

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

MUSIC MATTERS

Arnprior Community Choir Newsletter



Issue 1 200908



Lisa Webber, Director

Let Music Surround Us

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A Message from Lisa



*"To everything turn, turn, turn
There is a season turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose
Under heaven"*

My ACC choir family . . . I miss you!

The lyrics from this song are so poignant for the Fall 2020 choir season. Each one of us has a purpose. We need to stay strong, stay healthy, stay connected and most of all stay positive.

Music is my life and passion, and choir specifically gives us the human connection. Singing with one another; laughing with one another; hugging one another; creating with one another is vital.

You all know that I'm a "giver" and a very hopeful person, but there have been times over these past months when hope seemed a little lost. My career and Rick's career are two sectors hard hit. However, we are lucky. Our family, our kids, our friends and our community are supportive and together we've muddled through and arrived in a good place this September. All of you lift me up! My students, my choir, my colleagues are a true blessing and my musical passion is ready to take on the future. A future that looks different. It starts with this newsletter which is full of creativity, energy and hope for our choir.

Participate if you can; reach out and join in all or some of our Fall adventures. We do this because "Music Matters" – to me, to you, to our youth, to our community. Let's keep building ACC, making it strong for when we are able to return together in song.



*"A time to build up
A time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together"*

"Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)" by Pete Seeger

The "Coming this Month" segment of MUSIC MATTERS will reveal what we have planned for you this month. Week One is always our newsletter. After that we have lots of surprises up our sleeves. It might be about musicality or physicality, or maybe a concert with some of your favourite musicians.

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

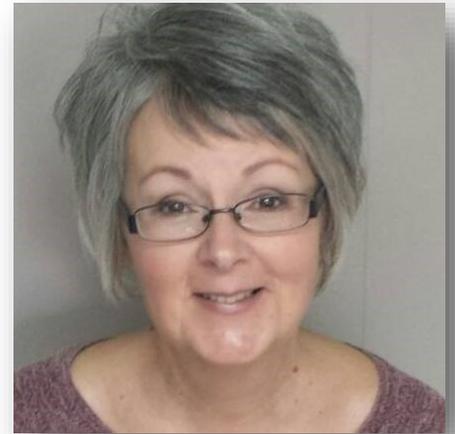


MUSIC MATTERS

ACC's Monthly Newsletter

Stretch! Breathe! Sing!

Start the Fall season with a complete "tune-up"! The session will explore tips and reminders to prepare both mind and body for singing. Lisa is pleased to announce that we will be joined by former ACC singer and yoga instructor, Megan Justus. Megan has done workshops for choirs at the Galilee and she'll lead us through chair yoga with gentle stretches and breathing. For this session you'll need a little space to stretch, a comfortable chair and water. Be prepared to vocalize and let your voice fly!



Megan Justus



Choir Q & A with Ian Guenette

Do you have any burning questions you want answered? Now is your Chance!

Navigating your choral score can sometimes be challenging. If you have never been to a music theory class, all those notes, lines, markings, and other strange looking things can look like Hieroglyphics! This session will help you decode some of these things, as well as discover how all the aspects of a choral score come together to make music. Questions do not have to be limited to the score. Singing, following the conductor, and other musical questions are welcome!

If you would like to send me a question in advance, please feel free! My email is ian_guenette@hotmail.com

Remember, there are no stupid questions! Chances are other people are wondering the same thing! I look forward to your questions!



Ian Guenette



Zoom Concert entitled "Reach for the Stars"

Grab your favourite beverage, get comfy, and be prepared to have some ACC fun. This concert features three talented vocalists: Olivia Smart (*Grade 12, auditioning for University Music programs*); Thomas Cherney (*First Year, Queen's University, undergraduate*); Emily Helferty (*First Year, Yale University, Master's*).

Olivia, Thomas and Emily will join us live and share with us their pre-recorded performance videos.

Let's help "Zoom" them to the stars!



Olivia Smart



Thomas Cherney



Emily Helferty



In this section learn things you never knew about your choir mates .

