

guest conductors

María Guinand

Guest conductor, Alberta Youth Choir



María Guinand received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Bristol, England in 1976 and 1982, respectively. Guinand then earned a Choral Conductor Diploma from the Youth Orchestra Academy in Caracas in 1980.

Her leadership positions have included being the dean of the Jose Angel Lamas Music School and of the University Simón Bolívar in Caracas where she is a professor of music. In Venezuela, she conducts the Cantoria Alberto Grau, the Orfeón Universitario Simón Bolívar, and the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela. Guinand served as the conductor of the Festivalensemble Choir for The European Music Festival from 2001 to 2004. She has served on the Executive Committee of the International Music Council of UNESCO, and as Vice President for Latin America in the International Federation for Choral Music. She was the principal organizer of the Americas Cantat III held in Caracas in 2000.

Guinand is widely known from her association with the *La Pasión Segun San Marcos* (St. Mark Passion) composed by Osvaldo Golijov. The piece was commissioned by Helmuth Rilling to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of J. S. Bach. It was premiered at the 2000 European Music Festival with the Schola Cantorum de Caracas (now of Venezuela) and the Orquesta La Pasión. Infused with the rhythms of both the popular and classical music of Latin America, *La Pasión* is a singular work and has been performed around the world under Guinand's direction. Also composed by Osvaldo Golijov, Guinand conducted in 1996 the world premiere of *Oceana for Vocalist, Boy Soprano, Chorus, and Orchestra* as part of the Oregon Bach Festival held in Eugene, Oregon, USA.

She has edited a series of Latin American choral pieces available from Earthsongs. Hänssler released a recording of the Golijov *Pasión* in 2001, and a new recording by Deutsche Grammophon is forthcoming. For her Golijov's *Pasión según San Marcos* recording, she was nominated to the 44th Annual Grammy Award (2002) in the *Best Choral Performance* Category and to the 3rd Annual Latin Grammy Award (2002) in the *Best Classical Album* Category.

In 2006, Guinand worked with John Adams and Peter Sellars as Choir Master in the World Premiere of *A Flowering Tree in Vienna*, Austria and in its 2007 recording with the London Symphony Orchestra for Nonesuch Records.

Zimfira Poloz

Guest conductor, Alberta Children's Choir



Zimfira Poloz is a highly respected conductor, educator and adjudicator with a distinguished international reputation. She has been decorated with numerous awards in her long career, including the Honoured Representative of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan Award, the city of Hamilton's V.I.P. Award, and more recently, the Leslie Bell Prize Award for Choral Conducting from the Ontario Art Council. She is invited regularly to serve as clinician for festivals, lead workshops for educators, and jury International Choir Competitions around the globe, including workshops for IFCM and Europa Cantat and World Choral Games.

Zimfira first established her musical credentials in Kazakhstan, founding the country's first Choir School. The school provided an outstanding music program that grew to employ 35 music teachers with an enrolment of 450 children. In addition to her duties as Principle of the school, she also served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the school's Concert Choir, "Koktem". It is through Ms. Poloz's strong leadership, vision and musical expertise that "Koktem" attained top international choral status and was a recurring prize-winner in choral competitions and festivals around the world.

Immediately upon her arrival to Canada, her boundless energy and passion for music were in evidence, first as a member of the artistic staff for the Toronto Children's Chorus and later as vocal coach at St. Michael's Choir School. At present, Zimfira is the Artistic Director for both the Hamilton Children's Choir and the High Park Choirs of Toronto (the children's choir in residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto). In addition to her global travels as clinician and conductor, Zimfira still continues to teach, lecturing on 'Vocal Pedagogy for Young Choirs', at the University of Toronto.

