

# MCC TORONTO'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# CHURCH *on* CHURCH

CHURCH STREET JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

JUNE 26, 2022

## BETTER TOGETHER





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Welcome!

We acknowledge that the lands we worship on are traditional territories. These territories include the Huron-Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit, and Métis Nation. We would also recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land now home to people from across Turtle Island.

Many thanks to our donors whose contributions have made today's event possible. We would be grateful if you might consider making a special Pride offering.

A very special thanks to the many volunteers who have contributed their time in support of MCC Toronto's Pride activities.



## Greetings from our Senior Pastor

Thank you so much for joining us for MCC Toronto's 30th Annual Church on Church Pride Celebration Service.



Pride is a cornucopia of colours, parties, and marches; and it means many different things to many different people. Pride is a memorial for those we've loved and lost due to hate, illness, stigma, and discrimination. Pride is a protest, demanding equality and rights for all our rainbow identities. Pride is a celebration of how far we've come since the first parades in 1970. Pride is an opportunity for allies to show their support, and declare themselves a safe space. Pride is a spiritual occasion, to remember that each and every one of us are perfectly and wonderfully made in God's image.

After two years of "Church On Church Online" it is incredible to be together IN PERSON! Our theme this year is "Better Together" because we are better when we come together in love and celebration.

Many thanks to our Music Director Jason Jestadt, our many special musical guests and to The Choir of MCC Toronto for the incredible work they did in preparing for today's Service. And special thanks to the donors who helped make all our Pride 2022 celebrations possible and to the many volunteers who are giving so much of themselves to support our work and mission.

Please be sure to visit our community booth in the StreetFair and watch for us in the parade, but most of all have a safe and happy Pride and be proud of who you are.

Cheers & Blessings,

Rev. Jeff Rock,  
Senior Pastor





# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Prelude: Show Must Go On** by Queen (arr. Jason Jestadt)  
Peter Deiwick & The Choir of MCC Toronto

**One World/Love is the Seventh Wave** by Sting (arr. Jason Jestadt)  
Mark Cassius & The Choir of MCC Toronto

**Welcome & Introduction**  
Rev. Jeff Rock

**Land Acknowledgement**  
Rev. Jeff Rock

**Lovers in a Dangerous Time** by Bruce Cockburn  
Dana Jean Pheonix

**Opening Prayer**  
Rev. Junia Joplin

**Where is the Love?** written and performed by Danah-Lee

**First Scripture Reading**  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
Eileen Dalusong

**Second Scripture Reading**  
**Matthew 18:19-20**  
Alain Mootoo

**Lessons for Life - Better Together**  
Rev. Jeff Rock



# ORDER OF SERVICE

**Time, Love and Tenderness** by Dianne Warren  
Julie Michels & The Choir of MCC Toronto

**Prayers of the People**  
Rev. Junia Joplin

**Times Like These** by Foo Fighters  
The Choir of MCC Toronto

**Honouring Our Heroes**  
Awarded to Amita Kuttner

**Brave** by Sara Bareilles  
Dana Jean Phoenix & The Choir of MCC Toronto (arr. Jason Jestadt)

**Offertory Call**  
Rev. Junia Joplin  
Please use provided envelope or click [HERE](#) and select "Make a Pride Offering" in the drop box

**Beautiful Day** by U2  
Peter Deiwick & The Choir of MCC Toronto

**Benediction**  
Rev. Jeff Rock

**Higher Love/We Are Family** by Steve Winwood/Sister Sledge  
Julie Michels & The Choir of MCC Toronto (arr. Jason Jestadt)





# ARTISTS



## **Jason Jestadt, Music Director**

Jason is a Dora nominated music director who has worked on many musical theatre productions and concerts in Toronto from the Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, to conducting the recent Toronto production of *Come From Away*, to accompanying acclaimed singer Colm Wilkinson on a tour to Japan. In October 2019, Jason took on the role of Music Director at MCC Toronto. As well as music directing, Jason also composes choral music that has been performed across Canada by such acclaimed choirs as the Elmer Iseler Singers, and Vancouver Chamber Choir, and The Choir of MCC Toronto. Since 2020, Jason has also served as the musician-in-residence at Holy Blossom Temple.

