

## Summer Academy Choral Program 2015

- Our 2015 Faculty -



[Brian Wismath](#)

[Kathryn Whitney](#)

[Morna Edmundson](#)

[Willi Zwozdesky](#)

## COURSE ELEMENTS

*New for 2015!*

The 2015 VCM Summer Academy Choral Program features a wide range of innovative singing and learning sessions, from group classes to workshops to full choir rehearsals. **The format of the course has changed in key areas for our 2015 Choral Academy.** Here is a brief introduction to what you have to look forward to this year:

### 1. Welcome Session - new for 2015

All students **full-time and part-time** meet at 10.30 on Saturday morning, August 1 in the beautiful Alix Goolden Performance Hall at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. We start our week together with a meet-and-greet, a full vocal warm up, and – **new for 2015!** – a first rehearsal of the Full Choir, during which we will do our best to sing through all the Full Choir music – all before lunch! This will be a great chance to get to know each other and to meet our faculty, as well as a chance to hear the exciting sound of all the voices in our Full Choir singing together for the first time – a morning not to be missed!

Full-time singers will then remain with us for the afternoon, when they will meet in smaller groups in their first chamber choir sessions. Part-time singers will finish by 12.30 and will then rejoin us for the first evening rehearsal of the Full Choir at the **new earlier time** of 5.30-7.30pm.

### 2. Full Choir Rehearsals – new for 2015

All students will attend our Full Choir rehearsals, which this year are timetabled at the **new earlier time of 5.30-7.30pm each evening** (except Wednesday). Brian Wismath will lead the Full Choir, which meets in the beautiful acoustic of the Alix Goolden Performance Hall (exception: Wingate Studio, 925 Balmoral on Monday August 3).

Please note: Full Choir music is already available for pick up at the front desk at the Victoria Conservatory of Music for those who have registered. (Those living outside Greater Victoria will receive their music in the post.)

To help you learn your music before the course begins, we provide a list of Sound Files as well as a document titled 'How to Learn Your Music' in advance. On hot summer days the AGPH can get very warm: light clothing is recommended – and don't forget your water bottle! The Full Choir rehearsals will start with a light warm up for those joining us directly after work.

**Full Choir Repertoire for 2015:**

Morten Lauridsen	Dirait-On
Knut Nystedt	Laudate
Stephen Chatman	Missa Brevis
Frank Ticheli	Earth Song
Mendelssohn	Drei geistliche Lieder
Vivaldi	Gloria

**3. Chamber Choir Rehearsals – new for 2015**

Each full-time student will sing in a Chamber Choir and will perform with this group in the final concert on Saturday August 8. There are **three new developments** in the chamber choir sessions for 2015.

**1. The New Voices Chamber Choir.** To meet the demand from singers who are new to reading classical music but who wish to learn in a chamber choir environment, we have created a special chamber choir for singers with limited experience of the classical choral repertoire or who are not yet accustomed to reading musical scores. The **New Voices Chamber Choir** will sing beautiful and interesting accompanied choral music that is carefully chosen to introduce singers to the joys of singing chamber choir music as part of a small group.

**2. Advanced Chamber Choirs.** All other chamber choirs will work on advanced choral repertoire. New for 2015 is our arrangement of rotating conductors: **all chamber choirs will work with two conductors**, with each conductor working on dedicated repertoire. This doubles the breadth of experience for each singer and gives the faculty a better chance to get to know more of our singers. We are looking forward to working with you!

**3. Name that choir!** Have you always wanted to name a chamber choir? Now is your chance – each advanced chamber choir will choose its own name on Saturday afternoon. Get your thinking caps on...!

**Chamber Choir Repertoire for 2015** (each chamber choir sings 3 or 4 pieces):

Ola Gjeilo	The Ground	Schubert	An die Musik
Jousquin Desprez	Mille Regretz	Traditional	Norwegian Wedding Song
Haydn	Sanctus (Mass No. 10)	Palestrina	Agnus Dei (Missa Iste Confessor)
Kevin Siegfried	Shaker Songs	arr. Noble Cain	Early one morning
Gregg Smith	Now I Walk in Beauty	William Byrd	Non Nobis, Domine
Giuseppe Pitoni	Cantate Domino	Williams	Exultate Justi

