

NEWCOMBE NOTES SEPTEMBER 2023

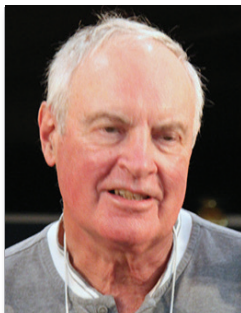
MANY THANKS TO THESE AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Music DirectorKathryn Whitney
Assistant ConductorKristina Stevens
AccompanistRobert Dukarm
President..... Peter Beliveau
Vice-president John Sease
TreasurerKeith Beange
Music Librarian Norma Jee
MembershipSheila Grigg
Newsletter editorMarilyn Crump
Graphic Design.Beverly van Druten-Blais
GrantsPam Copley
Secretary..... Mike Dunham-Wilkie
PiggybankCathy Stevenson
Webmaster & LivestreamingTom Fyles
Score PDFs for the website, voice tracks
and video streaming Heini Mathis

WEBSITE NEWS

Please check out our lovely new Newcombe Singers [website](#), a gift from Kathryn. The website has lots of room for photos, too.

New Logo: Thank you Kathryn for designing our beautiful new logo, too! Wow!



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT, NEWCOMBE SINGERS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome all the returning members of the choir and the new members who have joined us!

Newcombe Singers is a community choir, and in and of itself is a community of people who share a passion for music and enjoy singing within a group of like-minded individuals. Sadly, COVID has diminished the social aspects of our choir, but we are attempting to reintroduce some of the things enjoyed in the past. The choir has restarted the social tea following our third rehearsal in the fall. Please stay to welcome new singers and say "welcome back" to all others.

When you become part of any community, you have not only the responsibility to take care of your own needs but also the social responsibility to respect the needs of others. To these ends, we have posted on the Newcombe Singers website our protocols for Respiratory Illness which address the need for caring for yourself when you develop symptoms, as well as showing care for other members by not attending live rehearsals or performances.

We are a group of individuals who are part of a community of singers. As a non-auditioned choir, we have varied musical abilities, knowledge, and tastes. It would be most unusual for everyone to feel completely comfortable and initially competent about singing every part of the program presented each season. The Music Director, Kathryn Whitney, and the board have worked to develop a varied program which may have pieces initially challenging for some or not to the musical taste of others. I hope that with the teaching skills of Kathryn and our more experienced members' help, everyone will come to be proud of their achievements as we master the music and grow as choristers. If you have any concerns about the music selection or the rehearsals, please contact Kathryn. If you have concerns about the operation of the choir, please come to me —my door is always open.

Every member of the choir brings with them life experiences, knowledge and abilities that are of great value to share with the choir and help the board in multiple ways. Please support us in our work by considering becoming a volunteer in whatever way you can.

Thank you and welcome. 🎵 Peter Beliveau

MEMBERSHIP WELCOME AND NEWS 2023-24



Hello, all Newcombites! Welcome to our new season. This is Sheila Grigg, membership person. Glad to have all returning members with us again, and we have had some encouraging inquiries from new members to be. So, if you see a new singer in your section, please say "Hello" and help them feel welcome.

And now for some practical bits: I collect choir fees in cash or by cheque at each rehearsal. These fees are \$105 for the fall session or \$210 for the whole year. You can also e-transfer your fees to pay.newcombesingers@gmail.com and bring your receipt to the next rehearsal to show me. Our treasurer Keith and I keep track of members' payments (with subtle reminders if late...).

I liaise with section leaders when membership info needs to be sent out, and work with our president Peter to get a membership list of all paid members up and running as soon as possible. I also reach out to past members in August to remind them that we are here and would be happy to welcome them back.

Cheers, 🎵 Sheila Grigg

DEAR NEWCOMBE SINGERS, FRIENDS

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our brand new newsletter "Newcombe Notes"! This endeavor is an inaugural effort for me, too, as I've never done a newsletter before, but believe it has great value for any organization. I hope you'll all take the time to read our newsletter and learn about the many year round efforts made by so many people in this choir on our behalf. It's seriously impressive!

To help our newsletter be very beautiful, I'd like to thank Beverly van Druten-Blais for working her graphics 'magic' to create our finished works.

Our newsletter will come out periodically in September, November, January and March. That timing was decided on as it works along with our choir year and performance dates. In particular, the November newsletter will be a great way to inform our members of any other musical or cultural events any of us are involved in for the holiday season. Please send that info to me when you know of it.

Our newsletter will be sent to everyone on our members' list, and will be a good way to stay in touch with singers who are away for any reason (be it a long absence or short) and keep them abreast of what's happening. The newsletter still only be sent out to folks who agree to receive it. Please let me know if you wish to "opt out".

I'm truly excited as we launch Newcombe Notes, and have the opportunity to share so much in our choir community.

