



## Welcome to the Newcombe Singers Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

**Conductor: Erica Phare-Bergh, Assistant Conductor: Kristina Stevens, Accompanist: Robert Dukarm**

The **Newcombe Singers** is a non-profit society founded in 1967. We are a non-auditioned, mixed choir, singing a variety of music in four parts (SATB: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass), in a celebration of choral music. A comfortable and friendly atmosphere allows us to sing according to our individual abilities, to develop our personal and ensemble skills, and most of all, to have fun and enjoy our time together. The **Newcombe Singers** perform a wide variety of musical genres and styles, with a mix of familiar and challenging pieces. Most of our repertoire is in English, although we frequently sing pieces in Latin, German, French, and other languages, as well. The culmination of each season's efforts is a public performance.

### OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR

Erica Phare-Bergh obtained her M. Mus. in Choral Conducting from McGill University. A native of Montreal, she formerly conducted the Vanier College Choirs, FACE Young Singers, and the McGill Conservatory Choirs. In Calgary, Alberta, Erica directed the William Aberhart High School Choirs, Westwinds Green Choir, Kairos Young Singers, Savridi Singers, and taught music with the Calgary Board of Education. Erica is in demand as an adjudicator, clinician, and presenter, and was the guest conductor for the 10th Anniversary of the CBC-McGill Youth Gala. In 2008, she spearheaded the Montreal première of Oratorio *Terezin*, a large-scale work involving 270 performers at Place-des-Arts. She was the guest conductor for the Cowichan Consort and Malaspina Choirs performance of Handel's *Messiah* in December 2018. Erica has published numerous arrangements with Cypress Choral Music, many of them in French (*La Série enchantée*).

Erica is the Artistic Director of Voices in Motion™ – multigenerational research choirs for those with dementia, their care givers, friends and students. She was recently appointed Music Director at Church of Our Lord in Victoria and is the new director of the Vancouver Island Chamber Choir. Erica is delighted to become the new choral director of the Newcombe Singers.

### OUR ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Kristina Stevens also serves as Music Director of the Monterey Chorus and the Assistant Conductor at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria. She is a founding member of the High Notes Flute Choir, in which she plays alto flute, and also plays principle contrabass in the Hampton Concert Orchestra in Victoria.

### OUR ACCOMPANIST

Robert Dukarm, a native of Victoria BC, Canada, is an organist, pianist, and violinist. He has accompanied the Newcombe Singers since 2014, and has been the organist for Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist in Victoria since 2009. In addition to organ recitals, he has performed with the Capriccio Choir for several Remembrance Day concerts at Victoria's Christ Church Cathedral, including performances of Faure's Requiem and *Vierne's Messe Solennelle*. As a pianist, Robert has accompanied singers in recital and in voice lessons. He and soprano Monica Orso won first prize in the 2009 Senior Lieder Competition at the Victoria Conservatory. Robert also plays both classical and jazz violin, performing at various venues including Victoria JazzFest and local watering holes, including accompanying jazz pianist, Peter Dent, former Music Director as Conductor of the Newcombe Singers. Robert also offers private organ lessons.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Newcombe Singers have three classes of membership: Regular Members, Guest Members, and Student Members. Most members are Regular Members, who pay membership dues and a one-time music deposit. Regular Members are voting members and may run for and hold positions on the Board of Directors. Guest Members and Student Members are not required to pay membership dues or a music deposit. They are non-voting members, and may not run for or hold positions on the Board of Directors. Guest and student members will be accepted by invitation of the Board of Directors upon consultation with the Music Director.

New members are traditionally accepted at the beginning of each season – Fall and Spring. New members have three weeks to decide whether they wish to become full members of the choir. The annual membership fee is \$175.00 in September for the full year, or payments of \$90.00 for September to December and/or \$90.00 for January to May. Joining the Newcombe Singers “mid-season” is conditional on approval of the Music Director. Student members may be paid a stipend or bursary in an amount determined by the Directors. Decisions on stipends or bursaries are made on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on availability of funding (please contact the president for more information).

Name tags are issued to all members. We ask all members to wear their name tags to rehearsals, so that we can get to know each other by name. Membership lists will be available as soon as possible each season.

The Directors shall have authority to suspend or expel any member from the Society for violating any provision of the Constitution and Bylaws or carrying out any conduct deemed to be detrimental to the Society. Examples of unacceptable conduct include, but are not restricted to the following: disruptive, ridiculing, hostile, abusive, or bullying behavior; sexual harassment; and verbal, written, or physical threats and intimidation.

## **MUSIC**

The Music Selection Committee selects our repertoire for each season. The Music Selection Committee is composed of the Librarian (chair), President, Vice-President, Promotions Manager, Music Director, Accompanist, and one representative from each section (see the list of current members, below). The librarian maintains the scores that have a copy write in the music library. Music scores for each singing spring or fall season are available to members for printing, as PDF files, downloaded from the Newcombe Singers website ([Newcombesingers.ca](http://Newcombesingers.ca)). The music can only be used for the purpose of rehearsing and performing with the Newcombe Singers for that specific season. Once that season is finished, the printed copies must be disposed of and the downloaded PDF files deleted from all of the members electronic devices. Members that are unable to print their own music scores can request printed copies from the librarian. Members are required to pay one time refundable music and wardrobe deposit of \$40. This deposit can be reimbursed, with a written request, within three months of leaving the choir, or it may be left as a receipt able tax donation to the Association.

Members are invited to make suggestions of particular pieces of music or themes for consideration by the Music Selection Committee for inclusion in future performances.

