

The Richmond Singers

sing music from our heartlands

FABIANA KATZ, Artistic Director

HILARY JUNG, Accompanist



Voices Without Borders no passports required

With Special Guests: The Squares

And Friends:

CONOR STUART, Violin
CHRIS HAAS and
BARB MATTHIAS, Percussion
STEVEN JOHNSTON, Bass



THE RICHMOND SINGERS
ENSEMBLE
CINDY MCPHERSON,
Accompanist

Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 3 PM

Fraserview Mennonite Church
11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond, BC
www.richmondsingers.ca

INTRODUCTION TO SPRING CONCERT 2026

It is my dream that when asked, “Where are you from?”, the next generation will simply answer...

“Earth”.

Take a trip with us as we explore the many heritages represented in our choir - roots that were started in other cultures and other countries, which now, are artfully woven into the fabric of the planet. In this space, music becomes our common language – a meeting place where borders fade as voices unite.

Joan Ross
President, Richmond Singers

Stay in touch with the Richmond Singers:



@The Richmond Singers



@richmond_singers



@Richmond Singers

www.richmondsingers.ca

Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to sing, in harmony, a variety of music for the enjoyment of the members as well as to give public and private performances for the listening pleasure of others.

Audition Info:

If you enjoyed today's concert and think you might like to sing with us, please consider joining us as we love to add fresh voices, faces and personalities to our choir. We invite you to email richmondsingers@gmail.com to request information about our September 2026 audition process.

The Richmond Singers

Women Who Love to Sing



The Richmond Singers present three full concerts each year and are an enthusiastic, active contributor to Richmond's community life—performing at City of Richmond events and various charity benefits. The choir has performed at the BC Seniors' Games, taken part annually in Culture Days, and proudly represented British Columbia at national and international festivals such as UNISONG in Ottawa and Festival 500 in St. John's, Newfoundland. During the pandemic lockdown, the choir continued to share music through virtual performances, including “O Canada” for Richmond's Canada Day celebrations. In both 2016 and 2025, the Richmond Singers were honoured to perform at the Kathaumixw International Choral Festival in Powell River, presenting eight concerts over five days alongside choirs from around the world.

Soprano:

Veronica Armstrong, Jan Barstow, Norma Bebluk, Jackie D'Souza, Kirsty Gourlay, Margaret Hewlett, Linda Hicks, Mary Liu, Adrienne McAlpine, Ruth Mukai, Lucia Ramirez, Darlene Stewart, Pat Stuart, Anita Wagstaff, Lynn Walters, Deanna Warner, Yvonne Yip, Pauline Zhao, Natalia Zisman

Second Soprano:

Elke Baines, Lorna Boyle, Susan Cush, Linda Farn, Harjeet Grewal, Donna Halabisky, Sandi Hale, Kelly Johnson, Ginny Layden, Wendy Lee, Michelle Leibel, Tetiana Mandrykina, Sandra McBurney, Pam McKenzie, Clare Morris, Irena Nevolsky, Lea Oye, Joan Ross, Lily Zhou.

Alto:

Anne-Marie Aleliunas, Helen Andow, Gerry Boretta, Sabrina Chen, Dorothy Dawson, Pat Hinton, Bev Holt, Pat Lindberg, Alison Martin, Vickie McLeod, Mary Anne Nelson, Regina Nevada, Barb Newton, Victoria Ruscito, Marilyn Sakiyama, Lorraine Shikaze, Edith Turner

The Richmond Singers Ensemble

Women Who Bring Joy



The Richmond Singers Ensemble is an independent section of the Richmond Singers. Since 1989, they have answered the need for a small choral group to perform in venues not suitable for the larger choir. The Ensemble members select their own repertoire and rehearse independently of the main choir. With enthusiasm and heart, they bring lively, interactive programs to retirement residences, adult care centres, and community events, most recently performing and participating in a public information forum for mental health week. Averaging over 35 performances each year, the Richmond Singers Ensemble is widely cherished for sharing the joy of music with audiences throughout the community.

