



BCCF Newsletter

Lifelong Singers

Brevis Edition

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FALL/WINTER 2022

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Greetings Dear Readers,

I hope this finds you all well, settled into your fall routines, and looking ahead for what the winter may hold. Perhaps you are singing again with your choir. Your choir may even be planning a concert! Or perhaps your choir remains on hiatus. Whatever the case may be, I hope this newsletter helps you to feel a sense of connection with the choral community.

It is noteworthy that the upcoming concerts listing in this newsletter took up two full pages! This increase in activity is a sign of our resilience and of our great desire to return to singing in person.

On a personal note, I am excited to present this edition to you.

It marks my first term as Chair of the **Lifelong Singers Committee**. Since its inception in 2014, the Lifelong Singers Newsletter has been compiled by former BCCF Past President, **Janette Walker**. This past spring, we bid a fond farewell to Janette as she stepped away from the BCCF Board after many years' service. We miss Janette but wish her the best going forward. Janette has been a tireless advocate. Her role in the **Lifelong Singers Newsletter**, **Seniors' Chorfests**, and in chairing the Lifelong Singers Committee are all testament to her commitment to our mandate, "Choral Music—a Lifelong Joy!". On page 2, you can read about Janette being awarded the **Willan Award** at this year's Chorfest. Doesn't she look happy??

On page 3 you will find a letter from our Executive Director, **Willi Zwozdesky**, regarding our upcoming **Chorfest 2023** plans. We've included a few other articles of interest and, of course a hello from our Lifelong Singers Committee members.

We always welcome any feedback and further thoughts on how the **BCCF** can be of assistance. Don't hesitate to reach out to me,
Anita Comba at **pianita@shaw.ca**.

Sincerely,

Anita Comba

BCCF President

Program Chair, BCCF Lifelong Singers

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLAN AWARD

Willan Award Presentation—Janette Walker

This past spring, **Janette Walker** was the recipient of the **BC Choral Federation's Willan Award** for her outstanding service to the **BCCF**! The moment was caught "live" on Zoom during our **2022 Chorfest Event**. Former BCCF Board member, **June McClure** and friend, **Don Renfrew** helped execute the surprise presentation of the award to Janette. You can watch a recording of Janette receiving the award, complete with presentation speech by last year's recipient, **Gloria Brooks**.

www.bcchoralfed.com/janette-walker-receives-2022-bccf-willan-award

Willan Award recipients become life members of the BCCF and members of the **Willan Council**, a distinguished group of choral advocates who collectively function as a think tank for the BCCF.

The reasons for Janette's nomination were numerous. Among those cited by the BCCF: *"From chairing the Senior's Portfolio to recruiting new Board Members, from serving as President to filling in as Regional Coordinator, and from creating legacy documents to monitoring our public-facing email address—she has done it all with integrity and kindness. ... The Lifelong Singers Newsletter mirrors some of Janette's finest qualities. ... It reflected Janette's care for our seniors, her passion for advocacy, her understated wisdom, and her appreciation for connection."*

Congratulations, Janette!!



The smiling award recipient, Janette Walker with friend and presenter, June McClure by her side.

CHORFEST 2023:

From the Desk of the Executive Director



*Willi Zwozdesky,
BCCF Executive Director*

Dear BCCF Seniors!

There is promise on the horizon for our choirs across British Columbia! The health protocols we have all been following (vaccinations, masking, distancing, smaller gatherings, ventilation, abstinence) have benefited our entire society and choral singers in particular.

You will no doubt have already noticed a return to in-person choral singing at many levels and in different settings—communities, schools, religious gatherings. Choirs are steadily returning to rehearsal and performance, much to the great relief and excitement of their singers and audiences. And some seniors' choirs have also reconvened, taking up a restored passion for singing together. The pandemic was a devastating and time-ravaging drought, an experience that required hope and patience to survive.

