

TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Steven Reineke, Principal Pops Conductor

TSO Holiday Pops

Sarah Hicks, conductor
Mikaela Bennett, vocalist
VIVA Singers Toronto
Carol Woodward Ratzlaff,
Founding Artistic Director

Traditional/arr. Don Sebesky
A Christmas Scherzo

Various/arr. Robert Elhai
Joyful Echoes

John Williams
"Somewhere in My Memory" from
Home Alone

Angela Morley
Snow Ride

Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane/arr. Adam Podd
"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"

**Stan Zabka & Don Upton/
arr. Anthony Bisbano**
"Christmas Eve in My Hometown"

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Selections from *The Nutcracker Suite*, Op. 71a
March
Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy
Russian Dance (Trepak)

Traditional/arr. Lucas Richman
Hannukah Medley

DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2025

Program 3

Wednesday,
December 10, 2025
2:00pm

Wednesday,
December 10, 2025
7:30pm

Thursday,
December 11, 2025
2:00pm

Thursday,
December 11, 2025
7:30pm



25

Frederick Silver/arr. Newton Wayland
"The Twelve Days after Christmas"

Intermission

Traditional/arr. Gary Fry
"Deck the Hall"

Flory Jagoda/arr. Bill Elliott
"Ocho Kandelikas"

John Rutter
"Star Carol"

**Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene/
arr. Jim Gray**
"Mary, Did You Know?"

**James Lord Pierpont/arr. Marty Paich
& Jack Gold/adap. Liam Ritz**
"Jingle Bells?" (Barbra Streisand version)

J. Fred Coots & Haven Gillespie
"Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town"

Leroy Anderson
Sleigh Ride

**Adolphe Adam/
arr. David Clydesdale**
"O Holy Night"

Holiday Singalong
(For lyrics, turn to page 29.)

**Lowell Mason/
arr. Steven Amundson**
"Joy to the World"

Traditional/arr. Randol Alan Bass
"Angels We Have Heard on High"
from *A Christmas Flourish*





Sarah Hicks, conductor

Sarah Hicks made her TSO début in February 2017.

Sarah Hicks's versatile and vibrant musicianship has secured her place as an in-demand conductor across an array of genres. She has collaborated with diverse artists—from classical musicians such as Hilary Hahn and Dmitri Hvorostovsky to popular artists including Jennifer Hudson and Dirty Projectors—and she has toured with Sting as conductor of his Symphonycity Tour. Hicks's passion for cross-genre partnerships led to a 2019 album with rap artist Dessa and the Minnesota Orchestra (with whom she holds the titled position of principal conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall), and she is an Emmy winner as both conductor and host of *This Is Minnesota Orchestra*.

Hicks is a specialist in film music and the film-in-concert genre. Her live concert recordings can be seen on Disney+ and ABC, and she acts as an advisor for, and frequent collaborator with, Disney Concerts across an array of projects. Her first major feature-film credit, *Renfield*, was released in 2023, and *The Morricone Duel*, her live album with the Danish National Symphony, has garnered more than 200 million views on YouTube.

Hicks's notable conducting collaborators include The Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Boston Pops. International engagements include the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Czech National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, and many others.



Mikaela Bennett, vocalist

Mikaela Bennett made her TSO début in June 2024.

Mikaela Bennett is a celebrated singer and actress praised for her artistic versatility. This season, highlights include her LA Opera début in the world première of Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Hildegard* (Richardis von Stade) and a return to the Prototype Festival in the same work. She returns to Bard SummerScape for the world première of Courtney Bryan's *Suddenly Last Summer* (Catherine), makes her début at Emerald City Music with a new Molly Joyce song cycle, and joins the Toronto, Grand Rapids, and Edmonton Symphonies for holiday pops concerts. She will also début with the Cincinnati Pops in their New Year's Eve program, *Cabaret Café*.

In recent seasons, Bennett made her début at Festival Musica Strasbourg and appeared with the Orlando Philharmonic (Mahler's Symphony No. 4), Kalamazoo Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, and Baltimore and Nashville Symphonies in Mary Lou Williams's *Zodiac Suite* with the Aaron Diehl Trio. She premièred Michael Tilson Thomas's *Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind* with the San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony, and New World Symphony.

