

Montreal, Québec | June 4-8, 2028

The Music of Sarah Quartel - Montreal Choral Festival



Artistic Director &
Composer-in-Residence

Ms. Sarah Quartel
Composer

The Setting



The Artistic Experience

This festival will showcase the works of acclaimed Canadian composer Sarah Quartel, including newly composed works, in one of Canada's most historic and beautiful cities. Under the artistic direction of Sarah Quartel and select conductors, the festival chorus will be divided into three distinct ensembles, highlighting repertoire for Lower Voices and Upper Voices before culminating in a final performance for Mixed Voices with the support of a local orchestra. Select participating ensembles will also have the opportunity to perform in intimate musical vignettes during the gala concert, offering an additional performance experience during the festival. Designed for advanced high school, collegiate, church, and community choirs, the festival's compact rehearsal schedule allows ample time to experience Montreal and the surrounding region. Participating ensembles may also extend their experience with a customized pre- or post-festival tour, curated specifically around each ensemble's interests and travel goals.

The Setting

Montreal, located in the province of Québec, is the second largest French speaking city in the world after Paris. The city boasts a unique combination of the founding cultures of Canada and a vibrant, cosmopolitan flair. Visitors to Montreal enjoy experiencing the heart of Quebec's culinary heritage with food tours and workshops. Parc Omega is a 2,200 acre wildlife preserve with more than twenty species of wildlife including wolves, moose, arctic foxes and more. Espace Pour La Vie (Space for Life) features five different museums (Botanical Gardens, Biodome, Insectarium, Planetarium, and Biosphere) that can connect you with nature and your place in the universe.





The Organizers: Perform International

"Building Bridges and Transforming Lives through the Power of Music"

Boldly informed by the belief that music inherently speaks as an expression of the human spirit beyond borders and in all cultures, Perform International seeks to empower music directors and ensembles to realize meaningful and life-changing immersion experiences and performances around the world.

- We empower music directors, music ensembles and individual musicians to share and grow in their artistic expression and understanding of people and cultures.
- We design and create rewarding performances as well as educational and cultural immersion opportunities by building and maintaining relationships with domestic and international musicians and music education organizations.
- We partner with concert venues, publicity teams, airlines, hotels, and tour guides to plan and implement operational methods that enhance rather than distract from the artistic experience.
- We provide meaningful and life-changing performance tour experiences that are personal, thoughtful, and efficient in the processes of conceptual artistic and educational development.

Faculty



Sarah Quartel

Composer

Composer Sarah Quartel is one of Canada's most internationally celebrated and widely performed living choral composers. Her music is programmed globally, and her commissions have premiered in spaces such as Carnegie Hall, Canterbury Cathedral, and the famed Church of the Rock in Helsinki. Raised as a choral singer herself, Sarah is inspired by the life-changing relationships that can occur in group singing. Known for her fresh, exciting, and chorister-centered approach to music making, Sarah writes in a way that connects singer to singer, ensemble to conductor, and performer to audience.

Sarah has served as Composer-in-Residence for Vox Anima (London), National Concerts (New York City), Singing Girls of Texas (Fort Worth), and The Cathedral of St. John (Albuquerque). Sarah is in high demand as a commissioned composer and values the partnerships built with conductors, educators, and singers as they bring a new work to life together. She has been commissioned by groups including the Orchestre de Paris, The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, the American Choral Directors Association, The National Children's Chorus of the USA, Hamilton Children's Choir, and New Dublin Voices. Notable performances and recordings include those by Chanticleer, London Voices, Rajaton, The Swingles, The Gesualdo Six, New York Polyphony, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, and the global mega-choir the Stay at Home Choir.

Sarah is proud of her collaborations with exceptional artists that have fueled exciting new works such as her arrangement of I*esous ahatonnia'* and her first choral musical *Be like the Bird*. Her musical premiered in Paris in 2025 when presented by Chœur d'Enfants de l'Orchestre de Paris. *Iesous ahatonnia,'* a groundbreaking score that aims to decolonize and Indigenize the Canadian icon T*he Huron Carol,* premiered in 2024. It was created in partnership with Wendat poet Andrée Levesque Sioui and ethnomusicologist Dr. Jeanette Gallant.

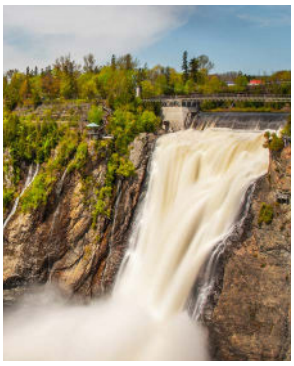
Sarah is deeply thankful for her relationship with Oxford University Press (OUP), where her 100+ titles are exclusively published. Sarah has held many roles in various music communities internationally including editor for the OUP publication *Breath of Song: 10 concert works by women composers*, editor and mentor to early career composers and composition students, artistic director of youth and adult choirs, and music educator to hundreds of children in schools across Canada. She values choral community, exceptional music education for all learners, and supporting fellow composers. Sarah continues to work as a clinician, visiting composer, and guest conductor at music education and choral events at home and abroad. She lives in London, Canada.













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Tour Itinerary

Day 1 - Sunday, June 4, 2028 - USA to Montreal
The journey begins by boarding a plan to Montreal. Meet tour manager and driver. Panoramic tour of the city's highlights. Welcome Sunset Dinner Cruise on St. Lawrence River. Overnight in Montreal.

Day 2 - Monday, June 5, 2028 - Rehearsals + Montreal Sightseeing
Rehearsals this morning followed by sightseeing of some of the iconic sights of Montreal. Dinner on own. Evening rehearsals. Overnight in Montreal.

Day 3 - Tuesday, June 6, 2028 - Rehearsals + Optional Excursions
Rehearsals this morning. There will be optional excursions offered today (see below). Dinner on own. Evening rehearsals. Overnight in Montreal.

Day 4 -Wednesday, June 7, 2028 - Free Day + Gala Concert
Free morning for all choirs. Afternoon dress rehearsal. Dinner included. Gala concert in Montreal. Overnight in Montreal.

Day 5 - Thursday, June 8, 2028 - Depart Montreal / Start Post Festival Tour Programs
Morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the USA or start your post festival tour program.

Optional Montreal Excursions

- Choose one of these culinary excursions - Take a guided food tour of Old Montreal; or participate in a bagel making workshop.
- Visit Espace Pour La Vie (Space for Life) with a choice of five different museums - Botanical Gardens, Biodome, Insectarium, Planetarium, and Biosphere.
- Take an evening walking tour of Old Montreal
- See 47,000 pieces of art in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
- Experience the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal - Aura Experience, a 40-minute light show casting projections along the neo-Geothic features of the cathedral. (Day time excursion combined with informal performance also possible.)

Pre/Post Festival Tour Programs

Optional pre- and post-tours for groups of 20 and more passengers are available including additional individual performance opportunities for balanced ensembles. All of PI's pre/post tours are fully customized to each choir's specific needs.

Tour B
Continue time in Montreal and Quebec City with Wendake Experience

Tour C
Travel to Toronto and Niagara Falls