Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa



Spring Concert

New Brunswick: Two Centuries of Song

Scott Richardson, Director Theresa Cillis-O'Meara, Accompanist

> With Special Guests: Pardon My French Fumblin' Fingers Band

Master of Ceremonies: Brien Marshall

Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 3 p.m. Centretown United Church 507 Bank Street Ottawa, Ontario

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 in its seventh season with a repertoire consisting mainly of Newfoundland, Maritime, and Celtic songs and music. Its members are primarily made up of expatriate Newfoundlanders and Maritimers, but singers and musicians from any background are more than welcome to join.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings at Pleasant Park Baptist Church from 7-9:30 p.m. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Denise Arsenault via email (president@atlanticvoices.ca) or by phone (613-424-4177). Visit our website at www.atlanticvoices.ca for more information about the choir.

Scott Richardson, Musical Director

Scott Richardson is active as a freelance accompanist specializing in choral accompaniment and in the flute repertoire. He is the pianist for both the Ottawa Choral Society and the Canadian Centennial Choir, and has also accompanied the Ottawa Children's Choir. Scott maintains a busy schedule of private teaching. As an organist and choir director, he has held various positions in the Atlantic Provinces and in Ottawa, and is currently Music Director at Orleans United Church.

Scott was born in New Brunswick and raised in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He studied piano at Mount Allison University. His graduate studies took him in a different direction, however, and he later completed a Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Ottawa. For many years, Scott was active on the Ottawa pub scene performing East Coast music in various groups, and he is glad to be once more presenting the music of the region to Ottawa audiences.

Theresa Cillis-O'Meara, Accompanist

Theresa Cillis-O'Meara holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Ottawa. She has enjoyed the past twenty-seven years serving Ottawa's musical community as a Musical Director, Pianist, Organist, and Piano Accompanist and presently teaches Music at Sacred Heart Catholic High School.

Theresa is currently the Piano Accompanist for the Ottawa Bach Choir, the Atlantic Voices Choir, the Organist at Emmanuel United Church, and the Musical Director for the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama's spring 2009 productions of the musicals "Hello Dolly!" and "Seussical the Musical".

Honorary Benefactor Dr. D.F.Cook

Atlantic Voices Honorary Benefactor **Dr. Donald F. Cook** has been active for over 35 years as a music educator and administrator, pianist, church organist, composer/arranger, and choral director. A native of St. John's, Newfoundland, Dr. Cook holds a Ph.D. from King's College, University of London in England. Dr. Cook has served as director, principal, chair, and board member for numerous music schools and performing arts organizations across Canada during his illustrious career, and served as juror for both the Juno Awards and the Ontario Arts Council. He was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and was named a member of the Order of Canada in 1993. Dr. Cook has kindly granted Atlantic Voices permission to sing his unpublished arrangements, and has in past years composed pieces especially for the choir.

Special Guests

Pardon My French

Where else but in the capital will you find a band that butchers both official languages with equal proficiency? Welcome to Trudeau's nightmare.

Pardon My French is the clap-along, stomp-along, sing-along, laugh-along show featuring Jean-Marc Lalonde, Nicolas Doyon and Jocelyn Godin, all members of one of Ottawa's premier French-Canadian trad bands, *Deux Saisons*. Guitar, squeezebox, and a fiddle, wine, women and song – what more do you need? By the end of the show, you'll be *fluidly bilinguish!*

The Fumblin' Fingers

The Fumblin' Fingers Band has given over 50 public performances since it was formed in 2005, at Seniors Residences, lobster suppers, birthdays and various fundraisers. Their first CD is available for purchase downstairs in the Hall. To contact them, check their website at www.fumblinfingers.ca

Members are Celeste Bradbury-Marshall (MC, singer, ugly stick, guitar), Hannie Fitzgerald (leader, accordion), Dave Huddlestone (guitar, spoons), Sue McCarthy (bass), Wayne Mercer (guitar, mandolin), Tom Murray (fiddle), Lynn Petros (fiddle), Marcia Phillips (recorders, flute, tin whistle, bodhran)

www.fumblinfingers.ca

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Want to hear more? Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa has recorded several CDs that include repertoire from previous concerts. CDs may be purchased in the Downstairs Hall during the intermission and at the reception following the concert.

