

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

# MUSIC MATTERS

Arnprior Community Choir Newsletter



Issue 4 - 201215



## A Message from Lisa

ACC **SING NOEL** has been a huge source of joy for all of us. I say "all of us" because together as music director, accompanist, singer and audience member, our community anticipates this special concert to kick off the holiday season. Typically, our Thursday evening dress rehearsal (formerly Saturday morning!) is filled with nervous butterflies, much organization and sleepless nights about how we will actually fit all of our bodies on the stage. Once we gathered in the sanctuary, see the beautiful decorations and hear our initial glorious sound, a feeling of friendship, togetherness and pride is felt. I'm lucky; I get to be the person who sees each chorister's face: smiles when our songs are just right, tears when our songs are heartfelt, laughter when our audience "gets" our comedy.

During this strange 2020 year, ACC continues to cherish its membership and community by suspending rehearsals, concerts and appearances in the Ottawa Valley. While extremely difficult, it was necessary. Ian, myself, our executive and choristers created a season full of laughter, learning and connection. Different, yes, but "wonderfully" different! Thanks to everyone who donated, read the newsletters and joined the sessions. As always, I'm grateful, proud and honoured to be your music director. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, safe holiday season and I'll see you all on the Zoom screen in 2021.

*"Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.  
This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.  
Now let us all sing together of  
peace, peace, peace on earth."*

## Let Music Surround Us

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## Your Executive Extends Season's Greetings to You and Your Family



**Marianne Spaul**  
**Choir Manager**

Yes, I am from the 'Prior! After having moved away for university and then for jobs in Ottawa, I settled back at home in 1990.

Maybe it won't come as a surprise to you that I have a degree in Drama! My experience as a stage manager served me well in my 31 years at Statistics Canada where I did a lot of organizing and scheduling. These skills continue to help me support the well-oiled machine we all know and love – ACC.

I've always loved to sing and have been a long-time member of the ACC. Both my parents sang in the choir: ♪ Daddy sang bass, Mama sang tenor ♪ (Actually she sang alto). As a young singer I, too, sang alto and was told I had a lovely "chocolate" voice. (Which for those of you who know me, is perfect, as chocolate is my favourite food!) However, once I started taking voice lessons, I was told that I was a soprano! And, not just any soprano, but a first soprano! WHAT??!! I love singing harmony, so it was disappointing that I would now have to sing melody much of the time. Thank goodness for descant!

I will miss singing Christmas music with all of you, and stuffing my face with goodies. I anxiously await the day we can all get back to what we love – raising our voices in song!

Merry Christmas everyone!



**Gail Timms,**  
**Librarian aka**  
**"The Music Nag" 🎵**

I have not always been the "nag", although my hubby of over 50 years may disagree. 🙄

I am very proud to say that I have performed in every Christmas and Spring Concert since our first concert in December 1992.

Music has always been a part of my life because my Dad was a musician. He also sang with ACC for a few years.

Some people will get this. I am an Army Brat, so I have moved around a lot! I was born in Toronto but I wouldn't call that home.

I worked in Banking in B.C., transferred to a Kingston Bank, met and married a Banker and moved around some more!

The Travel Industry seemed like a natural transition. After I sold my agency, I taught the Travel Courses in Ottawa and worked for a Travel Company from home. ✂

I am a foodie and love to cook, ... and cook with wine, 🍷🍷 which has to be sampled to make sure that it is okay for the food.

I love watching cooking and decorating shows and music shows and attending live music shows and concerts. Someday we will do that again. Stay safe and Merry Christmas Music Lovers 🎄

## "Getting to Know You ..."

I was born and raised in Timmins Ontario. I am the eldest of 4 children. My family was very musical with both parents singing in community and church choirs. I took piano and theory lessons for many years and eventually moved to saxophone and clarinet. While in High School I sang in the school choir, community choir, church choir and even a "high school musical"! After graduation, I started working for Ontario Hydro/OPG. After 38 years and many moves throughout the province I had opportunities to sing with Symphony, University and Community choirs from Thunder Bay to Arnprior. My wife Kathy and I met in a choir and we have been making music together ever since! Music is still a very important part of our daily life.

The Arnprior Community Choir has been by far my best choral experience. From our exceptionally talented and inspiring choral conductor to the friendship and fellowship of our members, I always look forward to our rehearsals and concerts. I enjoy singing bass and I am never disappointed with sounds of our wonderfully blended voices.

I am looking forward to the time that we will soon be able to sing together once again and get back to normal.

