



Welcome to the Newcombe Singers Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Conductor: Kathryn Whitney, 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

Kathryn Whitney is a conductor, artistic director, singer, voice teacher, administrator, and arts entrepreneur. She is the artistic director and conductor of the global virtual family of choirs, SING THE NORTH, which she founded in September 2020 in response to the pandemic. She also artistic directs the One World Baroque Virtual Orchestra & Chorus, also founded in 2020, which she runs with music director, Daniel Taylor.

Kathryn founded and directs the Pacific Song Collective, based on Vancouver Island, and the SongArt Performance Research Group, which has run as part of the Institute of Musical Research at the University of London, England, since 2010. Prior to switching to practical work, she taught music history and aesthetics as a college lecturer at Oxford for more than a decade, with concurrent teaching appointments at Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music.

Trained at Oxford (DPhil), the Guildhall School of Music (PGDip Early Music Performance), and the University of Toronto (BA), Kathryn has been Artist in Residence at the Royal Welsh College of Music, at Wolfson College, Oxford, and at King's College, London. She has sung with ensembles such as the Budapest Chamber Opera, the Monteverdi Choir, the Munich Bach Choir, and the Sooke Philharmonic. A clinician with the BC Choral Federation, she has prepared choruses and consorts for Daniel Taylor, Steven Devine, and Laurence Cummings. A champion of new music, Kathryn has sung the world premieres of more than 50 compositions, the majority written for her voice.

Above all, Kathryn loves working with amateur singers, whether as a conductor, a maker of musical projects, or as a voice coach in her private studio. She is delighted to again be joining the Newcombe Singers as Music Director for the 2023-24 season.

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 principal 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 recitals 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 playing in a violin/jazz duo called Son de Victoria with jazz pianist Peter Dent.

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. 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 a membership fee. 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 \$210.00 in September for the full year, or payments of \$105.00 for September to December and/or \$105.00 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 copyright 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). 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 for a fee of \$10..

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 7:00-9:00 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 6:45 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 may hold a 3 hour 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.

- ***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 *****

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.

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. Social distancing will be practiced and the church will be fully ventilated with open windows.

These protocols may change as the situation changes. We will live stream the rehearsals for those members that do not want to rehearse in person. If COVID numbers and restrictions of Public Health, the Anglican Diocese, and the Newcombe Board of Directors determine that it is prudent to no longer sing in person rehearsals, then we will revert to online rehearsals.

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" .

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 Remembrance Ceremonies in the Legislative Rotunda, 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 jewelry; 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.

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	Keith Beange
Secretary	Michael Dunham-Wilkie

Directors-at-Large

Membership	Sheila Grigg
Librarian	Norma Jee
News Letter	Marilyn Crump

Appointees

Hospitality Sheila Randall, Cathy Stephenson, and Audrey Beliveau
Web Site coordinator and posters Catherine Whale
Archivist Cherry Osborn

Section Leaders

Sopranos Sheila Randall
Altos Norma Jee
Tenors
Basses Phil Rogers

Music Selection: Norma Jee (Librarian, chair), Peter Beliveau (President), John Sease (Vice-President), Kathryn Whitney (Music Director), Kristina Stevens (Assistant Music Director), Robert Dukarm (Accompanist), Dawn Johnson, Sheila Randall (soprano), Norma Jee (alto), Tom Fyles (tenor), Phil Rogers (bass), Audrey Beliveau, Marilyn Crump.

www.newcombesingers.ca

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