Margaret Neamtz , Social Committee



I was born and raised in Southern Ontario and moved to Ottawa to attend Carleton University. In 1992 my husband, children and I moved to Kinburn. I learned of the ACC from my voice instructor, a lovely lady named Lisa, and joined the choir in 2000. I have held the position of treasurer and am currently one of the M&M social duo.

Even as a young child I loved to sing and being a part of the ACC nurtures my love for singing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Over the years I have learned many singing skills including how to read music. I am continually amazed how so many individual voices can combine into one sound. There have been so many memorable concerts over the years, but my favourite remains the ABBA dessert musicale.

Steve Duffield, Member of the Facilities Team

I entered my 7th decade this year – wow! I have been married to my beautiful wife Joan for 40 years (poor Joan). We have two daughters, Seonaid who is an Archaeologist and Megan who is a Fashion Designer.

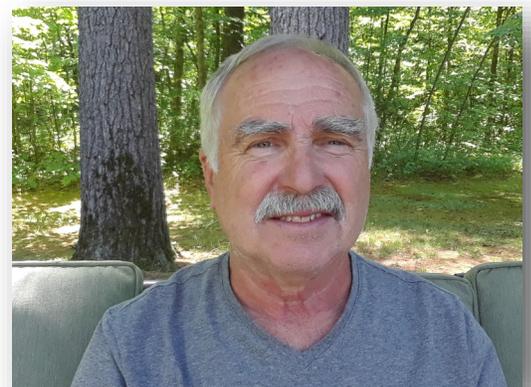
I grew up in east end Ottawa and moved to the Fitzroy area where we built our home in 1980. I sang in the local church choir in Fitzroy for many years.

I joined ACC about eight years ago. On Tuesdays I come to sing with like souls and chat (not

during practice of course) and meet new people.

I love music that makes me emotional and almost makes me stop mid song. We owe a lot to what we have learned through having Lisa at the helm, and to our guided workshops.

With all our blending voices in ACC, it is very uplifting to the soul, and to give that back to the community is a special gift.



Ken Souliere, Tenor Section Lead

As the lead of the tenor section, I thought that I should relate my background in music. My vocal music experience stretches back to grade 6, in my hometown of Sault Ste Marie. My teacher, Sister St Dominic, informed me that I was going to sing a solo in the Kiwanis Music Festival. I thought that I sounded rather good... but I was not invited to sing in public again until I retired, moved to Pakenham, and joined our church choir.

On the first Tuesday of September 2015 I arrived at the Arnprior Legion Hall for my very first rehearsal with the Arnprior Community Choir. I had attended several ACC concerts to hear my wife Rhonda sing. It had crossed my mind to perhaps give the ACC a try. But I thought that I would never be able to learn all that music, sing all those notes and keep up with the choir director! It is now five years later, and all my worries have been put to rest (although I still have trouble learning all that music). I discovered that the ACC is more than learning and performing wonderful music of all genres. It is about laughing and sharing and contributing to the community around us. I look forward to Tuesday night rehearsals where our small but mighty tenor section catches up on life then battles to be heard in the harmonies of the music. I was humbled to be asked to act as lead for the tenor section.



Lorraine Beauregard-Murphy, French Song Guru

Issue d'une famille de neuf enfants, j'ai grandi dans les Cantons de l'Est. J'ai choisi Ottawa pour faire mes études universitaires en musique et en éducation. C'est là que j'ai rencontré mon époux. Nous nous sommes installés à West Carleton et avons eu quatre enfants.



Pour moi, la santé physique et mentale vont main dans la main. J'adore une variété d'activités: la marche en montagne, le vélo, le kayak, la natation, le yoga, le pilates, la musculation. En hiver, rien de mieux que de faire du ski de fond et de la raquette avec des amis! Mes passes-temps favoris incluent la lecture, le jardinage, la cuisine et la confection de tapis hookés, selon la tradition acadienne.

Il y a quatre ans, j'ai pris ma retraite à titre de direction d'école et je me suis inscrite à la chorale. J'ai été accueillie à bras ouverts et j'en suis reconnaissante!

Chanter, est une activité qui nous permet d'apprendre et de maintenir notre fonction cérébrale. La joie et le bien-être ressentis lorsque l'on participe à un effort collectif favorisent aussi notre estime de soi. Finalement, les liens que l'on tisse sont tellement importants pour notre santé mentale.

