



CANADIAN CHORAL COMPOSER WINS DIANE LOOMER AWARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 8, 2018



Toronto based composer, pianist, and music educator **SHELDON ROSE** has been selected by a national jury as the winner of Choral Canada's **2018 Competition for Choral Writing** and recipient of Choral Canada's Diane Loomer Award, worth \$1,500. The competition is sponsored by Canadian choral publisher **Cypress Choral Music**.

The winning composition *Will You Fare On, My Song?*, will be published by Cypress Choral Music and premiered by the 2018 **National Youth Choir of Canada** on Sunday, July 1, 2:00pm at the *Basilica Cathedral of St. John the Baptist* in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, conducted by Jeff Joudrey. This concert is part of Choral Canada's 2018 biennial choral conference & festival, **PODIUM on the EDGE**.

"I am honoured to premiere the new winning composition 'Will You Fare On, My Song?' by Toronto composer, Sheldon Rose with the National Youth Choir of Canada this July in Newfoundland. The piece, using a poignant text by the Canadian poet, Marjorie Pickthall, harkens back to the Marian motets of Healey Willan, with straightforward, lush harmonies creating an evocative piece which will capture the hearts of our audiences. Congratulations to Sheldon Rose for giving us another Canadian choral gem!" – Jeff Joudrey, guest conductor for the 2018 National Youth Choir of Canada



This important Choral Canada program would not be possible without the generosity of the beloved late **DIANE LOOMER**. Internationally recognized as one of Canada's finest musicians and the first woman to conduct the *National Youth Choir of Canada*, Diane and Dick Loomer founded **Cypress Choral Music** in 1988. In 1999, they partnered with Choral Canada to present the first edition of this competition. Today, Diane's legacy in the Canadian choral community lives on through the Diane Loomer Award, sponsored by Cypress Choral Music.

"I am honoured by the distinction of having Will You Fare On, My Song? selected to be rehearsed and performed by the National Youth Choir at Podium on the Edge 2018. Music continues to inform our pursuit of the meaning of what it means to be human - and that objective is as vital today as it has ever been. Thank you, Choral Canada, and all who work tirelessly to inform, strengthen, and unite our communities in song." – Sheldon Rose, composer

Tickets for the *National Youth Choir of Canada* concert on July 1, 2018 and **PODIUM** conference delegate passes and other **PODIUM** concert festival passes and tickets can be purchased by visiting www.podiumconference.ca or by calling 647-606-2467.

Past Canadian composer winners include Donald Patriquin, Lavinia Kell Parker, Brian Tate, Jeff Smallman, Allan Bevan, Michael Unger, Ramona Luengen, David Scott Lytle, Elise Letourneau, Matthew Emery, and Benjamin Bolden.

- 30 -

The Competition for Choral Writing is a signature program of Choral Canada, Canada's national arts service organization for the Canadian choral community. For more information, please visit www.choralcanada.org. For interviews, please contact Meghan Hila, General Manager at info@choralcanada.org or 647.606.2467.

ABOUT SHELDON ROSE

Sheldon Rose is a pianist, composer, and music educator working primarily with community choirs, schools, musical theatre and summer music camps. Over the years his varied interests have led him to perform as a lounge pianist, musical theatre cast, organist and as guitarist and lead vocalist in a rock band. Choirs have long been an integral part of Sheldon's life, initially as a chorister himself at a very young age, to serving as Director of Music and Organist for over a decade at St. Clare's Church, (Toronto), as choral director for the Appleby College Chapel Choir, accompanist to the Oakville Children's Choir for 7 seasons, and since 2006, accompanist to Young Voices Toronto. Sheldon is a graduate of St. Michael's Choir School and holds a B.Mus from the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto.

ABOUT DIANE LOOMER

Diane Loomer, C.M. recipient of the Order of Canada, director and founder of Chor Leoni Men's Choir, co-founder and conductor emerita of Elektra Women's Choir, and founder and conductor of EnChor, was internationally recognized as one of Canada's leading musicians. Her choral compositions were published and recorded internationally, and she frequently appeared on CBC national radio as a spokesperson for the classical arts. She taught on the Music Faculty of the University of British Columbia. The first woman to conduct the National Youth Choir of Canada, Ms. Loomer received the Healey Willan Award in 1990 for her service to choral music in British Columbia; in 1994, she was named YWCA Vancouver's Woman of Distinction for Arts and Culture; and in 1997 and 2004 received Distinguished Alumni Awards honoring her achievements. In 2002, she was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for her significant contribution to Canada's culture. The following year, Ms. Loomer was appointed by the University of Victoria to the University Women's Scholar Lecture Series and in 2005 was appointed conductor emerita at Dalhousie University. In 2008 she was named a Paul Harris Fellow to the International Rotary Foundation for her tangible and significant assistance for furthering better understanding among peoples of the world, and in 2010 the Association of Canadian Choral Communities presented Diane with their Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her work promoting choral music in Canada. In 2011 Diane was the recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Letters degree from the University of British Columbia. She was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Gustavus Adolphus College in May 2012. Diane passed away December 10, 2012.

ABOUT CHORAL CANADA

Founded in 1980, Choral Canada is the national voice of the Canadian choral community, representing and uniting a network of conductors, educators, composers, administrators, choral industry leaders, and more than 42,000 choral singers from coast to coast to coast. Choral Canada is the only bilingual national service arts organization for the Canadian choral community. Its mission it to celebrate and champion choral music for all Canadians.

The aims of Choral Canada are:

- ❖ To support and encourage participation and excellence in choral music at all levels by offering training, resources, and forums for the exchange of information
- ❖ Foster the creation and performance of Canadian choral music
- ❖ Partner with like-minded organizations to create a higher profile for choral music at the provincial, national, and international levels
- ❖ Help make choral singing available and accessible to all Canadians

Through its programs and services, which include the *Podium biennial national choral conference*, the *National Youth Choir of Canada*, and Canada's national choral journal, *Anacrusis*, Choral Canada is a communication, professional development and advocacy forum for choral communities across the country. Choral Canada is the liaison between the Canadian choral community, other national organizations and a vast international choral network and is the entry point for information about international choral events, festivals and educational opportunities.