Soprano:

Linda Hicks, Lucia Ramirez, Sherry Richards, Marge Symons, Maureen Thate, Deanna Warner

Second:

Susan Cush, Sharon Doucelin, Linda Farn, Ginny Layden, Wendy Lee, Mary Schmok

Alto:

Pat Hinton, Joan Leversage Lu, Pat Lindberg, Mary Anne Nelson, Pam Hiensch, Marilyn Sakiyama

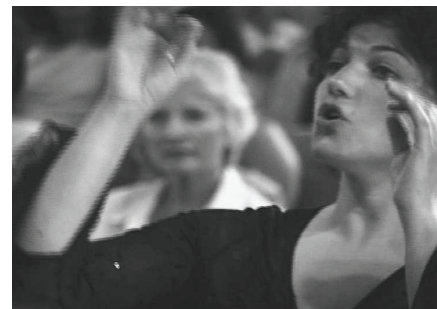
Cindy McPherson, *Ensemble Accompanist*



Cindy started accompanying at the young age of 12. She played with a variety of choirs while in high school including their award-winning Jazz Choir in Yakima, Washington. Cindy studied piano in university but then switched and achieved her BA in English, and an MBA at UBC.

For over 25 years Cindy managed a small business and taught marketing at BCIT and Trinity Western University. Cindy is delighted to return to her musical roots with The Richmond Singers Ensemble. Cindy has accompanied The Richmond Singers Ensemble since 2014. During the pandemic when the Ensemble could not perform, Cindy happily provided piano concerts at several senior centers and care facilities in Richmond.

Fabiana Katz, *Artistic Director*



Fabiana Katz has nurtured a profound connection with choral music that began in her native Argentina, where she first sang alto in a local adult choir at a young age. Fifty years later, her passion for choral singing and conducting remains unwavering.

Fabiana earned her Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Over the years, she has directed choirs across Canada and the United States, dedicating over a decade to championing the vibrant choral music of Latin America with the ensemble Fusion Latina. In 2009, the O World Project produced a documentary titled *Infusion Latina*, which explored the experiences of the ensemble's singers as new immigrants to Canada. This documentary aired on the CBC Bold Documentary Channel and the Knowledge Network.

With more than 30 years of experience, Fabiana has conducted community, church, and synagogue choirs, with notable performances including Handel's *Messiah* with VoiceScapes in Calgary and Mozart's *Requiem* with the Jubilate! Chamber Choir and the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since 2017, Fabiana has served as the Director of Music for the Beth Israel Synagogue Choir. In 2019, she took on the role of music director for the Richmond Singers, a thriving treble choir of 55 members that has a rich 54-year history of providing accessible and relatable music to the Richmond community and beyond.

Fabiana is also an accomplished mezzo-soprano and has appeared as a soloist with many choral and orchestral ensembles, including the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Regina Symphony Orchestra, the Berkshire Choral Festival, Symphony Nova Scotia, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, the Prince George Symphony Orchestra, and the CBC Radio Orchestra.

Through her extensive work, Fabiana Katz continues to inspire and uplift communities through the transformative power of choral music.

Hilary Jung, *Accompanist*



Hilary Jung recently performed her graduation recital for a Bachelor of Music at the University of British Columbia, studying with renowned pianist David Fung. She holds an ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music and has been engaged in classical music since childhood. An active collaborative pianist in Vancouver, Hilary also supports music education through

the Vancouver Extracurricular Music Society. She has attended prestigious summer programs including the Anchorage Chamber Music Festival and Orford Musique Academy, and recently won two first-place awards at the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival.

Conor Stuart, *Violin*



Conor Stuart is a Richmond-based violinist active as a solo, chamber, and orchestral musician. From 2021–2022, he was the first violin with UBC's Graduate Quartet in Residence. He has previously been the second violin with the Regina Symphony Quartet and Regina Symphony Chamber Players, and with the University of Calgary Quartet. He has extensive orchestral experience across Canada, including roles as Acting Principal Second Violin of the Regina Symphony Orchestra, as Assistant

Concertmaster of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, and as a member of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada. He performs regularly as a freelance and guest artist.

A passionate educator, Conor is Violin Instructor at Douglas College and also teaches at Mastery School of Music, World of Music and Arts, and the Richmond Arts Centre, in addition to maintaining a private studio. Conor is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Violin Performance at the University of British Columbia, studying with Jasper Wood. He holds a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the University of Calgary, where he studied with Edmond Agopian.

