

Hart House Summer Singers
Songs My Father Taught Me

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Great Hall | Hart House | University of Toronto

with

Sylvia Zhu - guzheng

Hart House Singers Gaelic Band

Garnet Ward - recorders Karen Washington - flute

Avery Nie - fiddle David Arnot - fiddle Stephen Murray - cello & piano
and

Alan Cheung - piano Margaret Bennett - percussion

Conrad Gold - piano accompanist & percussion

Douglas Doughty - bass guitar David Arnot-Johnston - conductor



Hart House Summer Singers Songs My Father Taught Me

Sunday, July 5, 2026. 4:00 p.m.

Great Hall | Hart House | University of Toronto

with

Sylvia Zhu - guzheng

Garnet Ward - recorders Karen Washington - flute

Avery Nie - violin Stephen Murray - cello & piano Alan Cheung - piano

Margaret Bennett - percussion Conrad Gold - piano & percussion

Doug Doughty - bass guitar David Arnot-Johnston - conductor

Programme

Pastime With Good Company

Henry VIII (attrib.)

Belle qui tiens ma vie

Thoinot Arbeau

Jesus bleibet meine Freude

Johann Sebastian Bach

O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden

J.S. Bach

Largo (from Harpsichord Concerto BWV 1056)

J.S. Bach

Conrad Gold - piano solo

Impromptu in G-flat Op.3 No.3

Franz Schubert

Alan Cheung - piano solo

晚晴 - Passing Spring

Yiqun Deng

Sylvia Zhu - guzheng solo

For Whom the Roses Bloomed

trad. Mandarin (arr. M. Mitchell)

Sylvia Zhu - guzheng with choir

A Prayerful Hymn

Oliver Schroer

Irish Washerwoman

trad. Irish

Swallowtail Jig

trad. Irish

Hart House Singers Gaelic Band

My Lord, What a Mornin'

spiritual (arr. J. Work)

Stephen Murray - tenor solo

Spencer Overgaard - baritone solo

Nancy Gordon - soprano solo

spiritual (arr. G. Gilpin)

Nothin's Gonna Stumble My Feet

Salalihini Kowul Handa

Sri Lanka; by C.T. Fernando

Renuka Satchithanathan - alto solo

Mon pays

Gilles Vigneault

Jean Baillargeon - tenor solo

Northwest Passage

Stan Rogers

Robert Alexander - baritone solo

**Scarborough Fair / Canticale
Cat's in the Cradle**

Steven Simons - tenor solo

A Whiter Shade of Pale

Paul Simon (arr. W. Ehret)
Harry Chapin (arr. L. Nickel)

Keith Reid & Gary Brooker

Largo in F minor /

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

Johann Sebastian Bach &
David Arnot-Johnston

Our Guest: Sylvia Zhu, guzheng

Sylvia Zhu began learning the guzheng at the age of five. Her parents bought her her first instrument because she would always play it whenever they visited music stores. Later, Ms. Zhu studied for many years with Nian Ye, an accomplished performer and teacher who in turn studied under the renowned guzheng performer and educator, Sha Yuan. Alongside her musical training, Ms. Zhu studied statistics and demography at the University of Ottawa and Western University. Now living in Toronto, Sylvia Zhu enjoys bringing her guzheng to parks and scenic locations, where she can share her love of traditional Chinese music while exploring its connection with contemporary styles.

Conductor's Notes on the Music

A year has passed since the Hart House Singers performed "Songs My Mother Taught Me" as our summer concert of July 2025. Searching for another theme for this summer, it seemed natural to honour our *fathers* who also taught us and introduced us to a myriad of songs and instrumental pieces. Ninety-per cent of the songs and instrumental pieces on today's program were suggested by choir members and me for this concert. There were many more suggestions - but we ran out of time! (Our summer session is only half as long as our fall and winter sessions.) Perhaps we will visit these in the future.

