



BCCF Newsletter

# *Lifelong Singers*

Brevis Edition

## **Dear Readers,**

As I write this letter, snow is falling vigorously outside my window—the joys of living near Kamloops. BUT, my heart is warm with the thought of another week spent in rehearsals and performances with my fellow choristers. More than friendship which is, in itself, a wonderful reason to meet together, there is the challenge of making beautiful music, listening to the melodic tones of fellow choir members, and blending our voices in preparation for upcoming events. We are SO fortunate to live in a province rich in choral music.

In this edition of the **BCCF Lifelong Singers** newsletter, you will see a listing of upcoming concerts in celebration of Christmas and winter. As well, two choirs are being featured—the **Penticton Tune-Agers Choir and Orchestra** who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (page 4) and the **Richmond Singers Ensemble** who are celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> year together (page 5). Please sit back with a hot cup of tea or coffee and enjoy reading about these lifelong singers.

As we look forward to the season ahead, take a moment to reflect on how singing has impacted your life. And have a marvelous Christmas with family, friends, and fellow choristers.

## **Janette Walker**

BCCF President

Program Chair, BCCF Lifelong Singers



## **TO CONTACT**

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# Upcoming Events - Winter Concerts

## **BERWICK CHOIR, COMOX**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019–2 pm**

The Berwick Choir, directed by **Wendy Nixon Stothert**, will be performing **Let's Go to the Movies!** at 1700 Comox Avenue, Comox. Free admission. Also featuring the **Berwick Ukulele Group**.

## **BROCK HOUSE/KERRISDALE CHOIR, VANCOUVER**

**Sunday, January 26, 2020–3 pm**

The Brock House/Kerrisdale Choir concert, directed by **Elsie Stephen**, will be performing at Knox United Church, 5600 Balaclava Street, Vancouver. Check online ([brockhousesociety.com](http://brockhousesociety.com)) for more details closer to the date.

## **CRAIG BAY CHORISTERS, PARKSVILLE**

**Friday, December 6, 2019–7 pm**

The Craig Bay Choristers, directed by **Lonnie Moddle** and accompanied by Ron Klusmeier, will be performing **Sing We Now of Christmas** at Knox United Church, 345 Pym Street, Parksville. Special performing guests will be A Cappella Plus. Admission is \$15 (children 12 and under –free). Tickets are available at **Mulberry Bush Book Stores** in Parksville and Qualicum Beach, from choir members, and at the door.

## **EnCHOR, VANCOUVER**

EnChor, directed by **Morna Edmundson**, will be the "concert choir" for the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Traditional Christmas Concert** series. They have performed in this series since their founding in 2007. There are 10 performances in the Lower Mainland beginning December 10 at the **Michael J. Fox Theatre** in Burnaby and ending with two performances at the **Orpheum Theatre** in Vancouver on December 22. The concerts are conducted by the VSO's Assistant Conductor, **Andrew Crust**, and hosted by

**Christopher Gaze**. Tickets are \$45 for adults, and \$39 for seniors, students and children 12 and under. For details and to purchase tickets go to [vancouverSymphony.ca](http://vancouverSymphony.ca).

## **THE JEWELTONES, KAMLOOPS**

**Saturday, December 14, 2019–2 pm**

The Jeweltones, a 14 voice women's ensemble directed in rehearsal by **Linda Langevin**, will be performing **Songs of the Seasons: Fall and Winter** at **Kamloops United Church**, 421 St. Paul Street, Kamloops. Special performing guests will be the men's a cappella quartet–**Slow No Tempo**. Admission is by donation. As well, they will be joining several choirs in the city for this year's **Choral Rhapsody** which will be held at the **Sagebrush Theatre**, 1300 9th Avenue on Tuesday, December 17 at 7 pm. During the months of November and December, the choral ensemble will be presenting their Christmas repertoire at several seniors' residences in Kamloops.

## **KAMLOOPS HAPPY CHORISTERS**

**Tuesday, December 17, 2019–7 pm**

The Kamloops Happy Choristers, under the direction of **Tomas Bijok**, are joining several choirs in the city for this year's **Choral Rhapsody** which will be held at the **Sagebrush Theatre**, 1300 9th Avenue. Each choir will perform two or three selections and there will be a Christmas carol singalong included in the program. Admission is with a contribution to the **Kamloops Food Bank**.

Prior to this concert, the choir will also be singing at three seniors' residences. Check [www.facebook.com/KamloopsHappyChoristers](http://www.facebook.com/KamloopsHappyChoristers) for more details.

# Upcoming Events - Winter Concerts

## KENT STREET CHORISTERS, WHITE ROCK

Thursday, November 28, 2019–7:30 pm

The Kent Street Choristers, directed by **Gale Lindenthaler**, will be performing *'Tis the Season for Singing* at **White Rock Baptist Church**, 1657 140th Street, Surrey. Admission is \$15 (children 12 and under–free). Tickets are available from **Kent Street Centre** (1475 Kent St., WR, 604-541-2231) or choir members.

## PEACHLAND VARIETY SINGERS

Sunday, December 8, 2019–2 pm

The Peachland Variety Singers, directed by **Phyllis Papineau**, will be presenting **PEACE** at the **50 Plus Activity Centre** on Beach Avenue, Peachland. Admission is by donation and refreshments will be served after the concert. There will also be a quilt display.