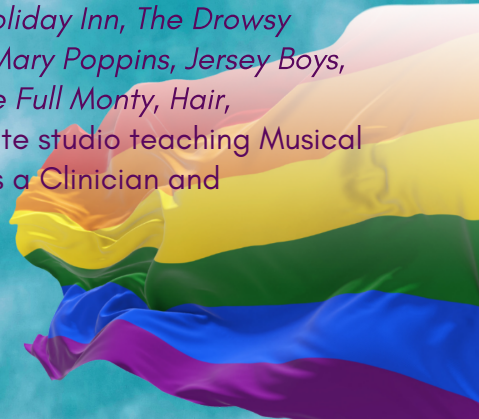


## **Jeannie Wyse, Associate Music Director/Conductor**

Jeannie is the Head of the Vocal department at the Randolph College for the Performing Arts and has been Associate Music Director at MCC Toronto since 2001. She appeared as the Vocal Coach for CBC's *Over The Rainbow* and is in demand as a Vocal Teacher, Conductor and Musical Director.



Jeannie has toured North America with Riverdance and the Elmer Iseler Singers and has worked with the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus and Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir. Shows include: *Priscilla*, *Holiday Inn*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Anything Goes*, *Chicago*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Mary Poppins*, *Jersey Boys*, *The Sound of Music*, *Seussical*, *Nine*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Full Monty*, *Hair*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Into The Woods*. She has a private studio teaching Musical Theatre, Pop and Classical voice and is also active as a Clinician and Adjudicator.





# ARTISTS



## Mark Cassius

Mark is a concert and musical theatre artist. He is a graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre Program and is presently working on a Masters degree in Music Composition at York University.

He is highly recognized for his work as a member of the world-renowned acapella group, The Nylons (1997–2005). On Broadway, he has performed in *Ragtime*, *Shenandoah* (1989) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (2012).

Other musical theatre credits include *Cats* (Canadian Premier), *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber In Concert*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (with Donny Osmond), *Miss Saigon*, *Showboat*, and *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)* (Broadway World "Best Actor" nominee).

He has been featured at the Shaw Festival, and at the Stratford Festival won critical acclaim in the role of "Mr. Magix" in *My One and Only* (2008). He is a performance instructor at the Randolph College for the Performing Arts and is completely dedicated to the nurturing of the artist. Sharing at MCC Toronto is always a joy and an absolute blessing. Follow him on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter @TheMarkCassius



## Peter Deiwick

Peter is a Canadian actor/singer/musician who has over 25 years of professional performing experience. Some stage highlights include *Mamma Mia!*, *We Will Rock You*, and *Rock Of Ages*, all with Mirvish productions. On Television Peter has worked for Disney, Netflix, ABC, NBC, FX Network, Global, and CBC, most recently with HULU in the new mini-series *Under The*

*Banner Of Heaven* with Andrew Garfield and Sam Worthington. His solo act *A Chelsea Ghost* is currently working on music for a fall release.



# ARTISTS



## Danah-Lee

Danah-Lee is a Contemporary Christian / LGBTQ musician, producer, award-winning music educator, entrepreneur, and author. Outside of her strong faith in Christ as a member of the LGBTQ community, and outside of her career as an artist, Danah-Lee owns and operates an inclusive music school. Danah-Lee was recently nominated for Louder Than The Music's

"Christian Album of the Year" and the "Impact Award" at Ottawa's Capital Music Awards.

Danah-Lee has been very busy working on her forthcoming album, "Made in the Image" which has received funding support from the Ontario Arts Council.



## Julie Michels

Julie is, quite simply, a woman with a beautiful voice. She sings everything and anything that catches her ear: jazz standards, rhythm and blues, Brazilian sambas, African chanting – in a world full of music, it's a banquet of sound just too delicious to pass up! She has played with George Koller, Ottawa's Chelsea Bridge, Kevin Barrett and her bands Sutra and The Parley at

many popular jazz venues including the Montreal Bistro, Top of the Senator, the Rex, Hugh's Room, Ottawa's National Arts Centre, Toronto's own Statler's and Canadian and European festivals.