The Squares



Established in 2011, The Squares are a dynamic ensemble with a rotating membership of 12 to 20 singers. They perform throughout the year at community events, both as a quartet and as an award-winning chorus. The group has competed at local, regional, and international Barbershop Harmony Society contests, and has been featured on radio, film, and television.

Under the leadership of their music team—Sean Huston (Musical Director), David Cotton (Associate Director), Jeremy Wong (Assistant Director), and Sam Dabrusin (Arranger)—The Squares continue to pursue musical excellence and innovation. They are delighted to share their in-house arrangements of Canadian folk music with the Richmond Singers and their audience.

Follow us on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@TheSquaresBarbershopQuartet>
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheSquaresBarbershopQuartet/about_details

Barb Mathias, *Percussion*



A former member of the Richmond Singers, Barb remains active with the Vancouver Naval Veterans Band, Burnaby Metropolitan Band, Vancouver Traveling Band and the Langley SOS Ensemble Choir. Barb shares: "I've always tapped to tempo, and over time, I've naturally found my way into percussion—beginning as the only female corps drummer, performing alongside my tuba-playing husband Rick in the Vancouver Naval Veterans Band, dressed in WWII sailor's uniform—just one of the boys. I loved singing with the Richmond Singers for 15 years. In 2016, at Kathaumixw in Powell

River, I asked to play spoons with the choir, and director Tasha Neufeld said yes. I was invited back again last year by director Fabi, and I'm delighted to be playing with you once more. These days, 'toys' are my specialty." Barb aka Cymbal Simon

Concert

- *Over the Sea to Skye (Scottish) *Traditional*
arr. Cristi Cary Miller
- Sakura – (Cherry Blossom Song, Japanese)..... *Traditional*
Soloist: Marilyn Sakiyama, Narrator: Pat Stuart arr. Norman Cory
- *Oi ya znaiu shcho ghrikh maiu (Oh, I know that I bear a sin)
(Ukrainian)..... *Traditional*
Soloist: Tetiana Madrykina arr. Tatiana Lina
- *Wild Mountain Thyme (Scottish/Irish)..... *Traditional*
Soloist: Linda Hicks arr. Kirby Shaw
- *O Danny Boy (Irish)..... *Old Irish Air*
Soloist: Sabrina Chen arr. Linda Steen Spevacek
- *Nella Fantasia (In My Fantasy, Italian)..... *Ennio Morricone &*
Soloist: Joan Ross Chiara Ferrau
arr. Audrey Snyder
- Wiegenlied (Lullaby, German)..... *Brahms*
Soloist: Ruth Mukai arr. Fabiana Katz
- *Huainito (Argentinean)..... *Traditional*
arr. Victori Ebel-Sabo
- Watching the Apples Grow (Canadian)..... *Stan Rogers*
arr. Ron Smail
- *Savory, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme (British)..... *Traditional*
arr. Donald Patriquin
- Mo li hua (Jasmine Flower, Chinese)..... *Traditional*
Soloist: Mary Liu arr. Cun Rong Da Yo
- *Kalinka (Russian)..... “Folk Song”, *arr. Joan Gregoryk*
Soloists: Anne-Marie Aleiunas, Wendy Lee, Tetiana Madrykina,
Natalia Zisman
- *Ah! si mon moine voulait danser (Canadian)..... *Traditional*
arr. Donald Patriquin

Programme

RICHMOND SINGERS ENSEMBLE

- Hamabe no Uta (Song of the Beach, Japanese)..... *Narita Tamezo,*
Hayashi Kokei & John Higgins arr. Hawley Ades
- This Land is Your Land (American/Canadian lyrics)... *Woody Guthrie*
arr. Aden G. Lewis & Jack E. Platt

INTERMISSION

THE SQUARES

- Old Go Hungry Hash House (Canadian)..... *Traditional,*
Phillip Thomas & David Cotton arr. Sam Dabrusin
- I’se the B’y (Canadian)..... *Traditional (Newfoundland)*
arr. Sam Dabrusin
- Fare Thee Well Love (Canadian)..... *Jimmy Rankin*
arr. David Wright
- Saskatchewan (Canadian)..... *Traditional “Beulah Land”,*
William Smith arr. Sam Dabrusin
- Red River Valley (American)..... *Traditional*
arr. Sam Dabrusin
- The Last Saskatchewan Pirate (Canadian)... *Traditional “Beulah Land”,*
William Smith arr. Sam Dabrusin

