

Holly Genge (Angel) Since age 3 Holly has taken dancing lessons. Currently she studies highland dancing, and Cape Breton style step dancing. She has studied fiddle for 2 years. Holly loves to sing and sings in community choirs.

Laurel Genge (Angel) Since age 3 Laurel has taken dancing lessons. Currently she studies highland dancing, and Cape Breton style step dancing. She has studied fiddle for 5 years. Laurel loves to sing and sings in community choirs.

Alexandria Hillier (Angel), has won awards in the local music festival and performed in local productions. She plays piano, composes songs and loves singing.

Emerald Rose Lake (Angel) has studied dance and music since age 3. In the Maritimes she competes in Highland Dance and also enjoys Cape Breton Step, Ballet, Tap and Jazz. Emerald takes voice and piano lessons and loves the stage!



M. Ariel Blanchard (violoncello) Music has been the centre of Ariel's life for as long as she can remember. After a spell at Longy School of Music and a stint playing Bach on Boston street corners, Ariel emigrated to NS to work on a farm and spend her spare time absorbing 50's jazz records.

Ruth Burton (Viola) trained at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. She played with the San Jose Symphony and Oakland Opera Orchestra. She moved to Halifax in 1988 and played occasionally with Symphony Nova Scotia and Symphony New Brunswick. For several summers she played with the AIMS opera festival orchestra in Graz, Austria. Currently she plays in Nova Sinfonia in Halifax, the PEI symphony, and her own string ensemble, the "Candlelight Trio".

Heather Kristenson (2nd Violin) grew up in southern Ontario. She studied music at Wilfrid Laurier University. She has served as organist and choir director at Central United Church for over 10 years, and has enjoyed a richly hued life as an accompanist on the South Shore.

Kirsty Money (1st Violin) hails from Victoria B.C. and studied with Sydney Humphreys at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. She received her B.Mus in McGill and worked with L'Orchestre Metropolitain, Montreal Chamber Players as well as Baroque Ensembles like Orchestre Baroque de Montreal, and Les Violons du Roy of Quebec City. She completed a MMus of Music Performance and Literature at the University of Western Ontario and worked with Orchestra London, the Windsor Symphony, The North Bay and Sudbury Symphony Orchestras. Currently she works in the 1st violin section of Symphony Nova Scotia. Kirsty has worked with percussionists Ken Shorely and Nick Halley, film composer Asif Ilyas, actress Pascale Roger, King's College Director Paul Halley, and baroque players Suzie LeBlanc and David Greenberg (with whom she co-founded Tempest Baroque Ensemble). She is thrilled to be working on Mary Knickle's new work Miryam and hopes the piece will grow wings of its own.

Mary Knickle (Composer), has found her passion in composing larger works. This year a rave review of her Opera, Morgan le Fay, was published in Opera Canada Magazine. She has so enjoyed working with everyone on Miryam, and thanks them for their support, wonderful energy and belief in the show.

MIRYAM

A Musical Drama
for String Quartet and Voices
By Mary Knickle



By Jeremy Osborne

January 5, 2013 - 3p.m.
Bridgewater United Church,
Bridgewater

January 6, 2013 - 3p.m.
St John's Anglican Church,
Lunenburg

Miryam

by Mary Knickle



Miryam:	Sarah Myatt
Yoseph:	Adam Kristenson
Rachel:	Nina Scott-Stoddart
Abrim:	Bob Quinn
Esther:	Eva Ernst
Angels:	Jane and Madelyn Chiasson, Tessa Ferguson Holly and Laurel Genge, Alexandria Hillier, Emerald Lake
1st Violin	Kirsty Money
2nd Violin	Heather Kristenson
Viola	Ruth Burton
Cello	Ariel Blanchard

All music, words and songs are by Mary Knickle except for “I Sing of A Maiden”. The music is by Mary Knickle, the text is a medieval poem.

Order of Musical Songs:

I Sing of a Maiden - one of the oldest medieval poems found regarding Mary.

A Mother’s Mind - Miryam and Yoseph journey into Bethlehem. It is hot in the desert as Miryam rides on a donkey, full term in pregnancy. The donkey stumbles. She sings of the journey and to her baby in the womb.