Julie's CDs include *Singing Naked* (duets with bassist George Koller), *Live at Statler's* (with guitarist Kevin Barrett), the soundtrack for *Pivoting Echoes* (debuted with one of Canada's premier dance companies, the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks) and *Seriously Happy* with the Royal Jelly Orchestra and she is a featured artist on The Choir's second CD, *Connected: Songs for the Heart*, which is available on iTunes. Julie is also one third of the popular trio Broadway, also featuring Heather Bambrick and Diane Leah. For details, go to their website: [www.thebroadwayshow.com](http://www.thebroadwayshow.com)





# ARTISTS



## Dana Jean Phoenix

Dana is a Canadian synthwave artist who has gained a following in the international synthwave scene, touring Canada, Europe, and the US with her original music. Her songs have been featured in films and on television, and her collaboration with Dutch artist Timecop1983, entitled *Dreams* (Feat. Dana Jean Phoenix), was featured in the Netflix original films *You Get Me* and *Coin Heist*, and on the PS4/PC game *Crossing Souls*.

Dana's latest release, *Megwave*, with Vienna's Powernerd, is out now on Outland Recordings (UK). Her website is [www.DanaJeanPhoenix.com](http://www.DanaJeanPhoenix.com)



## The Choir of MCC Toronto

The Choir of MCC Toronto has long been celebrated as one of the leading church choral groups in the country. The Choir boasts an eclectic and electric combination of talented singers whose love of music brings them together every week for rehearsals and Services and for annual special events including Pride, Christmas with the Choir and Christmas Eve Service. Under the leadership of current Music Director Jason Jestadt, The Choir is an integral part of Sunday Services at MCC Toronto and a popular community mainstay. The Choir have been featured performers at The Olympic Torch Relay, World Pride Opening Ceremony and the Celebration of Life for Jack Layton, among many others. During the recent pandemic, The Choir continued making music together creating 75 virtual choir anthems. The Choir has recorded 3 CDs: *House of Love* (featuring Louise Pitre); *The Choir: Connected* (with Thom Allison, Alana Bridgewater and Julie Michels) and *These Old Walls* (featuring Stephanie Martin). All are available on iTunes.





# CREDITS AND THANKS

## **Pride 2022 Planning Committee:**

Rev. Jeff Rock, Senior Pastor  
Cory Bertrand, Event Coordinator  
Elle Behnia  
John R. Farrell  
Cass Hicks  
Jason Jestadt  
Shannon Malloch  
Sheryl Pollock  
Mark Asselin

## **Worship Team:**

Rev. Jeff Rock, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Junia Joplin, Associate Pastor, Pastor of Programs &  
Congregational Care  
Rev. Deana Dudley, Assistant Pastor (on leave)

**Music Director:** Jason Jestadt

**Associate Music Director/Conductor:** Jeannie Wyse

## **Soloists:**

Mark Cassius  
Peter Deiwick  
Danah-Lee  
Julie Michels  
Dana Jean Phoenix

## **Band:**

Jason Jestadt: Keys  
Gino Del Sole: Guitars  
Steve Heathcote: Drums  
Russ Boswell: Bass  
Nick Coulter: Percussion



# CREDITS AND THANKS

## **The Choir of MCC Toronto:**

Wanda Bussiere  
Ivan Canete  
Janice Gladstone  
Llewellyn Goddard  
Patti Gray  
Lori Honeycombe  
Karen Hoyland  
David Kenny  
Gilbert K. Ma  
Valerie Mills  
Andrew Newbery  
Timothy Oakes  
Sylvie Pelletier  
Dawn Sinclair  
Mark Stephenson  
Pat Tatlock  
John K. Wright

## **Sound:**

Wayne Deering  
Jim Woodbridge  
Prince Janotra

Big thanks to the many volunteers who have helped make today possible! With special thanks to James Beattie, Alan Brody and Bassel Dick – volunteers extraordinaire!





