

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-)

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CELEBRATION IN SONG

(Choir will process in with candlelights.)

RBC FIRE, FIRE MY HEART (2:40) (Slide #2)

(Bob, when finished, choir immediately moves to regular formation.)

CL Good evening everyone, I'm Christine Lafazanos (#3) and we would like to welcome you to the 15th Anniversary concert of the Rainbow Chorus.

Fifteen years is an amazing accomplishment for this diverse, talented group who all share a love of singing. The songs for tonight have been especially chosen by members of the chorus as their favourites.

The Rainbow Chorus was founded in 1994 by four friends looking to recognize the diversity of our community through song. The group has grown over the years and today includes 45 members. In addition to sharing our music with you tonight, we would also like to share a part of ourselves.

For example, some of us are vegetarians (#4), some are Unitarians (#5) some may be Libertarians, and we even have our own Librarians!

And... this may come as a real surprise... some of us are gay! (#6), some of us are bi, transgendered, some of us are straight and (#7) some of us are undecided

Next is a song that's been a Rainbow Chorus favourite since 2002, but don't worry, we're not leaving yet...

Slide #8

RBC EVERY TIME WE SAY GOODBYE (2:17)
 RBC CENT MILLE CHANSONS (2:44)

CL That was "Cent Mille Chanson". Singing in different languages is nothing new for this group. Over the years, we've sung in German, Spanish, Romanian, Catalanian, Italian, Latin, Polish and even Zulu.

The Chorus's first concert was on December 9th, 1995 (#9) and three members from the original group of singers are still in the chorus: Alan Spreadbury (#10), Dave Vervort (#11) and LeSlie Smith. (#12)

We're fortunate to have some very gifted members in this choir and Leslie is certainly one of them. He wrote the music to Shakespeare's "Fear No More" which was featured in our Shakespearean concert in 2007 ; he arranged "Evening Song" amongst others and he even helps out at rehearsals. (# 13)

In 1996 three other current members sang in the Chorus' second concert, "Global Harmonies" (#14) along with Alan, Dave and Les: Birgit Nigebaum-Purvis (#15) , Jan Baker (#16) and Marg Perchaluk #17. Could these six please step forward.
 (#18 –hold until Christine finishes talking to the group)

Christine (with mic): 5 walk down in front of choir

Q to Marg: Can you tell us how you became involved with the chorus, and, what was that first concert like?

Q to Les: What was your most memorable moment in that first concert?

Q to Birgit: Why did you decide to join the chorus?

(Bob, Chorus moves into two-choir formation)

(Slide #19)

Our next selection is Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" which we are performing in two separate choirs as written by the composer .

RBC AVE MARIE (5:04)

(Bob, Choir moves back into regular formation)

RBC BITTERSWEET TANGO (3:08)

CL That song was "Bittersweet Tango". You too can have a delicious chocolate if you go to our Raffle tables at intermission and buy a ticket on our fabulous prize baskets.

The 188 past and current members of the RBC have performed at numerous musical and community events over the years, ranging from Pride Events and World AIDS Day Vigils (#20 & 21) to concerts at the River Run Centre, (#22) Carnegie Hall and even weddings.

Our latest wedding was Nov. 14th between two of our own members Michelle Breault & Michelle Tomko (show wedding photos #23, 24)

Christine (with mic) to M&M: (#25)

Q to M T : Why was it important to you to have the chorus perform at your ceremony?

Q to M B : I heard you honeymooned in Los Angeles? What was that like?

(Slide #26)

The next song we've chosen is one from the Phantom of the Opera which we sang in 2004 and it was also the song which earned us an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall.

RBC ALL I ASK OF YOU (2:54)

RBC WE RISE AGAIN (3:22)

CL A number of couples have joined the chorus to share in the joy of singing including Jaye & myself #27, Brian & Janice #28, Brenda & Judy #29, Michelle & Michelle #30, Steve & Michael #31, and Sylvie & Sarah #32.

