

THE TORONTO CONSORT

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

David Fallis has been a member of the Toronto Consort since 1979 and its Artistic Director since 1990. He has led the ensemble in many critically-acclaimed programs, including the *Praetorius Christmas Vespers*, *The Play of Daniel*, all three of Monteverdi's operas in concert, Cavalli's *La Calisto* and Carissimi's *Jephte*, among many others. He has directed the group in its many recordings and tours, and has conceived and scripted many of their most popular programs, such as *The Marco Polo Project*, *The Queen*, and *The Real Man of La Mancha*. He is also one of Canada's leading interpreters of operatic and choral/orchestral repertoire, especially from the Baroque and Classical periods. He is Music Director for Opera Atelier and has conducted major operatic works by Mozart, Monteverdi, Purcell and Handel in Toronto and on tour to Japan, Korea and Singapore. He has conducted for Houston Grand Opera, Cleveland Opera, Wolf Trap Theatre, Utah Opera, Orchestra London, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Windsor Symphony, Festival Vancouver, the Singapore Festival, the Seoul Arts Centre (Korea), the Elora Festival, the Guelph Spring Festival and the Elmer Iseler Singers. Currently he teaches in the Graduate Department at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto.

A native of Toronto, soprano **Michele DeBoer** enjoys a busy performing career in Toronto and surrounding areas, reaching as far as Quebec and the Oregon Bach Festival. With an affinity for Early Music, she has sung with groups including Tafelmusik, Opera Atelier, Toronto Masque Theatre, Aradia, Les Voix Baroques, Baroque Music Beside the Grange and La Chappelle de Québec. Locally, Michele has appeared as a guest soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Chamber Choir, Etobicoke Centennial Choir, Grand River Chorus, Durham College Community Choir, Soundstreams Canada and the Toronto Classical Singers. Michele enjoys teaching voice, conducting two choirs at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and spending time with her husband, Esteban, and their two daughters. This season Michele looks forward to singing the Monteverdi Vespers with the Grand River Chorus and an evening of ravishing Baroque solos and duets in Thunder Bay.

Ben Grossman is a vielle à roue (hurdy gurdy/ Drehleier / zanfoña) player, percussionist, composer and improviser based in Guelph, Ontario. He is a busy performer of experimental, folk, early, and traditional music whose work can be found on dozens of CDs of various genres, as well as in music for theatre, film, television and installations. With the help of the Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council, Ben studied ud and Turkish classical music in Istanbul, hurdy-gurdy in Europe, and has received support for composition and improvisation work as well. In addition to playing with the Toronto Consort, Ben can be heard with Ensemble Polaris, the Bird Project, Samba Squad, IMA Ensemble, Patrick Graham, and in solo performances and ad-hoc improvisation ensembles. Ben recently toured the US with electronic music pioneer BT and Europe and North America with world music powerhouse Loreena McKennitt while continuing to work on other projects. His first solo album, *Macrophone*, was released in 2007 and features a unique two CD form for simultaneous, aleatoric playback. <http://www.macrophone.org/>

Singer **Katherine Hill** first developed a love for old European music and text here in her native Toronto. With support from the Canada Council for the Arts she was able to study in Europe, where she lived for several years, performing and recording with groups such as the sequentia ensemble for medieval music, Ensemble Elyma (Gabriel Garrido), Scivias and Collegium Vocale Gent, appearing in concerts, radio broadcasts and at festivals throughout Europe, Australia, and Asia. From 2003-2008, Katherine sang the role of Humilitas in Scivias' (Berlin) staged production of Hildegard von Bingen's *Ordo Virtutum*; her interest in music from medieval women's communities led to work with the sequentia project *Krone und Schleier* (Crown and Veil) and the *Liederbuch Anna van Coeln* with Ars Choralis Coeln. Since her return to Toronto, Katherine has been performing regularly with the Toronto Consort, the Toronto Masque Theatre, Ensemble Polaris, the Bird Project, Scaramella and Duo Seraphim (Calgary), while taking excursions to Sweden to study traditional music on the *nyckelharpa* (keyed fiddle). Katherine recently completed an M.A. in Medieval Studies at the illustrious Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, where she has been a proud member of the department's softball team, the Papal Bulls.

