

Featuring works by  
**John Beckwith**  
Distinguished Visitor

Friday, October 24, 1997  
at 8:00 pm

Convocation Hall, Arts Building  
University of Alberta

**Program**



Department of Music  
University of Alberta



## Program

Five Lyrics of the  
T'ang Dynasty (1947)

**Jolaine Kerley, soprano**  
**Roger Admiral, piano**

Blue Continuum (1994)

**Sheldon Person, violin**  
**Miriam Lewis, viola**  
**Olivia Walsh, cello**  
**Chris Hodge, trumpet**  
**Deirdre Brown, piano**

Etudes (1983)

**Roger Admiral, piano**

## Short Intermission

Sharon Fragments (1966)  
Three Folk Songs

1. The Harp That Once  
Thro' Tara's Halls  
**Lisa Fernandes, soprano**
2. The Banks of Newfoundland  
**John Giffen, baritone**
3. Farewell to Nova Scotia  
**Paul Guise, baritone**

**The University of Alberta**  
**Madrigal Singers**  
**Leonard Ratzlaff,**  
**conductor**  
assisted by  
**Gloria Reimer, piano**  
**Kathleen Gahagan, harp**  
**Nicole Arendt, drum**

Professor Beckwith's visit is made possible by the  
Endowment Fund for the Future Distinguished Visitor Fund.

## Texts

### Sharon Fragments

(I)

I know not my own form: I have a beginning, but know not the end,  
because my life is not finished according to thy will...I wander in the  
earth,...seeking a city where I may find friends...I see myself more  
miserable than other men...I hear men talk of heaven and the terrors of  
hell; but...I must be between these two kingdoms, where none are willing  
to dwell with me but God alone.

(II)

Cloth'd with some terror from on high,  
I hear a voice that I must die!  
My heart doth flutter and remove  
From everything I dearly love.

The Lord gives me mine end to see  
That I must go where princes be,  
Where kings and queens do lose their crown  
And with the worm in earth lie down.

(III)

All things written in the Scriptures have been known to the mind from  
whence they did proceed, and are revealed to us by human beings - the  
family of God whom he hath chosen to be loving, kind, and tender  
parents to the world.

(IV)

With the pen I have drawn the lines of his spirit as to me they have been  
given. They are not the hand-writing of the scribe or eloquent in speech;  
they originated in my mind, and I commit them to memory as a debt I  
owe to the Lord.

(V)

O Lord, the stone will not remove  
Where thou has plac'd redeeming love.  
A broken heart, a humble mind,  
Will mercy at thy portals find.

(V) (continued)

The proud are lost in troubl'd seas,  
Or, as the fowl, toss'd in the breeze;  
With a false hope their mind's impress'd,  
Seeking, but never finding rest.

The worlds depart, the heavens flee,  
And death and hell is where they be;  
O humble mind! more sure abode!  
The place and pathway of our God.

(VI)

Life inspires all our actions. The body can feel nothing, but it touches the mind, therefore it is the man within that is the life of the body, and exists in all our limbs.

(VII)

We have built a habitation for the poor and ignorant...*Peace* is our motto and *Union* our praise...Contentment crowns our offerings, and our time is spent in the praise of the Lord.

(VIII)

Oh Gilead's joy, where is thy spring,  
Or healing that thy balm affords?  
Oh, where do Zion's children sing,  
Or Jesus loose the binding cords?

O Lord, where doth the city stand,  
Or the bless'd kingdom of thine own?  
Where is that lost, but promis'd land,  
Which was to sons of Israel known?

My sould doth rest, I know not why  
My spirit doth in secret sing;  
The kingdom of my God is nigh,  
My soul doth taste the joyful spring..

David Willson

**John Beckwith** was born in Victoria, British Columbia, but has spent most of his professional life at the University of Toronto, where he received BMus and MMus degrees. He began to teach at the University of Toronto in 1952 and served as Dean of the Faculty of Music from 1970-77. He occupied the Jean A Chalmers Chair in Canadian Music and was the founding director of the Institute for Canadian Music from 1984 until he retired in 1990. Since then he has kept busy composing, writing, and responding to invitations to participate in seminars, workshops and visits such as the one being planned for him here at the University of Alberta.

John Beckwith has established reputations in several areas. He is one of Canada's senior composers, with a long list of works in all genres written over the past fifty years, including four operas, many chamber music works, and important works for voice and chorus. Many of his works draw their inspiration from Canadian sources, as in *Sharon Fragments* for chorus, *The Great Lakes Suite* for soprano, baritone, clarinet, violoncello, and piano, or *Canada Dash-Canada Dot*, a collage written for radio in a collaboration with poet James Reaney, who also provided the texts for Beckwith's operas.

Beckwith has also made significant contributions to scholarship about Canadian music. In 1975 he and Keith MacMillan edited *Contemporary Canadian Composers*, one of the first reference works on Canadian composers. He was co-founder of the Canadian Musical Heritage Society, devoted to publishing Canadian compositions more than half a century old, and edited a volume on hymn tunes. He was a member from the beginning of the Canadian League of Composers and along with John Weinzweig was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Music Centre in 1959. He has served on the executive committee of the board of directors of the *Encyclopedia of Music in Canada*, and has written articles for EMC and the New Grove Dictionary. Throughout his career he has given many lectures and conference papers on various aspects of Canadian music, both historical and contemporary.



## The University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, 1997-1998

### **Soprano**

Aliya Ahmad  
Danica Clark  
Lisa Fernandes  
Nina Hornjatkevyc  
Alicia Kerley  
Jolaine Kerley  
Catherine Kubash  
Meaghan Schutt  
Maura Sharkey  
Katie Warke  
Karen Zwartjes

### **Tenor**

Jacob Cooper  
Doug Laver  
Michael Otto  
Tim Shantz  
Dan Sheinin  
Dale Zielke

### **Alto**

John Brough  
Josie Burgess  
Wendy Grønnestad  
Kara Gushuliak  
Caroline Howarth  
Terri Hron  
Heather Johnson  
Sarena Kohls  
Benila Ninan  
Elisabeth Scholtz  
Sarah Thomsen

### **Bass**

Gil Anderson  
Colin Armstrong  
Allan Bevan  
Kevin Gagnon  
Christopher Giffen  
John Giffen  
Paul Guise  
Atley Jonas  
Rob Kelly  
Bill Kempster  
Al McLellan  
Brennan Szafron

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