

Lavinia Kell Parker (1977)

Lavinia Kell Parker's use of improvisation with traditional compositional elements has garnered her the *New Genre Award* from the International Alliance of Women in Music, as well as top prizes in choral composition including: the New York Treble Singers, Vancouver Bach Choir, Choral Canada, and the Ruth Watson Henderson Choral Composition Competitions. Her choral works have been performed by elite choirs internationally and over the airwaves with CBC, NPR and PBS television.

Recent commissioners include Liz Tromsky-Knott, oboist; Iliana Matos, guitarist; the Allegra Chamber Orchestra; the Penderecki String Quartet; Vancouver CanSing Choirs; Mississippi College Singers; Erskine College Choraleers; Linda Dzuris, Carillonneur Clemson University; Chinook Choir, Mooresville Presbyterian NC, and Lethbridge First Baptist and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches. Lavinia loves customising music that fits both her artistic vision and which also carefully showcases the strengths of commissioning ensembles and performers.

An educator of over 20 years, she has focused on bringing the joy of music to children and is the founder of *Coulee Composers*, a composition club for children in Southern Alberta. Lavinia is an Alberta Registered Music Teacher, a Certified Teacher of the Royal Conservatory of Music and an Instructor at the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music where she teaches creative music classes including: piano, theory, composition and songwriting. Her own teachers have included Glenn Buhr, Peter Hatch, Linda Caitlin Smith (composition). She has an Honours Composition degree from Wilfrid Laurier University where she was the recipient of the Robert and Judith Astley Music Scholarship for "outstanding promise in chosen field of music." She continued studies with lengthy residencies in France and the United States and participated in masterclasses and lectures with notable composers including: John Adams, Samuel Adler, Pierre Boulez, George Crumb, Emma Lou Diemer, Libby Larsen, Tania León, Robert Morris, Krzysztof Penderecki, Steve Reich, Christopher Rouse, R. Murray Schafer, and Karlheinz Stockhausen among others.

Growing up within the church and singing with family has had a large influence on Lavinia's compositional output. Her need to create is driven by a spiritual necessity. As an organist or church music director for over 25 years (Churchill-Gilford United Churches, ON; Brockport First Baptist, NY; Due West ARP, SC; St. Andrew's UMC, Charleston, SC; St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Lethbridge, AB) she has created many functional anthems, alternative harmonisations for hymn accompaniments (organ, sung descants, instrumental, additional handbell choir supplements) and she thoughtfully considers music, liturgy and congregational needs/abilities. During her tenure as a church musician she has worked with TTBB, SSA, mixed choirs, as well as two and three octave Handbell Choirs for both youth, adult and intergenerational groups.

Lavinia believes in the power of community singing and felt this sense of connection while leading the *New Creation Singers* at an Adult Rehabilitation Centre in Rochester, NY. She also met her husband singing in a choir and they continue to sing together, now with their children, with their church choir and community chorus, *Aurora Choral Lethbridge*.

Lavinia is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre; Grant Recipient with the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Susan B. Anthony Fund; a published composer with the CMC, ECS Publishing Group/Galaxy Press, Cypress Choral Music and self published with further information about the composer at:

www.laviniakellparker.ca