

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

MUSIC MATTERS

Arnprior Community Choir Newsletter



Issue 5 - 210105



Lisa wearing her new
Singer's Mask.
Made by ACC's own Yvonne
Powell and daughter Jen.

A Message from Lisa

We made it! It's 2021!

I was full of emotion putting up my new calendar and saying "so long" to a strange and difficult year.

ACC friends – there is hope ahead. I feel it. Even though I don't quite know what it will look like I know that we are moving toward a time when we can sing, be in the same room and explore music together. Won't that be amazing? We have all gotten used to doing things differently and our organization has been very creative in providing a year of social connection. I'm proud of each and every one of us.

While I'm all for New Year's resolutions (especially this year) I want to remind myself of a couple 2020 habits I plan to keep. I am going to: slow down and spend more afternoons with a good book; call my parents more often; keep buying plants and keep them alive; not wear a wrist watch; keep using Zoom, YouTube, Instagram, Roku, Facetime; continue chatting with Siri and Alexa; walk and bake equally (well, maybe a little more walk than bake!); use my gift of singing to connect with others in the community; think positively!

Now I best sign off to start my new 2021 ACC project - choosing new exciting pieces for us to sing. "Be overly prepared" is my new middle name (just ask my students).

Let Music Surround Us

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30 Years of Singing

This segment of **MUSIC MATTERS** reveals what we have in store for you this month.

Week One is always our newsletter.

After that we have lots of surprises up our sleeves.

The sky's the limit! Don't miss a minute.



MUSIC MATTERS

ACC's Monthly Newsletter



2021 Choir Games Night ... in your PJs!

Now doesn't that sound like a perfect way to ring in the New Year?

Join Lisa for laughs, jokes, smiles and a whole lot of fun.

Meet us on Zoom at 7 pm in your comfy cozies.

Lisa has some fun games to keep us entertained.

Any materials that you need to print will be emailed this week.

C'mon ACC – let's start this New Year off with some fun!

Coming this Month ...

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Ian Guenette

True or False?

Join me for a ***Choral True or False*** session. All questions will be about choir and singing. After all the questions are asked, the answers will be revealed. I will briefly explain each answer and take any questions you have. This session will be both fun and educational.

I'm looking forward to it!



January Concert: Organ Extravaganza!

Featuring Ian Guenette, organ

Join us as we discover the majesty of the pipe organ. For this mini concert, Ian will talk about the history of the organ, and its place in the world today. He will also explain the different sounds of the organ, demonstrating each one with a short piece that utilizes that specific sound.

Come discover why the pipe organ is like having an orchestra at your fingertips!



In December of 2020, St. James Anglican Church in Carleton Place completed the refurbishment of their organ.

Ian will talk about the incredible process and the terrific results.

Happy New Year fellow choristers!

You might recognize me as the gray-haired lady sitting beside the beautifully coiffed Rhonda!

My husband John and I retired to our family cottage on Mink Lake 10 years ago after spending our working careers in Renfrew and St John's NL. It is here that we now spend as much time as possible with our four beautiful grandchildren.

Growing up in Eganville, who would have known that a professionally trained and talented war bride from Sheffield UK would settle in our small valley town and begin her longstanding music teaching career. From the rhythm band in kindergarten to school choirs, double trios, duets and solos in music festivals to church choirs and piano lessons (I hated practicing !) we were tutored, trained and rehearsed in disciplined British style.

Upon leaving home to attend university, marry, raise a family and work as a nurse and later as nurse practitioner I unfortunately put my vocal chords to other uses such as engaging in shouting and yelling (positive encouragement of course) at hockey games and school sporting events. Singing only sporadically as time permitted.

About 10 years ago while searching for somewhere to rekindle my love of singing and music I turned to the ACC! My daughter had taken singing lessons from Lisa so I was well aware of Lisa's talent and enthusiasm. I must admit I was hesitant at first and my theory skills and sight reading were pretty foggy.

I can't begin to describe the joy and fulfillment that I have received since joining the choir. From the vocal training in diverse genres, to performing on many different stages, to meeting many new dear friends who I can laugh and sometimes even shed a tear with has been so rewarding. In addition, having Lisa as a choir director and mentor, always encouraging us to "sing just a little bit higher " has been so gratifying . It is an honour to be part of the ACC family.



