The Richmond Singers

Fabiana Katz
Artistic Director

A Light in Winter

With special guests:

The Fraser Valley Children's Chorus

Heidi Epp, Artistic Director

Hilary Jung Accompanist
Chris Haas Percussion
Steven Johnston Bass

Broadmoor Baptist Church
8140 Saunders Road, Richmond, BC

Friday, November 27, 2026 • 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 28, 2026 • 3 pm

Adults $25
Seniors and Students $20
Children 12 and under Free

tickets available at
www.richmondsingers.ca

INTRODUCTION TO "A LIGHT IN WINTER"

In those moments when the world feels too vast and our own lanterns feel too dim, here are some simple ideas to consider. We can share a friendly smile, a kind word, a helping hand, a gentle touch, a happy thought, or even a thoughtful deed. We can brighten someone's day, and we can soften our own attitudes towards others. Within us all is the possibility to shine a light for someone else who needs it.

When sunshine fades and chills set in,
When the days turn more to night,
When wondering what is best to do,
Turn on your Winter Light.

Joan Ross
President, Richmond Singers

With Gratitude

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

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

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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, Tetiana Mandrykina, 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, Cindy Gong, Harjeet Grewal, Donna Halabisky, Sandi Hale, Ginny Layden, Wendy Lee, Michelle Leibel, 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, Joan Leversage Lu, Pat Lindberg, Vickie McLeod, Mary Anne Nelson, Regina Nevada, Barb Newton, Erin Riffel, Victoria Ruscito, Marilyn Sakiyama, Myriam Torres Sanchez, 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 Soprano:
Susan Cush, Sharon Doucelin, Linda Farn, Ginny Layden, Wendy Lee, Mary Schmok
Alto:
Pam Hiensch, Pat Hinton, Joan Leversage Lu, Pat Lindberg, Mary Anne Nelson, 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.

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. Fabiana has served as the Director of Music for the Beth Israel Synagogue Choir since 2017 and became Artistic Director for the Richmond Singers in 2019.

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 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 is a dedicated choral pianist and collaborative artist based in Vancouver. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of British Columbia, studying under acclaimed pianists David Fung, Lucas Wong, and Rena Sharon. Additionally, she earned an ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Hilary began accompanying choirs at age 12 and has over ten years of experience working with vocal ensembles at rehearsals, concerts, and festivals. An active collaborative pianist, she also supports music education through the Vancouver Extracurricular Music Society. Her training includes the Anchorage Chamber Music Festival, Orford Musique Academy, and UBC Summer Vocal Workshop. Hilary is delighted to be part of the Richmond Singers' musical family. Tonight, she invites you to enjoy her piano performance of La vallée des cloches from Miroirs by Maurice Ravel (1875–1937).

Fraser Valley Children's Chorus



The FVCC is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and thrilled to be back in Richmond, sharing these concerts with the Richmond Singers! Since the FVCC started they have participated in provincial festivals and collaborations, including the Chilliwack Youth Orchestra, the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra, Sweet Scarlet, Ne Zhadli and Chorus Juventus, just to name a few! The Cantabile Choir of the FVCC has toured to Kathaumixw, Japan, Namibia, South Africa and New Zealand. For our 10th anniversary we are exploring an exchange with a Youth choir in Whitehorse and into our 11th year, Tanzania! We wish everyone a season filled with peace, hope, joy and love.

Heidi Epp, *Artistic Director*



Heidi has been conducting children's, youth and community choirs for close to 20 years. She started in Richmond where she grew up and then founded the Fraser Valley Children's Chorus (FVCC) and the Yarrow Community Choir after moving to Yarrow. In addition to being a choral conductor, Heidi has her own EPPic Music Studio, where she teaches piano, flute, ukelele, and music theory.

She is also the President of Peace Foundation DRC, where she helps with their Trauma Healing Music Programs in Congo.

Nina Froese, *Accompanist*

This is Nina's first year as the Cantabile Choir's pianist. As a high school student, Nina has been accompanying school choirs for a couple years in addition to playing baritone saxophone in the school band and jazz band. Nina is excited about taking her accompanying skills to the next level with the Cantabile Choir and we are very happy to have her join the team!

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 American Band College. As an active freelance musician on the Vancouver music scene for 34 years, he has performed with a wide variety of artists including Dal Richards, Gabriel Mark Hasslebach, 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, hotels, 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.

Concert

THE RICHMOND SINGERS

Good Cheer.....*Audrey Snyder*

Carol of the Bells.....*Peter J. Wilhousky and Mykola Leontovich*

Ave Maria (Angelus Domini).....*Franz Biebl*

Soloists: Joan Ross, Tetiana Mandrykina, Veronica Armstrong

Ensemble: Helen Andow, Veronica Armstrong, Norma Bebluk, Sabrina Chen, Harjeet Grewal, Linda Hicks, Michelle Leibel, Tetiana Mandrykina, Regina Nevada

Still, Still, Still .....*Traditional arr. Brian Tate*

Don't You Hear the Song?.....*Harris Loewen*

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow .....*Traditional arr. John Leavitt*

SING-ALONGS: Joy to the World | Away in a Manger

The Holly and the Ivy.....*Traditional arr. Kirby Shaw*

Mary's Boy Child.....*Jester Hairston arr. Ruben Smits*

RICHMOND SINGERS ENSEMBLE

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town.....*J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie arr. Tim Hayden*

