

Beyond VIMY

Saturday, October 25, 2025

2 and 7:30 pm

Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney, BC



Featuring Juno Nominees

The Fugitives

Professional dancers

Andrea Bayne & Peter Starr

With members of

Victoria Philharmonic Choir

Music Director: Peter Butterfield

Special Guests

Pipe Major Roger McGuire

Cellist Amy Laing

&

Fine Art Photographs by

Blair Ketcheson

A celebration of Canadian solidarity, unity and peace

Peace, unity, democracy, human rights and sovereignty are more relevant now than ever. Most Canadians know or have had family members directly involved in international peacekeeping missions. There is a profound chapter of Canada's heritage that pledged to remember and honour the lives that were lost, rise above conflict, embrace forgiveness and strive for peace more than one day a year.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, Canada's timeless monument to peace in Vimy, France. Two hundred and fifty acres of the Vimy battlefield site was gifted to Canada by France to commemorate all the Canadians who served, and honours with inscriptions the 11,285 Canadian soldiers killed in France who had no known graves.

More than 600,000 Canadians served in WWI, almost 10% of Canada's population at the time. Of those, 60,000 Canadians were killed, most under the age of 30.

This memorial and production serves as a reminder of the Canadian lives sacrificed to ensure our rights, democracy and sovereignty remains intact and to continue to honour those, past and present, who put their lives on the line for us.

Presented by the Creatively United for the Planet Society

Producer: Frances Litman

Co-producer: Blair Ketcheson

A Celebrating Gaia Series Event

sponsored by the

Gail O'Riordan Climate and the Arts Legacy Fund/Victoria Foundation

With support from:

Veterans Affairs Canada

Lifestyle Markets

InternationalPeaceCharter.org

Barbara Armstrong, Ray Harris, Horne Coupar LLP, McAvoy Rule & Co.

Victoria Philharmonic Choir Beyond VIMY voices:

Peter Butterfield (Choir Director)

Alex Chen

Flori Ens

Robin Hine

Shelley Hordiyuk

Aidan Johnston

Valerie Kuehne

Sherry Lepage

Graeme Linton

Holly Melville

Hannah Nickel

Rachel Nield

Jon O'Riordan

Christon Smith

ACT I

The Fugitives: *Ridge* — a one act monologue surrounding Brendan McLeod's investigation of the Battle of Vimy, featuring letters and songs written by WWI Canadian soldiers. The melody and arrangements have been re-written by The Fugitives, while keeping the lyrics intact.

Intermission (20 min.) — Includes black and white fine art photography display of Canada's National Vimy Memorial by Blair Ketcheson, plus book launch of *Portraits of an Icon / VIMY Canada's Legacy For Peace*, and non-profit displays in lobby area.

ACT II

The Story of Piper Richardson, featuring Pipe Major Roger McGuire performing *Lament: Road to the Isles* and *Amazing Grace* with projections to support voice over by Jason Geddes and accompaniment from the Victoria Philharmonic Choir.

Canada's VIMY Memorial, story and fine art photography by Blair Ketcheson

Benedictus from *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins performed by cellist Amy Laing with members of the Victoria Philharmonic Choir under the direction of Peter Butterfield, accompanying on keyboards with a pas de deux featuring ballet masters Andrea Bayne and Peter Starr with authentic vintage letters and photos, plus voice overs by:

David Schwab
Jason Geddes

Dean Kaylan
Barbara Parker
David Shaw

The Pale Blue Dot - 3 minute film by Carl Sagan

Original music/songs by The Fugitives, with Victoria Philharmonic Choir accompaniment:

No Words
Wing and a Prayer
Landmarks
Where Do We Go From Here

O Canada

Archival photos, footage and letters courtesy of: The Canadian Letters and Images Project, Vancouver Island University; Library and Archives Canada; National Gallery of Canada; Veterans Affairs Canada; and the Canadian War Museum.

The Fugitives



The Fugitives are a Canadian, Juno-nominated acoustic folk-roots group headed by songwriters Adrian Glynn and Brendan McLeod, and joined by banjo player Chris Suen (Viper Central) and violinist Carly Frey (The Coal Porters).

They have amassed numerous award nominations for their six albums and tour extensively through Canada, Europe, and the UK.

Ridge, a WWI-centered theatre show based on the letters and music of Canadian soldiers, was named the *Globe & Mail* “Top Arts Pick of the Year” and has toured across Canada.

The band has earned a reputation for unforgettable live shows, brimming with complex harmonies, infectious storytelling and top-notch musicianship.

“This show is simply brilliant” – CBC

Amy Laing

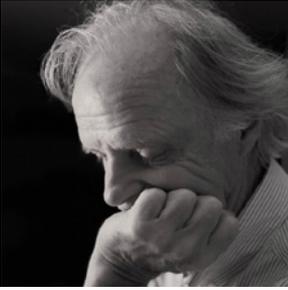


Amy Laing, acclaimed Vancouver Island-based cellist, has performed or recorded with leading artists including Stevie Wonder, Blue Rodeo, Jesse Cook, The Barenaked Ladies, Jim Cuddy, Steven Page, Sarah Slean, Molly Johnson, Royal Wood, Amelia Curran, Donovan Woods and has performed at the JUNO's.

