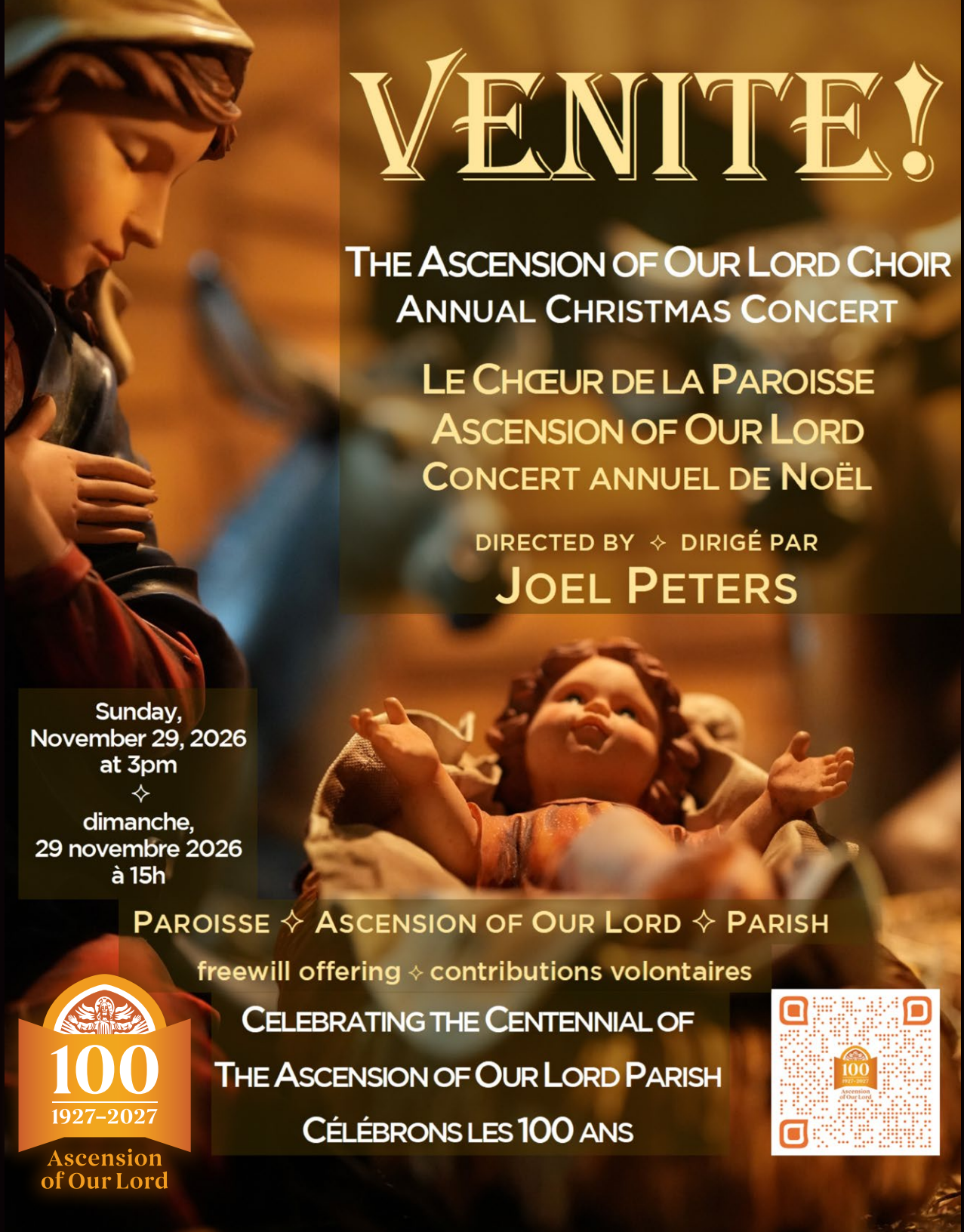


VENITE!

The Ascension of Our Lord Choir
Annual Christmas Concert

Le Chœur de la Paroisse
Ascension of Our Lord
Concert annuel de Noël

DIRECTED BY ✧ DIRIGÉ PAR

Joel Peters

Sunday,
November 29, 2026
at 3pm

✧

dimanche,
29 novembre 2026
à 15h

Paroisse ✧ Ascension of Our Lord ✧ Parish

freewill offering ✧ contributions volontaires

Celebrating the Centennial of
The Ascension of Our Lord Parish

Célébrons les 100 ans

100
1927–2027
Ascension
of Our Lord

Words of Welcome from our Pastor

Venite! "Come let us adore Him"!