Bennett has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall; with The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Oakland and San Diego Symphonies; and at Festival Napa Valley, Caramoor, and the Kennedy Center in *Bernstein on Broadway*.

A native of Ottawa, Bennett is a graduate of The Juilliard School and a recent recipient of the Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists.

VIVA Singers Toronto



Carol Woodward Ratzlaff, Founding Artistic Director

Carol Woodward Ratzlaff maintains an active career as a choral conductor, educator, singer, and researcher. As founder and Artistic Director of VIVA Singers Toronto since 2000, she leads a staff of 35 colleagues who provide exceptional programming for children, youth, and adults. Ratzlaff has continued to share her passion for vocal-music education as a sessional instructor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music and The Royal Conservatory of Music. Currently pursuing a PhD, Ratzlaff is researching ways to include singers with disabilities in choral-music education and performance.

The Choir

These performances mark VIVA Singers Toronto's TSO début.

From its founding in 2000, VIVA Singers Toronto has continued to evolve as a dynamic singing community by offering quality choral experiences for youth and musicians across the lifespan. VIVA offers diverse musical programming—including Orff-based creation activities and superb choral training for children ages 4 and up; regular performance and chorister-composition opportunities; digital and traditional musical literacy; and commissioned works and partnerships with distinguished musicians and composers. VIVA also offers a non-auditioned Community Choir for adults, and a choir (EVM) for teens and adults with disabilities.

Young choristers are supported throughout their voice change and integrated into the auditioned SATB VIVA Chamber Singers. VIVA has enjoyed many long-term artistic partnerships including with The National Ballet of Canada, the Toronto Consort, and VIVA's Associate Choir, the Elmer Iseler Singers. VIVA is committed to foregrounding chorister voice through the core values of choral performance artistry, choral creation and vocal-music education, inclusive choral practices, choral leadership and mentoring, and community. vivasingerstoronto.com

For these performances, VIVA is joined by 12 members of the Rosedale Heights School of the Arts Chamber Choir.

Laura Menard, VIVA Associate Director

Maria Riedstra, Vocal Music Teacher, Rosedale Heights School of the Arts

Rima Al Homaidi	Bahareh Doroudiani	Rachel Hickey	Laura Menard*	Louise Simone*
Sarah Argue	Emma Evans	Allegra Hoffmann	Sydney Miller	Amy Stewart
Eric Bahn	Liam Eveleigh	Seth Huether	Rosalind Morrow	Sarah Tulk
Roy Bateman	Callen Filson	Maryam Ismayil	Sara Muir	Sofia Valenciuik
Leah Becker	Georgia Fisher	Zevon Ketchabaw	Edmee Nataprawira	Taylor Van Binsbergen
Mary Bella*	Kate Fowley	Kylan Kikunaga	William Newman	Elias Volonakis
Piya Bender	Kim Garrett	Sarah Labell	Paula Nieuwstraten	Zueva Wan
Rachel Bisset	Ella Gianopoulos	Claire Lawrence	Jo O'Leary-Ponzo*	Odin Wang
Susan Bliss Purdy	Shannon Goligher	Evelyn Lawrence	Miyo Pechawis	Justin Welsh*
Viola Boutaleb	Harrison Grant	Tim Lee*	Allie Rasiuk	Forrest Wieler
Hayden Bowman	Matthew Graystone	Ting Lei	Maria Riedstra*	Susan Wieler
Kelly Buehler	Ava Grinhaus	Ryan Lokan	Beverley Rockwell	Andrew Wolf*
Amy Buitenhuis	Laurie Hay	Andrew Lowe*	Charlie Sadler*	
Aida Burt	Alice Hay Draude	Anastasia	Victoria Shalygin	
Nora Cohen	Andrew Hellebust	MacKeracher	Mizuki Shimozato	
Shifra Cooper	Eric Hellebust	Adam Mason*	Alessia Signorella	*Leads

Holiday Singalong

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let Earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Interlude

Joy to the Earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Interlude

No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found

Interlude

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love

Amen!

Angels We Have Heard on High

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Interlude

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Ad Gloriam Deo

