

# NEWCOMBE NOTES

# MARCH 2024

## MANY THANKS TO THESE AMAZING BOARD MEMBERS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Music Director .....Kathryn Whitney  
Assistant Conductor .....Kristina Stevens  
Accompanist .....Robert Dukarm  
President.....Peter Beliveau  
Vice-president .....John Sease  
Treasurer .....Keith Beange  
Music Librarian .....Norma Jee  
Membership .....Sheila Grigg  
Newsletter editor.....Marilyn Crump  
Graphic Design.Beverly van Druten-Blais  
Grants .....Pam Copley  
Secretary..... Mike Dunham-Wilkie  
Piggybank .....Cathy Stevenson  
Webmaster & Livestreaming ....Tom Fyles  
Score PDFs for the website, voice tracks  
and video streaming ..... Heini Mathis



## IT'S NOT ONLY ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC!

A few thoughts about how we all “pay” to enjoy singing. The breakdown of funding to keep our association viable is revenue vs. expenses. Less than half of our revenue in the past has been derived from membership fees. The rest of the revenue was from donations, choir funding, and concerts.

We have been very fortunate in the last year to have been supported by donations from members who not only love to sing but also desire to support the musical talent in our community as well as some new and talented Canadian composers.

As for choir funding, we have done extremely well with basket raffles and “piggy bank” over the last number of years thanks to Cathy Stephenson, Sheila Randall, and Audrey Beliveau. Some members have come forward with more ideas for local choir funding that will be presented in the coming weeks. If you have any ideas for pursuing a funding source, I would appreciate it if you would approach me with your ideas.

Concerts were the last main source of revenue in the past. Our audiences tended to be composed of past Newcombe members, family, and friends. To attract new choir members as well as audience attendance to our concerts we have to become better known in the community by increasing public recognition. Ellen Godfrey has taken on the task of Newcombe awareness through a promotion of our choir. Production costs have increased dramatically for us to draw in audiences to meet these increased costs of staging concerts.

This last year with the guidance and support of Kathryn, we have begun a concerted effort of grant applications. Pam Copley and Norma Jee have been at the fore front in this extremely time consuming task. Marilyn Crump has recently agreed to help with this endeavour.

## VOLUNTEERS ANYONE!

To paraphrase a famous quote, the best way to find your self is to lose yourself in the service of others. Newcombe Singers is completely run by volunteers except for Kathryn and Robert. The Board of Directors meet once a month via Zoom to plan and assure that all the tasks required are performed to allow the Society to function smoothly and effectively. All these tasks are either performed by the Board or delegated to non-Board members. Some delegated tasks are such things as fundraising, grant applications, promotion, and technical support. continued on page 2...

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day

When more tasks can be delegated, it shares the work load beyond board members. Some tasks that I have had to commit to do are tasks that can be performed by any member such as, opening and closing the church for rehearsals, setting up the chairs, checking the PO Box for mail. Please let me know if you, as a choir member, are willing to do similar tasks such as these that require less responsibility and time involvement. As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, there are choir members who have skills that would make them ideal to perform the more involved tasks that are needed for our society to function. We will need to fill the role of Secretary at the AGM this May to enable us to continue as a Society!

♪ Peter Beliveau



### NOTES FROM ROBERT...

Did you know that Robert Jan Dukarm has a website? Check it out: [www.robertjandukarm.com](http://www.robertjandukarm.com)

You can find links to Robert's recordings on his website, as well as on Spotify and YouTube.

#### **The Victoria Cantata Ensemble**

(Trumpet, Organ and three singers) will be performing J.S. Bach's Cantata BWV 128 at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (680 Courtney) on Sunday, April 28th at 2:00 pm. This concert will feature vocal solos as well as an organ solo by Robert. Admission is by donation (\$10.00 cash at the door).

The Royal Canadian College of Organists is putting on a workshop called:

#### **Workshop on the Aging Voice**

The event will take place on Saturday, March 9th at Centennial United Church, starting at 10:00 and running for 45-50 minutes.

The event is free, but singers must register with their name, choir, email and voice part. Dr. Gary Froese will be doing a presentation discussing symptoms, areas of concern, and strategies and considerations for both conductors and singers. The remaining time will be spent working with those singers who registered to be a part of the event. A couple of students from a voice studio may be available for demonstrations. Hymnals in the pews will be used. In total, we want no more than 100 singers. Church choir and community choir singers are both welcome. Cut off for registration is Tuesday, **March 5th**. A registration form will be available on the RCCO Victoria website. ♪

## WELCOME ELLEN GODFREY!

It is our great fortune to have among our choir members a person with exceptional PR skills – Ellen Godfrey. Ellen has kindly offered to do some PR work for our upcoming Sakura concerts in May, 2024.

Ellen has broad experience, working in PR since her university days, then doing PR for art galleries, books, authors and events, as well as PR, sales and marketing in the software world. After retirement she became the fundraising leader for her MP and MLA, and was responsible for getting donations and encouraging sold out events. Wow!

