

Winter, 2016

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## Counterpoint welcomes these composers



**Donald Steven** is one of only three composers who have won both a Juno Award for Best Classical Composition and a Jules Leger Prize for New Chamber Music. *Pages of Solitary Delights*, commissioned by Maureen Forrester, won a Juno in 1987 for Best Classical Composition--it tied with Malcolm Forsyth's *Atayoskewin*, which we have also published. *In the Land of Pure Delights* is a chamber work which won the 1991 Jules Leger Prize for New Chamber Works. In addition, we also have taken on several chamber and choral works by Donald Steven.



**Richard Cohen** spent most of his career as part of the Toronto Symphony Horn Section. This connection gave him opportunities to use his composition talents and he wrote a number of pieces in popular style for his colleagues and well-known conductors such as Erich Kunzel. For Maestro Kunzel's 70th birthday Richard wrote his *Celebration*. This work as well as two others, *Canzonetta* for string orchestra and *Jurassic March*, also for orchestra, are now in our catalogue.



**Serouj Kradjian** is an Armenian Canadian composer who loves performing chamber music. He was commissioned to create a work to commemorate the 1915 Armenian Genocide. The work is called *Cantata for Living Martyrs* and was premiered by the Fresno Philharmonic in California in March 2015 with a full chorus and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian. This is the first of a number of works, including chamber works, to be published.

## A Tale of Two Cities Victor Davies & Eugene Benson



James McLean as Sidney Carton and Sean Catheroy as Dr. Manette

*A Tale of Two Cities* is the latest collaboration between composer Victor Davies and librettist Eugene Benson. They have created a two-act opera based on Charles Dickens' famous novel. It is a saga of love and passion, hatred and revenge, cruelty and self-sacrifice played out against the turbulent background of the French Revolution, which tells the story of a man who dies on the guillotine to save his rival in love. (all the stuff of grand opera) "It is a far far better thing that I do, than I have ever done. It is a far far better rest that I go to than I have ever known".

The opera contains a number of memorable parts for singers including the roles of Sydney Carton, Lucie Manette, and Charles Darnay. Equally compelling are the roles of Madame Defarge, the powerful and revengeful representative of the peasantry, and the Marquis St Evremonde, a cruel aristocrat, whose lives are fated to cross with tragic and brutal consequences. In its portrayal of the power of love, the nobility of self-sacrifice, and the nature of terror, A TALE OF TWO CITIES has special relevance for our own times. It has very strong audience appeal through its powerful story, dramatic melodies, interesting locales, and epic sweep that embraces two great cities, Paris and London. The music reflects these memorable parts.

A workshop/concert version of the opera was presented by Summer Opera Lyric Theatre (SOLT) in the summer of 2016 at the Robert Gill Theatre, University of Toronto, under the direction of Artistic Director Guillermo Silva Marin and Musical Director - pianist Michael Rose. It was a semi-staged production with piano accompaniment but this presentation gave a fair representation of how the full operatic work could look and sound.

Contact us for information and to present the world premiere of the full opera. A DVD of the workshop is available.

Visit our audio page to listen to samples of these and other pieces highlighted <http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights-audio/>

## YOUNG COMPOSERS' SERIES

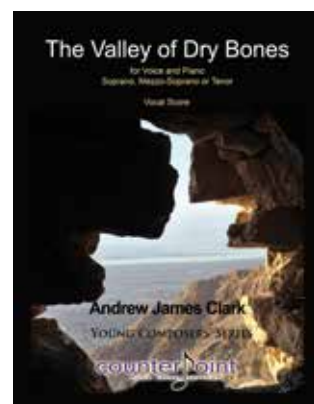
Counterpoint is pleased to announce the launch of our **Young Composers' Series** of publications. We want to introduce you to some of the many talented young composers whose work deserves notice and publication. The first composer in this series is **Jacob Plachta**, whom we have represented for the last few years: *Sonata for Trombone* for solo trombone and brass band or piano; *Mountainscapes* for trombone and piano and *Celebration*, originally for brass band and now his newly arranged version of this piece for wind ensemble (concert band), which we have just released for sale.