Amy has also acted as principal cellist with major orchestras, including the Victoria Symphony and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra in Ontario, and played regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, as well as with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, the Windsor Symphony, Niagara Symphony, Thunder Bay Symphony, and Symphony Nova Scotia in Halifax.

Amy is an active chamber musician and has been the solo cellist in numerous major musical theatre productions, including Broadway's smash hit *Hamilton*, plus has played in music festivals worldwide. She is happy to call Vancouver Island home once again and be part of the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

Blair Ketcheson



Blair Ketcheson is a Canadian fine-art photographer specializing in the landscapes and architecture of Europe.

He trained at the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts, graduating in 1974 with a Diploma in Visual Communications and worked for 25-years in Vancouver, BC as an architectural photographer.

His clients have included many of Canada's foremost publications, advertising agencies and designers, Canada's pre-eminent architect Arthur Erickson, and PFS Studio, an internationally respected urban design and landscape architecture firm.

In 2007, he was commissioned by the Canadian National Vimy Memorial restoration team. His ongoing photographic work in France and the exhibitions of his Vimy Memorial photographs have been recognized as a profound and important tribute to its legacy. www.blairketcheson.com

Roger McGuire



Roger McGuire is well known in Victoria as the Pipe Major of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's). As a serving reservist Warrant Officer in the Canadian Armed Forces he fulfilled this role from 1992 to 2012 and 2019-2022.

Since 1994, Roger has served as the producer/director of concerts, festivals, and special events associated with the Victoria Military Music Festival Society and remains dedicated to preserving the proud traditions and music of the Canadian Scottish Regiment.

Raised in Ottawa as the son of an army historian, Roger was immersed in military traditions. From a young age, he delved into Scottish culture, mastering highland dancing and piping and later actively participated in historical re-enactments.

For the past three decades, Roger has showcased his talents in numerous public performances across North America and Europe. Noteworthy achievements include the repatriation of the pipes belonging to Victoria Cross recipient, Piper James Richardson, now on display in Victoria's Bay Street Armoury Regimental Museum. Other initiatives include orchestrating the Canadian Scottish's involvement in Victoria's Symphony Splash and leading the Massed Vancouver Island Pipes and Drums at the Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony.

Peter Butterfield and The Victoria Philharmonic Choir



In 1982, Peter made his professional debut as a concert soloist with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. He has worked internationally as both a classical tenor and conductor. For the past 16 years, he has been the music director of the Victoria Philharmonic Choir, an 80-voice auditioned choir that collaborates with or performs with community and professional vocal soloists and musicians, including members of the Victoria Symphony.

Andrea Bayne



Andrea is the Artistic Director of the Ballet Victoria Conservatory and current Artist in Residence for Ballet Victoria, where she is able to explore different areas of this beautiful art form through choreographing, coaching and guesing.

Andrea has danced professionally with the Alberta Ballet, the Banff Summer Company, and with Ballet Victoria where she has been a Principal Dancer for 15 years, performing across Canada, the US, Mexico and Japan. She had many lead roles created for her and has performed for the Earl and Countess of Wessex.

Peter Starr



Peter began his professional training at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School, continuing on to the Canadian College of Performing Arts, Canada's National Ballet School and the School of Alberta Ballet. Peter has appeared with several Canadian ballet and contemporary companies including: Ballet Kelowna, Alberta Ballet, Dancers Dancing and Move: The company. He has also spent six years as a Principal soloist with Israel's Kamea Dance company

and two years as the Principal male dancer of Ballet Victoria, performing title roles such as *Amadeus* and *Dracula*. Peter currently teaches classical ballet and contemporary dance at Seda Dance Arts and the Ballet Victoria Conservatory, as well as is a dance and rehearsal director for the fledgling Victoria-based company, Travelling Bodies.

Peace is fragile, precious and vital for our individual and collective well-being on the planet.

Finding inner peace and uniting in planetary consciousness lends itself to a more positive future for all of humanity.

Perhaps it's time to ask ourselves:

Do the thoughts we individually make and the actions we take, heal the future or steal the future?

This show reminds us that we must hold on to higher ideals than conflict and consciously embrace Canadian sovereignty through solidarity. Collectively, we can envision new ways of organizing our economies, our democracies, and our relationships with one another to ensure that we continue to thrive on this planet.

The solutions to the problems we face exist. We just need to embrace them and each other.

— *Frances Litman, Beyond VTMY producer/CreativelyUnited.org founder*

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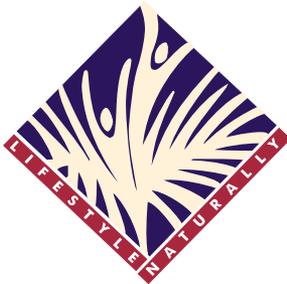
CreativelyUnited.org

A registered not for profit society in partnership with Climate and the Arts



Learn more: ClimateandtheArts.org

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