The heart of the familiar Christmas story, celebrated annually, is that in Jesus- Emmanuel, God has visited His people and has become the bearer of the hope and promise of salvation.

The message of the Christ Child is a message of peace, goodness and hope. Venite..."Come let us adore Him"!

We begin the celebration with the four week Season of Advent which commences today. We prepare ourselves for the Feast of the Incarnation, an event which has changed the world forever.

Since its erection in 1928, the Casavant Freres console has benefited the parish, not only as a solo instrument, but as accompaniment for a rich choral heritage. For ten decades the Ascension Choir has rendered countless concerts for the satisfaction and enjoyment of its parishioners and friends. Today will be no exception.

The flurry and busyness of preparing for the season will soon be upon us. As a prelude to this period, and as a way to prepare ourselves spiritually, the Ascension of Our Lord Choir, under the direction of Joel Peters, offers a concert of religious hymns and musical pieces as we ready ourselves for this festive, joyful and meaningful moment in the year.

We welcome your presence here today, and hope that you will enjoy the concert.



Photo from video by Abdulrahman Hussein and Joel Peters

May the Christmas season be rich in blessings and peace for you and all your loved ones.

Respectfully,
Father L. Mac Eachen,
pastor

Concert Description

Venite Adoremus Dominum

"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord," sing the familiar lyrics of the Christmas classic O Come, All Ye Faithful, or, in its original Latin, Adeste Fideles. I can think of no better way to begin our annual Christmas Concert this year, a year that marks the centenary celebrations of Ascension of Our Lord Parish.

These are the very words that Pietro Yon sets to music in his own famous carol, Gesù Bambino, written a century ago. A composer of no small stature, Yon also gave a recital here at Ascension, making his connection to our parish all the more meaningful.

The words Venite Adoremus Dominum are a call to action, ending each verse of the carol after inviting us to participate in the procession, joyful and triumphant. Shepherds, magi, the lowly, the angels, and the Virgin are among those poetically portrayed in this hymn, each verse bringing us back to the same invitation: come, let us adore the Lord. Join us in beholding something truly special.

Looking to our own history and the people and traditions worth beholding, we also wanted to highlight the French influence on our origins here in Montréal, as well as pay homage to our Irish beginnings, including the Irish drum, the bodhrán.

It is with these words and ideas in mind that our program this afternoon unfolds. From the marching of kings to the proclamation of angels, we travel through scenes of revelatory contemplation, from the Middle Ages, brought to us by Hildegard von Bingen and finally to our own century, with the contemplative passion of Hagenberg's O Come, Emmanuel.

And finally, our Christmas Concert would not be complete without a few of our favourite, time-honoured classics, including Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming and O Magnum Mysterium, culminating in the triumphant Hallelujah Chorus by G. F. Handel.

Joel Peters,

Director of Music
and Organist



Photo by Joel Peters

Concert Program

O Come All Ye Faithful [1]	arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
La Marche des Rois	Joseph Noyon / Clement Loret arr. Joel Peters (1888-1962 / 1833-1909)
Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
In the Bleak Midwinter [1,3]	Harold Darke, arr. Taylor (1888 - 1976)
Low How a Rose 'Er Blooming [4]	Michael Praetorius (1571- 1621)
Es is ein Ros'	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Nun Komm, Der Heiland Heiland	Denis Bédard (b. 1950)
O viridissima virga, Ave [1,2]	Hildegard Von Bingen (1098-1179)
O Magnum Mysterium	Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)
Ave Maria	Jacob Arcardelt (1507-1568)
O Come Emmanuel	Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)
Patapan	arr. Mayu Egan (b.1996)
The Angel Gabriel [5]	traditional
Gesu Bambino [6]	Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
O Tanenbaum	Vince Geraldi (1928-1976)
The Messiah (excerpts)	George Friedrich Handel (1685-1759)
No.1 Ouverture (instrumental)	
No.20 Behold the Lamb of God	
No.18a He Shall Feed His Flock [2]	
No.3 And the Glory (chorus)	
No.36 How Beautiful are the feet [1]	
No.44 Hallelujah (chorus)	

Sing with us!

