

# THE TORONTO CONSORT

**14/15 season concludes with fully-staged  
medieval musical masterpiece**

***The Play of Daniel***

**May 22, 23 and 24, 2015**

with guest singers **Kevin Skelton, Olivier Laquerre, Derek Kwan** and **Bud Roach**  
**VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto**

stage direction: **Alex Fallis** | musical direction: **David Fallis** |  
costume design: **Michelle Bailey** | set & lighting design: **Glenn Davidson**

Toronto, April 14, 2015 ... The Toronto Consort's 2014-15 season wraps up **May 22 and 23** at 8:00 PM, and **May 24** at 3:30 PM with fully-staged performances of ***The Play of Daniel***, the greatest work of music theatre from the Middle Ages — a medieval opera in everything but name. This spectacular telling of the Old Testament story of the prophet Daniel has endured over eight centuries, and receives a full theatrical production with a cast of 50 singers, instrumentalists, and dancers. The Consort's performances mark the Canadian premiere of the work in English, in a new translation by Artistic Director **David Fallis**. He directs the Consort medieval players and a cast including **Kevin Skelton** in the title role, **Olivier Laquerre** as King Belshazzar, **Derek Kwan** as King Darius, **Michele DeBoer** as the Queen, and **John Pepper** as Habakkuk. This 13<sup>th</sup> century marvel is brought to vivid life by stage director **Alex Fallis**, costume designer **Michelle Bailey**, and set and lighting designer **Glenn Davidson**. ***The Play of Daniel*** takes place at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall, 427 Bloor Street West. For tickets and information, call the box office at (416) 964-6337 or visit [torontoconsort.org](http://torontoconsort.org).

**Timothy McGee**, founding director of the Toronto Consort and retired professor of music history at the University of Toronto will give a pre-concert talk one hour before each performance, free with concert admission.

*The Play of Daniel* combines medieval song, chant, dance and processions to tell the story of Daniel, a Jewish captive at King Belshazzar's court in ancient Babylon. At a feast hosted by Belshazzar, Daniel astonishes his captors when he interprets the mysterious writing on the wall, which predicts an apocalyptic end to the kingdom. When Daniel's vision comes to pass, he is elevated to the rank of chief counsellor to King Darius, only to be thrown to the lions on trumped up charges of blasphemy, then saved by divine intervention! In recent years *The Play of Daniel* has enjoyed a revival, with sold out performances at Boston's Trinity Church and at the Cloisters Museum in New York City.

**David Fallis** spent the better part of last summer creating a rhyming English translation of the play's original poetic Latin text, which will be sung by the soloists and the young

members of the the VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto. “*The Play of Daniel* is a work of great sophistication, both musically and textually. Our production aims to bring this to life in a vibrant new translation, staying true to the musical soundworld of medieval France,” said David Fallis.

*The Play of Daniel* marks the first time that David Fallis will collaborate on a professional engagement with his brother **Alex Fallis**, stage director and 30-year veteran of the Canadian theatre scene. Alex has performed at the Shaw Festival, Canstage, Charlottetown Festival, Young Peoples’ Theatre, the Citadel, the Belfry, VideoCabaret, as well as in Asia and Europe. A highly respected teacher, he has taught at George Brown College, Humber College, Laurentian University, the University of Toronto, the University of Guelph, Sheridan College, Claude Watson School of the Arts, and the Charlottetown Festival. He has been a Guest Professor at Memorial University in Corner Brook, Newfoundland since 2011.

The title role is sung by Canadian tenor **Kevin Skelton**, who has performed on five continents with a wide array of musical ensembles. With a voice and musical sensitivity particularly suited to early music, Kevin specializes in seventeenth-century music and the Bach Evangelist roles. He works regularly with some of the world’s finest early music ensembles including the Nederlandse Bachvereniging, L’Arpeggiata, and Concerto Palatino, having performed in such renowned venues as the Concertgebouw and Carnegie Hall, and the early music festivals in Boston, Bruges, Basel, and Utrecht.

**VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto** is a vibrant, innovative choral organization for children and youth ages four to young adults. 2014-15 marks VIVA!’s fifteenth anniversary season as a group of choirs whose mission is to offer youth the opportunity to achieve artistic excellence through innovative education in a singer-centred, inclusive community. Founded in 2000 by **Carol Woodward Ratzlaff** in response to widespread cuts to school arts programs, VIVA!’s membership is drawn from the downtown area and across the GTA, with a current membership of more than 130 choristers.

*The Play of Daniel* is generously supported by the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation.

**The Toronto Consort presents:**

***The Play of Daniel***

**May 22 and 23 at 8:00 PM, and May 24 at 3:30 PM**

**Venue:** Trinity-St. Paul’s Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall  
427 Bloor Street West (just west of Spadina)

**Ticket Prices:** Regular: \$26 to \$61 | 65+ : \$21 to \$55

**Club Consort tickets for ages 30 and under: \$10 (with valid photo ID)**

**Box Office:** (416) 964-6337

**Website:** [www.torontoconsort.org](http://www.torontoconsort.org) Find us on [Facebook](#)

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*The Toronto Consort is Canada's leading ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Early Baroque — roughly 1200 to 1675. Founded in 1972, The Toronto Consort was one of the city's first professional period music ensembles. Over the past four decades, the Toronto Consort has continued to expand listeners' appreciation through inventive programming that breathes life into period music. The ensemble has become internationally recognized for its excellence in live and recorded period music, and has collaborated on a number of film and television projects including Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* and two Showtime series, *The Tudors* and *The Borgias*.*

The Toronto Consort gratefully acknowledges the support of:



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