

# one equall mufick

**Ensemble Vocal One Equall Musick  
presents:**

## **DIVINE LITURGY: THE HALO OF HUMANITY**

October 24, 7:30PM  
Ascension of Our Lord Church  
Westmount, QC

October 29, 4PM  
First Baptist Church  
Ottawa, ON

**For immediate release, September 29, 2023:** Artistic Director Rona Nadler, Guest Conductor William Duffy, and One Equall Musick (OEM) present *Divine Liturgy: The Halo of Humanity*

This sacred choral program explores the liturgical music of the Armenian composer Komitas Vardapet (1869-1935) alongside devotional works by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), Vincente Lusitano (?-c. 1561) and Florence B. Price (1887-1953). The Patarag ("Divine Liturgy") of Komitas, is rarely performed outside of Armenian churches and has never before been presented in concert in Canada. The Montreal concert features organist Joel Peters and is preceded by a pre-concert lecture by the Armenian-born pianist, conductor and scholar Gohar Manvelyan.

This program highlights the work of composers who faced distinct challenges and endured personal tragedies related to their race, ethnicity and/or sexual orientation. In the face of these challenges, these composers created works which harness strong emotion while also striving for transcendence, each in a unique musical language that reveals their belief in music as the passage to the divine.

OEM is pleased to appear for a second time as part of the Montreal Grand Organ Festival presented by the Canadian International Organ Competition. The ensemble also looks forward to performing in Ottawa in its first concert outside of Quebec, as it seeks to reach new audiences and build a national profile.

## LISTING INFORMATION:

### *Divine Liturgy: The Halo of Humanity*

Ensemble Vocal One Equall Musick

Rona Nadler, Artistic Director

William Duffy, Guest Conductor

Joel Peters, Organist

### Montreal concert:

October 24, 2023, 7:30PM; Pre-concert lecture 6:30PM with Gohar Manvelyan  
Ascension of Our Lord Church, 375 Kitchener Ave, Westmount, Québec H3Z 2G1  
*Presented in collaboration with the Canadian International Organ Competition as part of the 2023 Grand Organ Festival.*

### Ottawa Concert:

October 29, 2023, 4PM

First Baptist Church, 140 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa, ON K1P 5J4

### Tickets:

General Admission (advance purchase): \$25

General admission (at the door): \$30

General admission (student): \$15

Ticketing links at <https://www.oneequallmusick.org/2023-2024-season>

Founded in 2011, **One Equall Musick** is a professional vocal ensemble devoted to the programming and interpretation of high quality repertoire from the fifteenth century to the present day. OEM's fine vocalism, expressive interpretation, and innovative programming have been featured in the Montreal Organ festival, Montreal Bach Festival, and Uplands Musical Society Concert Series. OEM enjoys collaborating with other ensembles and has shared the stage with the medieval vocal ensemble Scholastica, Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal, the Syrian music group Ensemble Zaman, Ensemble Séfaraide et Méditerranéen, iSacabuche! and Earth World Collaborative.

Montreal-based musician **Rona Nadler** enjoys a multi-faceted career as a harpsichordist, vocalist, and music director, having performed across the United States and Canada as a member of the quartet Infusion Baroque, while also serving as Artistic Director of the vocal ensemble One Equall Musick. Her compositions for vocal ensemble have been performed by the Blue Dawn Quartet and Les Rugissants, and were recently recorded by Ensemble ArtChoral for the ATMA label. Rona is Early Music Vocal Coach and director of the Cappella Antica at the Schulich School of Music of McGill. In addition to her work in the field of early music, Rona serves as Music director and Cantorial soloist at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Westmount, Quebec.

Appreciated for his "command of the seemingly impossible high tessitura" (South Florida Classical Review), countertenor and conductor **William Duffy** has established

himself as equally comfortable exploring ancient tunes and the compositions of our era. Currently residing in Montréal, William enjoys regular performances as both a soloist with orchestra and a member of professional vocal ensembles across North America. William holds degrees in voice (California State University, Chico) and choral conducting (McGill University).

Armenian-born conductor and pianist **Gohar Manvelyan** holds degrees in both piano performance and choral conducting from the Tchaikovsky Academic Music College at the Moscow State Conservatory, Concordia University, the University of Sherbrooke, and the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. As a doctoral student in 2017 she received a grant from McGill University to travel to Armenia with the aim of conducting primary source research in Armenian sacred music, attending various lectures organized by the Komitas Museum-Institute. In 2019, she earned the Doctor of Music degree in Choral Conducting. Her doctoral thesis, titled Makar Yekmalyan's Divine Liturgy: The Introduction of Polyphony in Armenian Sacred Music, has led to publication projects and an invitation to present a session titled Armenian Sacred Music: Its Origin and Development at the IFCM World Choral EXPOEXCHANGE! in Lisbon in September 2022.

Composer and organist **Joel Peters** hails from Waldheim, Saskatchewan. The music of Joel Peters is performed throughout Europe and North America and is published by Firehead Editions and H.T. FitzSimons Company. His compositions and improvisations include works for piano, voice, strings, trumpet, humming pedestrian, organ and electronics. In 2018 he won the AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition. July 2022, he premiered *Stille und Sein* commissioned by private donors. As a soloist, Peters has appeared at numerous events and festivals, including the Montreal Bach Festival, Les Amis de L'Orgue, Festival des couleurs de l'orgue français and at the Maison Symphonique with the SMCQ. He is co-artistic director and co-founder of Earth World Collaborative, a creative force generating new music, art, film and literature through collaboration. Joel Peters is Music Director at Ascension of Our Lord in Westmount.

Website: <https://www.oneequallmusick.org/>

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