🎵 Marilyn Crump, *Newcombe Notes* editor



NOTES FROM ROBERT...

Hello and welcome back to those Newcombe Singers who are returning, and welcome to new people who are joining us this year.

This has been a busy summer for me. In addition to my usual accompanist work, I had the opportunity to coach a group of priests in Calgary how to sing as a group. At the beginning of the event the priests could not sing together with each other or the organ. Most of them had good singing voices, but just didn't understand how to be leaders and followers.

By the end of the four day event, they were singing together and mostly in tune!

I spent considerable time working on my choral piece "Lo, How a Rose" to be premiered at our December concert. First, I composed a new melody to an old text, then I figured out the chordal harmony. After that, I worked on the voice parts to be sure there wasn't voice crossing, and the piece was written in the proper range. Finally, I put in the text, phrasing marks and dynamics.

I look forward to continuing with the Newcombe Singers in my 9th season with the choir and hearing you sing my new piece.

🎵 Robert Dukarm

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S CORNER – FALL 2023



I'm thrilled to be communicating with all Newcombe Singers for the first time through the inaugural issue of Newcombe Notes! I send my warm congratulations and thanks to Marilyn Crump for dreaming up this great idea, and for the hard work that has made it happen. Thank you, too, to Beverly, for her expert assistance making this dream a reality – we are very lucky that you are sharing your skills and artistry with us!

For my first MDC column, I would first like to extend my warm welcome to all the singers joining us for the 2023-24 season. Whether you are a returning singer, or someone singing with us for the first time this season, I am so looking forward to working with you on our beautiful musical projects together this season.

This year I am so pleased to be leading the choir in two very special concerts: "Festivals of Light", which brings together winter music that is sung by the many different cultures that live alongside one another in Victoria; and our May concert, "Sakura – Songs from the Tree of Life", which celebrates the gift of cherry trees ('sakura') to the City of Victoria from our Japanese community. With these two concerts, I aim to

lead the Newcombe Singers in a return to our roots as an engaged and dynamic community choir built on friendship, curiosity, and acceptance, both toward our fellow singers and of our community at large. If at any time during the new season ahead, you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, don't hesitate to write to me. My email address is newcombesingers@kathrynwhitney.net. I will always be happy to hear from you.

I feel very lucky to be working as part of such a wonderful team of musicians —thank you so much to our wonderful pianist, Robert Jan Dukarm, and our assistant conductor, Kristina Stevens. It is a real privilege to be featuring two of Robert's pieces at our December concert this year! It is my pleasure to be working alongside you both.

To all singers, I'm wishing you all a wonderful year ahead filled with friendship, interest, challenge, reward, and above all, beautiful music. I'm so glad to be making music with you all this year!

🎵 Kathryn Whitney



NEWCOMBE RESPIRATORY INFECTIOUS DISEASE PRECAUTIONS FALL 23/24

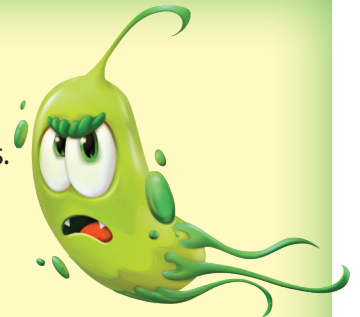
Newcombe Singers proposed precautions for this fall Season will be a measured response to the continued threat of exposure to viruses that will be circulating in the community. The plan will take into account that some of the members are either immunologically compromised or are the caregiver of a family member that is compromised:

- All members that plan to participate in rehearsals or performances will need to be up to date with their immunizations against COVID-19.
- Members that are experiencing respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, or who are feeling unusually tired,



will not attend live rehearsals or performances.

- Masks will be optional at indoor rehearsals whether singing or not.
- Singing will be from the front of the church and not in the pews but with attempts to distance singers from each other. Choir members should feel comfortable as to the distance from an adjacent singer and may elect to sing from the pews. Ventilation will be maximized by opening the windows. Hepafilters and CO2 monitors may also be used to measure and improve the air quality.



These precautions are changeable and are written in response to the current incidence of illness in our community. If the incidence of illness rises, a mask mandate may be implemented if the Newcombe Board, in consultation with the Music Director, decides that it is warranted.

Rehearsals will continue to be live streamed.

VICTORIA MUSIC STRATEGY GRANT APPLICATION 2023

Since early May a team consisting of Kathryn Molloy, an experienced grant writer, Pam Copley, and Norma Jee, along with targeted assistance from Peter, Keith and other board members, has dedicated considerable time, effort and expertise to prepare an application for funding from the new City of Victoria Music Strategy Grant.

The Victoria Music Strategy Grant program offered up to \$10,000 to support and nurture the music sector in Victoria as per the goals of the Victoria Music Strategy (available online).