We are honoured to have Sylvia Zhu play again her beautiful guzheng for our concert. I am also always impressed how many of the choir members play instruments so well, and I enjoy showcasing their talents.

On a personal note, my father, who was a fine pianist, often played the Schubert *Impromptu* and the Bach *Largo*. I am so happy that Alan and Conrad will play these today. It was a strong memory of my father that stirred me to compose a setting of the Dylan Thomas poem, "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night," and superimpose it over the same Bach *Largo*. This will end our performance this afternoon.

We hope you enjoy this mélange of memories of our fathers displayed through music, performed by the Hart House Summer Singers and our friends.

*in memoriam of the fathers who nurtured us and are with us in spirit,
and in celebration of the fathers who are with us still.*

Selected Texts and Translations

Belle qui tiens ma vie

Belle qui tiens ma vie
captive dans tes yeux,
qui m'as l'âme ravie
d'n souriz gracieux,
viens tost me secourir
ou me faudra mourir.

Approche donc ma belle,
approche toy mon bien,
Ne me sois plus rebelle
puis que mon cœur est tien,
Pour mon mal apaiser
Donne moy un baiser.

Beauty who holds my life
captive in your eyes
who delighted me
with a gracious smile
come quickly to help me
or I must die.

Come close, then, my beauty,
come close, my little one.
do not rebel against me anymore,
since my heart is yours.
To ease my pain,
Give me a kiss.

Jesus bleibt meine Freude

Jesus bleibt meine Freude,
meines Herzens Trost und Saft,
Jesus wehret allem Leide,
er ist meines Lebens Kraft,
meiner Augen Lust und Sonne,
meiner Seele Schatz und Wonne;
darum lass ich Jesum nicht
aus dem Herzen und Gesicht.

Jesus remains my joy,
the consolation and blood of my heart;
Jesus bars all sorrow;
He is the power of my life,
the desire and sun of my eyes,
the treasure and bliss of my soul;
thus I will not let Jesus
out of my heart and sight.

O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden

O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden,
voll Schmerz und voller Hohn
O Haupt, zum Spott gebunden
mit einer Dornenkrone;
O Haupt, sonst schön gezieret
mit höchster Ehr' und Zier,
Jetzt aber höchst schimpfieret:
gegrüßet seist du mir!

O Head full of blood and wounds,
full of pain and full of derision,
O Head, in mockery bound
with a crown of thorns,
O Head, once beautifully adorned
with the highest honour and adornment,
but now most dishonoured:
let me greet you!

Ich will hier bei dir stehen,
verachte mich doch nicht!
Von dir will ich nicht gehen,
wenn dir dein Herze bricht;
wenn dein Haupt wird erblaßen
Im letzten Todesstoß,
alsdann will ich dich faßen
in meinen Arm und Schoß.

I shall stay here with you,
do not then scorn me!
I do not want to leave you
when your heart is breaking;
when you head turns pale
in the last throes of death,
then I want to hold you
in my arms and bosom.

For Whom the Roses Bloomed - sung in Mandarin

You for whom the roses bloomed.
You for whom the roses grew,
You have gone far away:
How can I wait the years? Aiyo!
How can I wait the years?

This was the year of the fragrant flower.
Next year will be so long.
You have gone far away:
How can I not miss my love? Aiyo!
How can I not miss my love?

Selalihini Kowul Handa - *sung in Sinhala*

The cacophonous harmony of the selalihini (*myna*) and the kowul (*cuckoo*) birds
Overflows this glorious jungle vista
Inhabiting these playing fields of deer herds and wild bears
Turning the jungle into a winged arena of delight.

The blue kobo, the rana gira (*rose-ringed parakeet*),
the peacock's glorious feathered ballet
the odd-mouthed kirala and jungle-fowl
the long beaked kingfisher, they see us, become fearful!
then turn their songs into an avian singing match
Between the birds delighting us.