In response to our choirs' return to singing, the **BCCF** has launched a ***Sing Together!*** campaign and has expanded the delivery of BCCF's annual **Chorfest** to mark this return to in-person singing. ***Satellite Sing Together!*** adult Chorfest gatherings planned for Sechelt, Courtney, Kelowna, and Prince George will be presented simultaneously on the final weekend of May, 2023.

You are cordially invited! Please mark your calendars for **May 26/27 of 2023** and start planning to attend the in-person Chorfest gathering of your choice either solo or with a friend. Details of registration and schedule will be posted on the BCCF website as soon as all clinicians are confirmed. We celebrate the spirit of optimism shared by our members, which will certainly make these 2023 Chorfests take flight!

Since our glorious seniors' get together in Kelowna in 2019, we have been unable to convene **BCCF Seniors' Chorfest**. But again—there is promise on the horizon, and we will soon be seeking a host choir of seniors to start planning the next BCCF Seniors' Chorfest. Please let me know if your group is interested.

I extend my very best wishes to all for the coming season of concerts and festivities. Thank you for your support of the BCCF. Together we are stronger!

Sincerely yours,

Willi Zwozdesky

Executive Director, BCCF
bccf@bcchoralfed.com

PS: Free downloads of music, graphics, and activities to support ***Sing Together!*** can be found here:
www.bcchoralfed.com/bccf-presents-sing-together

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall & Winter Concerts, 2022

BERWICK CHOIR, COMOX

Wednesday, December 7th—2pm

Under the direction of **Wendy Nixon Stothert**, the **Berwick Choir** will sing a concert on Wednesday, **December 7th** at **2pm** at the **Berwick Comox Valley Retirement Community**, 1700 Comox Ave, Comox

BROCK HOUSE/KERRISDALE CHOIR, VANCOUVER

The **Brock House Choir** is holding rehearsals intends to have a concert at the end of January (2023). Check www.brockhousesociety.com closer to the date for more details.

CRAIG BAY CHORISTERS, PARKSVILLE

Saturday, December 3rd

Craig Bay Choristers perform a **Christmas Concert** on **Sunday December 3rd** at **Knox United Church**, 345 Pym St, Parksville. www.facebook.com/Craigbaychoristers

EnCHOR, VANCOUVER

Sunday, November 20th—3pm

Sunday, December 18th—3pm

EnChor Choir, directed by **Morna Edmundson**, welcomes audiences on **November 20th** to **Home and the Heartland**, with special guests, the **Lord Byng Chamber Choir** under the direction of **Lisa Lan**. Tickets \$25 (18 and under free). EnChor celebrates the season with carol singing and more on **Sunday, December 18th**.

Admission by donation. Both events take place at the **Pacific Spirit United Church**, 2205 W 45th Ave. www.ensor.ca

HARBOUR CITY SINGERS, NANAIMO

Wednesday, December 7th—7pm

Thursday, December 8th—1:30pm

Directed by **Lionel Tanod**, the **Harbour City Singers** will take part in the **Community Carol Concert** on **Wednesday, Dec 7th** at **St. Andrew's United Church**, 311 Fitzwilliam St, Nanaimo which is organized by **Marian Smith**, director of the **Nanaimo Youth Choir**. The Harbour City Singers will perform their seasonal concert on **Thursday afternoon, Dec. 8th**. This concert will take place at the **Bowen Park Recreation Centre Auditorium**, 500 Bowen Road, Nanaimo. Admission \$2 for members of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors and \$4 for non-members.

ISLAND BEL CANTO SINGERS, NANAIMO/LANTZVILLE

Friday, December 2nd—7pm

Sunday, December 4th—2:30pm

Under the Artistic Direction of **Fiona Blackburn**, the **Island Bel Canto Singers** will perform their Christmas concert, **Stars**, on two occasions. **Friday December 2nd** concert takes place at **Hope Lutheran Church** in Nanaimo. The second concert takes place a **St. Philip by-the-Sea Anglican Church** in Lantzville. Tickets are \$20/Adult and \$10/Student with Children 12 and under free. Advance sales only and can be obtained through choir members and the choir's website at www.islandbelcanto.com/concerts.html.