Ellen is looking for 1,2, or 3 volunteers who are active on social media and would work with her to spread the word about the Newcombe Singers and our spring concerts via blasts to their social media friends. She is hoping to form a good working team to bounce ideas around with. It would be especially helpful to have one to two volunteers who have good knowledge of the choral scenes in Victoria (and Sidney) -- no social media experience needed.

If you've ever been interested in learning about PR, this is a wonderful opportunity to get expert guidance. Please contact Ellen Godfrey (alto) or Marilyn Crump (soprano). ♪

### WE HAVE A YOUTUBE LINK TO SHARE WITH YOU!

Norma Jee's granddaughter, Hermione Goss (nee Tankard), is a graduate of U of T's music program, and there is a video of her performing the Clara Schumann piece "If You Love Beauty" or *Liebst du um Schönheit* that's part of our May concert. Her performance is lovely, with good German pronunciation. Check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTeOZkv5844>

# GRANT EFFORTS 2023/24

In early 2023, the Newcombe Singers started to apply for various arts and culture grants. There are a surprising number of grants we can qualify for, and this work is ongoing with a small grants committee. The team began with Norma Jee, Pam Copley, and Kathryn Molloy, along with the help of many people on the board of directors. It has now evolved to be Pam Copley and Marilyn Crump. Kathryn Whitney has been hugely helpful with her suggestions and grant writing expertise. Norma has asked to have only a consulting role now.

## A summary of our effort so far:

- 1) **Provincial Employees Community Services Fund** – May 18, 2023. Funding is on a 3 year cycle and we have requested \$5,500/year for 3 years. We will be notified in the next few months, if successful.
- 2) **Recovery and Resiliency Fund** (administered by the Vancouver Foundation for the entire Province) – June, 2023. All funds have been allocated but the funds could not cover the large number of applications made by non-profits and charities. They gave us a Find Grants link which could be useful.
- 3) **City of Victoria Music Strategies Grant** – June, 2023, but we were not successful as funding was limited and there were many applicants. We did receive positive feedback and encouragement on our application, and we can use this application as a partial template in future.
- 4) **Corporation of the District of Oak Bay.** Newcombe Singers has requested \$1,000 to support our upcoming “Sakura: Songs from the Tree of Life” concert in May, 2024
- 5) **Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society.** We requested \$500 to support our Sakura concert in May, 2024, and were successful in receiving this grant. This is the first grant funding Newcombe Singers has received.
- 6) **CRD Arts & Culture Support Grant.** We have requested a grant of \$3,000 to support our May, 2024 “Sakura” concerts. Grants from this organization cannot be used for concerts outside the CRD member areas, and that includes the islands and anything north of Saanich.

## Proposals to Submit:

- 7) **Victoria Foundation Arts & Culture Grant.** We are in the process of applying for a grant to support our December, 2024 concerts

If you would like to join us in our grant work, please contact Pam or Marilyn (or anyone on the board). 🎵

~ Marilyn Crump



## FEBRUARY PIGGY BANK NEWS



Piggy bank is an informal raffle held at every rehearsal. It is a fantastic fundraiser as well as a fun event! How Piggy bank succeeds so well is that we ask members to bring a donation once in the fall and once in the early spring session. Examples of donations could be a bottle of wine, chocolate, and preserves which have been very popular in the past. Tickets cost \$2 for 3 or \$1 for 1.

Giving donations and buying raffle tickets each week are completely voluntary. We have a weekly intake

of \$50-\$60. Specific donations for the concert baskets (which Audrey and Sheila put together so beautifully) add more than \$3,000 to our income. Some of these funds go towards purchasing new music, etc.

We really appreciate your donations and participation each week. In honour of our Sakura concert in May, in Japanese I say, Imanotokoto Sayonara. (For now, goodbye). 🎵

Any questions, please email Cathy at [cathyongaliano@gmail.com](mailto:cathyongaliano@gmail.com) or Sheila at [sj.dj@shaw.ca](mailto:sj.dj@shaw.ca)



## REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS SPRING '24

Mar 24th	Sunday 1:30 – 5:30	Extra Rehearsal	St. Mary's Church
April 30	Tuesday 7 – 9 pm	Dress Rehearsal Concert 1	St. Elizabeth's Church 10030 Third St. Sidney
May 1st	Wednesday 5 – 9pm	Concert 1 (7pm)	St. Elizabeth's Church
May 4th	Saturday 1:15 – 3:45pm	Dress Rehearsal Concert 1	St. Mary's Church
May 5th	Sunday 1:30 – 5:30pm	Concert 2 (3pm)	St. Mary's Church

Concert 1 in Sidney has not been confirmed. It is dependent on grant funding.  
The dates of the singout have yet to be determined



MAURICE DURUFLÉ

## REQUIEM

7.30PM | SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

Featuring guest organist **Robert Quinney** (New College, Oxford)



### REQUIEM - Maurice Duruflé

Also Duruflé's Four Motets on Gregorian Themes, Cantique de Jean Racine, by Gabriel Fauré, and Os Justi by by Anton Bruckne

**Saturday March 9, 2024 • 7:30 pm**  
**Christ Church Cathedral**

**Peter Butterfield** conducts the **Victoria Philharmonic Choir** in this choral masterwork, a setting of the traditional Mass for the Dead, which weaves centuries-old Gregorian plainchant with the rich harmonies of mid-20th century French organ music.