Website

Please visit our website regularly for the latest information about Atlantic Voices performances:

www.atlanticvoices.ca

Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	
Marian Barton	Marg Allison	John Cunningham	
Emily Cox	Denise Arsenault	Gayle Dumsday	
Jennifer Cunningham	Ilona Bain	Dave Huddlestone	
Joan Fisher	Mary Barker	Dan King	
Sharon Fotheringham	Peggy Berkowitz	Lucas Stephenson	
Sarah Gauld	Celeste Bradbury-Marshall	Glenn Walsh	
Sandra Gould	Susannah Campbell		
Julia Kent	Hannie Fitzgerald		
Nicole Lefebvre	Betty Ann German	Basses	
Nancy MacDonald	Krista Grant		
Bridget McNeil	Alison Harding	Winston Babin	
Elaine Moores	Grace Helle	Mike Bleakney	
Margaret-Anne Park	Jackie Hirvonen	Bruce Burgess	
Joy Phillips-Johansen	Sue Huddlestone	Gord Hippern	
Catherine Semple	Nancy-Louise Hustins	Don MacDonald	
Maureen Sheppard	Tracy LeBlanc	Brien Marshall	
Carol Stanley	Rowena Linehan	Jorge Marson	
Rhoda Walker	Helen Lücker	Wayne Mercer	
	Kyla Maddox		
	Marguerite Noonan		
	Vanessa Snider		

Christine Spady

Music Programme

Part I

♦ The Ode to Newfoundland

Sir Cavendish Boyle Hannie Fitzgerald and Norman E. Brown, Arr.

♦ Back to the River St. John

Janet Kidd

♦ Peter Amberly

Trad. Scott Macmillan, Arr.

♦ J'ai passé

Trad. Scott Richardson, Arr.

Special Guests: Pardon My French

♦ Kishimaguac

Kelsey Jones Texts adapted by Rosabelle Jones

1. The Eight Pound Bass Soloist: Dan King

Womenkind

Soloist: Mike Bleakney

3. The Homebrew Song

Semi-chorus: Gary Boyd, Scott Richardson, John Cunningham, Helen Lücker, Denise Arsenault

4. Wedding at Kishimaguac

Intermission & Silent Auction (Downstairs Hall)

Part II

♦ Marco Polo

Jim Stewart John C. O'Donnell, arr.

♦ New Ireland Song

Trad. Timothy G. Cooper, arr.

♦ The Cold Water Song

Robert Turner

Special Guests: The Fumblin' Fingers

Audience Sing-a-long

- New Brunswick and Mary
- ♦ The Bluebird

♦ The Blades of Strawblane

Trad. Gary Ewer, arr.

♦ Live in Friendship

Bliss Carman, text Gary Ewer, music

Please Join Us in the Downstairs Hall after the Concert for the Reception & Conclusion of the Silent Auction

The 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' sprindrift 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.

New Brunswick and Mary

Chorus:

I get heart sick and blue, for New Brunswick and you Since I left for the West and the Prairies And the stars up above, know the two things I love Are my home in New Brunswick and Mary

The Bluebird

Oh! The ice upon the Miramichi will melt before the sun, And Captain Moar's water boat will soon be on the run For a half a cent a gallon, the ships she will supply And the captain says he'll run her till the tank runs dry

Chorus:

Till the tank runs dry, till the tank runs dry
And the captain says he'll run her till the tank runs dry

Oh! The Dunderburg is nowhere when the Bluebird sets her sail She can beat her in smooth water, she can storm the roughest gale I've seen her mainmast quiver and her fore in splinters fly And the captain says he'll run her till the tank runs dry

Oh! The mate said 'Let's beach her!' as he crept down from the breeze But the captain told him for to go where water will not freeze He quickly grabbed the tiller and to him made this reply 'I'll stand by thee, Old Bluebird, till the tank runs dry!'

Now all you merry mariners that cross the briny sea If ever it should be your luck to come to Miramichi You will see the noble Bluebird, through the water she will fly And the captain says he'll run her till the tank runs dry

Put translations of J'ai Passé and Ave Maris Stella h	ere?

The Ode to Newfoundland

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Programme Notes

Back to the River St. John

New Brunswick composer Janet Kidd's haunting song tells the universal story of longing for home and the yearning to return to the place you come from.

Peter Amberly

This song tells the story of a young man from Prince Edward Island who went to the Miramichi to make his fortune in the lumber woods, but was killed when a log rolled on him. John Calhoon, a friend of the doomed boy, composed the verses in 1881 and a local singer, Abraham Munn, set them to a traditional Irish tune. The song was widely sung by the men in the New Brunswick lumber camps.

J'ai passé

In this traditional Acadian song, a cowardly young man goes for a walk and misunderstands the sounds and sayings of the people and nature around him. First he believes the reapers in the fields, then the frogs in the lake, then the church choir, and finally the roosters in the farmyard are threatening him, when they are in reality just going about their daily business. Forms of this song are known in Belgium, France, and Louisiana. This version was sung by Allan Kelly at the Miramichi Folksong Festival in 1960.

