

Survey and Analysis of Compositional Trends in Québécois Choral Music of the 20th Century
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Overview of compositional influences and trends from 1950-2000

Conservative Styles

- Neo-Romanticism
 - text painting
 - based around tonal center
 - lush chords, extended tertian harmonies
 - chromatic progressions and key relations
 - traditional forms
 - Composers: Dela, Laurin, Tanguay
- Motivic writing
 - starting from small melodic or rhythmic ideas that are developed into the larger structure
 - often contrapuntal
 - graceful voice leading, melodic clarity and “singability”
 - Composers: Gagnon, Hétu
- Historicism
 - employing material, structures, styles and techniques of previous eras
 - homophony
 - modality
 - quartal harmony
 - forms/styles: hocket, motet, plainchant, etc.
 - Composers: Arseneault, Evangelista, Gagné, Joachim, Papineau-Couture, Tremblay

European Centres of Influence

- Paris
 - Olivier Messiaen
 - modes of limited transposition
 - bird song
 - freedom of time and form
 - Claude Ballif
 - metatonicity: mix of serialism and tonality
 - Arthur Honegger
 - mix of Bachian counterpoint, coloristic harmonies of the romantic period, and impressionistic sonorities
 - Composers: Bouliane, Hébert-Tremblay, Hétu, Pépin, Prévost
- Darmstadt
 - Prominent teachers: Karlheinz Stockhausen, Pierre Boulez, Luigi Nono
 - Biggest influence on Québécois composers was Stockhausen
 - spatialization of sound
 - extended vocal techniques
 - graphic notation
 - “formule”: melodic device
 - indeterminacy
 - Composers: Garant, Tremblay, Vivier

Serialism

- pitch class sets
- interval classes
- fixed registers
- use of 12 tones, but not in strict manner
- very specific dynamic, expression and tempo markings
- Composers: Joachim, Tremblay, Villeneuve

Avant-Garde & Experimental Techniques

- Indeterminacy
 - Dion, Tremblay
- Extended vocal techniques
 - Arcuri, Desjardins, Gougeon, Pelletier, Vivier
- Treatment of text
 - fragmentation
 - removing semantic meaning
 - Bouliane, Dion, Gougeon, Papineau-Couture
- Graphic and unconventional notation
- Use of performance space

List of selected repertoire composed between 1950 - 2000, categorized by difficulty level

Accessible

Raynald Arseneault (1945-1995)

1988 - *Chant de joie* - mixed choir and organ

Maurice Blackburn (1914-1988)

? - *Notre père* - motet for SATB and organ, 4 min.

Maurice Dela (1919-1978)

1978 - *C'est dans les chansons* - solo voice, mixed choir, strings, 3 min.

1967 - *Le vaisseau d'or* - mixed choir a cappella, 4 min., text: Émile Nelligan

Marc Gagné (b.1939)

1980 - *Messe brève "du peuple de Dieu"* - mixed choir a cappella

1993 - *Messe "des enfants de Dieu"* - mixed or male choir, soloists and organ

Denis Gougeon (b.1951)

2004 - *Chanson des gitans* - mixed choir and piano, 2 min.

Otto Joachim (1910-2010)

2001 - *Dies Irae* - organ and male choir ad libitum, 6 min.

Robert Frederick Jones (1947-2012)

1990 - *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A, op.46* - choir and piano, 10 min.

Anne Lauber (b.1943)

1996 - *Cantate III* - cantata for choir and orchestra, 1:15

Alain Payette (b.1953)

1990 - *Douces mémoires* - choir and piano, 38 min.

Marie Pelletier (b.1961)

1999 - *1 minute / Han No.20* - 8 singers or instrumentalists, 1 min.

Petros Shoujounian (b.1957)

1985 - *Spirit divine attend our prayers* - choir and piano

Georges-Émile Tanguay (1893-1964)

? - *Cor Jesu, Ave Maria* - motets for choir and organ

Intermediate

Violet Archer (1913-2000)

1964 - *Landscapes* - mixed choir a cappella

? - *Three French Canadian Folk Songs* - mixed choir a cappella

Lionel Daunais (1901-1982)

1975 - *Figures de danse* - song cycle for mixed choir a cappella

José Evangelista (b.1943)

1995 - *Veles e vents* - mixed choir a cappella, 5 min.

