

Allister MacGillivray

(John) Allister MacGillivray was born on 17 January, 1948, in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. An accomplished musician, record producer, folklorist and author, Allister is something of a natural wonder in Cape Breton, steeped in the Gaelic traditions of the island from an early age. He has performed with many notable groups over the years, such as John Allan Cameron, Ryan's Fancy, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy.

One of Cape Breton's true artistic treasures, MacGillivray is the composer of Maritime classics such as Song for the Mira, Coaltown Road, and Away From the Roll of the Sea. In addition to familiar settings of some of his best-loved tunes, we are thrilled to present a number of Ottawa premieres, including several arrangements created especially for this concert.



"Between 600 & 700 choirs around the world (from Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, England, Italy, China, Korea, etc.) have performed or recorded my songs. But no choir has covered as many songs of mine as Atlantic Voices." - Allister MacGillivray

Special Guest: Ciarán MacGillivray



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In addition to his musical talent, Allister's son Ciarán is also an accomplished actor. Here are some of his credits:

Selected Theatre: Benedick, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Bandshell Players), Zebulun, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamboat* (Savoy Theatre); Owen Melville, *The Melville Boys* (Chester Playhouse); Second Merchant/Irish Bouzouki Player, *The Comedy of Errors* (Neptune Theatre); Boxer, *Animal Farm: The Musical* (Neptune Theatre); Ferdinand, *The Tempest* (Boardmore Playhouse); Trent Balfour, *The Last Resort* (Boardmore Playhouse); Isaac, *Silver Dagger* (Bus Stop Theatre).

Film & TV: Ray Hare, *Copperhead*; Stanley Jeffries, *Lizzie Borden Took An Ax*; Abusive Soldier, *Take This Waltz*.

Music: As a member of *The Cottars*, Ciarán has performed throughout Canada, the United States, Japan, Denmark and Australia. The band has won 2 East Coast Music Awards, 2 Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia Awards, the Tic Butler Memorial Award and has been nominated for a Gemini Award. The group has performed in Hollywood, at Boston's Symphony Hall and at the world renowned Carnegie Hall, New York City. Ciarán has acted as musical director and vocal coach in numerous theatre shows including Upstage Studios' rendition of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

This concert started with the realization that although singers and audiences love Allister MacGillivray's music, it had been a while since we had sung some of these East Coast classics. So, I, along with our 'Allister Ambassador', Catherine Semple (a friend of the MacGillivray family), started looking for new material to supplement our existing repertoire.

This was to have been a modest tribute, including the six songs that we had already performed in past seasons, with perhaps a couple of added numbers. But then we contacted Allister for his blessing, and we ended up with so much more than we bargained for: he sent us new songs and arrangements, and started us down the path toward multiple commissions of new works.

Composers dusted off their unpublished versions of Allister's songs and touched them up especially for today's programme. Allister's son (and recording artist in his own right) Ciarán MacGillivray agreed to join us to present a few numbers.

And so here we are this afternoon, presenting a full retrospective of the work of a Canadian songwriting giant. More than half of these selections are either brand-new works or newly revived and being presented for the first time in Ottawa. Please enjoy this very special event.



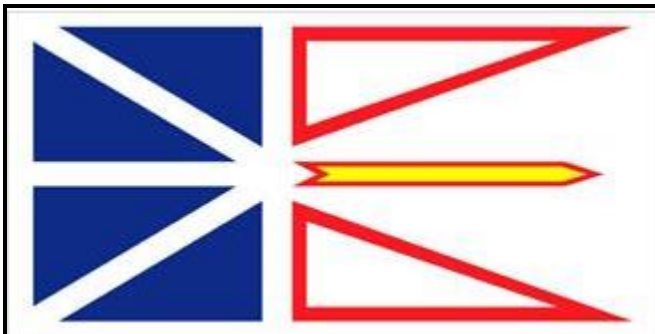
Ode to Newfoundland

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.



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 fourteenth season, 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.

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 our president by email at: president@atlanticvoices.ca. Visit our website at www.atlanticvoices.ca for more information about the choir.