Here, the rusty-spotted cat, the leopard!
And the famed, cunning jackal,
There the vicious poisonous viper, a man-eating crocodile,
And a water monitor coiled in knots!
You see python, right next to a snake.

Mon pays

Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver
Mon jardin ce n'est pas un jardin,
c'est la plaine
Mon chemin ce n'est pas un chemin,
c'est la neige
Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver.

My country is not a country,
it's winter.
My garden is not a garden,
it's a vast plain.
My road is not a road,
it's the snow.
My country is not a country,
it is winter.

Dans la blanche cérémonie
où la neige au vent se marie
dans ce pays de poudrerie
mon père a fait bâtir maison
Et je m'en vais être fidèle
à sa manière, à son modèle
La chambre d'amis sera telle
qu'on viendra des autres saisons
pour se bâtir à côté d'elle.

In the white ceremony
where the snow marries the wind
in this land of blowing snow
my father had built a house.
And I will be faithful
to his ways, to his example.
The guest room will be such
that they will come season after season
to build themselves next to it.

Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver
Mon refrain ce n'est pas un refrain,
c'est rafale,
Ma maison ce n'est pas un maison,
c'est froidure
Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver.

My country is not a country,
it is winter.
My chorus is not a chorus,
it's a gust of wind.
My house is not a house
it's the cold.
My country is not a country,
it is winter.

De mon grand pays solitaire
Je crie avant que de me taire
à tous les homes de la terre
Ma maison c'est votre maison
entre mes quatre murs de glace
Je mets mon temps et mon espace
à préparer le feu, la place
pour les humains de l'horizon
et les humains sont de ma race.

Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver
Mon jardin ce n'est pas un jardin,
c'est la plaine
Mon chemin ce n'est pas un chemin,
c'est la neige
Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'hiver.

Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays,
c'est l'envers
d'un pays qui n'était ni pays ni patrie
Ma chanson ce n'est pas une chanson,
c'est ma vie.
C'est pour toi que je veux posséder
mes hivers.

About my solitary country
I cry out before I am silenced
to all men on earth
My home is your home
within my four walls of ice
I put my time and my space
to prepare the fire, the place
for the people on the horizon
and the people of my human race.

My country is not a country,
it is winter.
My garden is not a garden,
it is a vast plain.
My road is not a road,
it is the snow.
My country is not a country,
It is winter.

My country is not a country,
it's the opposite
of a country that was neither land nor
homeland, My song is not a song
it's my life.
It's for you that I want to own
my winters.

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night - Dylan Thomas

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

The Hart House Singers is a non-auditioned choir at the University of Toronto that provides an opportunity for first-time and experienced singers to share in the joy of choral singing, to learn the art of song, to have fun, and to sing culturally and historically diverse repertoire. Typically, we perform music from around the world in our summer or fall concerts, and one of the choral classics in the winter term with orchestras comprised of students from the Royal Conservatory of Music, the Faculty of Music, and local professionals. The Hart House Singers has performed at Toronto's "Nuit blanche" and on several occasions with the Hart House Orchestra, including in productions of Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, Holst's *The Planets*, and Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*. Recent concerts produced by the Singers have included Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, and Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*. We enjoy collaborating with several artists, and have performed in concert with dancers from Canada's National Ballet School, Louis Schryer (fiddle), Ravi Naimpally (tabla), concert bands from the Royal Canadian Navy (HMCS York & Star Bands), and Samba Squad.

Conrad Gold (piano accompanist) holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree from McGill University. He has taken additional keyboard performance studies at the Smarano International Organ Academy in Italy. Besides being the piano accompanist for the past several years with the Hart House Singers, Conrad has also collaborated with Voices Chamber Choir, Tallis Choir, The Cantabile Chamber Singers (all of Toronto), the Espressivo Singers of Durham, and the Laudate Dominum Choir of Chatham. As an organist and church musician, Conrad has played at services and concerts in many Toronto churches, including St. Michael's Cathedral, St. James Cathedral, and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. He is currently Music Director at Leaside Presbyterian Church.