Alain Gagnon (1938-2017)

1994 - *Chansons d'Orient, op.38* - mixed choir a cappella, 16 min.

1998 - *Quatre églogues, op.42* - mixed choir a cappella, 8.5 min.

2000 - *Le Rameau de soie, op.45* - mixed choir and cello

Denis Gougeon (b.1951)

2002 - *Arte!* - mixed choir and orchestra, 14 min.

Bengt Hambræus (1928-2000)

1966 - *Praeludium, Kyrie, Sanctus* - two organs, two choirs, solo voice, church bells

Suzanne Hébert-Tremblay (b.1961)

2000 - *Il fait blanc (Romance blanche)* - mixed choir a cappella, 3 min.

Robert Frederick Jones (1947-2012)

1981 - *Le Retour du soldat, op.29* - mixed choir a cappella, 8 min.

Rachel Laurin (b.1961)

1989 - *3 motets en l'honneur de la Sainte Famille, op.14* - mixed choir a cappella

1988 - *Messe de Louange, op.15* - mixed choir, soloists, organ and congregation

Jean Papineau-Couture (1916-2000)

1960 - *Te, Mater* - 3 equal voices and obligato organ

Donald Patriquin (b. 1938)

1968 - *A Lover and His Lass* - SSAATTBB a cappella

2000 - *Reflections on Walden Pond* - choir and chamber ensemble (piano, violin, and cello)

Clermont Pépin (1926-2006)

1991 - *Tè Deum* - mixed choir and chamber orchestra

John Rea (b. 1944)

2000 - *Music according to Aquinas* - choir (12 voices), two clarinets and cello, 9 min.

Christopher Scott Tresham (b. 1974)

1993 - *Motet: A stranger here* - mixed choir a cappella

Advanced

Serge Arcuri (b. 1954)

1976 - *Phónos* - mixed choir a cappella, 5 min.

Jacques Desjardins (b.1962)

1985 - *La lune aux lucioles* - mixed choir a cappella

1987 - *Poème immobile* - mixed choir a cappella, 6 min.

Denis Dion (b.1957)

1993 - *à propos de Saint-Denys Garneau* - mixed choir a cappella

José Evangelista (b.1943)

1986 - *Cantus sacri* - mixed choir a cappella, 11 min.

Jacques Héту (1938-2010)

1988 - *Les illusions fanées, op.46* - mixed choir a cappella

2001 - *Passage* - mixed choir a cappella

Otto Joachim (1910-2010)

1960 - *Psalm* - mixed choir a cappella, 8 min., text: German

Jean Lesage (b. 1958)

1987 - *Trois apparitions au désert* - choir and orchestra

Jean Papineau-Couture (1916-2000)

1966 - *Viole d'amour* - mixed voices a cappella, 7 min.

John Rea (b. 1944)

1984 - *Litaneia* - choir and orchestra

Gilles Tremblay (1932-2017)

1997 - *L'espace du coeur (Miron-Machaut)* - mixed choir (12 or 24 voices) and percussion, 8 min.

Claude Vivier (1948-1983)

1973 - *O! Kosmos* - soprano and mixed choir, 7 min.

1977 - *Jesus erbarme dich* - soprano and mixed choir, 3 min.

Very Advanced

Denys Bouliane

1997 - *Dessiner l'écoulement du temps* - SATTTBB a cappella, 9 min.

Denis Gougeon (b.1951)

1979 - *Berceuse* - 16 voices a cappella, 4 min.

alcides lanza (b. 1929)

1989 - *un mundo imaginario* - choir and electronics

Bruce Mather (b. 1939)

1965 - *La lune mince* - mixed choir a cappella, 8 min.

Marie Pelletier (b.1961)

1992 - *Han No.6* - mixed choir a cappella, 7 min.