Scott Richardson, Musical Director

Scott Richardson is active in the Ottawa area as an accompanist and choir director. He conducts Atlantic Voices and Musica Viva Singers, and is the rehearsal pianist for the Ottawa Choral Society. He has also accompanied the Carleton University Choir, the Canadian Centennial Choir and the Ottawa Children's Choir. In addition to his freelance piano work, Scott maintains a busy schedule of private teaching

5 Scott grew up in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and studied music at Mount Allison University. His graduate studies took him in a different direction, however, and he completed a Ph.D. in English literature at the University of Ottawa. As an organist and choir director, Scott has held various positions in the Atlantic Provinces and in Ottawa, and is currently Music Director at Orleans United Church.

Theresa Clarke, Accompanist

Theresa Clarke holds Bachelor of Music and Education degrees from the University of Ottawa. She has enjoyed the past thirty-four years serving Ottawa's musical community as a Musical Director, Pianist, Organist, and Piano Accompanist. Theresa presently teaches Music at Sacred Heart Catholic High School, where she is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Sacred Arts Performance Program which provides training and performance opportunities for young vocalists, instrumentalists, dancers and actors.

Theresa has served as the Musical Director for musical theatre productions for GOYA Theatre Productions, Maple Leaf Productions, Act Out Theatre, and the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama. Theresa is currently the Musical Director for the Confidential Musical Theatre Production (Montreal), the Music Minister and Organist for Emmanuel United Church, and the Piano Accompanist for the Atlantic Voices Choir and for the Ottawa Bach Choir.

Fumblin' Fingers

Since its formation in 2005, the Fumblin' Fingers Band has given over 170 public performances at various fundraisers, seniors' residences, birthdays, lobster suppers, and kitchen parties. They have recorded 3 CDs, which are available for purchase in the Downstairs Hall following the concert.

Band members are Celeste Bradbury-Marshall (MC, singer, guitar, percussion), Lynn Petros (fiddle, mandolin), Wayne Mercer (guitar, mandolin), Dave Huddleston (guitar, spoons, bass), Tom Murray (fiddle), and Hannie Fitzgerald (accordions, leader).

They can be contacted via their website: www.fumblinfingers.ca

Email: fumblinfingers@gmail.com



"Allister lets the music of the land flow through his soul and reaches into the innate poetry of his Celtic ancestors for his lyrics. His songs may have been born and nurtured in Cape Breton, but their subjects and appeal are of and for the world."

—Tommy Makem, renowned Irish entertainer

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Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa

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Roy Maddocks
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Doug Sinclair
Basil Stapleton
Darcy Terrell
Ted Welch



Programme Notes

We have been extremely fortunate that Allister MacGillivray has provided us with the opportunity to include his personal insights to supplement the notes from our director in order to describe the various pieces on our program today. Scott's notes are in plain text, while Allister's original thoughts or revisions of existing descriptions are in italics. This makes it more like an informal conversation about the music, and really brings the feel of a kitchen party to life. We hope you enjoy listening to these wonderful songs as much as we enjoy presenting them.

Ode to Newfoundland

Sir Cavendish Boyle (1848-1916), Governor of Newfoundland from 1901-1904, 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 an official provincial anthem, the first province in Canada to do so.

Song for the Mira

Allister MacGillivray's most beloved song, composed in the early 1970s has been recorded by over 275 artists in various countries, including John Allan Cameron *and by everyone from Anne Murray to Daniel O'Donnell*. Our arrangement is by Stuart Calvert, a native of Glace Bay, Cape Breton, who now works in the UK as a freelance musician. He has arranged numerous Cape Breton songs for chorus.

Songs of Home

Ambition or economics make us leave the place, but the music of home sustains us and brings peace in our faraway cities. The song was featured in the Cape Breton Summertime Revue. This arrangement was commissioned from Scott MacMillan by the Halifax Camerata Singers.

Coaltown Road

Depicting the hardships of life in a Cape Breton mining town, this song was based on stories told to Mr. MacGillivray by his uncle Charlie. *The song was originally written for MacGillivray's friend, singer Fergus O'Byrne of Ryan's Fancy. It has been recorded by numerous artists around the world, including The Barra MacNeils (Canada) and Cockersdale (UK).* Our arrangement was prepared for the coal-mining chorus "The Men of the Deeps" by their Conductor Emeritus, Jack O'Donnell.