Alison Collins, Alto

"Getting to Know You ..."

MUSIC MATTERS

Music has always been a part of my life! From piano lessons to elementary and secondary school choirs and musicals, singing in weddings and also church choirs.

We moved to Arnprior in 1990 and I joined the ACC a few years later. I left when life got busy with our two sons but returned again a few years later and I haven't looked back. Between singing in the choir and being an integral part of Two Rivers Musicals - I have always had a song in my heart.

Throughout this pandemic I have tried to keep singing. I tried something new this fall and joined Canadian Showtime Chorus for the creation of a virtual Christmas carol in four part harmony a cappella!! It was a fun way to sing and also I met a lot of really creative singers. The past months have really reminded me of how much I enjoy singing with the choir and it's wonderful members!

Looking forward to being together again soon! Until then, keep a song in your heart!



Karen Crozier, Alto



Louise Vandenberg, Soprano

My Mom, Louise Vandenberg, LOVES music!!! Louise was born in The Netherlands and lived in the northern part of Holland, called Groningen. Her father was a teacher and had a great love of classical music. He would often tell his kids to "just listen to this part, it's so beautiful" when he was listening to music on the radio.

Louise became a teacher in The Netherlands as well and taught for a few years until she re met the son of an old family friend, married him and emigrated to Edmonton, Alberta.

The first piece of furniture my parents bought was a piano! As the years went by and the kids came along (I was first), Louise wanted a hobby and decided she wanted to learn to play the flute. So, flute lessons were taken and Louise joined a choir in Edmonton. Louise also wanted to pass on her love of music and so her kids were given the opportunity to play an instrument and have lessons. Even my 2 little sisters who were only 3 and 4

were taught to play violin under the Suzuki method with tiny 1/8 and 1/4 size violins.

We moved to Ottawa in 1971 when my Dad started a job with the Federal Government. New music teachers had to be found for all of us including my Mom who was still playing the flute. She also played in a small orchestra in Ottawa as an outlet from being a busy Mom with 4 kids!

As the years went by Louise became quite proficient on the flute and started teaching flute and taking some music courses at Ottawa U. My Dad's Department at work was moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1986 and my Mom and Dad lived there for 5 years until my Dad retired. Louise needed something to do in a new town where she knew nobody and decided to do her Bachelor of Music at the University of Saskatchewan. This kept her very busy for the five years they were in Saskatoon.

In 1991 they moved to Manotick and my family moved to Arnprior. I joined ACC for the winter term in 1992 and Louise attended some of our first concerts. An idea was forming in her head. She could join the choir and come and visit her daughter's family at the same time. So I came home to a meal cooked by her and my kids were introduced to music through the recorder and then off to Choir for the evening. Louise continued these visits for many years driving from Manotick and has never missed a choir season since.

Louise now lives in Arnprior and she always looks forward to Tuesday nights!

Written by Rennie Hickey



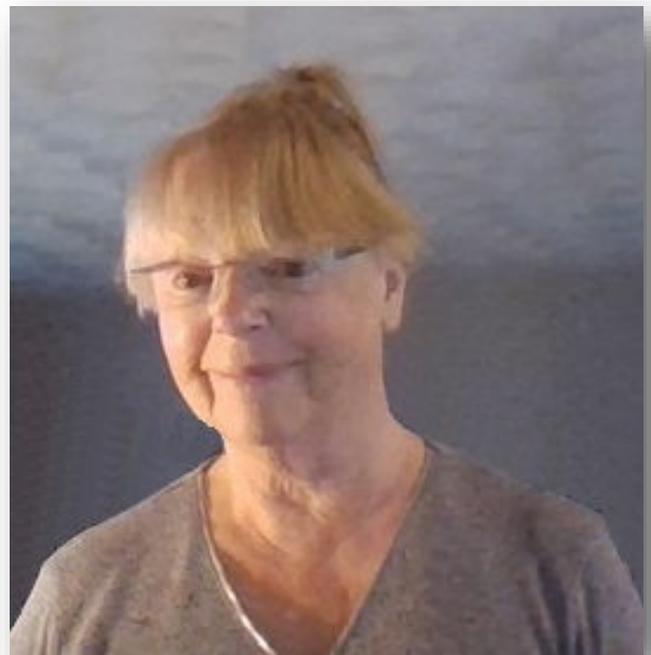
Hi,

I am very, very happy to be a member of the ACC. Although I am a shy person, I really enjoy singing my heart out in a group.