Newcombe Singers chose to focus on priority #3 of the strategy as follows;

- Grow the Audience: audience and public engagement, outreach, promotions, and marketing expenses including design, print, and advertising costs.
- Equity, diversity and inclusion based on the City's guidelines and specific equity considerations were also important criteria.

Our project submission was entitled "Choral Bridges Project: Festivals of Light", and focused on our goal to attract more singers and a broader audience by introducing and performing the works of under-represented living composers, such as those featured in last season's concerts. It emphasized the positive response from audiences and singers, and how singers gained new skills and insights into the power of music programming to enlighten and connect singers, their audiences, and the wider community.


Unfortunately our project was not selected for funding. Although our proposal was considered very good, the funding was extremely limited, there were many applicants, and we didn't quite make it. The team feels that Newcombe Singers should consider implementing as much of this project as possible so that it has "successes" to draw on for future funding applications. The message from the City was definitely to stay the course with our overall plan and to keep applying where appropriate.

Kathryn Molloy has almost finished compiling a list of funders, grants and timelines that we may be eligible for going forward. The work that went into preparing this application can easily be used and adapted for upcoming funding opportunities.

 Pam Copley

PROVINCIAL EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

In June we applied for a possible 3 year grant from this fund. We won't know if we've been successful until 2024, but even having our application accepted is good news. If you know current provincial government employees, please encourage them to request that their donations go towards the Newcombe Singers.

 Norma Jee



PIGGY BANK

Piggy Bank is an informal raffle held at every rehearsal and is one of our most important fundraisers as well as a fun event. Typically, between \$50 and \$60 is raised in ticket sales every week. Last year, together with gift baskets raffled at the concerts, this amounted to over \$3,000—a significant contribution to the cost of purchasing new music for us to enjoy.

Sheila Randall and Cathy Stephenson have been organizing Piggy Bank for the last few years. Tickets are one for a dollar or 3 for \$2, and are sold at the door and during the break. Members are asked to bring in items to raffle. Wine, chocolates and preserves are always popular.

If everyone made one contribution each season that would be ideal.

Please bring donations and any questions to Sheila and Cathy. And start collecting your toonies!

You can email Cathy at cathyongaliano@gmail.com

SING THE NORTH

2023 SUMMER CHORAL PROGRAM



Gathering in peaceful,
leafy Oak Bay in late July
for 8 days of singing

joyous and inspiring
choral music.

What could be better?

Such was the **Sing the
North 2023 Summer
Choral Program**,
an in-person" event
in the Sing the North family
of virtual choirs founded by

Artistic Director Kathryn Whitney.

Thirty-eight choristers met at St. Mary the
Virgin Church on Elgin Street in Oak Bay to sing
a repertoire representing 500 years of choral
music—Monteverdi and Palestrina to Clara
Schumann and Gabriel Fauré; Sir Arthur Sullivan,
to contemporary composers Andrew Balfour,
Joy Decoursey-Porter, Sarah McLachlan, and
Sarah Quartel.

The 2024 Summer Choral Program,
July 20-27, promises to be another spectacular
event, singing Mozart Requiem with Canadian
choral superstar Howard Dyck. Put this on
your calendar!

Here is the link: [https://singthenorth.ca/
summerchoral](https://singthenorth.ca/summerchoral)

 John Sease

FESTIVALS OF LIGHT CONCERT

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023

PART 1:

Snowforms by R. Murray Schafer

Aeyay Balana Sakkad a song associated with the
Diwali Festival of Lights

Gaudete Christus est Natus by Sarah MacDonald

Maoz T'zur (Rock of Ages) a Hannukah song

Lo, How a Rose by Robert Dukarm.

A world premiere of a new
setting of this ancient carol

The Gift by Russell Wallace,
an indigenous composer

Organ solo Theme and variations
on Lullaby Little Jesus
by Robert Dukarm

Northern Lights by Ola Gjeilo

PART 2:

The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten
We will sing all 11 parts of the
Ceremony of Carols
with a harp solo as an interlude

Angels We Have Heard on High a final song of light with
an organ prelude and then
audience participation

'DEAR WOLFGANG / LUDWIG / CLARA / FANNY'... I HAVE A QUESTION.

For our upcoming newsletters, Kathryn has
suggested this fun column to answer any and
all music related questions we might have.
Anyone in the choir can answer the questions
submitted, too!

So, if you have any queries of this sort, please
send them to me, [Marilyn Crump](#), before
Oct. 31st and we'll get them in the November
newsletter.

DONATIONS

Did you know that you can make a tax-
deductive donation to the Newcombe
Singers? You can donate through our
treasurer, Keith Beange,
at pay.newcombesingers@gmail.com

Please note: Keith is a non-singing
member of NS but graciously donates
his time and talents to help our choir.