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 at dgeoffreybell@gmail.com to join

3. Quick survey:
   1. which software/platforms you are using this year
      i. Notation software – Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, MuseScore, NotePerformer, etc.

      ii. Digitized/AI choir or singer software – Cantāmus, Cantai, Synthesizer V with Dreamtonics voices, ACE Studio, etc.

      iii. Recording software/Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) – GarageBand, Logic Pro, Reaper, etc.

      iv. Self-publishing tools/platforms
         - print
         - online – J.W. Pepper, WordPress, GoDaddy, SquareSpace etc.
   2. Promoting your work online - MUSICA International Choral Music database, YouTube, your website, etc.

   3. 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 Creator.ca https://musiccreator.ca/
- 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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