

"Peace, Come Away" was performed by the Capital Chamber Choir of Ottawa, Ontario on March 26, 2022. Here is a Q & A that they had with Stephanie Martin ahead of this performance.



1 The piece we are performing was commissioned by the Saskatoon Chamber Singers. When working on a commissioned piece, how does the creative process work with the group commissioning it?

S: Yes, it is a collaborative effort. It's important to understand the people you are writing for, what the choir's ethos is, what is the theme of the concert they are designing, and what the scope of the piece will be, whether the choir is large enough to handle divisions or if they have particular strengths. In the case of the SCC commission the commemoration was very

meaningful and personal for the choir. One of their sopranos died of cancer when she was 51yrs. I was very touched that I was the first composer to write a piece that would be part of the Jacquie Ackerman Memorial Commission Fund. I am sure they will be very pleased to know that Capital Chamber Choir is singing it, and that it has taken on a new life in another province.

2 Of all your compositions for choir, which is your favourite?

S: I just finished a setting of "Snow" a piece for double choir on a poem by Canadian poet Archibald Lampman. It's for double choir, and I do enjoy writing for that rich combination of 8 mixed voices. I guess I do become deeply engaged with words, and when I have a wonderful poem to set - like the Tennyson you are singing - my imagination is fully engaged.

Thanks Stephanie! 👍

Stephanie's choral compositions are performed regularly across North America. As Artistic Director of Pax Christi Chorale from 1996-2017, Martin conducted full performances of the oratorio repertoire. She is an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director of music at York University. Martin holds degrees from the University of Toronto, Wilfrid Laurier University, and is an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

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