

ATLANTIC VOICES PRESENTS:



ROAD TO THE  
ISLES

SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 2024

3 P.M.

FUMBLIN' FINGERS PRE-SHOW

2:15 P.M.

Poster design: Greg Gnaedinger & Sarah Gauld

# Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa

**Scott Richardson, Director of Music**  
**Abigail Sanchez Rojas, Collaborative Pianist**

## **Sopranos**

Marian Barton  
Myrna Beattie  
Lora Bruneau  
Renée Carosielli  
Michelle Clippingdale  
Jennifer Cunningham  
Ann Erdman  
Joan Fisher  
Elizabeth Fortin  
Sharon Fotheringham  
Jodie Francis  
Sarah Gauld  
Jane Johnston  
Marie Kusters  
Margaret Lavictoire  
Nicole Lefebvre  
Sara Lim  
Nancy MacGregor  
Margaret-Anne Park  
Jacqueline Riddle  
Catherine Semple  
Kelda Sinclair  
Katie Stanley  
Lindsay Thomson-  
Marmen

## **Altos**

Suzanne Beaudoin  
Rosemary Bernath  
Donna Boudreau  
Celeste Bradbury-  
Marshall  
Janice Cross  
Elisabeth Dempsey  
Mary Fawcett-Pearce  
Joan Foster-Jones  
Sandra Fraser  
Lynn McDonald  
Liz McKeen  
Joan Milne  
Eileen Overend  
Sharon Philpott  
Diane Rayner  
Maureen Sheppard

## **Tenors**

Shelly Donaldson  
Julie Dustin  
Valerie Everson  
Greg Gnaedinger  
Dave Huddlestone  
Roger McCullough  
Jim Rourke

## **Basses**

Winston Babin  
Michael Deeks  
Victor Laurin  
Don MacDonald  
Brien Marshall  
Doug Murphy  
Patrick Shaughnessy  
Doug Sinclair  
Ted Welch  
Michael Wood

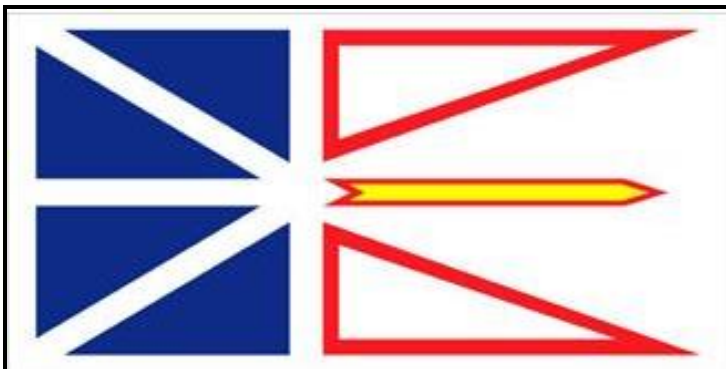
## Ode to Newfoundland

When sun-rays crown thy pine-clad hills,  
And summer spreads her hand,  
When silvern voices tune thy rills,  
We love thee, smiling land.  
We love thee, we love thee,  
We love thee, smiling land.

When spreads thy cloak of shimm'ring white,  
At Winter's stern command,  
Thro' shortened day and starlit night,  
We love thee, frozen land,  
We love thee, we love thee,  
We love thee, frozen land,

When blinding storm gusts fret thy shore,  
And wild waves lash thy strand,  
Thro' spindrift swirl and tempest roar,  
We love thee, wind-swept land,  
We love thee, we love thee,  
We love thee, wind-swept land.

As loved our fathers, so we love  
Where once they stood we stand;  
Their prayer we raise to Heaven above,  
God guard thee, Newfoundland.  
God guard thee, God guard thee  
God guard thee Newfoundland.



***Bluemoon's Margaree***  
***(CD, DDX, TDD, WRD, RN, TKI, CGN)***



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Atlantic Voices' Mascot is a Newfoundland Dog named Bluemoon's Margaree CD, DDX, TDD, WRD, RN, TKI, CGN, (meaning Companion Dog, Draft Dog Excellent, Team Draft Dog, Water Rescue Dog, Rally Novice, Trick Dog Intermediate, Canine Good Neighbour). Margaree was born 24 April 2016. As is common of her breed, Margaree loves people, especially children, and is very gentle. Like many of the Atlantic Voices choir members, Margaree's genes go back to the island of Newfoundland. Her ancestors loved the sea and the people of the island. These strong waterdogs were loyal and loving companions who worked very hard on shore and at sea. They pulled in fishing nets, delivered mail, and hauled logs from the forests. They often served as 'living lifelines', rescuing people from the sea. Margaree is proud to be Atlantic Voices' mascot and hopes that you will love the music as much as she does!