Since becoming the HCC and HPC Artistic Director, Zimfira has participated in Festival 500 in St. John's, Newfoundland with both choirs. Ms Poloz has travelled with the HCC Chamber Choir to compete in the 2006 Tolosa (Spain) International Choral Competition earning both the People's Choice Award for the best choir and 2nd place in the children's choir category. In May 2008, Ms Poloz and the HCC Chamber Choir traveled to Szczecin, Poland to participate in the celebrated Songbridge Choral Festival, after having won first place in the Children's Choir category and Award for Best Performance of Canadian Work of the 2008 CBC Radio National Amateur Choral Competition. HCC compete in the CBC Radio—Le Mondial Gala Concert to compete with 10 of the best Canadian choirs and earning the Grand Prize—Cantabile Award for best performing choir.

alberta youth choir alberta children's choir

outstanding choral experiences for young singers

Alberta Youth Choir

October 28–31, 2009

Camp Evergreen & Red Deer

María Guinand, guest conductor

Alberta Children's Choir

January 28–30, 2010

Edmonton

Zimfira Poloz, guest conductor

Conductors and teachers from across the province are encouraged to recommend their best singers to participate in the Alberta Youth Choir and Alberta Children's Choir.





alberta youth choir

for high school aged singers

28-31 October 2009

Camp Evergreen & Red Deer

Maria Guinand, guest conductor (bio on back cover)

ayc details

- ✓ Recommending conductors must submit registration fees and forms (enclosed or available for download at www.albertachoralfederation.ca) before Monday, 28 Sep 2009.
- ✓ Mixed-voice ensembles (high school, community, or church) may recommend 8 singers — SATB. Women's and men's ensembles may recommend 4 singers.
- ✓ FEE: \$295 per singer, payable at time of registration.
- ✓ Confirmation of registration and payment of fees will be e-mailed to the address provided on the Registration Form.
- ✓ Music packages and detailed information will be mailed to the recommending conductors by Monday, 5 October 2009.
- ✓ All singers **must attend a regional rehearsal in their area** on Saturday, 24 October 2009.
- ✓ A tentative schedule is available at www.albertachoralfederation.ca.
- ✓ Travel to Camp Evergreen and home from Red Deer is the responsibility of the singer. Transportation between Camp Evergreen and Red Deer will be provided.
- ✓ Meals and accommodation are provided by the Alberta Choral Federation. Accommodation details are available on our website.
- ✓ Recommending conductors/choirs must be current members of the Alberta Choral Federation. To become a member visit www.albertachoralfederation.ca or call our office (780-488-7464).

AYC CONCERT

Saturday, 31 October 2009, 3:00 p.m.

First Christian Reformed Church (16 McVicar Street, Red Deer)

alberta children's choir

for singers ages 10-15

28-30 January 2010

Edmonton

Zimfira Poloz, guest conductor (bio on back cover)

acc details

- ✓ Recommending conductors must submit registration fees and forms (enclosed or available for download at www.albertachoralfederation.ca) before Friday, 4 Dec 2009. **Audition recordings are no longer required.**
- ✓ Choirs can recommend a maximum of 8 singers.
- ✓ FEE: \$175 per singer, payable at time of registration
- ✓ Confirmation of registration and payment of fees will be e-mailed to the address provided on the Registration Form.
- ✓ Music packages and detailed information will be mailed to the recommending conductors by Friday, 11 Dec 2009.
- ✓ All singers **must attend a regional rehearsal in their area** on Saturday, 16 Jan 2010.
- ✓ A tentative schedule is available at www.albertachoralfederation.ca.
- ✓ Travel to and from Edmonton is the responsibility of the singer.
- ✓ Some meals and snacks are provided by the Alberta Choral Federation (details on the ACF website).
- ✓ Accommodation and night-time supervision in Edmonton is the responsibility of the singer's family/guardian. **Billeting options are available; contact the ACF office for more information.**
- ✓ Recommending conductors/choirs must be current members of the Alberta Choral Federation. To become a member visit www.albertachoralfederation.ca or call our office (780-488-7464).

ACC CONCERT

Saturday, 30 January 2010, 7:00 p.m.

All Saints' Anglican Cathedral (10035-103 Street, Edmonton)