Ma saison préférée pour chanter avec l'ACC est l'automne, lorsque nous préparons le concert de Noël. L'an dernier, lorsque j'ai proposé des chants traditionnels en français, Lisa a accepté sans hésitation. Cette expérience a été très enrichissante et comme toujours, notre concert fut un grand succès!



Linda Crawford
Artistic Director, The Goulbourn Jubilee Singers

Greetings to all my fine choir friends in Arnprior!

I was so disappointed not to be able to make music with you this spring, but I am honoured that Lisa has asked me to contribute to your *Music Matters* newsletter.

Don't we all miss each other desperately? My Goulbourn Jubilee Singers (Ottawa) really are suffering from withdrawal from our "choir family"...and we ARE a family, aren't we? As we all hunker down for a few more months (sigh...), I thought I would share with you some thoughts and tracks about choirs and places and conductors who have inspired me.

One of the things I have noticed during this period of isolation is that I find myself thinking about past choir events and listening to some choirs to which I have not really listened in a while! It's been good! I apologize in advance for the ads preceding some of these videos. Sigh....

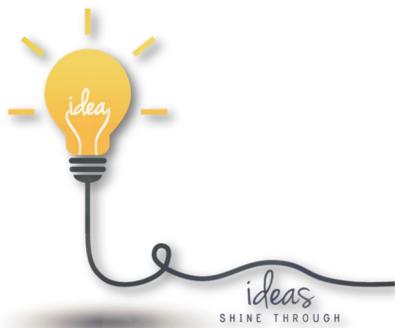
One of the first professional choirs I had the privilege of conducting was the *Elmer Iseler Singers*. They are a fabulous ensemble, based in Toronto. At the time I worked with them, Dr. Iseler was the director. Now, Lydia Adams is their Artistic Director. The following cut is a classic spiritual, so beautifully sung, under Dr. Iseler: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvJADak5hD4>

Another director who made a deep impression on me was Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, founder and director of the Toronto-based *Nathaniel Dett Chorale*. I have seen this ensemble both in workshops and concerts, and they never fail to inspire me! Brainerd does such a great job of promoting African-American-Canadian choral music! This next video begins with an introduction by the great American choral composer and arranger, Moses Hogan. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks7fLAWzVxY>

When I was just beginning to conduct choirs, I had the pleasure of participating in a choral week for directors with John Rutter. It was such a fine introduction for me to the traditional "British Choir Sound". Here is one of my favourites of Rutter's many pieces: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ucVQSJunR4>

More recently, I had the great pleasure of spending a week in Vancouver, as part of the Conductors' symposium with the *Vancouver Chamber Choir*, at the time directed by Jon Washburn. It was such a wonderful week, listening, conducting, and learning with such a fine ensemble, and receiving instruction from this generous director. One of the things I liked best about Jon's programming was that he was not afraid to programme "the old classics", as well as featuring contemporary works. Enjoy this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBAp2RrEmPA&list=RDEMjPoIVZrOI23b_JTS_TNhGg&start_radio=1

What is in the water out in the Canadian west? Vancouver and Edmonton and Winnipeg all have an abundance of excellent choirs! I LOVE the *Phoenix Chamber Choir*, that sings such a wide variety and wonderful repertoire! They sing all the "serious stuff"... but here is their COVID-19 virtual choir offering that... well... isn't! Good fun! Actually, they have some "ringers" here, including Ottawa choir composer and teacher, Steve Eisenhauer. Apparently Billy Joel liked this too! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpAKcQufacc>



One year, I was selected - and I still don't know how! - to be part of a conducting week, in Toronto, with Sir David Willcocks. I was TERRIFIED... but it was a great experience! Sir David was generous and nurturing and helpful - so important for workshop leaders, right? The piece I directed for him was the Stanford *Beati Quorum Via*. It remains one of my favourites of the traditional repertoire! Here it is, sung by (what I think is) the best vocal ensemble going right now, *Voces 8*. I have had the pleasure of hearing these folks several times in concert, now, and they just simply take my breath away! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9zgg5qrNGw>