## **REHEARSALS**

Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 pm at The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, at 1701 Elgin Street in Oak Bay, unless announced otherwise. Members are asked to arrive by 7:15 pm so that everyone can be settled and ready to begin rehearsals on time. Members should come equipped with a pencil and water bottle. The format of rehearsals includes a warm-up time, rehearsing, and a short

break with announcements from the president and other members. Occasionally it may be necessary to extend rehearsal times, add sectionals, or include additional rehearsals to prepare for Performances. All members are encouraged to attend these special events if at all possible. Once each season Newcombe Singers holds a full-day rehearsal, which provides an opportunity for concentrated effort on our season's repertoire. Please contact your section leader if you have to miss any rehearsal or performance.

During rehearsals, we ask that you give your full attention to the conductor. Please do not talk while the conductor is speaking or other voices are singing. Members are expected to practice words and music at home as much as possible. Rehearsal files are available on our web-site — see below. Regular attendance at rehearsals is expected of each member. Attendance is especially important for the last three rehearsals before a Performance or Sing-Out. The conductor may exclude members with too many missed rehearsals from participating in concerts and community sing-outs.

Rehearsals during the COVID-19 pandemic will be governed by the restrictions in place at that time by B.C. Public Health, St. Mary's Church, and the Newcombe Singers Board of Directors. The plan for the start of the fall singing season ( 2021) is to have the full choir attend two 45 minute rehearsal sessions with a 10 -15 minute break while the church can be ventilated. All singing members must attest to being fully vaccinated on registration for the season, non-medical face masks must be worn appropriately within the church, and social distancing must be maintained. These restrictions may change as the situation changes. To sing in a close community, such as Newcombe Singers, members should share the same care and respect to others as they do to themselves. The focus needs to be "I care about you" .

- ***Please contact your section leader (See list below) if you have to miss any rehearsal or performances***
- ***Please refrain from wearing any perfume or perfumed toiletry (deodorants, hair spray, shave cream, cologne) at rehearsals or performances***
- ***But always wear a smile!***

**\*\*\* WHEN IN DOUBT ABOUT MUSICAL MATTERS, THE CONDUCTOR IS ALWAYS RIGHT \*\*\***

## **PERFORMANCES**

The culmination of each season's efforts is a formal public performance at an appropriate venue. Each season the Newcombe Singers also present one or two "Sing-Outs" at retirement and assisted living facilities in the Oak Bay-Victoria area. Additional public performances may include events like Reembrace Day ceremonies, Christmas Carolling, and fund-raising. These public performances are subject to COVID-19 B.C. Public Health restrictions.

Dress Code for Performances:

Ladies – black, long-sleeved top, black pants or black long skirt, black stockings, and black footwear. No bare legs showing. A single-strand necklace is appropriate. Colored scarves will be provided.

Men – black dress-style shirt, black pants, black socks, and black footwear. Colored scarves will be provided.

**Definite Performance No-Nos:** frilly blouses or tops other than described; striped shirts; braces; flashy belts with big belt buckles; dangling earrings, necklaces, or any other showy jewellery; perfumed toiletries (perfumes, deodorants, hair spray, shave cream, cologne); folders other than official black ones; music without binders; chewing gum at any time; animated conversation while on stage.

During COVID-19 restrictions, we still intend to have a fall performance at St. Mary's Church, either live or live streamed. This will be held within the restrictions in place at that time.

## **FUNDRAISING**

As with any organization that has an active community program, *Newcombe Singers* must raise funds throughout the year, to cover expenses, purchase of music, rehearsal and concert hall rentals, honoraria, office supplies, etc. *Newcombe Singers* participates in a program of Fairway Market reimbursing a percentage of Newcombe Singers purchases made on a Fairway Market gift card which members can obtain from the Newcombe Singers. Other events take place during the Spring and Fall seasons: e.g., plant sale, bake sale, etc. Fundraising ideas are always welcome! We are a registered charity and can issue tax receipts for cash donations made to the choir.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES**

The *Newcombe Singers* could not function without the efforts of a core group of members on the Board of Directors and working committees. Under the guidance of our president, the Board of Directors holds regular business meetings. A full description of the Board of Directors and working committees, as well as the duties and responsibilities for each position, are included in a separate document "**Description of Duties and Responsibilities for Directors, Appointees, and Committee Chairs.**" All members of *Newcombe Singers* are welcome to attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity. Please familiarize yourself with our board members and do not hesitate to address them if you have any ideas or concerns. As you become more familiar with choir activities, please consider how you might make a contribution, either on a committee or on the Board of Directors.

### **Newcombe Singers Association Board of Directors, 2021-2022**

President	Peter Beliveau
Vice President	John Sease
Treasurer	Linda Troke
Secretary	Deanna Hutchings

#### **Directors-at-Large**

Sheila Grigg  
Dawn Johnson  
Heini Mathis  
Norma Jee

#### **Appointees**

Hospitality	Sheila Randall and Audrey Beliveau
Archivist	Cherry Osborn

#### **Section Leaders**

Sopranos	Sheila Randall
Altos	Norma Jee
Tenors	Tom Fyles
Basses	Phil Rogers

**Music Selection** Heini Mathis (Librarian, chair), Peter Beliveau (President), John Sease (Vice-President), Erica Phare-Bergh (Music Director), Kristina Stevens (Assistant Music Director), Robert Dukarm (Accompanist), Sheila Randall (soprano), Norma Jee (alto), Tom Fyles (tenor), and Phil Rogers (bass).

[www.newcombesingers.ca](http://www.newcombesingers.ca)

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 23015 RPO Cook Street, Victoria BC V8V4Z8**