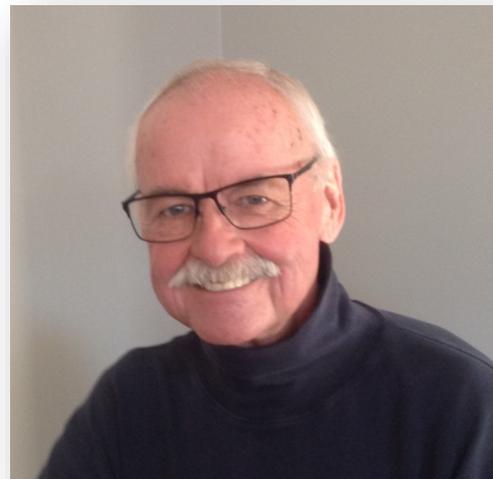
Time goes by so quickly and the older I get the faster it seems to fly by. That's why I can't believe I've been a member of this amazing choir for over 10 years! What a ride it's been. So many wonderful people, so many exciting, fun-filled concerts and events.

I'm a late bloomer. I started singing when I moved to Pakenham in 2004 and joined St. Andrew's church choir. From there it was on to the Arnprior Community Choir, Tutti, the Carleton Place OffBeats, and some time spent with Cheryl Jarvis-Woods workshop choir. Once I started singing I couldn't stop!

I have to offer my heartfelt thanks to Lisa for facilitating my musical journey. She gives me voice lessons—I'm hopeless at times but she never gives up. She gives me joy on Tuesday nights at rehearsals, she opened the door to some of my favourite women when she founded Tutti and she introduced me to musical theatre - what a rush that was! My life is full of colour and joy because of the many gifts that she happily shares with me ... and you.

I feel so privileged to be a member of this incredible organization. I can't wait until we can be shoulder to shoulder again making glorious music of all kinds. So, until then, stay healthy, happy and hopeful. I'll see you on the flip side.

## MUSIC MATTERS



**Chris Tonkin**  
*Facilities Manager*



**Rhonda Tees**  
*Treasurer*

### Lisa's Christmas Choral Memories

Christmas traditions are special and often take us back in time. We are transported to holidays past when we smell gingerbread baking; see the first snowfall; hear Santa at the mall or hang a special decoration on the tree. Our senses are powerful and for me, music evokes many wonderful holiday memories. I'd like to share with you my Christmas Choral Memories – well, a few of them anyway. **At the end of the journey, you can click on the link to listen to the songs.** Grab a hot chocolate, a shortbread cookie (or 2) and enjoy!



When I was in high school I sang in a Gold National Jazz Choir, Concert Choir and Citywide Honour Choir. We traveled to many choral competitions, participated in exchanges with other choirs and participated in numerous workshops. One November we had the privilege of being coached by Jester Hairston. Mr. Hairston was an American composer, songwriter, arranger, choral conductor, and actor. He was regarded as a leading expert on Negro spirituals and choral music. He was soft spoken, energetic, and incredibly soulful. Wow, could he groove. I have never forgotten his inspirational singing of *Children Go Where I Send Thee*, and when I hear spirituals today, I feel that powerful teaching from my high school days.



I was lucky enough to be attending The University of Ottawa for my Master's Degree when Trevor Pinnock was Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the NAC Orchestra. The University music department held many master-classes featuring NACO musicians and one semester, Maestro Pinnock led a class on Baroque style. His expertise and knowledge of baroque music is mind boggling. Hearing him speak, play the harpsichord and “bounce” to the Handel rhythm was inspiring. I hear the Hallelujah chorus and I see an image of this amazing conductor in my mind.



A cappella singing of traditional carols conjures up memories of church. I grew up at McKillop United Church in Lethbridge and when I moved to Ottawa, was alto soloist for many years at Rideau Park United Church. Under the musical direction of organist Dianne Ferguson, I sang many a cappella choral arrangements that set a perfect mood. Opening a service with *I Wonder as I Wander*; announcing the Christmas Eve pageant with *How Far is it to Bethlehem* or reflecting during offertory with *In the Bleak Midwinter* brings me back to my time in church choir.



Student recitals! As a teacher I love to introduce choral singing to young singers. A chance for them to sing with others, learn harmony and get a taste for choral music. Partner songs, rounds and descants provide a wonderful opportunity for young people to sing together. I've taught many, many children and when I listen to these pieces, I can easily see their faces, remember names and families and be reminded of their days in the studio.