Not surprisingly, some couples have actually met in the choir: Marg & Sue (#33), Jan & Diane #34 and Bonnie & Paula #35,

Christine (with mic) To Jan and Diane

Q: Was it love at first vocal warm-up?

So if you're sitting out there as a single person and looking for a partner, don't join a dating service, just join the Rainbow Chorus. (#36 & 37 hold for few seconds)

(Slide #38)

The Rainbow Chorus had the privilege of participating in a mass choral performance at Carnegie Hall, New York in 2006 (#39) where we first sang "I Shall Miss Loving You". It is an emotional movement from the requiem "When We No Longer Touch".

(Leave up Slide #39 while choir sings next song.)

RBC **I SHALL MISS LOVING YOU (3:35)**
(Slide #40)

RBC **DANNY BOY (2:22)**

CL As you can appreciate, we have some very unique families in the Rainbow Chorus. A number of our female chorus members have been pregnant and then as nursing moms bring their babies to rehearsals where they are lovingly passed from section to section. There was Jonah with Broden (#41); Bonnie (#42) with daughter Sage; Leah and Rosie #43, and Kristi who just had baby Mattea before the holidays. (#44)

Of course, there are many valued family members among the RBC. Here's a few of our other families (**show Family photos #45 - #54—last one Leah**) and finally, here is Bryan & Janice and the Street family (**#55 – hold for few seconds**)

Please enjoy our next song "Let the River Run" by Carly Simon from our 2007 concert.

(Slide #56)

RBC **LET THE RIVER RUN (3:25)**

CL We're going to be taking a 15 minute intermission but first we would like to introduce our Board chairperson Marg Perchaluk.

(Slide #57)

INTERMISSION

SECOND HALF

(Have choir process in from the back and come forward with music.)

(Slide # 58)

RBC **STOPPING BY WOODS (3:05)** (Women leave and men re-arrange)

CL That beautiful piece was originally a poem by Robert Frost with music composed by Eugene Butler.

What would a concert be without choreography! Last spring, our concert, "Peace, Love, Rock 'n Roll" was one of our most challenging choreography wise. We had help from a choreographer who had us singing and dancing to the Jersey Boys. It was a lot of work but a lot of fun. We even tie-dyed our own t-shirts and the 1960's theme gave the guys an excuse to wear beads in public..... (# 59, 60, 61, 62)

Christine (with mic) To Crystal and Moe A

Q: What was your favourite part of the Jersey Boys choreography?

All The Rivers was originally written for Male voices only and tonight, we would like to honor the composer, Charles Baker, with the rich Male voices of our chorus (#63).

(Slide #64)

RBC ALL THE RIVERS (2:15)

CL It's always an interesting question what we will wear for our performances and we've pulled some of the old gems from our past out of the ..ahem...closet and on to the very exclusive fashion runway of Harcourt United.

Bring it on Girls!

First up we have Sarah, Margie, Crystal and Colleen modeling one of the Chorus's most unique styles of concert wardrobe, featuring the bowtie and vest. **(#65)** These were worn for concerts in 2001 and thankfully have not been seen since.

Next we have Beth, Birgit, Bonnie, and Judy featuring our shimmering scarves **(#66)**, which were originally worn for Gala 2004 in Montreal. Looking marvelous ladies!"

Now coming up the aisles we have Terri-Lyn, Franny, Andrea and Jan wearing our familiar rainbow scarves **(#67)**, a very classy look often used for some of the Chorus's more formal presentations.

Michelle, Michelle, Sarah and Moe are modeling our "Peace, Love & Joy" shirts. Simply spectacular darlings!" **(#68)**

And many of you may remember our hand-made tie-dye t-shirts **(#69)** from our 2009 spring concert, brought back again today for you courtesy of Sue, Marg, Leah and Moe.

And last but certainly not least we have the rest of our ladies, and our guys already on stage wearing our own Rainbow Chorus t-shirts!
Ladies and gentlemen, let's have a round of applause for all our fabulous models this evening!