Ave Maris Stella

A plainsong Vespers hymn to the Virgin Mary, "Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea)" dates back to at least the 8th century. It was adopted as the anthem of the Acadian people at the Second Acadian National Convention, held in Miscouche, Prince Edward Island, in 1884, and remains a source of Acadian pride and patriotism to this day. It was sung in the original Latin until French lyrics were written in 1994, although the first verse remained faithful to the original.

Kishimaguac

This suite is a set of 4 traditional New Brunswick folk songs, collected by Louise Manny, founder of the Miramichi Folksong Festival, and arranged for choral performance by Kelsey Jones, as part of a commission from the CBC in 1970. Originally from Portland, Maine, Jones spent much of his career in Montreal, but studied and taught for a time at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., and was the founding conductor of the Saint John Symphony. The first song describes an ice fishing excursion, with

the fishermen waiting for that elusive 8-pound bass. The second paints a less-than-flattering portrait of womankind. The third features Atlantic Voices' semi-chorus singing the praises, and warning of the dangers, of home-brewed whiskey. And the final song in the suite describes, as the title says, a good old-fashioned wedding at Kishimaguac. The word "Kishimaguac" is local dialect for Kouchibouguac, now the site of one of New Brunswick's national parks.

Marco Polo

This song is part of a larger suite written by composer Jim Stewart in honour of the Marco Polo, one of the most famous ships in Canadian history. Launched in Saint John, New Brunswick, in 1851, she was the first ship to circumnavigate the globe in less than six months, earning her the title of "fastest ship in the world." Our arrangement is by John C. O'Donnell of the miners' choir Men of the Deeps.

New Ireland Song

Many Irish immigrants came to Atlantic Canada during the 19th century, and for a time Irish was the largest ethnic group in New Brunswick, making up a full one third of the population. "New Ireland" was in fact one of the names put forward for the province. The Irish community may have been very religious, but they still enjoyed their tipple, and this song describes the frustration of trying to find anything to drink on a Sunday. "New Ireland Song" was published in *Folksongs From Southern New Brunswick* by Helen Creighton in 1971. It was sung to her by William Wilson of Ratter's Corner, Kings County in the mid or late 1950s. Creighton comments that "New Ireland is a farming community near Elgin. This is the sort of song a local wit loved to compose when an amusing event provided the material." This arrangement is by Fredericton composer Timothy G. Cooper.

Cold Water Song

The "Cold Water Song," part of a larger setting of five Canadian folk songs by Robert Turner, reflects the temperance movement of the late 19th century. The song appears to have begun life as an anonymous poem for children entitled "The Robin's Temperance Song." The narrator encounters a cheerful bird, who tells us that "teetotal's the very first word" and sings of the joys of drinking clean, clear, cold water. Creighton collected this song from Scott Stuart of St. Andrews, N.B. According to Stuart, his mother sang this as a lullaby: "When we was nasty and contentious she'd say, 'Come and I'll sing you a song,' she'd grab us up in turn and sing a different song to every one of us. I liked this, so this is the song she sang to me."

The Bluebird

The words of this well-known Miramichi song were written by Martin Sullivan, and were set to a variant of a traditional Irish tune. Captain Jim Moar ran one of the small boats that supplied fresh water to the long line of vessels -- sometimes eleven deep -- waiting to be unloaded at the Chatham wharves.

New Brunswick and Mary

This lament of a displaced New Brunswicker originally appeared on Stompin' Tom Connors' 1973 record *To It and At It.*

The Blades of Strawblane

A traditional New Brunswick folk song, based on a Scottish ballad, this song was first published in 1866 under the title "The Braes of Strathdon." A young man meets a young woman and falls in love with her, but when she rejects his marriage proposal he leaves. She whispers her plea for him to come back to her.

Live in Friendship

This song takes its lyrics from a longer poem called "Revelation," by renowned New Brunswick poet Bliss Carman (1861-1929). It was set to music by Gary Ewer in 2001, as a commission from the Nova Scotia Choral Federation. The verses tell of the poet's vision of the Divine in the beauty of nature, and implore the listener to live in friendship with the seasons.

Atlantic Voices: Our Mascot



Photo by Joan Fisher

The Atlantic Voices Mascot is a Newfoundland Dog named 'SS Maritime Atlantiika', a.k.a. "Tiika". Tiika was born July 18th, 2007. As is common of her breed, Tiika loves people, especially children, and is very gentle. Like many of the Atlantic Voices choir members, Tiika'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. Tiika is proud to be the Mascot of Atlantic Voices and hopes that you will love the songs of the sea as much she does!

Please be sure to greet Tiika, and her owner/handler John Fisher as you enter or leave the concert!

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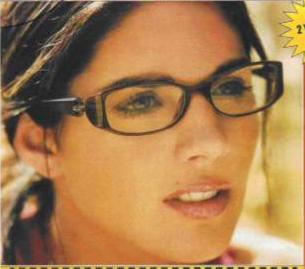
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