On a more local level, I have enjoyed collaborating with Ottawa's Jackie Hawley, and also following the development of her wonderful choir, *Cantiamo Girls' Choir*. My daughter, Sarah, was one of the original "Cantiamo Girls", and we are forever thankful for the excellent training she received in that ensemble. I had the pleasure of travelling with this choir to Newfoundland, for the *Festival 500 Choral Festival*. Isn't travelling with a choir just the BEST? I can't wait to do that again! We went whale-watching, of course! Unfortunately, his video is not the year we attended. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMh-vxFgljA&list=RDdMh-vxFgljA&start_radio=1

One of the things I love to do with choirs is to blend different groups together. After all, singing together is what choral music is all about, right? One of my happiest such collaboration was with my *Goulbourn Jubilee Singers*, and the community choir from Vankleek Hill, with which I sing. Their director, Rosemary Harden, generously allowed me to direct this one. What fun! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzM8-dYr1Y>

Speaking of travelling with choirs, I have such happy memories of our trip to Europe in 2016, with my *Goulbourn Jubilee Singers*. A "Life Highlight" for me was leading a massed choir and orchestra in the cathedral in Salzburg, Austria. The event was a high mass in celebration of Salzburg's joining Austria. The place was packed! I directed Mozart's *Ave Verum*, which was composed FOR that beautiful cathedral! WOW! Unfortunately, it was not recorded, but here is an excellent version! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Qxrru15jfo>

A group that I have long admired is *Rajaton*, from Finland. Here is one of their top hits, *Butterfly*. This group, with whom I have done several workshops, is so collaborative and generous. Such a pleasure! <https://youtu.be/oghj7y4hluU>

Finally, another fine choir from Vancouver! One that I have enjoyed so much over the years is *Vancouver's Chor Leoni*. This wonderful men's choir was founded by Diane Loomer, who was a huge force on the Canadian choral scene. Here is one that we ALL love to sing, right? Have the tissues handy! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVKBsruP_8U

I hope that you, too, will find some inspiring choral music in the list above. It has been fun to develop this list for you!

Oh! I almost forgot!

Here is a great vocal warmup for you to try, all the way from Italy! Cheryl Porter is a wonderful American singer and teacher. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZVv_ecG5OM&t=16s



2020 - 21 is ACC's 30th Anniversary. Until we can meet again in person, the Anniversary committee wishes to share their ideas for future celebrations. You have already heard about the Camp Oconto choral retreat weekend. In this and future editions of MUSIC MATTERS, you will read about other planned projects.

Join in the exciting countdown!

Lisa here - your ACC founding conductor! Fresh out of grad school, newly residing in Arnprior, I began the Arnprior Community Choir. Our journey over the past 30 years has been quite the ride – steadfast friendships, community connections, beautiful music and choral traditions are who we are as a choir.

As a member of the Anniversary committee, I wish to share with you an exciting project to celebrate 30 years as a choir – **a commissioned choral work!**

I have asked local Almonte composer, musician, poet, and research engineer Ian Douglas, to write a choral song to celebrate our Anniversary. You may remember Ian as the composer of the song *North Wind* that we have performed. Or, you may remember his energetic African drumming at one of our *Sing Noel* concerts. Ian composes music in the folk, classical, world, and choral music genres. Most recently Ian created music for *Canada Wild*, a live performance of world/classical music set to images of Canada's wilderness.

Ian knows us and admires our musical spirit. We have had many conversations about music, singing, the beauty of choirs and what gives us “goosebumps” when listening to a song. I can't wait to hear what Ian creates for us!

This anniversary project will fulfill one of my dreams for ACC, a piece written just for us.

30 *Years of Singing*
Let Music Surround Us

You'll find the answers on our website , in the articles in this newsletter and in the October edition of **MUSIC MATTERS**.

