

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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"BRIGHT SIDE SCRIPT"

1ST HALF: Wearing: Floral shirts, T shirts, sarongs, Lei's

Kokomo All Tropical scene. Flood lights & Kiki Lights (rainbow colours; Palm trees; Beach) Use Slides showing Aruba, Jamaica, Key Largo etc.)

Props: pot flame lights, leis, bamboo, Margarita glasses

MC (*Entering bundled up in scarves and a toque*) Hello everyone. I'm Scott Worsfold, and I'll be your Master of Ceremonies for this evening. I'd like to welcome to all to this concert by the Wellington-Waterloo Rainbow Chorus, our first of the new year 2013, and the Chorus'18th year. We will be bringing you some songs of warmth in a cold season, so sit back and relax and let us take off the chill.

But I'll tell you, this is the ultimate weather for me. I love the winter and I love the cold! It's true – I can't get enough of it. My partner says let's go south for a holiday; Kokomo? Well, that's a pretty song, but I say forget it – let's go to Alaska! Nunavut! Siberia! I love that snow and ice! It makes me feel alive, like every pore on my face just stands up and salutes. So bracing! It's so Canadian, you know? (*grabbing more outer clothing from and putting it on*) I love to pile on the scarves and toques and just get out there! Skiing and skating and tobogganing: I love it!

(as MC talks, Chorus begins to shiver a bit and divest themselves of beachwear)

MC: Yeah, that's right, you ought to bundle up! Because baby it's cold outside!

Baby it's Cold Outside All Pairs (sections) placed all around stage; camp it up

MC: In the cold weather, I like to go out – and I like to stay in. Now I'd like to invite Judy up to the microphone to tell you about her search for some cool air...

Story ("Camping in Death Valley" -- Judy S.)

Steam Heat All break into groups of 4 or 5 (by sections)

Bar 62 (T&B: On "Coal" shovel to the right; A&S: On "No Good" R. Arm fist out, then back.

Bar 68 (A&S: "I got steam" - fists out, then in, then around; T&B: ??)

Bar 76 - (T&B - stomp 1 & 2; A&S: right foot out, then hand across, then pull both hands in)

Bar 84 - All collapse. Bar 91 - Boink - All: ??

Props: colourful bandanas (take from pocket and put around neck or head)

Sit Down (except Ensemble) Choir will put on black tops

MC: In the winter, we can see the light from the distant stars, cold light that was warmth. And sometimes we wish upon them in memory of the heat from those stars.

When You Wish Upon a Star Ensemble 8 voices in pairs (Stars on slides - Judy)

Wearing: Sparkly Scarves

MC: Anthropologists say that the invention of fire as a supply of heat and light was one of the first civilizing influences for human beings. This next piece is called "Starlight" and it is special to the Rainbow Chorus because it was written especially for us by the well-known Canadian composer, Dr. Mark Sirett, who is the Artistic Director of the Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, with lyrics by Guelph writer and artist Van Waffle. It tells the "old, old story" of love and asks the equally old question about how love is measured.

Starlight

All

Bring lighting down; Slides: Cosmic Images

MC: Acknowledge Van Waffle in the audience!

The next song is written in Latin, a translation of a poem written by Edward Esch. For those of you who don't speak fluent Latin, here is the English version:

Light
Warm and heavy
As pure gold
And the angels sing softly
To the new born babe

This song has been made famous by Eric Whitacre's arrangement of the song in his Virtual Choir. But we're all in the same room tonight; it doesn't get more "Actual Choir" than this.

Lux Aurumque

All

Move in V formation; Lights out; lit candles

ALL Sit Down

MC: Now I'd like to invite Matt and Shannon up to the microphone to talk about a different kind of light: the light of friendship...

Story: Matt

I was 16 when I changed schools halfway through high school. I was never out going and didn't know how to socialize very well so I worried how I was going to make any friends. Fortunately it seemed I'd underestimated my own charm and quickly made some good friends. That's where Shannon came into the picture. She was a friend of a mutual acquaintance. She was quiet and reserved and as cute as a button. One day, walking down the hall, I saw her sitting across from some lockers and the urge just hit me. I sat down beside her, much to her surprise and introduced myself. Her facial expression was very amusing considering the topic of conversation I chose and how very blunt I was, but this quiet, reserved Shannon, now lovingly referred to as Evil Muffin, indulged me and talked back when I began to tell her all about...

Shannon We won't go into details about the conversation since that is long in the past but I will say that nothing that comes out of his mouth surprises me anymore. No matter what we know we will always be there for each other. He is my best friend, there to cry with me and laugh at me and I'm there to do the same for him.

Matt We've remained Best Friends through thick and thin, life altering changes, good times and really terrible times. She has been a strong pillar of support for me as I have a tendency to make my life difficult and I can only hope that I've been the same for her. I have never once regretted sitting down next to her that one fateful day.