THE RICHMOND SINGERS & THE SQUARES

- *Dulaman (Irish)..... *Traditional*
arr. Cristi Cary Miller
- *Kom (Swedish)..... *Monica Aslund*
- *Indodana (South African)..... *Traditional isiXhosa*
arr. Michael Barrett & Ralf Schmitt
- *Royal Hudson (Canadian)..... *Dave Baker*
arr. Larry Nickel
- The Parting Glass (Scottish/Irish)..... *Traditional*
arr. Fabiana Katz

* *Translations/Song Facts on the following pages*

Translations

Oi ya znaiu ghrikh maiu (Ukrainian)

Oh, I know that I bear a sin,
A fiery hell awaits me,
For I let them kiss my rosy little face.
Oh, shidi-ridi-da, shidi-ridi-dana

People say there will be a trial,
that they will judge me,
if only they would sentence me
to love all the boys.
Oh, shidi-ridi-da, shidi-ridi-dana

I have loved Mykola,
Yosyf, Ivan, Hryshko, Myshko and also
Andrii, Fedor and Stepan.
Oh, shidi-ridi-da, shidi-ridi-dana

If only I were lucky enough to catch VasyL,
I would stop turning the boys' heads
Oh, shidi-ridi-da, shidi-ridi-dana

Huainito (Argentinian)

Two little doves were lamenting and crying,
And to one another they were consoling them-
selves, saying:
“Who has clipped your beautiful wings, little
dove?
Or has some deceiver caught your flight?”
“The ungrateful one wanted me to give him my
wings,
So that the two of us could go flying together to
heaven.
Out of love for him, I gave him my wings, and
then—
Abandoned and disillusioned, I am dying.”

Indodana (South African)

The Lord has taken His Son who lived
amongst us. The Son of the Lord God was
crucified.
Hololo Father Jehovah (Hololo represents
crying and has no translation)

Nella Fantasia

In my fantasy, I see a world of justice, where all
people live in peace and honesty.
In my fantasy, I see a world of radiance, where
darkest nights are ever brighter.
In my fantasy, I feel the caress of the warm wind
that breathes over the city like an old friend.
Refrain:
I dream of a world where spirits will always be
free. They will be ever free like floating clouds,
full of humanity within the deepest soul.

Kalinka (Russian)

Little snowball tree/red berry, my little
red berry!
In the garden is a little raspberry, my
little raspberry!
Verses:
Ah, under the green pine tree, lay me
down to sleep!
Rock-a-bye, baby / Oh, swing, sway!)
Ah, beautiful girl, my soul-maiden,
please do love me!

Kom! (Swedish)

Afro-inspired song which uses joyful syllables
with no direct translation to evoke a sense of
welcome and greeting.

Ah! Si mon moine voulait danser!

Ah, if my monk wanted to dance,
Ah, if my monk wanted to dance,
1. A hood I would give him,
A hood I would give him.
Dance, my monk, dance!
You don't hear the dance!
You don't hear my mill-lo-la,
You don't hear my mill running.
2 ... A belt...
3 ... A rosary...
4 ... A woolen frock...
5 ... A fine psalter...
6. If he hadn't made a vow of poverty,
Many other things I would give him.

Christopher Haas, *Percussion*



Christopher Haas is a graduate of Toronto's
Humber College jazz program, the University of
Calgary, the University of British Columbia and
earned a Masters of Conducting from the Amer-
ican Band College. As an active freelance musi-
cian on the Vancouver music scene for 34 years,
he has performed with a wide variety of artists
including Dal Richards, Gabriel Mark Hassle-
bach, Orquesta Tabasko, soul singer Billy Dixon
and Cookin' with Brass.

After teaching instrumental music in Vancouver for 24 years, Chris left Magee
Secondary in 2020 and is now teaching music and photography at Moscrop
Secondary in Burnaby. Chris is an active adjudicator at the Con Brio Whistler,
Sun Peaks, Vancouver School Board and Surrey Jazz Festivals. Currently, Chris
leads a successful mobile recording company called West Coast Recordings that
records live performances of orchestras, choirs, jazz and concert bands.