## **Atlantic Voices Executive Committee**

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Joan Foster-Jones (Treasurer)  
Winston Babin (Past President)  
Winston Babin (Librarian and Membership)

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Scott Richardson

### **Colloborative Pianist**

Abigail Sanchez Rojas

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## **Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa**

***Atlantic Voices:*** *The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa* was founded in the spring of 2002. *Atlantic Voices* is an amateur choir, with a repertoire consisting mainly of Newfoundland, Maritime, and Celtic songs and music. Its members are primarily made up of expatriate Newfoundlanders, Labradorians and Maritimers, but singers and musicians from any background are more than welcome to join. We are proud of our years of bringing East Coast music to the Ottawa area, and we look forward to many more years of performing.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at the Riverside Churches of Ottawa (3191 Riverside Drive) from 7-9:30 p.m. If you would like to join the choir, please contact us by email at: [membership@atlanticvoices.ca](mailto:membership@atlanticvoices.ca). Visit our website at [www.atlanticvoices.ca](http://www.atlanticvoices.ca) for more information about the choir.

### **Scott Richardson, Musical Director**

Originally from Dartmouth N.S., Scott is active in the Ottawa music scene as a pianist and choir director. He conducts Atlantic Voices and Musica Viva Singers, and is also the longtime Music Director at Orleans United Church. Scott is the rehearsal accompanist for the Ottawa Choral Society, as well as a pianist with the Ottawa Children's Choir organization, accompanying their Concert and Viva Choirs this season. He has also accompanied Army Voices, the Carleton University Choir, and the Canadian Centennial Choir. Over the last few seasons, Scott has often appeared onstage at the Gladstone Theatre, appearing in productions as a singer and multi-instrumentalist. With his partner, Robin Guy, he created, produced, and performed in Phantom Crew (2023) and No-Show: Songs From Lost Gigs (2021), and was a co-creator of Bear & Company's tributes to Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, and Gordon Lightfoot.

## **Abigail Sanchez Rojas, Collaborative Pianist**

Abigail Sanchez is an active piano teacher and collaborative pianist based in Ottawa. She holds a BMus in Piano Performance from The National Autonomous University of Mexico and a MMus in Piano Performance from the University of Ottawa where she studied with Leopoldo Erice and Andrew Tunis. She has performed at the Chamber Music Ensembles Showcase at the National Arts Centre, at Quartetfest at the Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo and has participated in masterclasses with the St. Lawrence string quartet. As a student, she was the pianist for Vocal Repertoire Class and the Wind Ensemble of the University of Ottawa.

Abigail has been working as a Collaborative pianist for the Emmanuel United Church Senior Choir and more recently for Atlantic Voices Choir. She runs her piano studio in Sandy Hill where she shares the passion for music with students of all ages and musical backgrounds. As a performer, Abigail collaborates with instrumentalists and singers as well as performing solo repertoire. Besides music, Abigail holds a BFA and enjoys painting and printmaking in her free time.

### **Fumblin' Fingers**

Since its formation in 2005, the Fumblin' Fingers Band has given over 250 public performances at fundraisers, seniors' residences, birthday parties, kitchen parties and at twice-yearly Atlantic Voices Choir concerts. Look for CDs following the concert.

Band members include Celeste Bradbury-Marshall (MC, vocals, guitar, percussion), Lynn Petros (fiddle, vocals), Wayne Mercer (guitar, mandolin, bass), Dave Huddleston (bass, guitar, vocals, spoons), Tom Murray (fiddle, guitar, vocals) and Bonnie Preston (accordions).

Website: [www.fumblinfingers.ca](http://www.fumblinfingers.ca).