David Arnot-Johnston (conductor) is a graduate of the Early Music Program at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto. He has directed many vocal and instrumental ensembles, including at the Tafelmusik Baroque Institute, Lakefield Music for Adults, CAMMAC, and St. James Cathedral. As a tenor soloist, David has performed with Tafelmusik, Toronto Consort, Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Utrecht Barok Consort, Utrecht Bach Society, La Capriola of Amsterdam, Dancemakers, Al Ayre Español, Opera Atelier, Hamilton Philharmonic, Niagara Symphony, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra. He has recorded as a soloist and chamber musician with Toronto Consort, Tafelmusik, Canadian Brass, Aradia Ensemble, and The Theatre of Early Music. For ten years, David directed the music education program at Canada's National Ballet School. A recipient of the University of Toronto Arbor Award, David has been conductor of the Hart House Singers since 2003.

Hart House Summer Singers 2026

Robert Alexander, Emy Lomibao-De Asis, Katherine Austin, Jean Baillargeon, Janet Bambrick, David Barber, Carol Beattie, Suzanne Belanger, Christine Bellerose, Katerina Benevides, Margaret Bennett, William Berinati, Ellen Bruce, Micah Cao, Grace Chau, Marian Cheney, Alan Chun Wai Cheung, Margaret Chow, Roxanne Cuevas, Stephen De Ciantis, Ellen Devlin, Avyarthana Dey, Gabrielle Doiron, Ruth Fergie, Elaine Fletcher, Charles Fowler, Kerensa Fu, Meghan Gagliardi, Nancy Gordon, Annemiek Gritter, Hertha Grunsky, Maya Honda-Granirer, Carol Houston, Claire Jansen-Faught, Mohamad Kasem, Emily Kei, Sakshi Khanna, Bahar Kiransa, Darrell Kloeze, Alanna Kong, Sam Lakerdas-Gayle, Linda Li, Carolyn Liao, Mary Lilley, Shen Lindayag, Yufei (Fiolina) Liu, Margaret Mah, Virginia Mak, Rajsree Mandal, Anna Manson, Linda Marcinkus, Emily Mastragostino, Francis May, Florence Maynard, Sally J. McLean, Grace McLinton, Jane Meng, Joanna Morrison, Stephen Murray, Elaine Ng, Minh Thu Nguyen, Avery Nie, Allan Olley, Spencer Overgaard, Ece Ozkan, Alice Priestley, Shadan Rahbari, Elliott Rosenthal, Lena Sardo, Renuka Satchithananthan, Dan Sexton, Joshua Silver, Steven Simons, Mallika Singh, Nita Singh, Judy Smith, Anita Stojimirovic, Barbara Stubbs, Richard Sun, Robin Sun, Tanya Szydlowski, Diane Taylor-Sexton, Suzanne Tevlin, Kaiden Thompson, Michaela Tomiska, Genevieve Tomita, Dagwin Wachholz Jr., Charlie Wang, Garnet Ward, Karen Washington, Catherine Watson, Madeleine Willand, Angela Wong

If you would like to join the Hart House Singers, please email us at hhsingers@gmail.com. For information about the Hart House Singers, please visit our webpage at hhsingers.sa.utoronto.ca or find us on FaceBook.

Thank you for coming to our Hart House Summer Singers concert! If you would like to further support the Hart House Singers for today's concert or our future concerts, please visit:

[https://engage.utoronto.ca/site/SPageServer?
pagename=donate&redirect=legacy#/fund/536](https://engage.utoronto.ca/site/SPageServer?pagename=donate&redirect=legacy#/fund/536)

There is also a donation box in the hallway just outside the Great Hall.

Many thanks to: Charlie Wang, Alan Cheung and the Hart House Singers Executive Committee; Doug Floyd, Nicole Fung, Gillian Lewis of the Theatre and Performing Department of Hart House, for your invaluable guidance and support.