**4. WUMS (Warm-up Morning Sing) - new for 2015**

Each day will feature a friendly joint session for full-time singers where they can get warm-up and get their voices and bodies ready for the day ahead. There is no need to warm-up at home – have that extra coffee! The WUMS sessions are fun and invigorating and give us all the great pleasure of singing together first thing in the morning (well, first thing for musicians...) starting at the **new later time of 10.30am!**

## **5. BOSS (Break-Out Sight Singing) – new for 2015**

For 2015, we have an exciting new development for our BOSS sessions – ‘**Speed Readers**’ - a special BOSS stream for **Advanced sight-readers** who will rise to the challenge of sight-singing advanced repertoire together in these sessions, with the option of performing one of their sight-read pieces in the final concert if it is ready. Is your sight-reading up to it? Join us and find out!

Our main ‘**Sight Readers**’ BOSS stream will **take singers through the main principals of sight-reading**, with new material to sing each day. This is a great opportunity for choristers who would like to fine-tune their aural skills, and a wonderful introduction to score reading for those coming to it for the first time. Also **new this year** is a special BOSS session given over to **an introduction to the Kodaly method** with Brian Wismath. Brian is an expert chorister as well as conductor, and this session will give you a wonderful introduction to the world’s most loved and most effective sight-reading method. Not to be missed!

**Note: All BOSS sessions are self-streaming for 2015;** singers are welcome to join whichever session they prefer.

## **6. Workshops - new for 2015**

There will be no fewer than **SEVEN workshops** for the full-time singers on the 2015 Choral Program – each designed to give you the chance to fine-tune your choral skills under the expert guidance of our faculty:

- Introduction to Chamber Choir Singing with Morna Edmundson & Willi Zwozdesky
- Choral Diction with Kathryn Whitney
- Choral Skills for female voices with Morna Edmundson
- Choral Skills for male voices with Willi Zwozdesky
- Singing Contemporary Choral Music with Brian Wismath
- Specialist Chamber Choir Technique session with Willi Zwozdesky
- Specialist Chamber Choir Technique session with Morna Edmundson

We are hugely excited to have visiting faculty [Morna Edmunson](#) making the trip to the Island to join us this year. Morna is an award-winning choral director and conductor of many choirs, including Vancouver’s Elektra Women’s Choir. A former member of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Morna is a distinguished recipient of both the Healy Willan Award and a BC Community Achievement award and is a Board member of Chorus America. We are looking forward to welcoming Morna to Victoria!

We are thrilled to welcome back returning visiting faculty member [Willi Zwozdesky](#). Active as a composer and arranger as well as conductor, Willi was a much-treasured addition to the 2013 VCM Choral Program. Willi conducts the Vancouver Men’s Chorus, and is a recipient of a Legacy Award, a Healy Willan Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award for his choral conducting and community work. Willi is also currently Executive Director of the BC Choral Federation. Join us in welcoming back Willi and his ‘little people’ (...choral overtones).

**7. The Who Knew? Variety Concert.** The VCM Choral Program is an intensive course, but it is also fun – and not just in the innovative sessions for chamber and full choir. The ‘Who Knew? (What you could do!) Variety’ show provides light relief for staff and students half way through the course. Everyone is welcome to perform at this event – musical ... or otherwise. A pianist is available and all types of performance are featured (juggling, comedy, poetry, etc.) Spaces for performers are limited, however. Please be in touch with Kathryn Whitney directly asap if you would like to reserve a place to perform (mail@kathrynwhitney.net).

**8. Bring & Sing Lunch-time concerts.** Our timetable is may be full, but not so full that we can't squeeze in two short informal lunch-time concerts for those who would like to have a go, whether as a soloist, or as a chamber choir trying out some of their repertoire before the Saturday concert. An accompanist will be available and all are welcome.

**9. Final Concert.** Our week together finishes with a rousing final concert in the beautiful and historic Alix Goolden Performance Hall on Saturday August 8, beginning at 7.00pm. All singers will run through their music in the Dress Rehearsals on Saturday morning and early afternoon, and then will reconvene for the evening concert (Singer's call 6pm).

Our final concert will feature performances from each chamber choirs, the Speed Readers (if the wish), as well as the full choir, who will round out the evening in the second half. Admission is by donation. This is a great choral event not to be missed!

**We look forward to welcoming you to the 2015 Summer Academy Choral Program  
at the Victoria Conservatory of Music!**

**Register Online!**

*Kathryn & Brian*

Kathryn Whitney & Brian Wismath, Artistic Directors