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 are a parody of the traditional Scottish Gaelic song 'Ged tha me gun crodh, gun aighean'. Although he isn't the composer of the song, Allister MacGillivray is the 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."

This new choral piece is the result of an unlikely collaboration. The English lyric, describing an actual event, was written many years ago by Walter S. MacFarlane of Margaree, Cape Breton. Walter, the son of the bard Angus "Ban", set his humorous poem to a well-known Gaelic air. In the meantime, I discovered an early Scottish arrangement of "Gun Chrodh Gun Aighean", and immediately set about to shape and blend it with MacFarlane's piece. —Allister

Hannah

'Hannah' is one of Allister's new songs, arranged especially for today's concert by James McGowan of the Carleton University Music Department.

Early ballads of northern Scotland—especial of Orkney & Shetland—tell stories of the legendary "selkies" or "seal people". This song is a contemporary retelling of those ancient tales of romance and the supernatural. The narrator is a young seafarer, a marine biologist or oceanographer in 20th century Atlantic Canada. Hannah, his lover, is a great source of comfort to him. She's quiet, mysterious and clairvoyant. Hannah speaks with her eyes, not her voice, and their love is deep and strong, endless and timeless. —Allister

Away From the Roll of the Sea

It is always amazing to see how one artist's spark of creativity can ignite another. Internationally-acclaimed Cape Breton photographer Warren Gordon's image of working boats at rest in Glace Bay Harbour moved Allister MacGillivray to compose "Away From The Roll Of The Sea". MacGillivray has said that he wanted "a song with no people in it." Its haunting beauty has been recognized worldwide in performances by over 130 recording artists. MacGillivray particularly credits its wide international circulation to the choral conductor Elmer Iseler and to the famed Irish tenor, Frank Patterson. MacGillivray himself arranged the song for voices, while Jack O'Donnell provided the beautiful piano accompaniment.

No. 26 Mine Disaster

On a cold February morning in 1979, an explosion tore through the 12 South Wall of No. 26 Colliery in Glace Bay. That blast left ten dead, with six critically injured. Two of the latter soon passed away in a Halifax hospital. I knew several of the men whose lives were lost and, in the bardic tradition, wove the story of those tragic days and the strength of a united community into this solemn ballad. —Allister

This song has been recorded by The Men of the Deeps, and we are pleased to sing their arrangement.

Sea People

"Sea People" was composed following the summer storms of 1976, which took their toll on the inshore fishery of Northern Cape Breton. This song is especially dedicated to the life of fiddler/fisherman Mike MacDougall of Ingonish Beach, whose rough-hewn hands could coax stirring music from a violin. If you sing along on the Chorus, sing for Mike. —Allister

Song for Peace

A plea to move beyond the things that divide us and sail on together into a better future. The song was included in the Cape Breton Summertime Revue, and has been recorded by the Barra MacNeils among many others. Diane Loomer's popular choral arrangement has been sung by choirs across Canada.

This song was composed while I was working as a paid helper on a lobster boat out of southeastern Cape Breton. I was composing when I should have been working, and the captain of the cape islander let me know it! The last two lines of the Chorus are among my favourites of the couplets I've written. The child in Verse 3 is our first-born, Conor. We lost him at the age of eight, but he lives forever in this "Song For Peace", which he inspired. —Allister

All Canadian Now

This could be considered to be an inclusive national anthem for the contemporary face of Canada. This choral arrangement was made by Stuart Calvert for the Cape Breton Chorale, who recorded it for a compilation album of Allister MacGillivray's songs entitled 'Song for the Mira'. Mr. Calvert has graciously produced a revised version of this unpublished score especially for today's concert.

This unabashedly patriotic song, arranged by Stuart Calvert, is dedicated to the wide variety of fortunate and grateful immigrants who for centuries have come to make this awesome country their home. We were

Scottish, Irish, French, African, Russian, Syrian—but “we’re all Canadian now.” —Allister

Bye Bye My Island

This song tells a familiar and painful story on the East Coast: the man who unwillingly must uproot himself and ‘work away.’ Gary Ewer of Halifax arranged this song for the Cape Breton Chorale.

