



REGINA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Gordon Gerrard
Music Director

2021
2022
SEASON

ISSUE FOUR

ENCORE



RSO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
Presented by the Regina Leader Post
HANDEL'S MESSIAH

WELCOME TO THE 2021-2022 RSO SEASON



Photo: Chris Graham

Welcome back! After a long period of silence, your Regina Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to return to what we do best—making music for you.

Over the past 18 months, we all have largely been deprived of the chance to be in the same room with each other. The connections we forge between us are what make our community stronger, and the RSO cherishes its place in helping to strengthen these connections. Music is the best way we know to create a space for open dialogue, shared conversation, and for the exchange of important ideas. The 2021-22 season has been designed to do just this. We have taken the opportunity to reflect on our traditions, to make some exciting changes and to come back with a renewed sense of purpose. I hope you will find things in this season that reawaken your imagination, inspire your enthusiasm and challenge your ideas of what can be expressed by a symphony orchestra.

This has been a difficult time for the musicians of the RSO, as I'm sure it has been for many of you. I know I speak for all of my colleagues on the stage when I say that we are overjoyed to be able to share with you again. I hope you will take every opportunity you can find to get to know these wonderful musicians. They—along with you—make our community a richer place.

Yours very fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gordon Gerrard".

Gordon Gerrard

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GORDON GERRARD

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Conductor Gordon Gerrard is among the new generation of music directors changing how orchestras work in Canada. Currently in his sixth season leading the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Gordon has distinguished himself as a leader in innovative and inclusionary programming. Trained first as a pianist and subsequently as a specialist in operatic repertoire, he brings a fresh perspective to the podium that has endeared him to audiences and musicians alike.

After an international search, Gordon was appointed Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, where he has taken bold steps reimagining the orchestra's programming, including its *Forward Currents Festival* dedicated to social change and community engagement. He was the Associate Conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for four seasons and Resident Conductor of Calgary Opera from 2007-2011. He has returned to Calgary Opera to lead productions of *La Bohème*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Lakmé* and the Canadian premiere of Mark Adamo's *Little Women*, which was recorded for

national broadcast on CBC's Saturday Afternoon at the Opera. In 2019, Gordon made his debut with Edmonton Opera leading the western Canadian premiere of Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*. Gordon has made appearances with many of Canada's leading orchestras, including Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Victoria. He has worked regularly with the National Ballet of Canada, and in 2016, he made his European debut at *Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsburg* in Germany.

Gordon is a passionate and gifted educator. He demonstrates his commitment to education through his regular work with the young artists at Calgary Opera, the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal and has spent many seasons working with students at the Banff Centre, Opera Nuova (Edmonton), UBC Opera (Vancouver) and Opera McGill (Montréal) and the Glenn Gould School in Toronto. This season sees Gordon returning to the Victoria Symphony, UBC Opera in Vancouver for Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and to Calgary Opera for *La Traviata*.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Regina Symphony Orchestra acknowledges that we are on Treaty 4 Territory, which is the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakoda, and Lakota Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis. In the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration, we commit to moving forward in partnership with the Indigenous people who live here and across Canada.

RSO MUSICIANS

VIOLIN 1

Christian Robinson, Concertmaster✱
Carmen Constantinescu, Assistant
Concertmaster✱
Elizabeth Stirr
Carmelle Pretzlaw
Katie Gannon
Rudolf Sternadel
Adrian Casas
Karley Parovsky

VIOLIN 2

Heng-Han Hou✱◆
David Johnson•
Beatrice Hodgkins
Jeff Looysen
Bridget Alexander
Virginia Hector

VIOLA

Jonathan Ward✱◆
Megan Zak•
Jonathan Achtzehner
Margaret Carey

CELLO

Simon Fryer✱◆
Amelia Borton•
Catherine Folstad
Joel MacDonald

BASS

Christopher Jones✱◆
Curtis Scheschuk•

FLUTE

Marie-Noelle Berthelet✱◆
Tara Semple•
David Popoff

OBOE

Tamsin Johnston✱◆
Wing Lok Soo•

CLARINET

Hyon Suk Kim✱◆
Timothy Yung•
Madison Engen
Shawn Earle

BASSOON

Anna Norris✱◆
Jennifer Tenford•

SAXOPHONE

Jennifer Tenford

HORN

Richard Burdick✱◆
Alison Cushway•
Sharla Benoit
Wendy Stenger

TRUMPET

Miles Newman✱◆
Natalie Fuller•
Lyle Buddecke

TROMBONE

David Dick◆
Jeremy Drotar•
Nathan Syrnick

TUBA

Mark Preece, Principal◆

TIMPANI

Mark Mazur

PERCUSSION

Darcy Gingras◆
Andrea Ulricksen•

HARP

Cécile Denis◆

KEYBOARD

Christopher Kayler◆

RSO CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

**Presented by
Regina Leader Post**

REGINA LEADER-POST

**Gordon Gerrard, conductor
South Saskatchewan Youth
Orchestra
FadaDance, dancers
Kris Alvarez, carol leader**

**Saturday, December 11, 2021
Conexus Arts Centre
7:30 pm**



PROGRAM

LEROY ANDERSON A Christmas Festival Featuring the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra

