirs can keep some students engaged in school who might otherwise be lost, and 78 per cent think choristers are more active participants in their schools.

Details for the Calgary Boys' Choir 50th Anniversary Celebration are as follows:

**What:** A three-day vocal workshop for tenors and basses led by Gerald Wirth, former artistic director of the choir and current artistic director of the Vienna Boys Choir, inviting local and alumni choral singers. Directed by Julie Freedman-Smith and Kathryn Berko, a Sunday concert will feature performances by current choir members, workshop participants and special guest John Wort Hannam, Canadian Folk Music Awards' Solo Artist of the Year.

**When:** Workshop runs May 23 to 25, and the concert takes place Sunday, May 26 at 3 p.m. Registration for the workshop and concert tickets are available [here](#).

**Concert Location:** Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, Rozsa Centre, University of Calgary ([206 University Ct NW, Calgary, AB T2N 4V8](#))

Spokespeople from the Calgary Boys' Choir will be on-site and available for media interviews at the concert and in advance.

The Calgary Boys' Choir has a variety of performances planned for the upcoming season, including a Concert Choir performance in Carmina Burana with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and a tour in the summer of 2025. The choir invites boys from Calgary and surrounding areas to join these opportunities and welcomes local tenors and basses to participate in its community chorus at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert.

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### **About Calgary Boys' Choir**

Founded by Douglas Parnham in 1973, the Calgary Boys' Choir has provided dynamic choral instruction for boys, enriching their lives and contributing to the city's cultural landscape for 50 years. The choir's vision is to empower boys to be remarkable citizens through music, fostering creativity and excellence across generations.



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