When the economy fails on the East Coast, as has often been the case over the last half century, reluctant young islanders from Cape Breton, Newfoundland, and PEI make that familiar trek from the sea to the cities of the west. In that process, many are the hearts that are broken—those of the travellers, those of the ones left behind. And so we, the poets, write “songs of home”, like this one. There’s even a rumour going around that Cape Bretoners take a quick look around Heaven and then say to Saint Peter, “It’s nice here—but we want to go home!” —Allister

Arm of Gold

A prodigal son tale. After wandering the world, the singer returns to find his final rest in ‘the hand of God and the Arm of Gold’. Though the lyrics are not specific to the East Coast, but tell an archetypal story, the phrase ‘Arm of Gold’ suggests the Bras d’Or Lake, Cape Breton’s beautiful inland sea. The arranger, Peter Gillis, is a native of Cape Breton who has performed and recorded as The Cape Breton Tenor; he recorded a solo version of ‘Arm of Gold’ on his album ‘Cape Breton Tenor’. Mr. Gillis is currently on the vocal faculty at Montclair State University in New Jersey. This arrangement was commissioned especially for today’s concert. We dedicate the performance to the memory of Atlantic Voices tenor Bruce Henderson, who died suddenly last year.

My daughter Fiona was in French immersion, and one day reminded me that the Cape Breton place names Main-à-Dieu and Bras d’Or translated to: “The Hand Of God” and “The Arm Of Gold”. I found that observation intriguing. That night, with my new 5-string banjo in hand, I wrote the song in a folk style. I used the Biblical ideas of both Noah and the Prodigal Son as the framework for this Maritime song of redemption. I had completely forgotten about the piece until a visiting Peter Gillis—the Cape Breton tenor—discovered it in a box of music sheets alongside our piano. Peter’s arrangement and recording of the song elevated it to a whole new level. I found it to be a very satisfying metamorphosis.
—Allister

Tie Me Down

After his wild years, the singer longs to stop being in constant motion and finally rest in one place, with one love. The song was featured in “The Rise and Follies of Cape Breton” and has been recorded by various

artists, including “Ryan’s Fancy” and John Allan Cameron. Carleton University professor James McGowan has arranged ‘Tie Me Down’ especially for this concert.

I wrote this song in my mother’s kitchen, with my feet in the oven, trying to get warm. It’s about the Glace Bay of my youth. In the lyrics, I personify the town, pleading with her to take me back, after my flirtations with the scarlet places of my recent past. It was my first hit, placed on the Easy Listening Charts in the 1970s by my friend and travelling companion, John Allan Cameron. Today it’s a sing-along standard in the ballad bars of Maritime Canada. —Allister

Here’s to Song

A song of farewell about the priceless gifts of friends and music. Allister set out to write an end-of-the-night song, one with which to close the fiddling & singing céilidhs of Cape Breton. "Here's to Song" is his tribute to the way in which music and friendship interweave. Song gives us strength in the face of parting, keeping alive the memory of absent friends and warding off sorrow until our paths bring us back together. . CBC Halifax commissioned the arrangement for The Rotary Youth Choir of Nova Scotia. It has been recorded by numerous ensembles throughout North America. The arranger is the noted choral conductor Lydia Adams, who currently conducts both The Elmer Iseler Singers and Toronto’s Amadeus Choir. Adams, like MacGillivray, is a native of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.



Music Programme

Pre-Show Entertainment provided by Fumblin' Fingers

PART I

Ode to Newfoundland

Sir Cavendish Boyle

arr. Hannie Fitzgerald & Norman E. Brown

Song for the Mira

(violin: Ian Richardson)

(solo: Jennifer Cunningham)

Allister MacGillivray

arr. Stuart Calvert

Songs of Home

Allister MacGillivray

arr. Scott Macmillan

Coal Town Road

*(solos: Allan McDonald, Brien Marshall,
John Cunningham, Winston Babin)*

Allister MacGillivray

arr. John C. O'Donnell

They Had Neither Pole Nor Paddle*

(Gun Crodh, Gun Aighean)

Words: Walter MacFarlane

arr. A. MacGillivray & J. Munro

Hannah*

Allister MacGillivray

arr. James McGowan

Away from the Roll of the Sea

Allister MacGillivray

arr. Allister MacGillivray

piano acc. by John C. O'Donnell

No. 26 Mine Disaster

*(solos: John Cunningham, Allan McDonald,
Doug Sinclair)*

Allister MacGillivray

arr. John C. O'Donnell

Sea People

(solo: Ciarán MacGillivray)

