

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 Rainbow Chorus

Of Waterloo/Wellington County

PRESENTS:

*STEPPING OUT IN
CELEBRATION!*

A CHORAL PERFORMANCE
CONDUCTED 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 PEOPLE SING?	CLAUDE-MICHEL SCHONBERG
SUMMERTIME	GEORGE GERSHWIN
IF WE ONLY HAVE LOVE	JACQUES BREL
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE A MOTHERLESS CHILD	MAX T. KRONE
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 ARE STRAIGHT	JANE FIELD

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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

OF

**WATERLOO / WELLINGTON
COUNTY**

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7:30 – 9:30 PM

AT

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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 by-laws 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 forty-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.