TRADITIONAL / arr. David Wilcox O Come, All Ye Faithful

SERGE PROKOFIEV Troika from Lieutenant Kijé
Featuring FadaDance

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Polonaise from Christmas Eve

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY March from The Nutcracker Suite no. 1, op. 71a

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK. Prelude to Hänsel und Gretel

JAMES LORD PIERPONT / arr. Merle J. Isaac Jingle Bells

INTERMISSION

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Waltz of the Flowers from The Nutcracker Suite no. 1, op. 71a

TRADITIONAL / arr. David Wilcox Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy from The Nutcracker Suite no. 1, op. 71a

CLEMENT CLARK MOORE A Visit From St. Nicholas

LEROY ANDERSON Sleigh Ride

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL / arr. Merle J. Isaac Joy To The World

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Pas de deux from The Nutcracker Suite no. 1, op. 71a
FadaDance

PIOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Russian Dance from The Nutcracker Suite no. 1, op. 71a

TRADITIONAL We Wish You A Merry Christmas

THANK YOU TO OUR CONCERT SUPPORTERS!



Sherwood



ARTIST BIOS



The South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra (SSYO) began in 1976 as a group of forty young musicians under the sponsorship of the Regina Symphony Orchestra. It is lead by Musical Director Alan Denike and Assistant Director/Librarian Rudolf Sternadel. The SSYO is in its 44th season. The award-winning orchestra has fifty members, but its purpose remains the same. With a commitment to excellence, the SSYO offers talented students from all over Southern Saskatchewan an orchestral experience - the opportunity to rehearse, perform, travel, and make lasting friendships with other young people who love music.

MUSICIANS

Violin I

Virginia Hector, Concertmaster
Bridget Alexander
Eva Markatos

Violin II

Sofia Koshelieva, Principal
Julia Grant
Otis Truszkowski
Aaron Liu

Viola

Katherine Achtzehner, Principal
Leo Zheng

Cello

Catherine McLellan, Principal
Natalisha Zakreski
Kiersten Schack
Siyu (Grace) Huang

Flute I

Nino Ding, Principal
Benjamin Jackson-Reynolds

Flute II

Amelia Mile

Oboe I

Elise Jackson-Reynolds, Principal

Oboe II

Eva Ricci

Clarinet I

Si Yuan (Marco) Ding, Principal

Clarinet II

Isiah Edmondson
Ritvik Manicka

Bassoon I

Dalton Waitas

Trumpet I

Liam Exner, Principal

Trombone I

Chane Boisvert, Principal

Trombone II

Mathis Chu

Tuba

Rowan Mahajan, Principal

Percussion

Leo Fu, Principal



FadaDance Troupe formed in 2004 and incorporated as a non-profit contemporary dance company in 2009. Principal dancers Heather Cameron, Fran Gilboy, and Misty Wensel drive the artistic mandate of the company: *to challenge the boundaries of contemporary dance on the prairies*. This mandate is guided by an exploration of the unexpected and a commitment to collaboration within and outside of the organization. By presenting contemporary dance in alternative spaces and unconventional work in traditional performance venues, FadaDance Troupe is making dance accessible to a broad audience. This relationship to the audience exists in work that both invites and involves the viewer, breaking down barriers and conjuring excitement about the discipline. In this way, FadaDance Troupe not only cultivates an appreciation of the art form, they also build an enthusiastic and engaged community.

FADADANCE TROUPE PERFORMERS

Misty Wensel
Heather Cameron
Kendra Kembel
Belle Brown-McEwen
Ifutu Ahmed

FADADANCE YOUTH COMPANY

In addition to operating as a professional dance company, FadaDance Troupe is dedicated to training the next generation of contemporary dancers through their work with the FadaDance Youth Company. FadaDance has created an environment where the differences and diversity of each dancer is valued and appreciated. By continuing to construct programming that successfully includes a balance of

improvisation, inquiry and dance technique, a stable and nurturing experience is created for the young dancer.

The FadaDance Youth Company consists of 15 young people ranging in age from 13 to 18. Students fully participate in all aspects of dance including creating their own choreographies. FadaDance Youth Company is a registered non-profit corporation.