Paul Jenkins cultivates an eclectic musical career as a keyboardist and tenor. A member of the Toronto Consort since 1990, he also performs regularly with the Aradia Ensemble, and has appeared with some of Canada's leading baroque and early music groups, including Tafelmusik, Opera Atelier, Ensemble Anonymous and La Nef. Guest appearances include Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, the Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, Orchestra London, Opera in Concert, the Toronto Chamber Choir, Esprit Orchestra, I Furiosi, Toronto Masque Theatre, and many music festivals. Paul also enjoys touring, recording and giving recitals.

Terry McKenna enjoys performing a wide range of musical styles on period and modern lutes and guitars. He's been with the Toronto Consort for more than 20 years now (!) and also plays with Ensemble Polaris and the Toronto Masque Theatre as well as guest appearances with I Furiosi, Musica Franca and Opera Atelier, among others. In addition to historical-based repertoire, Terry welcomes opportunities to perform contemporary scores by composers such as James Rolfe, Omar Daniel, Peter Hannan, John Beckwith and Harry Freedman. Terry has participated on many recordings and broadcasts and finally did his own feature project, *Throw the House Out of the Windowe (and Other Damn Fine Dance Tunes)* on the Marquis Classics label. Terry gets great satisfaction from teaching guitar and lute at Wilfrid Laurier University. He also enjoys composing and performing music for his wife Susan Kennedy's youth theatre project Playmakers! (www.play.makers.ca). Terry lives in Stratford, Ontario (where he performs with the Stratford Festival) with Susan and their four children, two dogs, three cats, 1 frog, 1 turtle, 2 cute new anoles and 3 goldfish...

Since her first CBC radio gig at the age of 20, Alison Melville (recorder, early flutes) has performed as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician across Canada, the USA, Japan, Iceland and in Europe. Besides her activities as a member of the Toronto Consort, she appears frequently with Tafelmusik, Opera Atelier, and many other ensembles, performing in venues as diverse as Tokyo's Bunkamura Hall to the Don Jail, and everything in between. Along with Ben and Katherine, Alison is a member of Canada's 'arctic fusion' band Ensemble Polaris, and she is Artistic Director of the Bird Project, an environmentally inspired artistic endeavour combining music, poetry, narrative, film and computer-generated visuals. Alison has recorded extensively for radio, TV and CD and can be heard on Atma, ebs, Narada, Sony Vivarte, Naxos, Analekta, ibs, SRI and many other labels. She studied in Toronto and at the Schola

Cantorum Basiliensis as the winner of numerous awards from the Canada Council. She taught at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music from 1999 to 2010, when she resigned to devote more time to the making of music. For more information please see www.alisonmelville.com

John Pepper, a native of Annapolis, Maryland, sang for many years with Festival Singers of Canada, Tapestry Singers, The Gents, Elora Festival Singers and the Toronto Chamber Choir, and now works regularly with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Opera Atelier. He has recorded extensively with most of those organizations and with Canadian Brass, and has taken part in recordings and premières of music by John Beckwith, R. Murray Schafer, Harry Somers and Arvo Pärt. His work in music theatre includes Huron Country Playhouse, Comus Music Theatre and Rainbow Stage Theatre. John has been a member of the Toronto Consort since 1990.

Grammy-nominated **Laura Pudwell** has a well-established international profile, with recent engagements in Paris, Salzburg, London, Houston, Boston and Vienna. She has sung with many leading orchestras and opera companies, including Tafelmusik, Les Violons du Roi, the Boston Early Music Festival, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Calgary Opera, Vancouver Opera, Opera Atelier, Symphony Nova Scotia and the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Her range of repertoire is immense, ranging from Hildegard of Bingen, through a recording of Dido and the Sorceress in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* under Hervé Niquet, to Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, and evenings of Stephen Sondheim and Cole Porter. A native of Fort Erie, she lives in Waterloo with her husband and two children.
www.gossageartists.com/laura.html