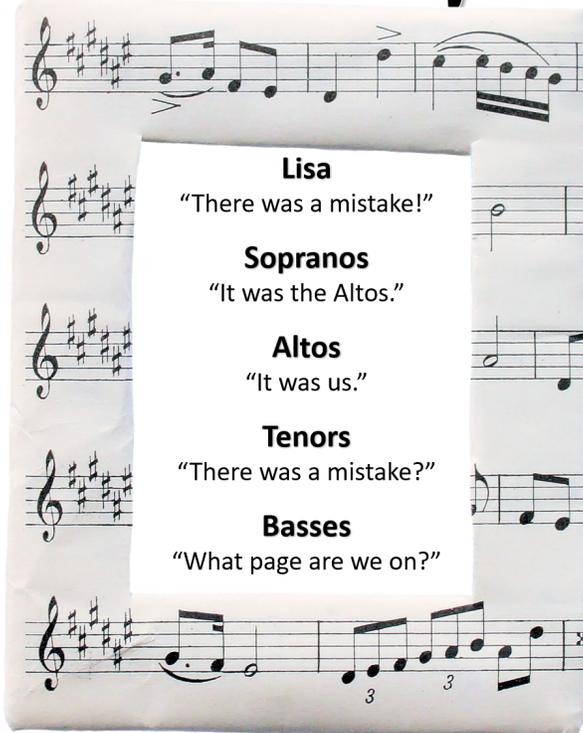
1. What year was the ACC established?
2. What Ottawa-based organist/teacher gave Ian his initial start in Organ Performance Studies?
3. Name the most famous Christmas "oratorio" that Handel composed.
Hint: The audience traditionally stands up in one section.
4. In 2019, what "Halloween Hat" was our esteemed music director wearing?
5. Which of these is not a vocal type: baritone, mezzo, spinto, countertenor.
6. Finish this sequence: DO MI RE FA MI SO FA....
Hint: Listen to Julie Andrew's "Sound of Music" for inspiration
7. In November 2015, who was our choir workshop leader?
Hint: She LOVES the Phoenix Chamber Choir.
8. In 2019 ACC performed Haydn's *Missa Brevis* in F .
What does *missa brevis* mean?
9. Which two universities did Lisa attend?
10. What is the password for our website's Members Corner?



"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take but by the moments that take your breath away."

Maya Angelou

Arnprior Community Choir



Groaners

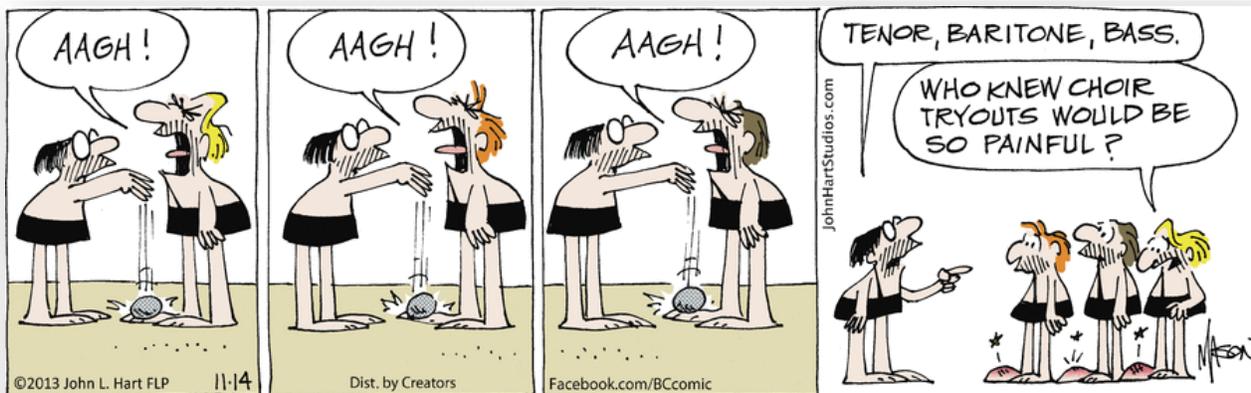
What rock group has four men that don't sing? – *Mount Rushmore.*

Why do cats like to sing?
- *They're very mewsical.*

My singing voice sounds bad in my tiny apartment.
- *It's a little flat.*

Singing in the shower is all fun and games until you get shampoo in your mouth.
- *Then it becomes a soap opera.*

I've been coughing and sneezing all day and now I can't stop singing old Frank Sinatra songs.
- *I think I have Crooner virus.*



"Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway."

Emory Austin