The Inn - Yoseph and Miryam arrive at the Inn. The Innkeeper tells them the Inn is full. His wife, Rachel, overhears. He insists no one is at the door. They struggle and the door opens. Rachel sees Miryam is pregnant and argues with him. The Inn Keepers Wife gives Miryam and Yoseph the stable despite her husband.

Mismor L’todah - 2000 years ago in the Sephardic Jewish culture Miryam and Yoseph very likely may have said this prayer of thanks after their long journey.

So Strong so Soon - Miryam feels strong birth pangs. Yoseph runs and gets the midwives repeating the only thing he can think of. The strings echo his franticness.

The Birth - two midwives, the innkeepers wife Rachel and her daughter Esther, come help Mary with the Birth. As Miryam cries out they laugh and say how easy this birth is compared to others. Outside Yoseph is chanting psalm 121 in Hebrew, a psalm commonly sung during and after birth in the Jewish culture.

Miryam’s Song - Miryam feels the protective bond of a mother and wonders about God’s plans. She questions him, challenges him, reminding him that Yeshua is her son too. Exhausted, she falls asleep.

Gently as a Whisper - God’s response to Miryam’s song and exhaustion. He sends special angels, little children to Miryam. In this round they tell Yeshua to let his mother sleep and then kiss and caress Miryam as she is sleeping, lay their heads upon hers and tell her that she is so loved. Miryam awakens refreshed and feeling the joy of motherhood.

Finale - A Mother’s Love - a song of the greatest of all Mother’s love.

Sarah Myatt (Miryam) a lyric mezzo soprano from Bedford, completed her BM from Dalhousie, and her MMus and artist diploma from McGill. She has worked with Atelier Lyrique de l’Opera de Montreal, Opera de Montreal, Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montreal, les Violons du Roy, Tempest Baroque Ensemble, St. Cecilia Concert Series, Theatre of Early Music, Orchestre Baroque Arion, Lameque International Baroque Festival, University of King’s College Chapel Choir, Symphony Nova Scotia, Orchestre Symphonique de Trois Rivieres, and Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra. She recently recorded the chant of Hildegard von Bingen as part of a documentary on Hildegard to be aired on Vision TV. Sarah appeared on CBC Television (with Tempest Baroque Orchestra) and Bravo Canada Television (“Death at the Opera”). She recorded for ATMA Classique for a disc entitled “Roma Triumphans” with Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montreal. Sarah resides in Waverley, NS.

Adam Kristenson (Yoseph) has been singing since an early age. He sang in various ensembles through high school and University, as well as community choirs in Edmonton and Camrose, AB. Adam moved to the south shore in 2008.

Rob O’Quinn (Abrim), a baritone/bass originally from Corner Brook, Newfoundland, has sung in high school and university in musicals such as Evita, Midsummer Nights and Godspell, and operas such as Riders to the Sea and Balthazar in Amahl and the Night Visitors (December 2002). He sang in the Acadia University Vocal Ensemble and the Acadia Singing Theatre Company. Most recently, he sang in the MCO chorus for the The Magic Flute. Rob is a senior software engineer at HB Studios in Lunenburg.

Nina Scott-Stoddart (Rachel) has directed opera for the past ten years for organizations including the Halifax Summer Opera Workshop, Opera Anonymous, and the Dalhousie Opera Workshop. Last year she directed the musical, RENT, in Halifax, which was named one of the top 5 theatrical shows of 2011 by The Coast Magazine. This year she looks forward to directing Dido and Aeneas in England and A Little Night Music for HSOW.

Eva Ernst (Esther) is the sixth of ten children in the Ernst Family, a well-known a cappella singing group from First Peninsula which has sung throughout the Maritimes, Ontario, and New England. She is currently studying voice with former Acadia University professor Jim Sugg.



Jane Chiasson (Angels) has appeared in the South Shore Players production of Annie. She also plays piano and sings in the local music festival and local choirs.

Madelyn Chiasson (Angel) appeared in the South Shore Players production of Annie and last year as Ryana in Mary Knickle’s opera Morgan le Fay. She also sings and plays piano in the local music festival and in community choirs.

Tessa Ferguson (Angel) enjoys singing with her cousins and in family ensembles. She enjoys piano, violin, composition and is excited to sing in her mother’s show.