# Music Programme

## Part I

*Pre-Show Entertainment provided by Fumblin' Fingers*

**Ode to Newfoundland**

Sir Cavendish Boyle

*arr. Hannie Fitzgerald & Norman E. Brown*

**Road to the Isles**

*(flute: Felix Xu)*

Traditional Scottish

*arr. Stuart Calvert*

**Woman of the Island**

Dolores Hynes

*arr. Jack Etchegary*

**Marguerite**

Scott Richardson

*arr. Stephen Hatfield*

**Blooming Bright Star of Belle Isle**

Newfoundland folksong

*arr. Eleanor Daley*

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**Song for Newfoundland**

Wayne Chaulk

*arr. Jonathan Monro*

**Green Fields of America**

Traditional Irish

*arr. Scott Richardson*

**Prince Edward Island, Adieu**

*variously ascribed to Larry Gorman,  
Lawrence Doyle and James H.*

*Fitzgerald*

*arr. Doug Murphy*

**Take Me to a Green Isle**

Walter MacNutt

*arr. Robin Grabell*

**In Love with an Island**

Vern Kennedy

*arr. Scott Richardson*





## PART II

### Welcome to the Rock

*(choreography: Lynn McDonald)*

### Rolling Down to Old Maui

### The Island

### An Innis Aigh (The Happy Isle)

### They Had Neither Pole Nor Paddle

### Home I'll Be

*(solo: Sara Lim)*

Irene Sankoff, David Hein

*arr. Scott Pietrangelo*

Traditional

*arr. Scott Richardson*

Kenzie MacNeil

*arr. Stuart Calvert*

Angus MacLellan

*arr. Stephen Smith*

Walter MacFarlane (words)

Traditional Scottish air

*arr. Allister MacGillivray & J. Munro*

Rita MacNeil

*arr. Stuart Calvert*

## Connect with Us

Please visit [www.atlanticvoices.ca](http://www.atlanticvoices.ca) and follow Atlantic Voices on Facebook and Instagram for the latest information about the choir.

Fumblin' Fingers can be found at: [www.fumblinfingers.ca](http://www.fumblinfingers.ca)

## CDs

Want to hear more? We have recorded several CDs that include repertoire from previous concerts. CDs are available for sale at the desk before the concert and in the reception area after the concert, as well as through our website.



# Programme Notes

## Ode to Newfoundland

Governor Sir Cavendish Boyle composed the words to this beloved anthem in 1902, as a four-verse poem entitled '*Newfoundland.*' British composer Sir Hubert Parry, a personal friend of Boyle, set the poem to music. On May 20, 1904 it was chosen as Newfoundland's official anthem. This distinction was dropped when Newfoundland joined the Canadian Confederation in 1949. Three decades later, in 1980, the province re-adopted the song as its official provincial anthem, making it the first province in Canada to declare a provincial anthem.

## Road to the Isles

'The Road to the Isles' was originally composed as a bagpipe tune by John McLellan of Dunoon, Scotland in 1891. He called the tune 'The Bens [mountains] of Jura'. It went through at least three other titles before finally becoming known as 'The Road to the Isles'. The singer and song collector Marjory Kennedy-Fraser heard the tune played on a bagpipe chanter on one of her trips through the Highlands. She published an arrangement of the tune for voice and harp in the 1917 volume of her collection *Songs of the Hebrides*, with words written by the poet Rev. Kenneth MacLeod. The singer is drawn toward his home, remembering fondly the Cuillin Mountains on the Isle of Skye, and he imagines a trip across the Highlands east to west from Loch Tummel to the Isle of Lewis, with each of the stops along the way listed in correct geographical order. 'The Road to the Isles' has a place in Maritime history: it was the tune played by the '100 pipers' as they marched across the Canso Causeway to mark its opening in 1955. Our arrangement is by the Cape Breton-born composer Stuart Calvert.

## Woman of the Island

'Woman of the Island' was composed by Dolores Hynes of Calvert, Newfoundland and arranged in 2019 for the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble of St. John's by Jack Etchegary, one of QVE's singers. The song describes an elderly woman looking back on her time and pondering the many changes to the island way of life that she has seen over the decades.

## Marguerite

Scott explains the history of the song: "'Marguerite' was composed in haste in a basement apartment in Western Newfoundland, inspired by a few paragraphs in the *Reader's Digest History of Canada*. Since then, the song has had an eventful afterlife. 'Marguerite' was first used in a play in Corner Brook. It then passed from singer to singer across the island of Newfoundland until it caught the ear of noted Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield, who arranged it for choir and published it (without the songwriter's knowledge), assuming it was a traditional song. True to the obliging and generous nature of Newfoundlanders, everyone Mr. Hatfield asked about the song swore that it was an old ballad and remembered their mothers singing it around the house! Geraldine Hollett of the award-winning Newfoundland trio The Once has recorded a version of the song -- it was included on the band's self-titled debut album. It was also covered by the Irish singer Nuala Kennedy on her 2023 album *Shorelines*."

