

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Don James, CM**

#### **CLINICIAN FOR CHORFEST 2009**

Don James, Founder and Artistic Director of the Powell River Academy of Music, the International Choral Kathaumixw Festival and the Symphony Orchestra Academy of the Pacific, is one of Canada's leading musical visionaries. After graduating in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Washington, Mr. James settled on Canada's west coast in Powell River, British Columbia where he began a career as a conductor, music educator and initiator of important musical projects in Canada and abroad.

Under his direction, Academy Choirs have been heard in concert and on radio and television broadcasts in the Americas, Asia and Europe and have received prizes and recognition from the Canadian and European Broadcasting Corporations. Mr. James has commissioned new works for choir, soloists and orchestra, including staged works based on First Nations legends.

Mr. James has served as a juror for the Juno Awards, CBC National Choir Competition, Miedzzydroje Festival of Song, Poland, the National Choral Competition of Sweden and the Choir World Games in Korea and China. He is a member of the International Choir Olympic Council and has served as president of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors, the British Columbia Association of Community Music Schools, and, for a decade, was Canada's representative on the Board of Directors of the International Federation for Choral Music.

Mr. James is the recipient of the Willan Award and Canada's highest honor, the Order of Canada, in recognition of his distinguished service to music.