YOUTH COMPANY PERFORMERS

Zoë James
Iris James
Elizabeth Madsen
Suki Kembel
Anna Woodward
Lily Hicks
Bronte Cawkwell
Elianna Hay
Skylar Yu
Elora Ganshirt
Alida Rogers
Leila Schroeter-Walk
Stella Sale
Memphis Shannon
Neeve Reynolds

KRIS ALVAREZ, CAROL LEADER

Kris has the privilege of relationship-building through creation & performance with like-spirited humans at Curtain Razors, FadaDance, Artesian, Heritage Community Association.

2021-22 has Kris lucky with a role in Agam Darshi's film, *Donkeyhead*, continuing relationships at Globe Theatre and performing in Sum Theatre's *The Other Side of the River*.

This year, Kris steps into: creation of her brand-new project, *Acknowledgement*, as well as working on set as a recurring character in *ZARQA*, a new CBC Gem series. At the end of the year, Kris will join the Globe Theatre for their live radio play event, *Making Spirits Bright*.

SING ALONG LYRICS

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

10 come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels;

Chorus:

O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created:

Chorus:

5. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Chorus:

SING ALONG LYRICS

JINGLE BELLS

1. Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh;
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way!
Bells on bobtails ring,
Making spirits bright;
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Chorus:

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey!
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!

2. A day or two ago
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side.
The horse was lean and lank,
Misfortune seemed his lot;
He got into a drifted bank
And we--we got upsot!

SING ALONG LYRICS

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrian:

Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrian:

3. Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Refrain

SING ALONG LYRICS

JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world!
The Lord has come:
Let Earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the Earth!
The Saviour reigns:
Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world
With truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love!

UNWIND WITH SOME WAGNER

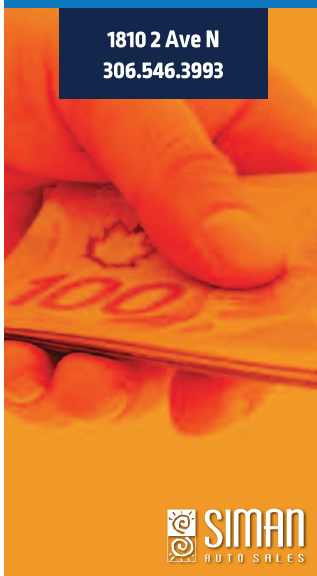
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Merry Christmas!

