**“140 Voices Unplugged”**

Two choirs. Two seasoned Artistic Directors. Two significant anniversaries. One powerful concert, in two locations!

On April 30 (Kitchener) and May 1 (Toronto), Menno Singers and Pax Christi Chorale join forces to sing a concert of a cappella masterworks. Prepare yourself for a lush choral experience, featuring stunning double choir repertoire by Schütz, Rheinberger, Brahms, Mendelssohn, and the newer sounds of Murray Schafer, Stephanie Martin, Healey Willan and Randall Thompson.

The two choirs have a long history of collaboration and have held several joint concerts over the years. Both have roots in the Mennonite community. Each is committed to chorale excellence and have impressed audiences with their rich warm sounds, engaging imaginative programming and performances full of passion, conviction and heart.

Pax Christi Chorale is based in Toronto. This concert anticipates their upcoming 30th anniversary season. The choir began in 1987, inspired by the success of a choir assembled for the Toronto celebration of the 1986 Bicentennial of Mennonites in Canada. Several of the original 35 singers are still in the choir today. As a choir they have become a Toronto favourite. Award-winning conductor and composer Stephanie Martin is their accomplished artistic director.

Menno Singers is based in Kitchener-Waterloo. This concert concludes their successful 60th anniversary season. The choir was founded by Abner Martin in 1955 around a core of Rockway Mennonite High School students and graduates. Abner conducted a piece and reflected on this early history at the Menno Singers anniversary concert this past fall, 60 years after he directed the inaugural concert! Abner happens to be father to Stephanie, adding to the connections between the two choirs. Menno Singers is directed by sought after organ recitalist, clinician and conductor Peter Nikiforuk, director of music at St Peter’s Lutheran Church in Kitchener.

Put these two choirs together, and you have powerful choral magic – 140 voices unplugged!

Concerts are:

Saturday, April 30, 7:30 p.m. at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, 49 Queen St. N., Kitchener. Contact [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com) for tickets.

Sunday, May 1, 3:00 p.m. at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd, Toronto. Contact [www.paxchristichorale.org](http://www.paxchristichorale.org) for tickets.