## Blooming Bright Star of Belle Isle

This is a Newfoundland adaptation of an old Irish love song, 'Loch Erin's Sweet Riverside'. It tells the familiar story of a lover who returns after a long absence, and tests his sweetheart's faithfulness before revealing himself to be her long-lost love. First published in *Ballads and Sea Songs of Newfoundland* in 1933, 'The Blooming Bright Star of Belle Isle' was also included in the 1940 edition of the influential

*Gerald S. Doyle Songbook*, though set to a different tune than the one used by Eleanor Daley in our arrangement.

### **Song for Newfoundland**

Written by Wayne Chaulk and originally recorded by “Buddy Wasisname and the Other Fellers,” this song has been recorded by many traditional Newfoundland artists. It celebrates the rugged beauty of the land. Many thanks to Jonathan Monro for the use of this unpublished arrangement.

### **Green Fields of America**

Many songs of Irish emigration paint the experience of coming to the New World in a more negative light, but the anonymous author of this ballad is glad to put the Old World behind him and embrace North America as a land of opportunity. The verses in our arrangement were selected from a longer version printed in a 19th-Century broadsheet.

This song is also known as 'The Green Fields of Canada', and one of the verses that has been left out of this version in fact makes reference to Canada as the emigrant's destination. The tune comes from the repertoire of the Irish singer Paddy Tunney. The arrangement was composed over 30 years ago by Atlantic Voices Music Director Scott Richardson as a student assignment, and revived for our 2013 concert celebrating the Irish heritage of the Atlantic Provinces.

### **Prince Edward Island, Adieu**

The arranger of this selection is Atlantic Voices' own Doug Murphy, who has sung many concerts as part of our bass section. Doug writes the following about the song:

“‘Prince Edward Island Adieu’ was composed in pre-Confederation times, probably in 1864 or 1865, as a later verse speaks of the coming of “Dominion men”. However, its

exact date and author are unknown. It speaks of the settlement of the island by the original land-owners' tenants, and their lack of provision for those tenants, and is scathing in its tone, but wistful in speaking of the consequences.

One of those who might have written the words was Lawrence Gorman, great-grand-uncle of Doug Murphy. At the time this first appeared, Larry would have been an impertinent young man nearing twenty. Certainly, the tune was known in the Gorman family, as it was later collected orally from Mrs. Ida Best Sweet, wife of Frank, a nephew of Larry."

### **Take Me to a Green Isle**

Walter MacNutt, the composer of "Take Me to a Green Isle," was a native of PEI, and after his early training on the Island worked as an organist and composer throughout central Canada. In 1945, MacNutt was engaged to draw up a syllabus for the first-ever PEI Music Festival and provide musical instruction for school groups who wished to participate; in its original (1936) form as a solo song with piano, "Take Me to a Green Isle" was included on that first festival syllabus and became standard repertoire for PEI singers. Our arrangement is by Robin Grabell of Ottawa.

### **In Love With an Island**

This song came out of the 1973 Centennial celebrations of PEI joining Confederation. Vern Kennedy's composition was the winner of a contest for a special Centennial song. It was recorded and released as a commemorative "45" by the Centennial Singers.



## Welcome to the Rock

'Welcome to the Rock' is the opening number of the enormously successful musical *Come From Away* by Irene Sankoff and David Hein. The show was originally developed at Sheridan College's Canadian Music Theatre Project in 2012, and has gone on to become the longest-running Canadian musical in Broadway history, with over 1600 performances. The musical tells the story of how the people of Gander, Newfoundland welcomed the passengers and crews of the 38 planes grounded there when US airspace was closed following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Our arrangement is by Toronto performer and composer Scott Pietrangelo.

## Rolling Down to Old Maui

This traditional shanty was sung by whalers on the Pacific, returning from the frozen hunt off the coast of Russia to the pleasures of their port in Hawaii. Canadian folk music lovers are familiar with the song thanks to the version by Stan Rogers included on his live album *Between the Breaks*.