SOLOISTS

[1] Kathryn Riopel (soprano)
[2] Emma Yee (alto)
[3] Zachary Kelly (baritone)
[4] Eamon Egan (tenor)
[5] Daniel Ginga (tenor)
[6] Normand Marc Croteau (baritone)

Sing with us!

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2. See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw night with lowly fear;
We too will thither, Bend our joyful footsteps.
Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
Refrain

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus
Venite adoremus Dominum

Please turn your device on silent. Thank you!

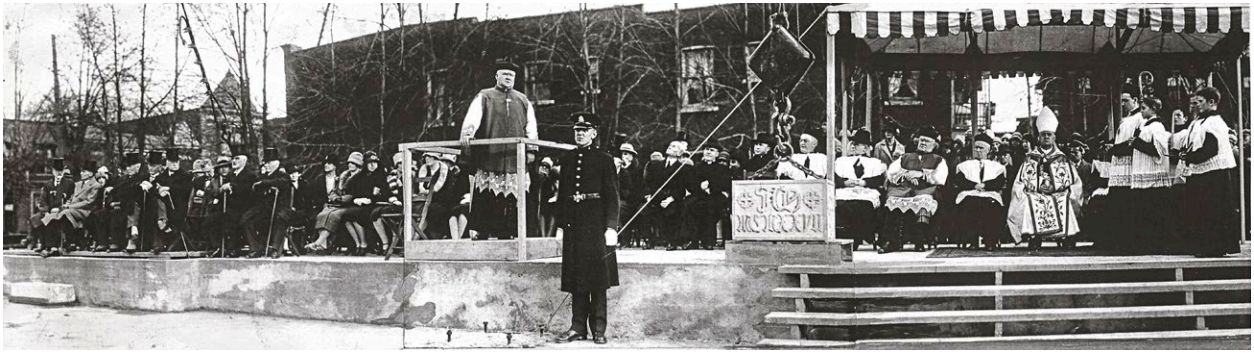
THE ANGEL GABRIEL

All verses sung by Soloists

Refrain: *(Audience and Choir)*
Most highly favour'd lady
Gloria



Photo by Joel Peters



Laying of cornerstone, 1927



First Communion, c. 1930



Original altar



Reverend Timmins and Jacqueline Kennedy
at Ascension of Our Lord



Father Griffin and Janet Macklem celebrating Father Griffin's
35th anniversary of ordination and the parish's 70th anniversary, 1996.

Our Centennial Legacy Initiative

For one hundred years, generations of parishioners have built, sustained and strengthened the Ascension of Our Lord Parish through their faith, generosity and commitment to stewardship. As we begin our second century, we invite you to consider taking part in the next chapter of our shared story.

The ***Centennial Legacy Initiative*** seeks to strengthen three enduring dimensions of parish life: caring for our sacred home, sustaining the beauty of our music ministry, and strengthening our outreach as we live our faith in loving service to others.

Architecture

Music

Community

LEGACY ENDOWMENTS

OUR SACRED HOME

Support the long-term stewardship of our church building and grounds through preventative maintenance, preservation of its architectural heritage, current and future restoration work, and renovation projects to ensure this treasured legacy is preserved for future generations.

MUSIC IN WORSHIP

Support the continued excellence of our music ministry, including our Casavant organ's maintenance, the Ascension Choir, McGill University's Schulich School of Music section lead singers and assistant organist, and special liturgical music.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Support our pastoral outreach, hospitality, community assistance, educational initiatives and emerging pastoral priorities.

Joel Peters – Music Director & Organist



Photo by Joel Peters

Composer and organist Joel Peters hails from Waldheim, a small town in 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 international competition, Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition given by the American Guild of Organists for his piece entitled Eine Wolke Nahm Ihn Weg. In 2022, he premiered Stille und Sein, commissioned by patrons of the Canadian International Organ Competition.

As a soloist, Peters has appeared at numerous festivals, including the Montreal Bach Festival, Les Amis de L'Orgue at the Maison Symphonique with the SMCQ, North Sky Chorale, and most recently with the All Saints Anglican church in Winnipeg as soloist and guest artist for an all Fauré concert.