The second composer in this series we would like to introduce, is **Andrew James Clark**. Andrew is a Masters Student in composition at the University of Toronto and a 2016 winner of the Gabriella Dory Prize in Music and the William Erving Fairclough Scholarship for graduating with the highest standing in U of T's Undergraduate Composition Program.

The first work of Andrew's to be published will be *The Valley of Dry Bones*. It is a personal reflection on the mass suicide during the siege of Masada (73-74 CE) where a group of 1000 Jewish rebels as a whole, agreed to a mass suicide after a three-year siege. It uses one of only two Biblical texts archeologists found left from the siege, the text from Ezekiel of the vision of the valley of dry bones. This dramatic piece is for voice (soprano/mezzo/tenor) and piano. At the world premiere, many people remarked on how much they loved it.



Andrew James Clark





# Vancouver Symphony And Glenn Buhr's Button Factory Band Collaborate On A New Symphony



Button Factory Band

Glenn Buhr's songs, created for his latest band and their performances, are an eclectic and imaginative mix of vintage blues/roots music, lyrical songs, and sound art. The Button Factory Band is a 4-piece roots/art-rock band, made up of some of the finest creative musicians in southwestern Ontario. The band is the vehicle for Buhr's recent music: a collection of original songs full of vivid imagery and inventive sound painting.

Buhr's latest creation is a collaboration with this band, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and conductor Bramwell Tovey. Buhr and Tovey worked together for many years in Winnipeg and founded the Winnipeg New Music Festival, which continues to the present. Tovey started another New Music Festival at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. They decided to work together once more and a new symphony was commissioned for the 2017 Festival. It is called *Guernica (2017)*, and he describes his new work as a musical rant against the way children are victimized by our wars. The premiere date is Friday January 27, 2017, at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver.

## New Publications

Please visit our Online Store to order these: <http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/store/>

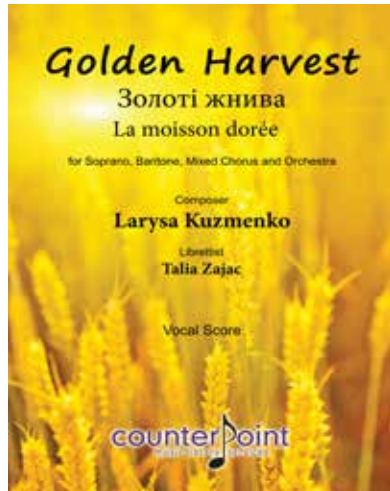
### Larysa Kuzmenko - Talia Zajac



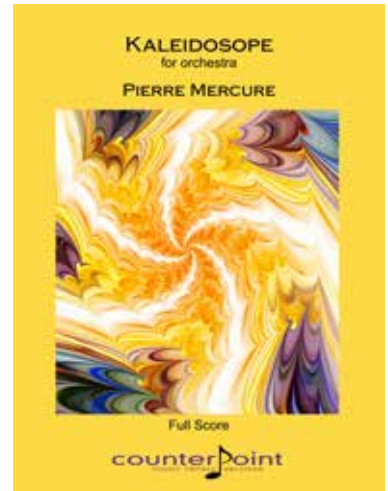
Talia Zajac, librettist, and Larysa Kuzmenko, composer, are the creators of *Golden Harvest*, a new work for chorus and orchestra commemorating the 125th anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Hear a sound clip on the purchase page of our online store at:

<http://cpmusiclibrary.ca/store/products/golden-harvest-kuzmenko-vocal-score/> A full score may also be purchased upon request. There will be a number of performances of this work in 2017, in Canada, including Saskatoon Symphony, March 25, Orpheus Choir of Toronto, May 14, and McGill Chamber Orchestra, Montreal, June 6.

It was premiered by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra along with a massed choir, March 17, 18, 2016.