## The Island

'The Island' was written by Cape Breton songwriter Kenzie MacNeil and featured in the original 1977 version of the theatrical revue *The Rise and Follies of Cape Breton Island*. According to MacNeil: "I had the song in the works for some time, but I was struggling with the lyrics. I literally finished it the night before the first show, we rehearsed it once, then performed it in front of an audience." It went on to have a life far beyond the production, and was notably covered by the Barra MacNeils on their 1989 album *Rock in the Stream*. The song was proclaimed as Cape Breton's official anthem in 1985. Stuart Calvert arranged 'The Island' for the Cape Breton Chorale, who recorded it for their album *Songs of Atlantic Canada*. Atlantic Voices is grateful to Mr. Calvert for letting us perform his unpublished setting.

## **An Innis Aigh (The Happy Isle)**

This song was composed by Angus MacLellan, a farmer and lighthouse-keeper on Margaree Island, Cape Breton. This version of the song comes from the singing of John Neil Gillis. It has been called “one of the finest nature-lyrics of the Gaelic bards.”

The translation:

*Sing this song to the Happy Isle  
The island green with its silver sands;  
Sometimes the wind will be blowing wildly,  
But I still love to be living here.*

*Where will summer appear so soon?  
Where do the earliest blossoms bloom?  
Where most beauty in thrushes singing  
Atop the trees? The Happy Isle!*

*Come along now across the strand  
Some lovely evening at lowest tide.  
You'll see the beauty, and many species  
Of birds that nest on the Happy Isle.*

*Short the time to the end of day,  
Till the night comes and I seek rest,  
My lasting slumber will be so peaceful,  
If I'm at rest on the Happy Isle.*

## **They Had Neither Pole Nor Paddle**

This is a tale of three hapless Margaree boatmen stranded on an island and lamenting their fate in the night. The Cape Breton folk-poet Walter MacFarlane wrote the words, which purportedly describe an actual event. The lyrics are a parody of the traditional Scottish Gaelic song ‘*Ged tha me gun crodh, gun aighean*’. The well-known Cape Breton songwriter Allister MacGillivray is the co-arranger of this version. His arrangement quotes the chorus of the original Gaelic song, which has absolutely nothing to do with stranded boatmen but instead translates as: “Though I am

without cows, calves, or sheep, I will someday possess a handsome young man.”

## Home I'll Be

This song was the title track of Rita MacNeil's 1990 album. In 1990, Rita was at the peak of her popularity, selling more records in Canada than such international superstars as Garth Brooks. The song was named Song of the Year at the 1991 East Coast Music Awards.

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## **Many thanks to our generous Silent Auction Donors!**

Atlantic Voices is most thankful and grateful that our audience comes out to listen to us and support us. The auctions we hold as fundraisers play an important part in allowing us to bring you music and fun. Without this support, we couldn't continue to do what we do. So, check us out online and see what we have to bid on. There are some great items to be had, and maybe even something for a special occasion – or 'just because'!

Thank you so much for supporting us in past auctions, this auction and the ones in the future!

**Please visit our website or scan this QR code to visit our online Silent Auction page. The Silent Auction runs from January 28th to February 4<sup>th</sup>.**



**Silent Auction**

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# Thank you!

**Atlantic Voices also acknowledges the contributions and support of the following people:**

- Our silent auction donors
- Denise Arsenault
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- Lloyd Morrison
- Centretown United Church
- Fumblin' Fingers
- Members of Atlantic Voices
- Our family members – we couldn't do it without you!

***And you, our welcoming and loyal audience!***



**Thank you!**

## Trivia questions – songs on this concert

1. Stan Rogers did a version of what whaling song?
2. Which song was written to commemorate PEI's Centennial in 1973?
3. Which song won "Song of the Year" at 1991's East Coast Music Awards?
4. When was 'Ode to Newfoundland' declared as the official provincial anthem?
5. Which song was originally composed as a bagpipe tune over 100 years ago?

## Trivia questions – trivia about islands

1. How is the mainland connected to Cape Breton?
2. What is the island formerly known as 'Ile St-Jean' now called?
3. True or false: Scotland has just under 500 islands.
4. How is the mainland connected to Prince Edward Island?
5. True or false: Canada has over 25,000 islands.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
*Our next Spring concert is on*  
**26 May 2024**



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
*Our next Winter concert is on  
26 January 2025*



**Trivia answers: songs**

1. Rolling Down to Old Maui
2. In Love with an Island
3. Home I'll Be
4. 1980
5. Road to the Isles

**Trivia answers: islands**

1. Canso Causeway
2. Prince Edward Island
3. False: Scotland has over 700 islands
4. Confederation Bridge
5. True: Canada has over 52,000 islands!