Post War, we were all skinny kids—never saw a banana, but our parents did their best. I remember at age 5 or 6 being a Hula girl in a Church show, raffia skirt, legs painted brown (quelle horreur!) singing “I wouldn’t leave my little wooden hut for you-oo”. In Annual Gala Parades our group would be Teddy-bears (brown legs again!), or little milk-maids, dancing to the band music on the parade route and later at the Gathering.

Mum followed up with dancing lessons for myself and my sister but my sister didn’t enjoy the class, so “goodbye toe shoes”.

Ulverston Grammar School’s one redeeming feature, to my mind, was their annual production of a Gilbert & Sullivan Opera. The staff were enthusiastic, and performed the parts which required stature and gravitas and the Art department produced the scenery and costumes. “The Gondoliers” was the first production I was desperate to be in, as my “boy-friend du jour” had the role of “Private Drummer to the Duke of Plazatoro”. This meant I was the 25th Contadina, out of sanctioned 24, and my Mother had to make my costume. It wasn’t quite the same as the rest, but all was well. The next school year, we started rehearsing for “The Mikado”, I was loving it, my best friend was going to be “Yum Yum”. Then I got enrolled for Secretarial College, and that was that.



Patricia Rose, Alto



ACC is celebrating 30 years!

We are blessed with an active, enthusiastic and dedicated membership. Whether you joined in 1991, 2002 or last fall, you are an important part of ACC history. As an organization we have grown and developed because of you!

Did you know ...?

- ◆ ACC has held rehearsals at Walter Zadow Public School, ADHS, Grace St. Andrew's United Church sanctuary, the Galilee Centre, and currently, the Arnprior Legion.
- ◆ ACC has participated in the Santa Claus parade, carolled at the Arnprior Mall, led the singing for Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Cenotaph, organized sing-alongs at our local nursing homes and even competed at the Renfrew Music Festival!
- ◆ ACC singers have taken part in two Inter-Choir weekend retreats held in Pembroke. As part of a mass choir we sang "Zadok the Priest" under the direction of Barbara Clark.
- ◆ ACC sang (and took choir photos!) on the "grand staircase" at the Nature Museum in Ottawa.
- ◆ ACC supports young musicians with scholarships. ADHS music students and singers at the Renfrew Music Festival have benefited from our music awards.
- ◆ ACC had red sweatshirts designed to sing at a Senator's Hockey Game.
- ◆ ACC has shared the stage with a variety of musical guests, groups and instruments including harp choir, fiddles, African drums, cello, string ensemble, organ, brass, vocal quartets, children, Celtic band, Renaissance instruments – wow!
- ◆ ACC has sung in concert with the Foothills Brass (twice!).
- ◆ ACC has hosted and billeted the Ontario Youth Choir.
- ◆ In 2009, ACC raised money for the keyboard and the original speaker system through two fundraising concerts called, *Then Sings My Soul*.
- ◆ ACC has sung many fundraising programs to support local organizations including The Optimist Club, Lion's Club, Lionette's, the Arnprior hospital and many local churches.

- ◆ ACC supports individual members by celebrating birthdays (milestone and otherwise), sending wishes for speedy recoveries, and by saying good-bye to members of the choir (or their families) on occasion singing at their funerals and donating to charities in their name.
- ◆ ACC has combined efforts with Kanata Choral Society, Nepean Choir and the Ottawa Valley Music Festival choir.

Now that's amazing!

And on February 29, 2016, ACC members gathered at the Arnprior Public Library to design and create a *Community Art Tree*.

The *Art Tree Project* was created and developed by Burnstown Women's Institute member, Marlene Schaly in 2016.

The project was launched Canada wide in 2017 to help celebrate Canada's 150 birthday.

The Project continues as a Canadian Arts and heritage event.

Here is a photo of our tree.