Mayor Sandra Masters

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HANDEL'S MESSIAH

**Gordon Gerrard, conductor
Canzona, choir & soloists**

**Saturday, December 18, 2021
Knox Metropolitan
United Church
7:30pm**



Photo: Leif Norman

PROGRAM

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL Messiah, HWV 56

Part I

Sinfonia: Grave – Allegro moderato

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people

Tenor – Accompagnato: Aaron Hutton

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted

Tenor – Air: Aaron Hutton

And the glory of the Lord

Thus saith the Lord

Bass – Accompagnato: Sam Plett

But who may abide

Alto – Air: Dan Rochegood

And He shall purify

Behold, a virgin shall conceive

Alto – Recitative: Dan Rochegood

O thou that tellest

Alto – Air: Dan Rochegood

For behold

Bass – Accompagnato: John Anderson

The people who walked in darkness

Bass – Air: John Anderson

For unto us a child is born

Pifa

There were shepherds

Soprano – Recitative: Jane Fingler

And, lo, the angel of the Lord

Soprano – Accompagnato: Jane Fingler

And the angel said unto them

Soprano – Recitative: Jane Fingler

And suddenly there was

Soprano – Accompagnato: Jane Fingler

Glory to God in the highest

Rejoice greatly

Soprano – Air: Jane Fingler

Then shall the eyes of the blind

Alto – Recitative: Karla Ferguson

He shall feed his flock

Soprano & Alto – Duet: Merina

Dobson-Perry & Karla Ferguson

His yoke is easy

Part II

Behold the Lamb of God

Surely He hath borne our griefs and

carried our sorrows

And with His stripes are healed

All we like sheep

All they that see Him

Tenor – Accompagnato: Nolan Kehler

He trusted in God

Thy rebuke hath broken his Heart

Tenor – Accompagnato: Nolan Kehler

Behold and see

Tenor – Arioso: Nolan Kehler

He was cut off

Tenor – Accompagnato: Nolan Kehler

But thou didst not leave

Tenor – Air: Nolan Kehler

Lift up your heads, O ye gates

How beautiful are the feet

Soprano – Air: Zohreh Gervais

Why do the nations

Bass – Air: Sam Plett

Let us break their bonds assunder

He that dwelleth in heaven

Tenor – Recitative: Chris Donlevy

Thou shalt break them

Tenor – Air: Chris Donlevy

Hallelujah

Part III

I know that my Redeemer liveth

Soprano – Air: Nikita Silagy Labdon

Since by man came death

Behold, I tell you a mystery

Bass – Accompagnato: Paul Bruch-

Wiens

The trumpet shall sound

Bass – Air: Paul Bruch-Wiens

Worthy is the Lamb

Amen

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM NOTES

CANZONA BIOGRAPHY

Rooted in a love of Baroque music, Canzona's mission is to transform audiences through exceptional choral performance. Founded in 1989, Canzona has become one of Manitoba's premiere professional choral ensembles. Under Artistic Director, Kathleen Allan, the choir continues to delve into the Baroque masterworks while staying committed to introducing Manitoba audiences to lesser-known composers and providing context for the works of the past in the contemporary world. Canzona's mandate is to bring exceptional choral music to Manitoba audiences and to provide high-level professional opportunities for Manitoba singers.

Canzona's CD recordings have reached audiences around the world, and the major success of the three-volume German Hymns project brought Canzona's music to the homes of thousands of North American families. The choir has collaborated with leading organizations such as the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Groundswell, Camerata Nova, and MusickBarock. Their 30th anniversary season included a four-concert Southern Manitoba tour of J.S. Bach's

Christmas Oratorio, a world premiere alongside Bach motets at their 30th Anniversary Gala, and a collaboration with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in Handel's Israel in Egypt.

Soprano

Merina Dobson-Perry
Jane Fingler
Zohreh Gervais
Leona Hildebrand
Brittany Mielnichuk

Alto

Kim Brown
Karla Ferguson
Dan Rochegood
Nikita Silagy-Labdon

Tenor

Chris Donlevy
Aaron Hutton
Nolan Kehler
David Sawatzky

Bass

John Anderson
Paul Bruch-Wiens
Sam Plett
Scott Reimer

Kathleen Allan

Kathleen Allan is the Artistic Director of Canzona, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, and Visiting Professor of Choral Music at Western University. Originally from

St. John's, NL, Ms. Allan is in high demand as a conductor, composer and clinician and is equally comfortable working in early, contemporary, and symphonic repertoire. Until 2019, Ms. Allan served as the Director of Choral Studies and Associate Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra at the Vancouver Academy of Music and was the Associate Conductor of the Vancouver Bach Choir. She was the 2016 recipient of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Prize in Choral Conducting. In 2015, Ms. Allan made her Asian debut conducting Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's Christmas Oratorio in Japan. She is also a founding co-Artistic Director of Arkora, an electric vocal chamber consort dedicated to blurring lines between the music of our time and masterworks from the ancient repertoire.

PROGRAM NOTES

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL MESSIAH, HWV 56

In 1741, George Frideric Handel was a composer of primarily Italian opera recovering from a midlife crisis that was both physical and artistic. In April of 1737, he suffered a stroke that left him habitually fatigued and his hand temporarily paralyzed. The standard prescription for ailments of

an otherwise untreatable nature was rest and relaxation outside the city, which in 1737 was a crowded, unsanitary, and disease-ridden place even for the wealthy. Handel admitted to the necessity of following his doctor's advice, and indeed made a significant recovery in a month spent in the spa towns of Aix-la-Chapelle.

However, the artistic scene in a city like London does not simply pause for a single artist's illness. At the time of his stroke, Handel had been embroiled in the kind of cutthroat rivalry that today we associate more with financiers or social media influencers than orchestral musicians. Since 1733, the rival opera companies of Handel and the castrato Senesino had been locked in mortal combat for the prizes of star singers, audience members, and royal patronage. When Handel returned to London after his convalescence, it was clear that the listening public was tired of being used in an egotistical and politically charged game of tug-of-war, and in fact that the entire institution of Italian opera in England was on the wane. His first opera back, *Faramondo*, closed after less than a month of performances.

Such circumstances tend to reveal one's true friends; and so, it was for

PROGRAM NOTES

Handel and his friend Charles Jennens. Jennens was devoutly Anglican; because of his refusal to swear an oath to the Hanoverian regime he was ineligible for most kinds of public career and spent his time writing and acting as a patron of the arts. He wrote for Handel several libretti on religious subjects, refusing payment for them; and it was primarily on Jennens' libretti that Handel embarked on a new phase of his career writing English oratorio.