Steven Johnston, *Bass*



Steven Johnston studied at Douglas College, The
Banff Center for Performing Arts, Central
Washington University and Western Washington
University where he was the recipient of the Presser
Scholarship. Since 1972, he has been freelancing as
a double bass player. He has played with many jazz
luminaires and performed for musical theatre, ho-
tels, clubs, cruises, to name a few. He has presented
Jazz Master classes on guitar and bass in the School
District of Surrey.

Steven runs his own music school, The Steven Johnston Music Studio, as well
as the Steve Johnston Quartette. He teaches guitar, bass guitar, double bass and
clarinet at his vibrant music studio at Tapestry Music in White Rock BC.

Interesting Song Facts

“**Over the Sea to Skye**” recalls Bonnie Prince Charlie’s escape to the Isle of Skye with help from Flora MacDonald. It became a poignant symbol of loyalty and resistance in Scottish history.

“**Oi ya znaiu shcho hrikk maiu**” humorously portrays a woman admitting her “sin” of being attracted to every handsome man she sees, reflecting playful village courtship themes despite its sacred mystical sound.

“**Nella fantasia**” is a hallmark of the classical crossover genre that transformed Ennio Morricone’s instrumental theme from *The Mission* into a soaring vocal anthem centered on themes of peace and human freedom.

“**Ah Si Mon Moi**” from *New France* was sung by voyageurs and tells of a girl offering gifts to a monk to make him dance. It also playfully mirrors a child trying to spin a top

“**Kom!**” by Monica Åslund is an Afro-inspired “walking song” widely performed as a symbol of inclusion and collective joy. It’s celebrated for bridging cultures and appearing in major choral events and peace gatherings.

“**Savory, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme**” is a traditional Northern English riddle-ballad that sets impossible tasks for a potential lover.

“**Danny Boy**” symbolizes the Irish diaspora, expressing love and loss through emigration or war. Though written by a British composer, it uses the Irish melody “Londonderry Air,” becoming an expression of Irish identity.

“**Wild Mountain Thyme**” refers to the heather of Scottish and Irish hills; in folklore, thyme was a fairy plant worn to attract suitors.

“**Huainito**” reflects Andean “Mestizo” identity by blending Indigenous pentatonic scales with Spanish harmony. It pairs mournful lyrics with an upbeat tempo, creating a duality that embodies cultural resilience.

“**Dúlamán**” means “channel wrack,” an edible seaweed, and comes from County Donegal, reflecting seaweed harvesting, as a livelihood and a subject of courtship, and humor.

“**Indodana**” is an isiXhosa choral anthem expressing grief and faith in South Africa’s Christian tradition. It reflects the sorrow of the crucifixion through an African lens and the resilience of the Xhosa people.

“**Royal Hudson**” is Dave Baker’s tribute to the iconic steam locomotives that once traversed our nation, the Royal Hudson being a nostalgic symbol of the golden age of rail travel.

With Gratitude

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the City of Richmond, the Province of BC and ArtsVest.



Business/Arts

The Richmond Singers are proud members of Richmond Arts Coalition and BC Choral Federation and are grateful for their artistic and intellectual support.



Additional Thanks

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Broadmoor Baptist Church, Gilmore Park United Church, Fraserview Mennonite Brethren Church, the Richmond Yacht Club, and Save-On-Foods Steveston for their valued partnership.

Special thanks also go to our dedicated volunteers, whose efforts in publicity and front-of-house hospitality help make each concert season a success.



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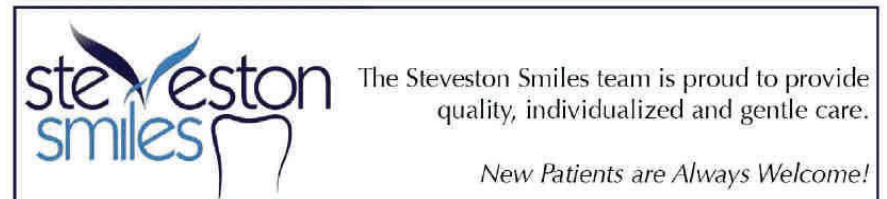


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