Among other prizes and awards, Peters received the Public's Choice award at the Concours OSM Manuvie (2016). In 2014, he graduated with a Master of Music in organ performance from McGill University studying with Hans-Ola Ericsson and in 2017 with an Artist Diploma. He received perfect scores from the jury members for his final Artist Diploma recital at L'Oratoire St. Joseph, premiering his own composition: Diptych for the Baptism of our Lord.

He is co-artistic director and co-founder of Earth World Collaborative, a creative force generating new music, art, film and literature through collaboration. Since May 2021, Joel is currently Music Director and Organist at Ascension of Our Lord in Westmount.

Choir Members

SOPRANO
Kathryn Riopel*
Vanessa Croome
Roselyn Grant
Jennifer Katsuva
Kimberly Lynch
Claudia Neff
Olivia Tse
Clara Verna

TENOR
Daniel Ginga*
Eamon Egan
Mishael Eusebio
André Garneau
Donat Taddeo

ALTO
Emma Yee*
Monika Ag
Stephanie Doyle
Hisako Egan
Patricia Smith
Sonia Struthers
Lucia Vizcaino

BASS
Zachary Bligh Kelly*
Normand Marc Croteau
Christopher Keene
John Palumbo
Vincent Lauzon

* section leads

Cello – Lumine Egan
Cello – Thomas Jocks
Violin I - Noémy Gagnon-Lafrenais
Violin II - Etienne Pemberton
Viola/Bodhrán (Irish drum) - Mayu Egan

Flute – Clara Verna
Timpani - Parker Bert
Trumpet - Roman Galanov
Harpsichord/Organ/Piano - Clayton Stoker

Organ/Piano/Harpsichord/Conductor - Joel Peters

We would like to thank our fantastic section leads for their support throughout the year!
Interested in joining our choir? Contact Joel Peters at JoelAscension375@gmail.com



Photo by Monika Ag

McGill University Voice students – Section Leads

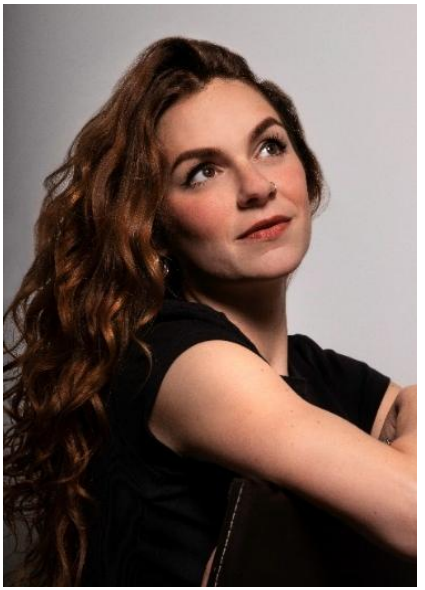


Photo by Stephanie Sedlbauer

Kathryn Riopel is a soprano from Elk Grove Village, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice & Opera Performance and Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Northwestern University and earned the Master's of Music in Voice & Opera Performance at McGill University in 2024, studying with Dominique Labelle.

Recent credits include Casilda (The Gondoliers), the title role in Jéhanne (Opera Quest Victoria), Handel's Semele (Opera McGill), Madame Z (lead role) in Brother 12: A Rock Opera.

She sang the role of Aphrodite in the April 2025 world premier of the Sapphic Passion, a new oratorio developed by Sapphonix Collective (a queer multidisciplinary arts collective based in Montreal, QC).

A frequent competitor, in 2026 she won Second Prize at the Chicago International Music Competition and was semifinalist in the James Toland Vocal Competition and Giulio Gari Foundation Competition. She performs frequently with the Choeur de L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and with Ascension of Our Lord Parish in Montreal, QC.



Photo by Stephanie Sedlbauer

Heralded by Opera Canada for her "strong, clear, and confident" sound, and by KinoCulture for"almost literally illuminating the stage," Tkaronto-born mezzo-soprano Emma Yee (she/her) is an interdisciplinary musical artist based in Tiohtià:ke. Emma holds a Bachelor of Music from Mount Allison University where she studied with Vicki St. Pierre and a Master of Music from McGill University where she studied with Tracy Smith Bessette.

Emma is an active performer across opera, musical theatre, and choral scenes. Performance highlights include Cordelia in Falsettos (Contact Theatre), Bianca in The Rape of Lucretia (Opera McGill), various roles in Elegies (Opera 5), Sorceress in Dido & Aeneas (Opera McGill), and alto soloist in Messiah (Christ Church Cathedral).