## PENTICTON TUNE-AGERS

Saturday, December 7–2 pm and Sunday, December 8, 2019 – 2 pm

The Penticton Tune-Agers Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of **Nicholas Kelly**, will be presenting *Everywhere Christmas Tonight* at the **Penticton United Church**, 696 Main Street, Penticton. Admission is \$15 and \$5 for those 12 and under.

## RICHMOND SINGERS ENSEMBLE

Sunday, December 1, 2019–2:30 pm

The Richmond Singers Ensemble will be performing at the Richmond Singers' concert **A Festive Transition** directed by **Fabiana Katz** at **Fraserview Church**, 11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students, and children 12 and under are free. There is a special rate of \$16 for groups of 10. Tickets are available at [richmondsingers.ca](http://richmondsingers.ca).

## VANCOUVER ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR

Friday, December 6–7:30 pm; Sunday, December 8–7:30; Friday, December 13–7:30 pm; Sunday, December 15, 2019–3:30 pm

The Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir, directed by **Liana Savard**, will be performing **Nowell! A Christmas Concert** at four locations (Langley, Port Coquitlam, North Vancouver, and South Surrey). Most of the concerts have guest choirs. Please get further details from [vancouverorpheus.org](http://vancouverorpheus.org). Admission is \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, \$12 for students, and children under 12 are free.

## BCCF BOARD LIFELONG SINGERS COMMITTEE

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# In the Spotlight...

## Penticton Tune-Agers Choir and Orchestra celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary—50 Years Young

Contribution from Peggy Whitley



It was the winter of 1969-70, fifty years ago. Seniors in Penticton had started to take advantage of a new drop-in centre at the hall in **St. Saviours Anglican Church**, and local musician **Helene Scott** had been asked if she would come and sing for them once a week. She soon decided to ask her audience to participate, to bring instruments if they played, or to join her in singing, and so the Tune-Agers were born. The group quickly grew into a combined choir and orchestra which has continued to this day, offering concerts twice a year to share their love of music with others.

In the early years, the **Tune-Agers** did a lot of travelling, touring across Canada and as far away as

Hawaii and England, sharing music and also sharing the message that seniors can keep learning and enjoying life. They cut three records—**Happy Days**, **Autumn Days**, and **Sentimental Journey**—and **Great Day**, an audiocassette (remember those?), copies of which were purchased by their audiences as they travelled and performed.

Helene continued to be their leader for 30 years. She was succeeded by **Patti Craig**, who was their conductor until the spring of 2011. Both Helene and Patti shared not only their considerable musical talents with the group, but also their deep love of music. This is what still shows today when the Tune-Agers perform; they spread this enjoyment through the audience.

Since 2011, there have been a few different conductors. **Gerald Nadeau** who was also leading the **Penticton Concert Band** at the time, was conductor from September 2011 until the spring of 2013. **Gordon Dawson** took over from Gerald and continued until the end of 2016.

**Annabelle Redman** stepped in to conduct the choir in January 2017 and **Nick Kelly** became orchestra conductor in the spring of that year. Nick has been director of the whole group since September 2017, and he is looking forward, along with all of the choir and orchestra, to next

year, 2020, when the Tune-Agers will be celebrating 50 years of music-making together.



# *In the Spotlight...*

## Richmond Singers Ensemble celebrate their 30th anniversary

*Contribution from Mary Schmok*



The **Richmond Singers Ensemble** is a group (maximum 18) of women who are members of the **Richmond Singers** (55 singers). The Ensemble was started 30 years ago to answer requests from the community which could not be filled by the larger choir. That is still the case today. The Ensemble averages about 35 singouts (mostly daytime) a year at local care facilities, seniors' groups and some special events. Currently 13 of our members are also active with the Richmond Singers, the other 3 have retired from the big choir.

We are very much part of the Richmond Singers although we operate independently: we have no director, select our own repertoire and arrange our own schedule. Our "mother choir" looks after the administration including finances for music, costumes and accompanist's fee. We are not a money making group although our activities in the community help validate grant applications. We accept an honorarium if offered. Each member of the group does one of those little jobs needed in any organization: emceeing our singouts, taking care of our music, booking our singouts, etc. Our singouts usually consist of about ½ hr performance, a 10-15 minute singalong and then a couple more songs from the Ensemble. We have 3 programs; **Fall, Christmas and Spring**, featuring a variety of music: jazz, swinging golden oldies, spirituals, unusual arrangements of familiar pieces. Our songs are 2 or 3 part although we do stretch to an occasional 4 part number. Some are relatively simple and others quite challenging. During the singalong we spread out among the audience, passing out our songbooks and small rhythm instruments and singing along while one of us leads the group.

Our weekly rehearsals are cooperative and are held at a local church to which we make a small donation. We have a few members with a musical education background who guide us through tricky rhythms and crunchy harmonies. All of us feel comfortable to ask for help when we have trouble with a particular spot. We sit in a circle.

Our venues are all different and circumstances often change during our performance. Sometimes our performances do, too. We try to be flexible and meet requests from the facilities. Many venues are HOT, the space for us to stand usually is tight and the piano may or may not be in good working order. We encourage our audiences to sing or clap along if they know the song. It is gratifying to see someone become involved. This involvement can range from singing along with a huge smile to simply moving one foot in time to the music. The connection with the audience as we share the joy of music inspires all of us to continue this major volunteer commitment.

We plan to celebrate our 30 year anniversary with a Saturday afternoon concert at **Gilmore Park United Church** in Richmond on **April 4, 2020**. Please join us if you can.