## ABOUT MCC TORONTO

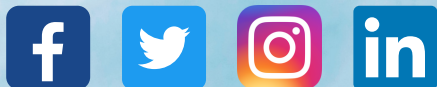
For almost 50 years, the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC Toronto) has been helping shape Canadian values of inclusion, diversity and equality. A place of worship – and a place of action – MCC Toronto is a vibrant, inclusive and progressive church rooted in the Christian faith and the LGBTQ2+ community but that is open and welcoming to all, with a commitment to diversity and inclusion and a mission to advance Human Rights for all.

MCC Toronto remains on the forefront of ground-breaking Human Rights and social justice work and was the site for the world's first legalized same gender marriage in 2001. MCC Toronto is home to 800+ engaged members, the award-winning Choir of MCC Toronto, and the Triangle Program, the first LGBTQ2+ high school in Canada. MCC Toronto is also home to a LGBTQ+ refugee program that supports over 850 refugee claimants a year and is the exclusive sponsorship holder in Canada for LGBTQ+ refugees.

MCC Toronto  
115 Simpson Ave.  
Toronto, ON M4K 1A1  
416-406-6228  
[info@mcctoronto.com](mailto:info@mcctoronto.com)  
[mcctoronto.com](http://mcctoronto.com)

Watch our weekly webcast seen around the world  
[youtube.com/mcctorontotv](https://youtube.com/mcctorontotv)

**Stay in touch | Get connected**



# OUR PRIDE DONORS

**MCC Toronto extends a heartfelt thanks to our Pride 2022 donors. Your support is enabling MCC Toronto to share its message of hope and love this Pride!**

Ron Beben in loving memory of Bill Denison

Brad Berg & Brian Rolfes in memory of Merrelyn & Deanie – proud mothers

Cory Bertrand

Lori Boyce & Jennifer Alexander

Anne Brayley & Nanette Sanson

Rev. Dr. Marc Doucet

Allister Douglas & John Vigna

John R. Farrell & Trevor Scanlan

Andrew Fleming & Roger Keglevich

Glenn Gebhardt

Bradley Hickman & Mary Hickman

Mary Lou Maher & Virginia Hatchett

Catherine Meade

Solomon Olatunde Omotaje

Omo, Ari & Ayoka

James Robertson & James Scott

Rev. Jeff Rock

Michael Sinclair

Mark Stephenson

Michael Went & Doug Kerr

John K. Wright

Anonymous (3)



# ANNUAL DONORS 2021

MCC Toronto extends a heartfelt thank you to our members, congregants and community members who made gifts in support of our year-round mission and work between January 1 – December 31, 2021. Every gift is a blessing, and we are grateful for your support. We are proud to recognize the following donors for their exceptional support of MCC Toronto in 2021. Your extraordinary generosity enables MCC Toronto to provide service to those in need while advancing Human Rights work within and beyond our walls.

## **\$25,000+**

The Estate of John Bailes

Brad Berg & Brian Rolfes

Allister Douglas

The Estate of Scott Galbraith

The Estate of Lawrence George Hodgett in memory of John Donald Morse

Hon. Margaret McCain

RBC Foundation

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

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The Estate of William E. Graham

Mary Lou Maher & Virginia Hatchette

J. Scott McCain & Leslie McLean

# ANNUAL DONORS 2021

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

The Catherine & Maxwell Meighen Foundation  
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Tippet Foundation  
Tripp-Smith Family Foundation

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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Lori Boyce & Jennifer Alexander  
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Chris Brillinger  
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Michael MacLennan  
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# ANNUAL DONORS 2021

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Marilyn McCowan

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David Ritchie & Allan Lyon

James Robertson & James Scott

Rev. Jeff Rock

Marlin Roy

Donald Peter St. Amand

Michael Tukatsch

Margie Wallace & Stephenie Naugler

The Estate of Lawrence William Wert

Kevin Willcock

Anonymous (1)

For information on making a gift to MCC Toronto, please contact  
**[giving@mcctoronto.com](mailto:giving@mcctoronto.com)**.