Choc'late in my Stocking.....*Marta Keen arr. Carl Strommen*

Soloists: Sharon Doucelin, Pat Lindberg

We Wish You a Merry Christmas.....*Traditional arr. Harris Loewen*

INTERMISSION

Programme

PIANO SOLO: Hilary Jung

From Miroirs: La vallée des cloches..... *Maurice Ravel*

FRASER VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The First Noel.....*Traditional arr. Christopher Alexander*
Prayer Chant.....*Mark A. Miller*
Keep Your Lamps.....*Traditional Spiritual arr. Victor Johnson*
Talj, Talj.....*Traditional Lebanese Carol arr. Andy Beck*
Pat-a-pan.....*Traditional Burgundy Carol arr. Jon Washburn*
A Call to Christmas..... *Adam Miller & Mykola Leontovych*

SING-ALONG: Good King Wenceslas

RICHMOND SINGERS | FRASER VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Go Tell It! .....*John W. Work arr. Jack Schrader*

Gaudete! from Piae Cantiones, 1582 .....*arr. Michael Engelhardt*
Soloists: Lea Oye, Helen Andow

God Bless Us Everyone..... *Alan Silvestri & Glen Ballard*
(from Disney's A Christmas Carol) *arr. Joseph M. Martin*

*translations and fun facts on following pages

Fun Facts!

"La vallée des cloches" The fifth and final movement of Ravel's 1905 solo piano suite Miroirs (Mirrors)**.** Ravel was inspired by the sound of church bells ringing at midday in Paris.

"Good Cheer" A playful glimpse into medieval festivities featuring processions with dancing and singing.

"**Ave Maria"** - Franz Biebl's deeply moving sacred work became widely known in North America after the Cornell University Glee Club heard Biebl's music during a 1970 tour of West Germany.

"Still, Still, Still" The song's melody, published in a collection of Austrian folk songs in 1865, features a rocking, lullaby-like character to evoke a peaceful manger scene.

"**Don't You Hear the Song**"An invitation to imagine the first Christmas through a shepherd's eyes and ears, turning the mysterious sounds of the night into a message of comfort, joy and peace.

"Rise up, Shepherd, and Follow" From the rich tradition of African-American spirituals, expressing faith, hope and perseverance.

"The Holly and The Ivy" A traditional English carol recalling Jesus story through images of the holly's prickly leaves, red berries, and white blossoms representing the crown of thorns, and the Christ's sacrifice and purity.

"Mary's Boy Child" Harry Belafonte made this calypso rhythm by American songwriter Jester Hairston an international favourite in 1957 when his recording reached number one on the UK singles chart, the first to sell a million copies.

"Go Tell It" Jack Schrader's arrangement blends the traditional spiritual with a big-band, gospel style, giving the familiar Christmas message an energetic, contemporary sound.

"Gaudete" Michael Engelhardt's contemporary arrangement blends an original medieval melody from the 1582 Piae Cantiones with rhythmic variations, Gaelic chant style, and percussion for fresh, dramatic energy.

"God Bless Us Everyone" Tiny Tim's famous blessing in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol reminds us that compassion and generosity can transform hearts and minds.

Latin to English Translations

Ave Maria (Franz Biebl)

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Maria dixit:
Ecce ancilla Domini
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Ave Maria ...

Et verbum caro factum est
Et habitavit in nobis.

Ave Maria ...

Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

The Angel of the Lord visited Mary
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee
blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Mary said:
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
May it happen to me according to your word.

Hail Mary ...

And the Word became flesh
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Gaudete!

Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus
Ex Maria virgine, gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiæ
Hoc quod optabamus,
Carmina lætitiæ
Devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est
Natura mirante,
Mundus renovatus est
A Christo regnante.

Ezechielis porta
Clausa pertransitur,
Unde lux est orta
Salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra cantio
Psallat iam in lustro
Benedicat Domino
Salus Regi nostro.

Rejoice, rejoice! Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary, rejoice!

It is now the time of grace
That we have desired,
Let us devoutly return
Songs of rejoicing.

God has become man,
And nature marvels,
The world has been renewed
By Christ who is King.

The closed gate of Ezechiel
Has been passed through,
Salvation is found there,
Whence the light rises.

Therefore let our song
Now resound in purification
Let it give praise to the Lord
Salvation to our King.

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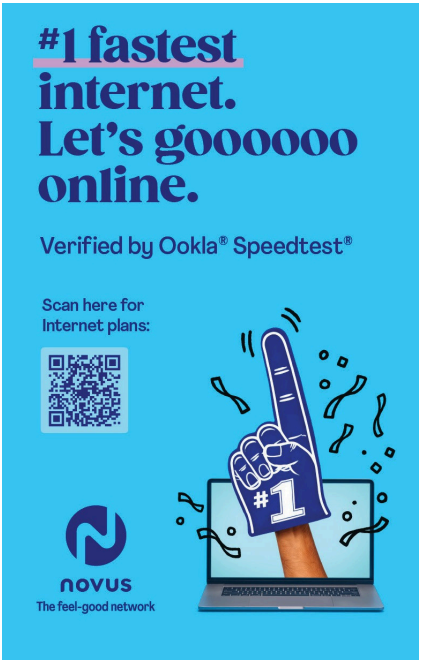
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Additional Thanks

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

We are deeply grateful to Oleg Mandrykin, owner of Sohonetwork Canada, for his continued dedication and support of the Richmond Singers website.

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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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.

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