### **Grand River Rainbow Historical Project**

#### www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country

#### Rainbow Chorus Events (1995-)

**Publishing History**: Documents issued at irregular intervals by the **Rainbow Chorus** for its concerts, fundraisers, and other events.

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# The Raimbow Chorus

Of Waterloo/Wellington County

PRESENTS:

# STEPPING OUT/IN CELEBRATION!

A CHORAL PERFORMANCE COMPLICTED BY:

Rob Phillips

Harcourt Memorial Church, 87 Dean Avenue, Guelph.

May 15, 1999

#### **Rob Phillips**

Music Director

Rob came to Ontario from Michigan in 1993. Prior to arriving in Canada, he served as Choir Director in churches in Virginia and Michigan. From 1985 – 1990 he was the Music Director of the Schubert Male Chorus of Port Huron. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, he has performed for several seasons with the Elora Singers, and as Tenor Section Lead for Te Deum in Hamilton until the spring of 1997. He has appeared as soloist with several orchestras including the International Symphony. Mr. Phillips is the Director of Music for Calvin Presbyterian and The Children's' Arts Program in Kitchener, as well as Director of Camp Poco a Poco, a summer music camp for children. Commencing in September 1998, Mr. Phillips assumed the duties of Music Director with both the Rainbow Chorus and the Coro Cultural Italiano di Guelph. He is continuing his musical studies at Wilfrid Laurier University.

#### **Amy Elder**

Accompanist

Amy graduated as a percussionist from the honours music performance program at Wilfrid Laurier University. Amy has performed with; the Wind Ensemble, the Symphony Orchestra along with the WLU choir in performances of *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff. Accompanying experience began while studying piano under the late Verna Pegelo of Chesley and includes experience with church choirs in Desboro and Chesley. Amy continues to accompany various performers in recital and master class and is working towards graduate studies.

### Programme

DO YOU HEAR THE CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHONBERG

SUMMERTIME GEORGE GERSHWIN

IF WE ONLY HAVE LOVE JACQUES BREL

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MAX T. KRONE MOTHERLESS CHILD

AT THE RIVER AARON COPLAND

GOLDEN SUNLIGHT ANTONIN DVORAK

SLENDER YOUNG BIRCH ANTONIN DVORAK

ALLELUIA RANDALL THOMPSON

#### INTERMISSION

WOODRIVER CONNIE CALDER

WE RISE AGAIN LEON DUBINSKY

OVER THE RAINBOW HAROLD ARLEN

ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE JEROME KERN

FOUR STRONG WINDS IAN TYSON

THIS GUYS IN LOVE WITH YOU BURT BACHARACH

TOGETHER PROUD AND STRONG LYNN THOMAS

SONG FOR CANADA PAUL HALEY

SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS JANE FIELD ARE STRAIGHT

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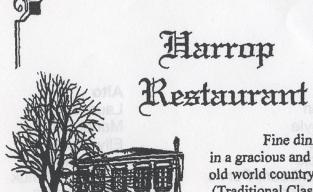
## Laura Jeffrey Soprano

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## Choir Members

Soprano
Kim Bolton
Joanne Coyle
Beth Farley
Sue Gadbois
Birgit Niggenbaum-Purvis
Jonah Wainberg

Alto
Laura Benner
Mandi Borek
Elly Crowe
Joilyn Martin
Marg Perchaluk
Pat Richards
Danika van Proosdij
Cory Waechter

Tenor
Jan Baker
Robert Goderre
Jeff Michaud
Tom Stinson
Milton Chan

Bass
Robert Bojeczko
Murray Jose
Leslie Smith
Van Waffle

# THE RAINBOW CHORUS

WATERLOO / WELLINGTON COUNTY

REHEARSES EVERY MONDAY NIGHT 7:30 – 9:30 PM AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH

ON YORK ROAD IN GUELPH

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Please Join Us

#### Looking Back

In November 1994 four people collaborated to create a social activity that could represent our diverse community as well as provide a vehicle through which that diversity would be visible to our greater community. Murray Jose, Kevin Fallowfield – who has since passed away- Robert Bojeczko and Glen Pelshea agreed that a community choir, might meet the requirements. Through a choir of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Friends some of the perceived barriers about sexual diversity might be addressed in a safe and respectful manner through the universal language of music.

The foursome got to work and rehearsals began in January 1995 with perhaps a dozen participants at St. George's Anglican Church and Rob Gascho conducted the rehearsals. Murray Jose was given the role of founding chair. In February of 1995 rehearsals moved to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In the spring of 1995 the choir performed its first debut at the AIDS WALK for the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington county. The choir also began the process of developing a mission statement and made application for non-profit status. A first draught of bylaws and a mission statement was completed in 1995.

In the fall of 1995 a new director was found for the choir. John Tute, an established teacher and performer, led the choir to new heights. John conducted the first Christmas concert performed by the Rainbow Chorus at Chalmers United Church in Guelph where the choir executed challenging pieces such as "FANTASIA" by Vaughn Williams. Future concerts conducted by John included; "Lover's Tryst", a concert with Kate Friesen, two more Christmas concerts and a two night Cabaret. During John's tenure, the choir attracted many members from as far away as Grimsby and membership swelled to fourty-five.

A key aspect of the Rainbow Chorus is to participate in community events, such as: a vigil for the Montreal Massacre, Toronto and Kitchener Gay Pride Days and union (wedding) ceremonies.

Today Rob Phillips conducts the Choir. Rob is an accomplished soloist and conductor. We look forward to a successful and ongoing partnership with Rob.

