



CAPELLA REGALIS CHOIRS

6036 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1Y9 www.capellaregalis.com

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Capella Regalis presents Haydn's 'Mass for troubled times' in a free Remembrance Day concert for the city of Halifax

A free concert in Halifax seeks to comfort and uplift – and break down barriers to classical music for all

On November 9, Capella Regalis Choirs will present Haydn's great masterpiece, *Missa in angustiis* ("Mass for troubled times"), in a free performance bringing together top professional singers and instrumentalists in Halifax, the young choristers of Capella Regalis Boys and Girls Choir, and four vocal soloists from across Canada.

"For All the City" is a ground-breaking annual, free masterwork series which builds upon Capella Regalis's mission to make worldclass music accessible to people of all ages. In a time of Remembrance, it brings the community together in meaningful tribute to those who have lost their lives in service and all who have gone before. Past performances include Mozart's *Requiem* (Nov. 2024) and Fauré's *Requiem* (Nov. 2023).

The featured piece of this year's concert was written by the Austrian composer Joseph Haydn in a time of political and financial instability in Europe caused by the Napoleonic Wars. The music resonates across the centuries, with parallels to political, economic, and social uncertainties in our time.

"My earliest recollections of hearing and being thrilled by 'classical' music feature Haydn most prominently," says Capella Regalis Founder and Artistic Director, Nick Halley. "*Missa in angustiis* is arguably the most clear and forceful demonstration of his giftedness. He wrote a lot of superb sacred music, but I would be inclined to agree with the aficionados: this is his most powerful work."

"The piece was later nicknamed the Nelson Mass because of the relief the Austrians felt after the Battle of the Nile. To have such a window into those troublous times, to see in its reflection a sustaining path through our own time of trouble here and now, to get to dig into this music with the young choristers of Capella Regalis and witness their imaginations take flight through it all – that is what makes *us* the truly gifted," reflects Halley.

From the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and the Mayor of Halifax to schoolchildren, the underwaged and the homeless, this concert brings together a large and diverse audience. Organizers say the past two years of For All the City performances brought capacity audiences of 500 people to All Saints Cathedral, with an additional 200 people on the waiting list.

"It is our hope that this concert will be an uplifting and consoling event during the time of Remembrance," says Executive Director Vanessa Halley. "We are reaching out to shelters, schools, churches, community organizations, the military, and the press to spread the word about it."

In addition to Haydn, the program will include works for Remembrancetide by Tomás Luis de Victoria (16th century) and Arvo Pärt (20th century).

This concert is made possible through the generous support of Edmonds Landscape Services Limited, the John C. Kerr Family Foundation, and individual concert sponsors.

For All the City: Haydn *Missa in angustiis* takes place on **Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax. Advance seat reservations can be made online at capellaregalis.com/events. Walk-ups are also welcome. Community service organizations are invited to make group bookings by emailing boxoffice@capellaregalis.com.

Contact information (for media inquiries):

Vanessa Halley, Executive Director
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ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Nick Halley, director

Capella Regalis Choirs
All Saints Cathedral Choir
Paul Halley, organ
Ensemble Regale orchestra

Sinéad White, soprano (NS)
Marie-Andrée Mathieu, alto (QC)
Philippe Gagné, tenor (QC)
Alexander Dobson, baritone (NB)



Capella Regalis Choirs is a Canadian charity dedicated to training singers within a centuries-old tradition and performing choral music of the highest excellence. Founded in Nova Scotia by director Nick Halley in 2010, Capella Regalis now comprises a Boys Choir, Girls Choir, professional Men's Choir (including Young Men with recently changed voices) based in Halifax, and a South Shore program based in Lunenburg. Capella Regalis children's choirs are **free** and open to any child who is keen to learn music. The choirs regularly sing Choral Evensong in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, as part of the Cathedral's *Sundays at Four* series. The choirs also perform concerts around Nova Scotia and beyond in a busy September – June season, and engage the public in many music outreach initiatives. Find out more at capellaregalis.com/about.

The Choir of the Cathedral Church of All Saints is directed by Grammy Award-winning composer, choral conductor, and keyboardist Paul Halley. The choir comprises professional singers and choral scholars. The choir sings at the 11:00 AM Choral Eucharist most Sundays, September through June, and also offers services of Evensong, Lessons & Carols, and Readings & Music, as well as concert performances as part the Cathedral's *Sundays at Four* music series. For more information, visit cathedralchurchofallsaints.com.

YouTube: Listen to the For All the City 2023 concert here: [FAURÉ REQUIEM | Capella Regalis Choirs](#).