

What's In Your Digital Toolkit? A Composer's Roundtable Discussion
Rocky Mountain Choral Leaders Conference
October 25th, 2026

D. Geoffrey Bell – Moderator

Join composer D. Geoffrey Bell for a roundtable discussion exploring the software, platforms, and apps composers use in their creative work. Drawing on the collective knowledge and experience of the group, participants will compare the strengths and limitations of different digital tools, share tips for making the most of them, and discover new possibilities for their own composing practice.

1. Brief introductions around the table
2. Invitation to join CSI (Composers Sharing Information) email support group
Email Geoff: dgeoffreybell@gmail.com to join
3. Quick survey:
 - which software/platforms you are using this year
 - i. notation software – Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, MuseScore, NotePerformer, etc.
 - ii. digitized/AI singers/choirs software – Cantāmus, Cantai, Synthesizer V with Dreamtonics voices, ACE Studio, etc.
 - which software/platforms you would like to learn more about
4. Explore software/platform topics
 - strengths and limitations of different tools
 - share tips
 - what's missing?
5. Current issues and concerns as a composer
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - connecting with performers
 - publishing
6. Other topics and ideas
 - Thoughts for next year's Choral Leaders Conference?

Software support resources:

- Cantai Singing Synth. Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/cantaisingingsynth>
- Dorico Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorico>
- Learning Dorico for Finale Refugees Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/learningdoricofinale>
- Finale - Official Finale User Manual
<https://usermanuals.finalemusic.com/FinaleMac/Content/Contents.htm>
- Finale 101 Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1889032998012042>
- GarageBand Community Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/183633535690476>
- GarageBand Users Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/943312499051292>
- GarageBand Users & Learners International Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/garagebandusersinternational>

Organizations for composers:

- Canadian League of Composers <https://www.composition.org/>
- Canadian Music Centre <https://cmccanada.org/>
- Choral Canada <https://www.choralcanada.org/en>
- Provincial Choral Music associations like Choir Alberta, Ontario Choral Federation, etc.
- Screen Composers Guild of Canada <https://screencomposers.ca/>
- SOCAN <https://www.socan.com/>

Competition announcements and lists:

- Canadian Music Centre email list
- Canadian Music Centre website (check News & Events tab)
- Composer Competitions Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1637246779849751>
- Composition Competitions Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2865547287099010>
- Geoff Bell & Laura Hawley's list
- SOCAN website (check News tab)

Other resources for composers:

- Alberta Choral Conductors and Leaders Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/425223685103088>
- Canadian Contemporary Composer Community Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1654074511563829>
- Composers of Choral Music Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChoralComposers>
- Music Engraving Tips Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/musicengravingtips>
- MUSICA International Choral Music database <https://www.musicanet.org/en/>
(Members of Choral Canada and many provincial organizations get FREE access!)
- Project: Encore <https://projectencore.org/public/home.php>
- Facebook groups:
 - Canadian Choral Community
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canadianchoralcommunityadvocatesandenthusiasts>
 - Canadian Choral Composers
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/270139597426955>
- Individuals and ensembles who perform new music, advocate for composers, offer tutorials and mentorship, etc.
- MyScore Composers – JW Pepper Facebook Group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/myscore>

Discussion moderator:

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