

THE TORONTO CONSORT

2014-15 season unveiled:

***Paris Confidential* by Alison Mackay**
***The Little Barley-Corne* with David Greenberg**
***Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel* with Lucas Harris**
***Dowland in Dublin* with Michael Slattery & La Nef**
and a fully staged production of ***The Play of Daniel***

"As led by its Artistic Director, David Fallis, the Toronto Consort lavishes luminous clarity, lightness and vitality on the music."

— Gramophone Magazine

Toronto, April 23, 2014 ... Under the artistic leadership of **David Fallis** since 1990, the Toronto Consort announces its 2014-15 season in the superior acoustics of the newly renovated Jeanne Lamon Hall at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. The 2014-15 season features an array of superb guest artists including violinist **David Greenberg**, who joins the Consort for a reprisal of their 1999 hit ***The Little-Barley-Corne***; theorbist **Lucas Harris**, who guest-directs a program of music from the court of Leopold I; American tenor **Michael Slattery** with Montréal's **La Nef** in ***Dowland in Dublin*** — intriguing new arrangements of Dowland's music with a Celtic flavour; and tenor **Kevin Skelton** in the title role of ***The Play of Daniel***, a fully-staged Medieval music theatre masterpiece. 2014-15 subscriptions are available through the box office at (416) 964-6337. Individual concert tickets go on sale in early September. For more information about the 2014-15 season, visit www.torontoconsort.org or the Consort's [Facebook](#) page.

Founded in 1972, The Toronto Consort was one of the city's first professional period music ensembles specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and early Baroque — roughly 1200 to 1675. Over the past four decades, the Toronto Consort has continued to expand listeners' appreciation through inventive programming that breathes life into period music. The ensemble has become internationally recognized for its excellence in live and recorded period music, and has collaborated on a number of film and television projects including Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* and two Showtime series, *The Tudors* and *The Borgias*. This summer, the Toronto Consort opens the 15th annual Madison Early Music Festival in Wisconsin with the hit program *The Da Vinci Codex* on July 12, 2014.

2014-15 SEASON AT A GLANCE:

Paris Confidential

November 7 & 8, 2014

The Toronto Consort launches its 2014-15 season with a brand new multi-media creation by the award-winning **Alison Mackay**. Her program *A Woman's Life* capped the 40th anniversary season in 2013, and her Tafelmusik creations *The Galileo Project* and *House of*

Dreams have been seen around the world. *Paris Confidential*, her latest creation for the Consort, visits Paris of the 16th century, when it was a leading centre of Renaissance learning and thought. Mackay uses her “remarkable multimedia musical storytelling skills” (*Musical Toronto*) — music from the period by Jannequin, Sermsy, Chardavoine and LeJeune, narration, and stunning high-definition images — to create an experience that takes audience members on an insider’s tour of the city’s bustling markets, booksellers, royal chapel, and academies.

The Little Barley-Corne: Yuletide Revels from the Renaissance **with violinist David Greenberg**

December 12, 13 & 14, 2014

“This extraordinary ensemble seemed a circle of golden light on an otherwise gloomy winter night. They conjure glowing hearths in drafty castles and feasts amid meagre supply ... The Toronto Consort managed to transport me again.”

—from a 1999 *Globe & Mail* review of *The Little Barley-Corne*

David Greenberg, who has been called “one of the most impassioned folk-fiddlers you’ll ever hear” (*Winnipeg Free Press*) joins forces with the Toronto Consort to throw a fabulous Christmas party of rollicking ballads, toe-tapping country dance music, madrigals and fantasias from Renaissance England and France, as well as traditional noëls. These concerts mark the Marquis Classics re-release of the Consort’s *Little Barley-Corne* recording, which caught the attention of *The New Yorker* when it was originally released: “ ... on *The Little Barley-Corne* the group whoops it up with infectious songs relating to the ale-soaked winter revels.”

Splendours of the Emperor’s Chapel **with guest director Lucas Harris**

February 6 & 7, 2015

Guest Director, theorbist **Lucas Harris**, leads the Consort and assembled forces in a lavish concert of music from the Viennese court and chapel of Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I. Cornettos, sackbuts, strings, keyboards, and virtuoso singers breathe life into this magnificent but rarely-heard music – some of it being played for the first time since the 17th century. The program includes works by Schmelzer, Biber, Bertali and Leopold I himself.

Dowland in Dublin **with tenor Michael Slattery and La Nef**

March 27 & 28, 2015

“The real star ... is Michael Slattery; his voice is like warm honey on a summer day. Timbrally, he and La Nef were made for one another. Slattery sings with the intimacy and charm of a favored Elizabethan courtier, without ever being smarmy; his honesty and wistfulness in the plaintive songs are especially endearing. He is absolutely believable, and he imbues these pieces with a striking sense of relevance and immediacy.”

— *Early Music America*

Was the great composer John Dowland, often considered the quintessential English lute master, actually Irish? This question is the starting point for *Dowland in Dublin*, an intimate and evocative program that is “half way between art song and folk song” (*American Record Guide*), featuring American tenor **Michael Slattery** and Montréal’s **La Nef**. Set with Irish flute, recorder, fiddle, lute, cittern, shruti-box, and cello, Dowland’s songs take on a Celtic

flavour in these “lilting, teasing, immediately familiar and yet pleasingly different” arrangements, which invite listeners to hear his songs and fantasias in a new way. Slattery recently made his New York Philharmonic debut, and has garnered rave reviews for his “riveting performance” (*Financial Times of London*) in Opéra de Lyon’s production of *Curlew River* by Benjamin Britten.

The Play of Daniel

with tenor **Kevin Skelton**, **VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto**

direction: **Alex Fallis** | musical direction: **David Fallis** | costume design: **Nina Okens**
set & lighting design: **Glenn Davidson**

May 22, 23 & 24, 2015

The grand finale to the 2014-15 season is a fully-staged performance of ***The Play of Daniel***, the greatest work of music theatre from the Middle Ages — an opera in everything but name. This wondrous telling of the story of the writing on the wall and Daniel in the lions’ den receives a full theatrical production, with the Consort Medieval players and singers joined by tenor **Kevin Skelton** in the role of Daniel, and the young voices of the **VIVA! Youth Singers of Toronto**. Stage director **Alex Fallis**, costume designer **Nina Okens**, and set and lighting designer **Glenn Davidson** join with Music Director **David Fallis** to bring this 13th century work to vivid life. ***The Play of Daniel*** is generously supported by the George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation.

Friday and Saturday evening concerts begin at 8:00 pm and Sunday matinee concerts begin at 3:30 pm. All concerts take place at Trinity St. Paul’s Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall, 427 Bloor Street West. Pre-concert chats are FREE with admission and are held in the gymnasium one hour prior to each concert.

Full subscriptions are available now and prices range from \$97 to \$227; Regular individual concert tickets go on sale on September 2, 2014, and regular prices range from \$26 to \$61. **Club Consort** tickets: \$10 for those age 30 and under with valid photo ID.

Box Office: (416) 964-6337

On-line ticketing at www.torontoconsort.org

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