**Enjoy listening to the songs that Lisa reminisced about in her Choral Inspiration.**

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLitjo41fJ-9B80ZrdMnKBmjPVIQXjcnT->

*If this link doesn't work simply copy and paste it into your browser.*

## THE 12 DAYS OF A CHURCH MUSIC DIRECTOR'S CHRISTMAS

On the **First Day of Christmas** the music director ... Panics! For me, the first day of Christmas is probably around the middle of October. This is when I realize Advent and Christmas are fast approaching. A little flicker of panic ignites when I start to think about picking music, arranging for soloists and guest musicians, as well as realizing I don't have much time to practice.

On the **Second Day of Christmas** the music director ... starts to pick music. This usually happens about a week after the initial panic. I sit down and go through my Christmas music. What do I want to play this year? Most of the time, I pick things that are waaaaay too hard, that I will never have time to learn!

On the **Third Day of Christmas** the music director ... changes his mind about the music he wants to play. Ah yes, this moment. As I'm practicing the music I had originally picked, I realize "it ain't gonna happen!" I quietly close the book and go find more accessible music. What did I play last year? Maybe they won't remember if I play it again this year!

On the **Fourth Day of Christmas** the music director ... CHOIR. What am I doing with the choir?!?!?! This usually happens after I've picked my organ music. I then search the music room for appropriate music for the choir to sing.

On the **Fifth Day of Christmas** the music director ... PANICS. This seems to be a recurring theme! After I've picked the music for the choir to sing, I then begin to panic after looking at the calendar – only 7 rehearsals left until Christmas. Oh boy.

On the **Sixth Day of Christmas** the music director ... gets a call from the priest. This usually happens about a month before Christmas. The priest wants to meet and chat about Christmas. Usually we are on the same page, but other times ... not so much.

On the **Seventh Day of Christmas** the music director ... Practices. This is usually 3 weeks away from Christmas. Most of the time, I drink too much coffee and practice for way too long without a break!

On the **Eighth Day of Christmas** the music director ... Keeps practicing. This usually happens for about 2 weeks – vigorous practicing. Usually resulting in me going slightly crazy.

On the **Ninth Day of Christmas** the music director ... starts to become realistic. This usually happens about a week before Christmas. I start to get all my music organized, as well as put the finishing touches on the choir pieces.

On the **Tenth Day of Christmas** the music director ... Stops practicing. At this point, it is what it is!

On the **Eleventh Day of Christmas** the music director the music Director ... Plays for all the services. 3 on Christmas eve, one on Christmas morning.

On the **Twelfth Day of Christmas** the music director ... Drinks copious amounts of wine!!



**Ian Guenette**  
**Accompanist, Arnprior Community Choir**

Get ready for another exciting season with the Arnprior Community Choir!

January through March 2021

We will continue with the same pattern we followed this Fall. On the first Tuesday of the month, you will receive a newsletter jam-packed with musical goodies. Zoom sessions will be held on the following Tuesdays.

*New Start Time for Zoom*

Please note that the start time of the Zoom sessions will be **7:00 p.m.** (not 7:30 p.m.). You can use the same link that you saved last fall (right?!), but the link will be provided in an email and will be available on the website.

*Contributions*

Your continued support is essential to keep things running while we wait for the all clear. Lisa and Ian are still on the payroll. As well, we will still be making a donation to the Legion to hold our spot on Tuesday nights for the foreseeable future. This means that we will incur costs of approximately \$4,300 for the spring term. We are counting on your generosity to keep us in business. The usual cost for a season is \$60, but please consider donating what you can.

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|---|--|
| 1. <b>Hound Dog</b><br><i>Elvis Presley</i>           | 2. <b>Tiny Dancer</b><br><i>Elton John</i>             |
| 3. <b>Respect</b><br><i>Aretha Franklin</i>           | 4. <b>Both Sides Now</b><br><i>Joni Mitchell</i>       |
| 5. <b>Ring of Fire</b><br><i>Johnny Cash</i>          | 6. <b>I Fall to Pieces</b><br><i>Patsy Cline</i>       |
| 7. <b>Man in the Mirror</b><br><i>Michael Jackson</i> | 8. <b>My Way</b><br><i>Frank Sinatra</i>               |
| 9. <b>Me and Bobby McGee</b><br><i>Janis Joplin</i>   | 10. <b>Haven't Met You Yet</b><br><i>Michael Bublé</i> |



**Here are the answers to  
November's Quiz.**

**How did you do?**