UPCOMING EVENTS cont.

Fall & Winter Concerts, 2022

KAMLOOPS HAPPY CHORISTERS AND THE JEWELTONES

The **Kamloops Happy Choristers** will be performing at **Sahali Mall** for a Remembrance Day service prior to **Nov. 11th**. You can also hear them at the city's **Choral Rhapsody** which will take place with multiple choirs (along with the **Jeweltones**) performing on **December 19th, 7pm** at the **Sagebrush Theatre**, 1300 9th Ave.

(pending Covid climate).

www.facebook.com/KamloopsHappyChoristers

KENT STREET CHORISTERS, WHITE ROCK

Saturday, December 3rd—2pm and 7pm

With their new Director, **Coleen Thomas**, the **Kent Street Choristers** plan to sing two Christmas concerts this season, both on **Saturday, December 3rd** at the **Kent Street Activity Centre**, 1475 Kent Street, White Rock.

PEACHLAND VARIETY SINGERS

Sunday, December 11th—2pm

The **Peachland Variety Singers**, directed by **Phyllis Papineau**, are planning a Christmas concert at the **50 Plus Activity Centre** on Beach Avenue, Peachland, **December 11th**. They also hope to do some carolling this season in neighbouring Westbank Retirement homes.

PENTICTON TUNE-AGERS

Sunday, December 4 - 2pm

Under the direction of **Nicholas Kelly**, the **Penticton Tune-Agers** will perform a concert at the **Penticton United Church**, 393 Main St., Penticton.

RICHMOND SINGERS ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, December 14th—afternoon

Unable to perform in their usual facilities, the **Richmond Singers Ensemble** has encouraged their patrons to come hear them at **Gilmore Park United Church**, 8060 No 1 Rd, Richmond, for a one-hour concert on **December 14th**.

They will join the **Richmond Singers** for their annual Christmas concert at **Broadmoor Baptist Church**, 8140 Saunders Rd, Richmond, on **December 3rd**.

www.richmondsingers.ca/about/the-richmond-singers-ensemble

VANCOUVER ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR

Sunday, November 6th, 2022—3pm

Friday, November 11th—2:30pm

The **Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir**, directed by **Liana Savard**, is performing two concerts for Remembrance. The first at **3pm** on **Nov. 6th** is at **Queen's Avenue United Church**, 529 Queen's Ave, New Westminster. The second concert takes place at **Gilmore Park United Church**, 8060 No 1 Rd, Richmond at **2:30pm** on **Friday, Nov. 11th**. The choir is joined by guest performer **Kosta Bozhinov** on the accordion. Tickets are \$25.

www.vancouverorpheus.org/wp

VICTORIA ARION MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday, December 10th—2pm

Under the direction of **Sean Lampard-Quicke**, the **Dec 10th** concert marks the first Christmas concert for the **VAMC** since the merger of the **Victoria Male Voice Choir** and the **Arion Male Voice Choir**. Tickets and details found at

www.vamc.ca

IN THE NEWS

We all know of the benefits that singing can bring to our mental health. In recent years, research into the relationship between singing and brain function has been exploding as scientists uncover new data. This article from May, 2022 in **Neuroscience News**, discusses how singing *"may help protect cognitive function and treat aphasia in older adults."*

www.neurosciencenews.com/singing-aging-brain-20682

"Their results indicate that as we age, the brain networks involved in singing undergo fewer changes than those that process speech, suggesting that singing is more widespread in the brain and more resilient to aging."

This feel-good story from Prince Edward Island is one that will ring familiar for many of you. It shows that even across our vast country, we find ourselves connected by common stories and shared experiences. Members of the **Cornwall Community Choir** express their joy at meeting for their first rehearsal since the pandemic. *"I feel very emotional and happy, finally getting back together."*

www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-pandemic-choirs-return-1.6582826

Lifelong Singers Committee

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