Jennens' carefully chosen text for the *Messiah* does not tell a specific story; instead, it is a mediation on the figure of Jesus as Messiah in Christian thought. When Handel received it, it inspired a flurry of activity. He completed the entire oratorio in only 24 days; many have interpreted the short timeframe, in addition to the "Soli Deo Gloria" at the end of the manuscript, as evidence of divine inspiration.

However, Jennens was to Handel that rare kind of friend who is not only kind, generous, and supportive but also honest, exacting, and completely unintimidated by fame. He wrote to Handel a list of corrections to make in the finished product, parts of which he considered "unworthy of Handel"; some of which Handel accepted and some where he allowed his own

judgment to prevail. The result is a collaboration that showcases the passion and sincerity of both its authors, summed up by the reverend George Kelly's funeral sermon for Jennens: "As long as the Love of Taste and genuine Harmony prevail, so long should his Memory meet with a due Regard for that judicious Arrangement of Words we find in the sacred Performance of the *Messiah*."

Program notes by Anna Norris

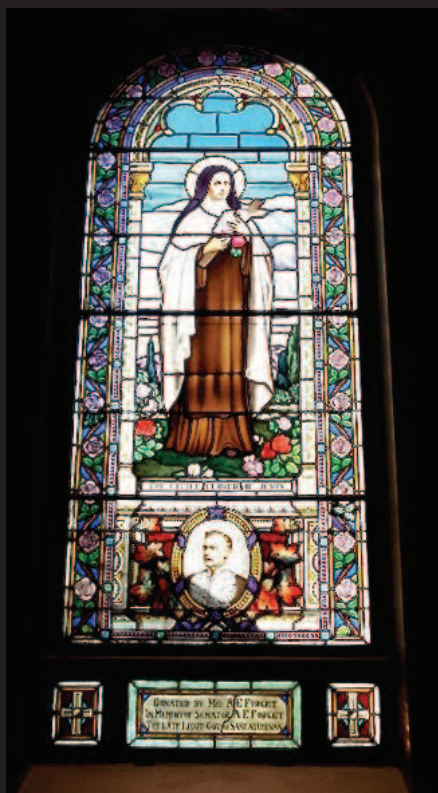


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Christmas Greetings from Holy Rosary Cathedral



As we start the fourth month of the 2021/2022 season of the RSO, we take a moment to reflect on the fact that despite the ongoing concern over the COVID-19 pandemic, Regina music-lovers are blessed in the live music they can enjoy in this city. As someone commented at the November 6 afternoon RSO concert at Holy Rosary Cathedral, "What a luxury to have 60 musicians play for us in this beautiful structure!" Someone else pointed to the light streaming through the stained-glass windows of the church, adding to the "awesome" (in the true sense of the word) experience that afternoon. Indeed, the windows in Holy Rosary Cathedral are among the best features of the building.

There are 33 of them, designed by Andre Rault of Rennes, France, and installed in 1949 by Paul Hanley of Burns-Hanley. Prominent pieces are the large Rose Window facing 13th avenue, which can now be seen only from the outside, and the two smaller ones on either side at the front of the church.

However, it is the first window next to the Tabernacle and facing west, that is of particular historical interest to our city and province. It is an image of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, donated in memory of the first Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Amedée Forget, by his widow Henriette. His image is visible in the lower part of the window.

The sounds and sights of the Christmas season are beginning to permeate our air. Carols old and new on the radio and in the malls, lights and decorations in the stores and on houses--all give us a much-needed lift and hope in these still-dim days of the pandemic. In that spirit of hope, all of us at Holy Rosary Cathedral wish you and your families a joyful and blessed season, a season to be thankful for what we have, but also a season to be mindful of those who are less fortunate.

Rev. Danilo Rafael, Pastor
Holy Rosary Cathedral
Samira McCarthy, Chairperson
HRC Pastoral Council



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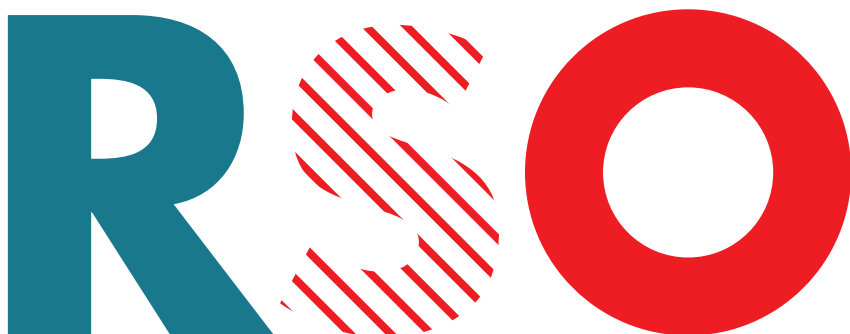
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