

January 21, 2019

For immediate Release – Vancouver

St. Andrew's Wesley United Church

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Heritage church and arts venue St. Andrews Wesley United closing for 2 years

Vancouver's prominent Gothic Revival heritage landmark church and music venue, St Andrew's Wesley United Church, will be shrouded for two years as it undergoes a major seismic upgrade and heritage restoration. Home to three Sunday services, Jazz Vespers and venue for Chor Leoni, Vancouver Symphony, Winter Harp, Jazz Festival and preferred site of local film companies, the building is the most stunning local example of the height of Gothic Revival architecture. Known for its glorious interior, it features a vaulted timber roof, impressive French and Italian stained-glass windows and angel reliefs done by local artist Leonard Woods. "St Andrew's Wesley is a major heritage focal point in Vancouver," says Heritage Consultant, Donald Luxton. "It is the masterwork of local architects Twizell & Twizell and represents the continuing traditions of church architecture of the Romanesque and Gothic style, and the height of design and craftsmanship of the early twentieth century".

Located at the corner of Burrard and Nelson Streets, the church was designed and constructed between 1930 and 1933. It features a 14th-century-style Gothic tower, a high vaulted nave, traditional leaded glass and the more recent dalle de verre stained glass windows.

"St. Andrew's-Wesley is an invaluable asset to the performing arts community in Vancouver and is Chor Leoni's preferred performance space in the downtown core. The venue's good acoustics, soaring space, and perfect mid-size capacity, coupled with central location, transit access, and great staff make it a wonderful space for audiences and performers alike." Says Bruce Hoffman Mgr of Marketing, Publicity & Patron Relations

But the project was a huge risk for the congregation. “No church has the money to truly preserve a building of this size and complexity” says Rev. Dan Chambers. “But when we tried to imagine the City losing another worship space and performance space, we felt we had to make this happen.” The project involves a copper roof along with a seismic upgrade, and new roof, flooring, electrical system, sound and lighting, pews and a restored organ. The church will be missed by the congregation whose services will be relocated to three different venues, and by the arts community who will not have access during the relocation time.

The last services in the church for approximately two years will be held on February 3rd, 2019 at 10:30am, 4:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. The public is invited to see the building and attend one of the three Sunday services by February 3rd, 2019. Restoration begins February 4th 2019 and the building will reopen in Fall of 2020. Church services will be held on Sundays at 10:30 am at the Century Plaza Hotel, 4:00 pm Jazz Vespers at First Baptist Church and 7:15 pm Contemplative Candlelight and Music at St Paul’s Anglican for the duration of the restoration.

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For media inquires please contact Executive Director of Operations

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