(Bob, Chorus goes back to regular formation.)

(Slide #70)

RBC PRETTY THINGS (2:45)

CL Wasn't that a beautiful arrangement of "Pretty Things?" The song was written by Rufus Wainwright but it was arranged for the voices of the choir by chorus member Van Waffle **(#71)**.

Christine (with mic) to Van:

Q: Why did you choose to arrange this particular song, Pretty Things?

We have so much talent in this group. One of our sopranos, Terilynn Coward, is a songwriter **(#72)**. She wrote "Rise with Pride" which we performed in our Canadian Pride concert in 2003, and she has conducted and arranged other pieces for us. Our next song, "Courage" is another original composition and addresses the struggle most of us have encountered in our society.

(Slide #73)

RBC COURAGE (3:59)

RBC ANGEL (5:10)

CL That hauntingly beautiful piece “Angel” is composed by Sarah MacLachlan and was first performed by the chorus in 2008.

The Chorus is very fortunate to perform with a gifted accompanist, Alison MacNeill. Alison and Bob’s friendship dates back to attending university together and **(#74)** here’s a 1976 promo photo of them (on the left) from the U of Guelph which was used to attract students to its hot electronic music program! And that’s a more recent photo of them on the right. Alison has been with the chorus since 2002.

Over our 15 years, the Chorus has had five Artistic Directors but for the last 10 years, we’ve been under the watchful eye of Bob Miller. **(#75)**

This is his 17th concert.

Bob studied music at the U of Guelph, in Toronto and in Copenhagen where he conducted the Homofon Kor. He is enormously patient, has great confidence in us and continually pushes us to be better, and somehow always manages to get us ready for a concert (even if it takes until the very last rehearsal.....) **(#76 keep up until Christine finishes interview)**.

Christine (with mic): To Bob

Q: What has been the most memorable moment for you with the Chorus?

Q: What keeps you coming back to the chorus?

(Slide #77)

The next two songs, “I Knew I Loved You” and “You Walk With Me” were first performed last January for our “Belonging Concert”.

RBC I KNEW I LOVED YOU (2:13)

RBC YOU WALK WITH ME (2:46)

CL Being part of the RBC is great fun. We get to hang out together **(#78, 79, 80)**, and have a few laughs **(#81, 82)**. But, it’s not all fun and games. There’s a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication. Countless hours are spent reading through sheets of music **(#83)** and memorizing each song. Threading our way through four part harmonies **(#84)**, and getting into shape because performing requires great physical stamina **(#85 pause)**. Team work is also essential. Putting our heads together **(#86)**, and getting a good solid grip on what’s expected of each performance **(#87)**

And there are some who choose the added contribution of serving on our Board of Directors and its subcommittees. And all of this is in addition to our day jobs! We have members who are everything from teachers to nurses to grad students, hair stylists to speech therapists to organ builders! This is indeed a multi-talented group, on many different levels. **(Slide #88)**

Our next song is by Libby Roderick who’s simple folk tune reaches out to deeply connect us all.

RBC HOW COULD ANYONE (2:30)

CL Sometimes the Chorus participates in festivals. We sang at national festivals in Edmonton in 1998, Toronto in 2002, and an international festival in Montreal in 2004. **(#89, #90)**. One event we are really looking forward to this spring is a national Choral Festival in Winnipeg. The Rainbow Chorus is able to afford this trip from our many years of fund-raising, so we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, the community, for always and very generously supporting us.
(CHOIR APPLAUDS THE AUDIENCE)

We want to close tonight with a song we originally sang for the River Run Songfest in 2005. We also want to thank you for sharing our 15th Anniversary with us and we hope that you enjoyed the show. Have a safe drive home and don't forget to go down to the auditorium for refreshments, and to find out if you won one of our wonderful raffle baskets.

We wish you peace, love and joy and hope to see you at our next concert. **(Chorus photo #91 - leave up for rest of concert)**

RBC THE STORM (2:26)**RBC ENCORE: Everytime We Say Goodbye**