Emma is also a stage manager, having worked with Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Opera McGill, Opera 5, La SAMS, the Motyer-Fancy Theatre, and Sapphonix Collective, as well as a writer, with publications in Nota bene and La Scena Musicale.

She is the first McCall MacBain Scholar in music and the 2026 winner of Opera Bouffe du Quebec's Ratycz Myre Family scholarship. www.emmayee.ca/home

McGill University Voice students – Section Leads

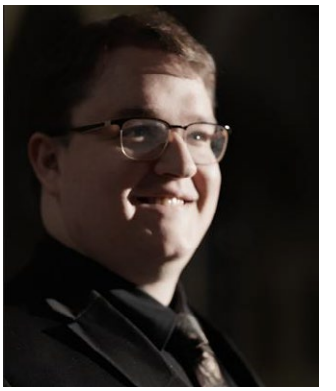


Photo by Joel Peters

Daniel Ginga is a Moldovan American tenor born in Wisconsin, raised in Washington D.C. and educated in Canada. He completed his Bachelor's of Music at McGill University in 2024, studying under Stefano Algieri. He would go on to obtain a performance diploma from McGill before starting his Master's program in Fall 2025.
At McGill he participated in several opera productions, as both an Assistant Stage Director and as a member of the choir for several years. The Ascension Choir has been his favorite job to date, and he is grateful for the wonderful experience it's been.

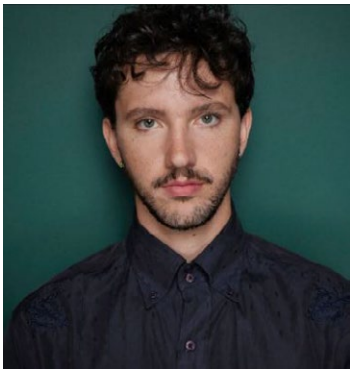


Photo by Tracy Spero Photography

American lyric baritone Zachary Bligh Kelly is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Opera & Voice atMcGill University with Anja Burmeister, Patrick Hansen and Stephen Hargreaves. Recent performances include Junius in The Rape of Lucretia by Benjamin Britten, Mr. Gobineau in Menotti's the Medium, Signor Naccarelli in Light in the Piazza, and Hawkins in Fellow Travelers with Opera McGill. Zachary is particularly interested in English opera and North American lyric theatre. He is pleased to be joining the choir at Ascension of our Lord for the 26'-27' season.



Photo by Stephanie Montague

Clayton Stoker is an Organist and Church Musician who has a passion for working with people of all ages. Previously, he served as Organist at Fenton United Methodist Church and Interim Musician at Linden Presbyterian Church. He also served as Minister of Music at Chelsea Retirement Community, where he directed the chime choir and ukulele ensemble. Through the Hearts, Hands and Voices youth worship and fine arts program, Clayton continued to develop his experience in music ministry and working with young musicians.
A graduate with honors at Eastern Michigan University in organ performance, Clayton studied organ and harpsichord with Michael Burhardt. While at EMU, he accompanied all major ensembles on campus and performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Outside of performance, he wrote a thesis titled "Unlearning tension: How the Alexander Technique enhances body awareness in performance" which is the backbone of his work as a performer.
Currently, he is pursuing a Master's degree in Organ Performance at McGill University, where he studies with Isabelle Demers and accompanies the University Choir. Outside of his studies, Clayton likes to crochet, cook, and explore the great outdoors.

Ascension Choir And Music Ministry Fund

For a century, sacred music has been an integral part of the spiritual life of Ascension of Our Lord Parish. More than an embellishment to the liturgy, music is an essential ministry—lifting prayer beyond words, uniting our congregation in worship, and enriching our celebrations of faith.

Our magnificent Casavant Frères organ, Opus 1344, has been at the heart of this tradition since the church's earliest years. Fully restored between 2020 and 2022 through the generosity of parishioners, friends, and the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, it continues to fill our church with music, beauty, and inspiration.

Today, under the direction of Joel Peters, our volunteer choir is enriched by talented voice students serving as section leaders, alongside an assistant organist, all from McGill University's Schulich School of Music. This valued partnership enhances the quality of our liturgical celebrations while offering these gifted young singers and organists financial support and meaningful opportunities to develop their musical skills, gain professional experience, and grow as artists.

