



Andrew Gray

BIOGRAPHY

photo: Ralph Thompson

Since his arrival in Montreal in 2010, Andrew Gray has rapidly established himself in the region's music scene as a choral director and choir trainer. He is the artistic director of the Montreal Choral Institute, chamber choir *voces boreales*, Chœur des enfants de Montreal, founder and director of Sing Montréal Chante and assistant conductor at the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul. Andrew has worked as guest chorus master with Chœur classique Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Chœurs du Nouveau Monde and Cirque du Soleil. He has prepared choirs for conductors and composers, including Kent Nagano, Zubin Mehta, Karl Jenkins, Joby Talbot, Gregory Charles, Iwan Edwards, Jordan de Souza, Jean-Pascal Hamelin, Robert Ingari, Alain Trudel and Stéphane Laforest and has directed vocal ensembles for popular artists Cœur de Pirate, Les Trois Accords, The Beach Boys, Nikki Yanofsky, Marie-Mae, Malajube, Radio Radio, Sarah McLachlan, Kenny Rogers, Roger Water ('The Wall') and The Canadian Tenors. In 2011 Andrew conducted both the opening and closing choral/orchestral concerts of the Mondial Choral Festival in Laval. He is also the general manager of the St. Lawrence Choir.

Born in the UK, Andrew began singing in his father's church choir and from age 7 received his formative choral education as a chorister at Durham Cathedral. He has a Bachelor of the Arts Combined Honours Degree in Music and Drama from the University of Birmingham, U.K., specializing in orchestration, performance practice, voice, music therapy, lighting and stage design, history of music and theatre, and modern dance. He also founded an a cappella octet, a Jazz Orchestra, conducted the chamber orchestra, directed the University Musical Society and sang with a number of University and semi-professional groups. Andrew worked extensively with the choir and orchestra of Ex Cathedra (dir. Jeffrey Skidmore) both as singer and administrator. Whilst with Ex Cathedra he helped establish and develop their choral education project and worked as a tutor for these and similar projects for the British Federation of Youth Choirs. He taught music in secondary schools, was a private singing teacher, voice and elocution coach and trained in 'positive assertive discipline'. In 1997 Andrew joined the internationally-renowned *a cappella* group The Swingle Singers and toured the world with them for 5 years performing classical, jazz and pop repertoire as well as contemporary opera. He lead workshops and masterclasses in schools and universities. Andrew also had the privilege to work directly with Luciano Berio on performances of his

opera *Outis* at La Scala Milan and Le Chatelet Paris, as well as on a DVD recording (under Peter Eotvös) and numerous performances of his *Sinfonia* with conductors Pierre Boulez, Yan-Pascal Tortelier, David Roberston, David Zinman, Arturo Tamayo, amongst others, and with Kent Nagano on a live recording of Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd*. He has participated in numerous movie soundtrack and pop recordings, sung backing vocals for Jarvis Cocker, PULP, Russell Watson, Roch Voisine and Garou, and toured with Chris de Burgh.

From 1999 to 2009, Andrew managed a professional chamber choir and taught at Aiglon International College in Switzerland. He sang with the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne under the direction of Michel Corboz and ran various masterclasses. He was a regular member of the professional UK chamber choir *Tenebrae*. He created and directed the Villars Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and was the choral expert at the MMA conference in Switzerland (the Music Masters and Mistresses Association – a conference for school music directors from around the world).

Andrew has a vast and varied experience in the world of choral music, in sports and Arts management and in business. He has travelled extensively and has worked with different groups and artists the world over.

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Assistant Conductor:

Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul

www.andrewgray.ca