Allister MacGillivray

arr. Scott Richardson

Song for Peace*

Allister MacGillivray

arr. Diane Loomer

Intermission & Silent Auction Bidding

(Please join us in the Downstairs Hall)

***Prior to the second half of the concert, please welcome the
Castenchel Choir, under the direction of Lee Carter, as they perform
"We Rise Again" by Leon Dubinsky.***

****We are joined by our guests, the Castenchel Choir, on these songs***

PART II

All Canadian Now

Allister MacGillivray
arr. Stuart Calvert

Special guest: Ciarán MacGillivray

Bye Bye, My Island

(violin: Ian Richardson)

Allister MacGillivray
arr. Gary Ewer

Arm of Gold*

(violin: Ian Richardson)

(solo: Doug Sinclair)

Allister MacGillivray
arr. Peter Gillis

Tie Me Down

Allister MacGillivray
arr. James McGowan

Here's to Song

Allister MacGillivray
arr. Lydia Adams

Song for the Mira (reprise; singalong)*

**Please Join Us in the Downstairs Hall after the Concert
for a Reception & the conclusion of the Silent Auction.**

Website

Please visit our website regularly for the latest information about Atlantic
Voices: www.atlanticvoices.ca

CDs & Cookbooks

Want to hear more? *Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador
Choir of Ottawa* has recorded several CDs that include repertoire from
previous concerts. CDs and our 10th Anniversary cookbook are available
for sale in the Downstairs Hall during the intermission and at the
reception following the concert, as well as through our website.

Sea People

(Everyone is welcome to sing the chorus, in italics)

They go down with their nets to the shore
They go down like their fathers before;
And the sea seems to say, "If you ride me today,
I will grant you the wealth of my store."

***They are sea people, the pride of the land
Strong of the spirit and rough of the hand
Sea people, the waters command
From their rocky old steeds of the strand***

As the waves rise to tumble and fall,
In the face of a wild summer's squall,
All the traps will be cast and the courses held fast,
For they brave through the worst of it all.

***They are sea people, the pride of the land
Strong of the spirit and rough of the hand
Sea people, the waters command
From their rocky old steeds of the strand***

If you walk the cold beaches alone,
As the first light of morning is born,
All adrift in the haze where the white seagull strays,
You might catch a glimpse on the foam....

***Of the sea people, the pride of the land
Strong of the spirit and rough of the hand
Sea people, the waters command
From their rocky old steeds of the strand***

***They are sea people, the pride of the land
Strong of the spirit and rough of the hand
Sea people, the waters command
From their rocky old steeds of the strand***

Song For The Mira

Out on the Mira on warm afternoons
Old men go fishing with black line and spoons
And if they catch nothing they'll never complain
I wish I was with them again.

As boys in the boats call to girls on the shore
Teasing the ones that they dearly adore
And into the evening the courting begins
I wish I was with them again.

[Chorus]

*Can you imagine a piece of the universe
More fit for princes and kings?
I'll trade you ten of your cities
For Marion Bridge and the pleasure it brings*

Out on the Mira on soft summer nights
Bonfires blaze to the children's delight
They dance 'round the flames singing songs with their
friends
I wish I was with them again

And over the ashes the stories are told
Of witches and werewolves and Oak Island gold
The stars on the river they sparkle and spin
I wish I was with them again

[Chorus]

Out on the Mira the people are kind
They'll treat you to home-brew and help you unwind
And if you come broken you'll see that you mend
I wish I was with them again

Now I'll conclude with a wish you go well
Sweet be your dreams, and your happiness swell
I'll leave you here, for my journey begins
I'm going to be with them again.
I'm going to be with them again.

Many thanks to all 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 have during our concerts play a huge part in allowing us to bring you music and fun. Without this support, we couldn't continue to do what we do. So, come down 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, the auction today and the ones in the future!



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Thank you!

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- Musica Viva Singers
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- Our family members – we couldn't do it without you!

And you, our welcoming and loyal audience!

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"The songs germinate in the waters and womb of Celtic subconsciousness. Then they are either born effortlessly at term, or are labour-induced by a gentle but persistent nudging."