André Villeneuve (b.1956)

1995-1996 (revision 1997) - *Dix-sept tracés solitaires d'humanité* - mixed choir a cappella

Claude Vivier (1948-1983)

1981 - *A little joke* - mixed choir a cappella

List of Québécois composers with choral compositions after 2000

Vania Angelova	Louis Desjarlais	James O'Callaghan
Louis Babin	Patrick Giguère	Marc O'Reilly
Alan Belkin	William Kraushaar	Alexis Raynault
Éric Champagne	Dominique Lafortune	Marie-Claire Saindon
Allan Crossman	François-Hugues Leclair	Ana Sokolovic
Alexandre David	Sylvaine Martin-Kostajsek	
David Désilets	Michael Oesterle	

Online Resources for Québécois Choral Repertoire

<http://www.composers21.com/country/canada.htm>

<https://cmccanada.org/>

<https://productionsdoz.com/catalogue/partitions-pour-ensembles/ch-ur/all>

Timeline of important events 1950-2000

Date	Composers	Organizations/Ensembles	Other Events
1949		Jeunesses Musicales established	
1950	Clermont Pépin goes to Paris to study with Messiaen and Honegger		
1951		Canadian League of Composers formed	
1953		CAMMAC founded by Georges and Carl Little	
1954		Festival Singers of Canada (professional choir founded by Elmer Iseler)	first concert of new music in Montreal organized by Morel, Tremblay and Garant, with their works and those by Messiaen, Webern and Boulez
1955			BMus program established at McGill under new dean Marvin Duchow
1956	Otto Joachim establishes his own electronic music studio at his home in Montreal	Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal founded by Léandre Brault	
1957	Tremblay attends Darmstadt summer courses		
1958	Stockhausen visits Montreal for first time		

Date	Composers	Organizations/Ensembles	Other Events
1959		Canadian Music Centre (CMC) established	
1960			International Conference of Composers in Stratford, ON
1961	Jacques Hétu goes to Paris to study with Dutilleux and Messiaen		Tremblay presents first concert of electroacoustic music at Orford, Société des Festivals de Montréal organizes Semaine Internationale de musique actuelle under leadership of Pierre Mercure
1964			McGill Electronic Music Studio (EMS) established, Alcides Lanza director
1965	death of Claude Champagne, Pierre Mercure attends Darmstadt summer courses		
1966		Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec (SMCQ) created	
1967			Canada Centennial Celebrations
1968			Master's program in composition established at McGill
1969			electronic music studio established at Université de Laval by Nil Parent
1972	Claude Vivier studies with Stockhausen	Choeur St-Laurent founded by Iwan Edwards	electronic music studio built at Concordia University
1973	Raynald Arseneault wins Prix d'Europe		
1974		Atelier de musique contemporaine	
1975		Alliance des chorales du Québec founded	
1978		Événements du neuf founded by José Evangelista, John Rea, Lorraine Vaillancourt and Claude Vivier, Elmer Iseler Singers founded	
1980	Denys Bouliane attends Darmstadt summer course		
1982		First McGill Contemporary Music Festival (82-89)	
1983	death of Claude Vivier	Group of the Electronic Music Studio (GEMS) founded at McGill by students for performance of electronic music	Conservatoire de Montréal celebrates its 40th anniversary, and Gilles Tremblay's 50th
1984			Société internationale pour la musique contemporaine (SIMC) holds its Journées mondiales de la musique in Canada for the first time (Toronto and Montreal)

Date	Composers	Organizations/Ensembles	Other Events
1985	death of Micheline Coulobme Saint-Marcoux	Orchestre Métropolitain has concert series dedicated to new music (85-86)	Université de Montréal holds concert in honour of André Prévost's 50th birthday
1986	death of Serge Garant	Musiques itinérantes founded by Michelle Boudreau	Association pour la Recherche en Musique du Québec (ARMuQ) honours Jean Papineau-Couture
1988		Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (NEM)	McGill organizes the Festival de musique contemporaine to celebrate composers emeritus Alcides Ianza and Bengt Hambraeus
1989		OSM begins composer in residence program (Denis Gougeon), UMMUS of Université de Montréal	Journal <i>Circuit, musiques contemporaines</i> founded by Lorraine Vaillancourt and Jean-Jacques Nattiez
1997		Grand Choeur de Montréal founded	
1998		VivaVoce choir founded by Peter Schubert	

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