### Pierre Mercure

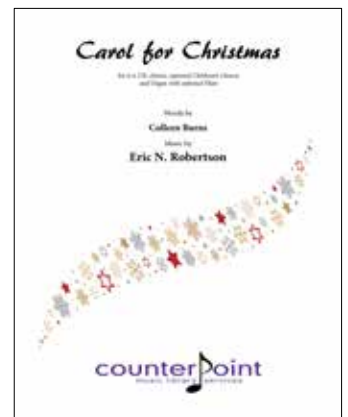


*Kaleidoscope* by Pierre Mercure, is his most performed work. 2017 marks the Centenary of his birth and 2016 was the 50th anniversary of his death. We have begun the creation of a Commemorative Series and this piece is the first in that series. It has been newly engraved with corrections from the previous version. The parts are on rental.

### Eric Robertson

Two of Eric Robertson's most popular choral works are *Carol for Christmas* and *Crossing Over*. We have just released newly re-engraved scores of both of these. *Carol for Christmas* is scored for S.A.T.B. chorus, optional children's chorus, organ and optional flute. Both the chorus and the flute part are available for sale. The organ is in the chorus score.

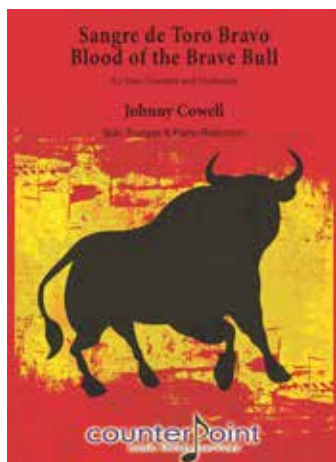
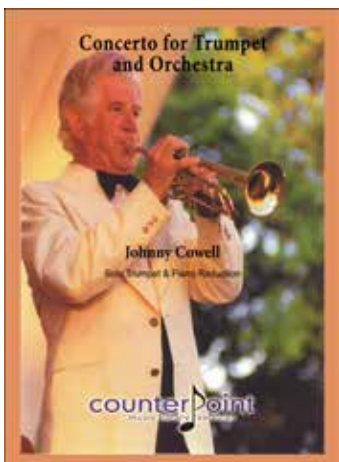
*Crossing Over* is about passing from this life and crossing over into the next life. It is scored for S.A.T.B. chorus, optional children's chorus, organ and solo trumpet. Both the chorus and the trumpet can be purchased. The organ is in the chorus score. It is suitable for Remembrance Day.



### Johnny Cowell

*Concerto for Trumpet & Orchestra* - Solo trumpet & newly-created piano reduction.

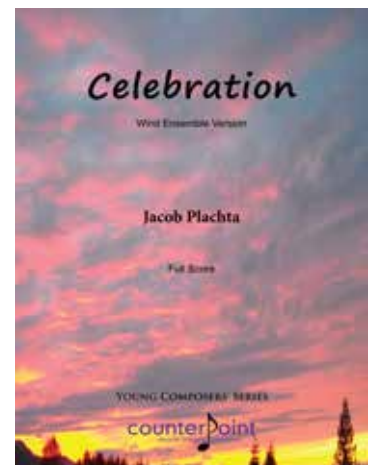
*Sangre de Toro Bravo - Blood of the Brave Bull* for Trumpet & Orchestra - newly engraved solo trumpet & piano reduction.



### Jacob Plachta

Jacob is the first member of our new Young Composers' Series. We have just published a wind ensemble version of his excellent *Celebration*, a 9' work now available in a wind ensemble version (it was originally for brass band and we also sell that). 3.picc.1.3.bcl.2.asax.tsax. barsax.1./4.3.2.btmb.tba.euph./ timp. 2.perc. contrabass.

There are cues for the oboe, bassoon and contrabass if players are not available.



## Counterpoint Highlights available in PDF

Download the PDF version of this newsletter from our website, as well as the link to sound clips, on this page:

[www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights](http://www.cpmusiclibrary.ca/highlights)