As we celebrate our Parish Centennial, we look to the future. Our Centennial Legacy Initiative proposes the creation of a Sacred Music Endowment to ensure that future generations will continue to experience the beauty of sacred music, exceptional choral leadership, and our magnificent Casavant organ.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to our generous donors, benefactors and sponsors whose support sustains our Music Ministry and helps preserve this cherished tradition for generations to come!



Together we make beautiful music – and music becomes prayer!



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Desiree.McGraw.NDG@assnat.qc.ca

Nous vous souhaitons un excellent concert et un merveilleux 100e anniversaire !

We wish you an excellent concert and a great 100th Anniversary!



Jennifer Maccarone
Députée de / MNA for
Westmount–Saint-Louis
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Thank you for your continued support.

Marc Miller, MP
Ville-Marie—Le Sud-Ouest—Île-des-Sœurs

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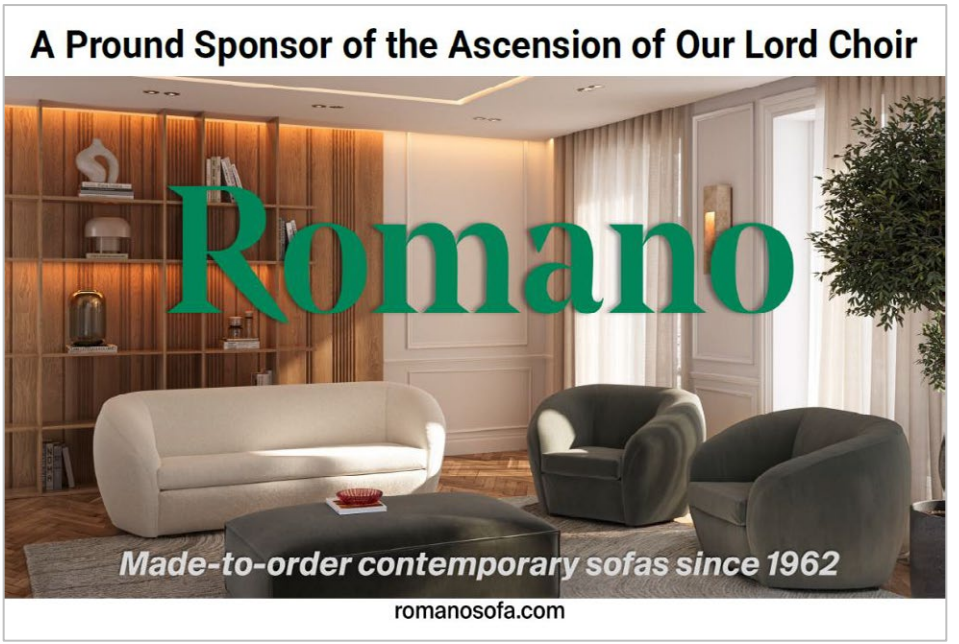

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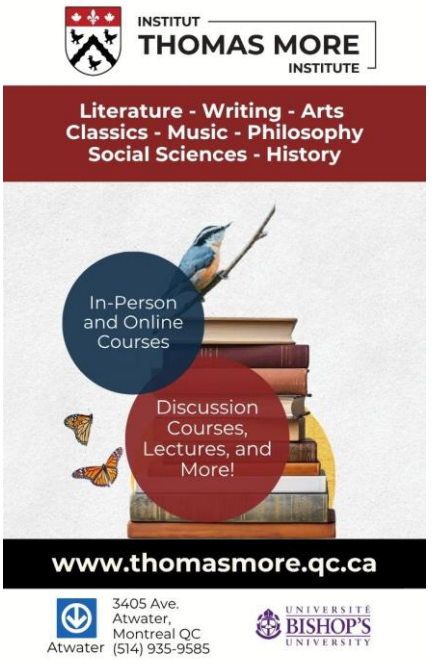

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Parish Information

Mass Hours	
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	9:00 AM
Saturday	4:30 PM
Sunday	10:30 AM

Contact Information	
Pastor: Fr. Lawrence Mac Eachen	pastor@ascensionofourlord.ca
Director of Music & Organist: Joel Peters	music@ascensionofourlord.ca

General Office Information	
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Address	375 Kitchener Ave, Westmount QC H3Z 2G1
Email	info@ascensionofourlord.ca
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Centennial Booklet - Sara Morley at Design Postimage