Guest organist **Robert Quinney** who will also present two solo works: **Duruflé's Scherzo** and **Francis Pott's Toccata**. Mr. Quinney began playing the

organ at age ten, and is the Director of the Choir of New College, Oxford.

Soloists in the Duruflé Requiem are: **Hillary Tufford** (mezzo-soprano) and **Louis Dillon** (baritone), with **Brian Yoon**, Principal Cello in the Victoria Symphony.

**Doors will open by 7 pm.**

**Tickets are \$30 (regular) and \$15 (student), plus Eventbrite fees.**

**Accompanied children under 13 may attend for free, and do not require tickets.**

**Tickets are available through Eventbrite.**

**Want to know the most DELICIOUS way to support us?**

**Order Purdy's chocolates from our Fundraiser!**



This year, we're hoping to raise \$500 for Newcombe Singers, and we need YOUR HELP!

From now until March 11th, you can order Purdy's treats from our fundraiser by joining our campaign and browsing the tastiest selection of Easter chocolates online. Shop gifts for family, friends, neighbours AND yourself in one convenient place. After all orders are submitted, we'll sort, distribute, and let you know when you can collect your goodies.

What you'll need to order:

1. Our campaign number: 75292
2. Go to our fundraising website: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1926300-116078>
3. Click "Join Campaign"
4. Shop, shop, shop away!

Thank you EVERYONE for your support. Even if you can't buy chocolates from us, it would mean the world if you could share this fundraiser link to everyone you know!

**Happy Chocolating!**

If you need any help at all, in any way.....just phone me!

Thank you again for your support, Martin Goodwin, 250-360-6344



# SAKURA – Songs from the Tree of Life

A concert celebrating the gift of cherry trees to the City of Victoria from our Japanese community.

In 1937, the City of Victoria held parades to celebrate 75 years since the founding of the city. The Japanese Community Association entered a float (pictured) that was widely praised, and won a cash prize of \$300. The Japanese Community Associate donated the prize back to the city in the form of 1013 cherry trees, which were planted in Beacon Hill Park and along the city boulevards.

Further gifts of cherry trees from Japanese residents took place in the 1930s elsewhere in BC. The mayors of Kobe and Yokohama presented the Vancouver parks board with 500 cherry trees to honour Japanese Canadians who had fallen in the First World War. The trees now bloom around Vancouver's Japanese War Memorial and along the walkways of Stanley Park. After the Second World War, consul Muneo Tanabe, gave a further gift of cherry trees in 1958, stating that these were 'an eternal memory of good friendship between our two nations'. In 1959-60, Shotaru Shimizu, owner of the Dominion Hotel in Prince Rupert, gifted 1500 cherry trees to his city.

These later donations of the flowering tree are especially remarkable as they happened after the dropping of atomic

bombs by Allied Forces on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. What is more, these gifts came after the Japanese Internment—the period during which the Government of Canada had forcefully removed all Canadians of Japanese racial origin from coastal settlements, confiscated their property, and held them in Internment Camps in the BC interior. Shotaru Shimizu himself gave the trees more than a decade after his property was confiscated, his family spent four years in internment camps, and he was forbidden from returning to the coast (he settled in Edmonton).

What do the cherry trees, and 'sakura', their blossoms, represent? Caroline Ishii, author of an article about Sakura in the Nikkei Voice (magazine of the Japanese society in Victoria) puts it this way: "... life and beauty are precarious like cherry blossoms, so we must appreciate what we have and go on despite difficult circumstances. ... With future generations, including myself, there is renewal and forgiveness. ... We plant the seeds for true understanding and new growth. Centuries later, the words of Kobayashi Issa, poet and priest, are relevant today more than ever: In the cherry blossom's shade, there is no such thing as a stranger."

This concert is created with love, and with sincere thanks for the abiding message of forgiveness.





# THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

or The Slave of Duty



VICTORIA  
**G&S**  
Society

The Victoria Gilbert and Sullivan Society  
presents a semi-staged  
concert production

**FRI June 21 at 7:30**

**Sun June 23 at 2:00**

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church  
1701 Elgin Street

**Sat June 29 at 2:00**

**Sun June 30 at 2:00**

Parkland Secondary School  
10640 McDonald Park Rd, N Saanich,

Tickets \$35 available via Eventbrite

Peter Butterfield  
Music Director

Robert Jan Dukarm  
Accompanist

Heather Lee  
Stage Director

Elizabeth Sly  
& Linda Troke  
Producers

A 2024 VICTORIA GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY PRODUCTION



Lia Collis as Jerry Cobb in the pilot seat

The first American woman to test for space flight, Jerrie Cobb, steps into an isolation tank for a record-breaking nine hours. Her memories unfold before her, from learning to fly a plane as a child in Oklahoma to testifying in Congressional hearings about the under-the-radar all-female Mercury 13 space program. This is a compelling drama about the challenges of sisterhood and fighting for the greater good, based on a true story.



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