COUNCILLOR

**Paula Fletcher**



WARD 14 TORONTO-DANFORTH

# Happy Pride!

Wishing the MCC  
community and all  
those celebrating a  
safe and happy Pride  
weekend!



416-392-4060



[councillor\\_fletcher@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca)



[www.paulafletcher.ca](http://www.paulafletcher.ca)

# Happy Pride!

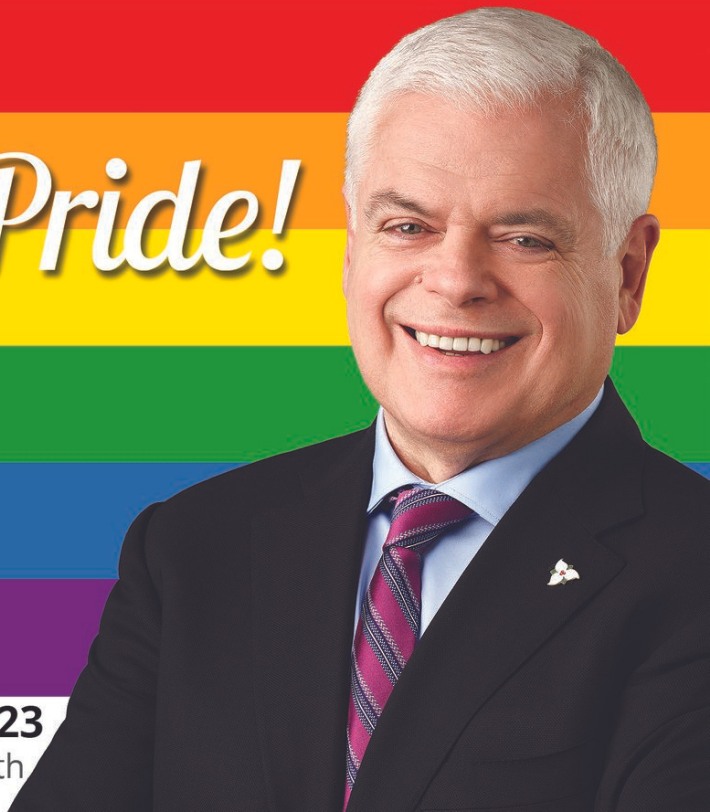


## Chris Moise

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# Happy Pride!



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Toronto-Danforth



# Happy Church on Church!



**Hon. Rob Oliphant**

DON VALLEY WEST

416-467-7275

[Rob.Oliphant@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rob.Oliphant@parl.gc.ca)



**Hon. Marci Ien**

TORONTO-CENTRE

416-972-9749

[Marci.Ien@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marci.Ien@parl.gc.ca)



**MP Julie Dabrusin**

TORONTO-DANFORTH

416-405-8914

[Julie.Dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Dabrusin@parl.gc.ca)



Since 2007, MCC Toronto's LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs have helped bring 74 LGBTQ+ refugees to safety in Canada. But we have more work to do. Can you help?

**MAKE A GIFT TO OUR  
LGBTQ+ REFUGEE PROGRAMS  
TODAY**



The logo features the word "ELEVATION" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The letter "V" is stylized, composed of a red triangle pointing up and to the right, and a teal triangle pointing up and to the left. Below "ELEVATION" is the text "MCC TORONTO CAMPAIGN" in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font.

# ELEVATION

## MCC TORONTO CAMPAIGN

*"We've always been a human rights church. This campaign is just having us be bold enough to declare it a little more loudly."*

– Rev. Jeff Rock

On April 29, MCC Toronto launched ELEVATION – MCC Toronto Campaign, a \$5 million campaign to elevate our ability to educate and empower communities on important human rights issues. To date, we have raised \$4.8 million, but we need your help to realize our ambition of human rights for all.

[MAKE A GIFT](#)

[Learn more](#)