-Allister MacGillivray

Praise for Allister

“MacGillivray has never, to my knowledge, written a bad song. At least two of them—‘Away From the Roll of the Sea’ and ‘Song For the Mira’— are masterpieces! In their subject matter, his works photograph in song virtually every aspect of Cape Breton life.”

—The Chronicle-Herald, July 29, 1992

“Having written ‘Song For the Mira’ is like having written ‘Happy Birthday’, isn’t it?”

—Peter Gzowski, CBC Radio

“This Bard of the Mira has created songs that are a backdrop for universal values—songs of culture, of place, of belonging. And, in the process, he has given pleasure to countless people throughout the world.”

—Leroy Peach, Nova Scotia poet/author

“MacGillivray is a relatively low-key individual, but his compositions and books speak volumes about his talent and hard work as a writer and musician.”

—Cape Breton Post, July 8, 2013

“A man of remarkable talent, we are justly proud of Allister MacGillivray who has achieved far more than can be expected of any one man.”

—Clan MacGillivray Canada, Newsletter, Spring 2001

Upcoming Atlantic Voices events

Saturday, 4 June 2016
Carlington Yard & Plant Sale
Harrold Place Park

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

<http://www.carlingtoncommunity.org/caa-sponsored-events/yard-plant-sale/>

Along with many other people in the neighbourhood, Atlantic Voices mounts a tremendous fundraising effort in this annual sale. Thanks to the generosity of the membership of the choir, we have been able to keep our concert ticket prices at the same level for many years, in part due to the proceeds from this sale. In addition to the usual (and sometimes unusual) items offered for sale, our plant table and bake table are always very popular, with some great treasures.

Monday, 27 June 2016
Orleans United Church
8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Atlantic Voices: The Newfoundland and Labrador Choir of Ottawa shares the stage with the Aurora Women's Choir from Conception Bay South, NL. Come hear two great choirs with Newfoundland roots celebrate our shared musical traditions! Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested) to cover concert expenses. Any extra funds will go to support the interfaith refugee sponsorship initiative in Orleans.

Friday, 1 July 2016
Beaumont-Hamel Memorial
Canadian War Museum
10:00

July 1st 2016 marks the 100th anniversary commemoration of the Newfoundland Regiment at the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel. Atlantic Voices and the Aurora Women's Choir from NL will be performing in this annual memorial ceremony. We will be singing a very special arrangement, "Memorial at Beaumont Hamel," by a wonderful local composer, Matthew Larkin. Come and join us as we pay tribute to the Newfoundland Regiment at this extraordinary memorial service.



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Allister MacGillivray receives the Order of Canada



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Cape Breton songwriter Allister MacGillivray, left, is shown with Governor General David Johnston.

Rideau Hall citation for Allister's December 13, 2013 Investiture into the Order of Canada: *Cape Breton's musical heritage has been enriched by the contributions of Allister MacGillivray. A musician and composer, he is beloved for his original songs, many of which depict the traditional way of life of Cape Breton coal miners and fishermen. His compositions are popular with both professional and amateur choirs, notably his "Song for the Mira", considered a classic and translated into several languages. His various anthologies and publications about fiddling, step dancing and the Gaelic language have also helped to preserve the island's traditional culture.*

(<http://www.capebretonpost.com/News/Local/2013-12-13/article-3543196/Can-you-imagine/1>) (retrieved 20 May, 2016, from the Cape Breton Post website)



Allister MacGillivray at Lake Louise (quite a few years ago)
(photo taken by Tommy Makem)

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SS Maritime Splish, Splash ***(CD, DD, DD, WRDX, CGN)***



Our new Atlantic Voices Mascot is the litter sister of our former Mascot, SS Maritime Atlantiika. She is a Newfoundland Dog named 'SS Maritime Splish, Splash', CD, DD, BDD, WRDX, CGN (meaning Companion Dog, Draft Dog, Brace Draft Dog, Water Rescue Dog Excellent, and Canine Good Neighbour), a.k.a. "Splash". Splash was born July 18th, 2007. As is common of her breed, Splash loves people, especially children, and is very gentle. Like many of the Atlantic Voices choir members, Splash'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. Splash is proud to be the Mascot of Atlantic Voices and hopes that you will love the songs of the sea as much she does!