Program design – Monika Ag

Reception – Pino Di Ioia

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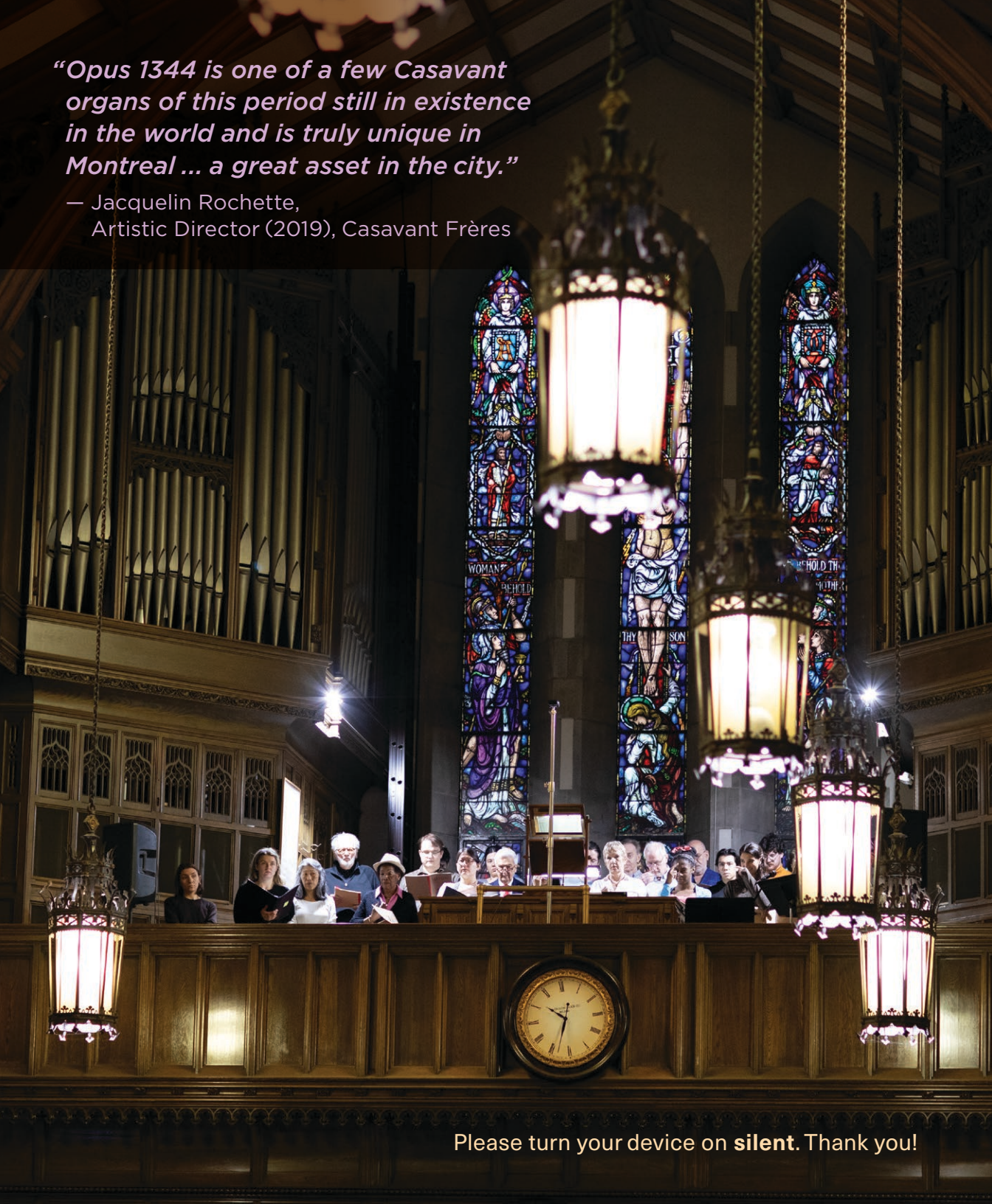
1927–2027
Ascension of Our Lord
Here for good.
Ici pour de bon.



"Opus 1344 is one of a few Casavant organs of this period still in existence in the world and is truly unique in Montreal ... a great asset in the city."

— Jacquelin Rochette,
Artistic Director (2019), Casavant Frères

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