



## ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR IN SINGLE CANADIAN APPEARANCE FEBRUARY 3, 2024

**January 3, 2024 (TORONTO, ON): Lawrence Cherney, Founding Artistic Director of Soundstreams**, today announced program details for the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir's (EPCC) return to Toronto this February as part of Soundstreams' 2023/2024 Season. With music by **Arvo Pärt, Palestrina**, and a world premiere by Estonian/Canadian composer **Omar Daniel**, this special one-night-only performance takes place on **Saturday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Basilica**, 83 Power St. Tickets are on sale now at [Soundstreams.ca](https://www.soundstreams.ca).

The world-renowned EPCC, together with maestro **Tõnu Kaljuste**, embarks this February on a long-awaited concert tour to the United States and Canada after a five-year hiatus. Their appearance for Soundstreams will be the only Canadian stop on the itinerary.

"Many consider the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir to be the world's greatest chamber choir, most famous for their interpretations of music by their beloved countryman Arvo Pärt," shares **Lawrence Cherney**. "This is the sixth time since 2000 that Soundstreams has hosted the EPCC in Toronto. Whether it's secular or sacred, they bring such deep spirituality to everything they perform. The majestic and acoustically superb St. Paul's Basilica is one of Toronto's pre-eminent venues for choral music, another reason why the EPCC's Toronto concerts usually sell out!"

Masterworks on the program by Pärt, who was once again chosen in 2023 as the most performed living composer in the world, include *Magnificat*, *Nunc Dimittis*, *Dopo la Vittoria*, and *Kanon Pokajanen*. Three selections from Palestrina's great *Offertorium* will also be performed.

The world premiere of *Antarktos Monodies* by Estonian/Canadian composer Omar Daniel is based on the sonnet "Antarktos" by H. P. Lovecraft. Tõnu Kaljuste and the EPCC have an exemplary history of premiering Canadian works on their Toronto concert dates, this being the second by Omar Daniel.

"The particular configuration of Pärt and Palestrina, presented for the first time in these tour performances, has been devised by Tõnu Kaljuste. The maestro's experience in programming and conducting Pärt's repertoire is unmatched. He, and the ensembles he founded (the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra) have recorded standard-bearing performances of Pärt's work for the past three decades. But Kaljuste's experience with early composers runs exceptionally deep as well. Few indeed would be as worthy as him to program and conduct February's concert."

**Peter Bouteneff**, D.Phil., Arvo Pärt Project

There will also be a free Soundstreams **TD Encounters - Arvo Pärt: Words & Music** - a discussion and performance event prior to the February mainstage concert, on **January 29, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at Tartu College Event Space** (3 Madison Ave, Toronto). The evening will include a performance of works of Pärt featuring counter-tenor **Daniel Cabena** and excerpts of work by Omar Daniel. A discussion will follow surrounding Pärt's unique way of setting voice to music, led by Omar Daniel and Canadian poet and author **Anne Michaels**. Visit [Soundstreams.ca](https://soundstreams.ca) for details and reservations.

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Soundstreams 2023/2024 Season  
ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER CHOIR  
Tõnu Kaljuste, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor

Saturday, February 3, 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Basilica, 83 Power St, Toronto, ON M5A 3A8  
Ticket Link: <https://www.rcmusic.com/tickets/seats/316001>  
Box Office Phone Number: 416.408.0208  
Ticket Prices: \$27.60-\$89.75  
Accessibility: <https://stpaulsbasilica.archtoronto.org/en/our-community/accessibility/>

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<https://soundstreams.ca/events/estonian-philharmonic-chamber-choir-2/>  
@Soundstreams on all social media platforms

The 2024 EPCC tour is supported by the Estonian American National Council (EANC/ERKÜ).  
*Antarktos Monodies* was commissioned by SOCAN.  
This concert funded in part by the Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, The Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation, and Soundstreams' generous individual donors.

### **About Soundstreams**

Under the leadership of its Founding Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney, Soundstreams began in 1982 with a tribute to Igor Stravinsky's 100th birth year, an artist who fundamentally transformed the ways we hear our world. In the intervening years, we've probed compelling Canadian themes and stories through new works in music and opera that resonate with our time and place. We aim not only to reflect upon those themes and stories but to inspire new perspectives and approaches to them.

Soundstreams has created a platform for compelling new creations both at home and abroad. Our various Toronto-based concert series, educational and outreach events and professional development programs have showcased nearly 1500 global creators and performers in collaboration with their Canadian counterparts. At the same time, Soundstreams' productions have toured North America, Latin America, Asia and Europe. In recent seasons, Soundstreams has received high praise from the international press: The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Guardian, The Financial Times, and The Wall Street Journal.

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### **For further media information, contact:**

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**Images for Soundstreams presents the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, [here](#).**