**May You Always
Firework**

Ensemble 8 singers (2 microphones)
All Wearing: Red scarves

MC: Help me, I'm melting! Maybe I'm wrong about that loving the cold business. Maybe I'm warming up. I hope you are too! It's time for our intermission, and the last chance to buy raffle tickets. But before I let you go, I'd like to ask Brenda Eckhardt, the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Rainbow Chorus, to say a few words.

(Comments from **Brenda** as Chair of BoD)

INTERMISSION

2ND HALF: (chorus wearing Black Tops)

Under Pressure All + Solo's Basses/Tenors lead processing in and start singing after 8 bars; Snapping fingers; Crossover to positions Front Line from right stage, Back Line from left stage; Soloists go up middle to the mic's

The Very Thought of You All + Soloists stay on stage; soloists to microphones; general formation

Altos/Sopranos Sit Down

MC: (*entering in sunglasses and tropical shirt*) Well, I don't know about you, but I'm heating up! You know, I could be convinced by all these warm songs. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to come back home into the warmth. Here's Helen and Jaye to tell their stories about what coming home means to each of them.

Stories: Jaye and Helen

Jaye: When I think of the rural town I grew up in, the one thing that moves me the most is the light. There is something about the way the light hits the fields of corn and wheat that got under my skin and has stayed with me. I haven't lived there for many years but when I go back there and look out over those fields, watching the wind make the crops look like waves, my body relaxes. I get a feeling of intense connection, and also a feeling of longing. I long for the country; the stillness and light that can be found there. When I was growing up my hometown always seemed like a place I wanted to move out of. The options seemed limited there, it seemed close-minded and small. I didn't want to be a farmer, who would want to be a farmer? But, life takes you to unexpected places sometimes and so here I am all those years later, loving the dirt under my nails and with plaid being my favourite colour. Making a living and enjoying my life of growing food at a farm just north of Guelph. And in the morning when I walk down to the fields, with the morning sun shining through the mist off the swamp, I get glimpses of that light that relaxes my body and makes me feel like I'm home.

Helen: If we are fortunate in life, we arrive in a place and know in our hearts this is "home." It is a place of blessings, nurture, safety and warmth. That was the GLBT community in the Guelph- Waterloo area for me in the mid '80's when I came to university in Guelph. It would have been tempting to put down roots, staying close to this home, but I was also being called to stretch my wings and begin a greater adventure which meant leaving for distant, unknown places. I chose the adventure, following a calling, finding a path in life that was right for me. The path meant going back in the closet, times of isolation, pain, and fear. But as I wandered, the world opened up, the closet opened up, and new life opportunities presented themselves. Singing Homeward Bound is a celebration for me, recognizing that my life is richer for having followed the calling, but also an acknowledgement that my heart is happier because the wonderful path I've followed has brought me home to Guelph once more.

Homeward Bound (TB) Tenors/Bases - Soloists to front microphones

Butterfly All

All sit down

MC: Okay, that's it. These songs have convinced me. I now officially want to go to a beach somewhere: somewhere warm, somewhere tropical, somewhere where the bossa nova plays all night, where there's dancing under the stars, where romance happens in the blink of an eye. Pat went somewhere like that, and had a little encounter. Let's hear her story about what happened to her on the beach.

Story (Pat): My one and only escape from Canadian winter to a warmer sunnier climate happened when my sister and I went on a short cruise from Florida to the Bahamas late in February. In the Bahamas, the beach we had access to was about a half a kilometer away. Jogging there that first day, I saw how clean and private the beach was, with not another soul in sight. Although the temperature registered barely 20 degrees Celsius and the water was not warm, I had to go for a swim, and it had to be skinny dipping since I had no towel and there was no way I was going to run back in wet clothes. The whole experience was balmy compare to the winter I'd left behind.

The next day, I went again, only this time I brought a towel. It was sunnier, so I wasted no time going for another skinny dip. After a while I noticed a man walking far off in the distance, and I made my way back to where my clothes and towel were. I remember how fresh the air felt, sitting on a log with only my towel around my neck.....when suddenly I looked up and there was this tall, dark-haired gorgeous young man, standing within a few feet of me. He made no comment about my lack of clothes and was so incredibly natural to talk to, that as I continued chatting with him, I slowly grabbed my shirt, and then shorts, and keeping the towel carefully employed to cover as much as my body as possible, I got dressed. He told me that he was a runner from Oregon, and was out collecting driftwood. I was nearly finished with my dressing contortions when I mentioned to him the other man on the beach. "Where?" he said "Right over here, by that tree; don't you see?" And he said "Well, no I don't.....I'm legally blind - I only have about 10% vision!"

The Girl from Ipanema (SSA)

Alto's/Sop's Come Forward

Wearing: Lei's

MC: Here's Chris' story about another kind of tropical experience.

Chris's story:

My partner, Jim and I fell in love over three years ago and nothing in this world makes me happier than to see him smile. From the beginning, Jim has always been in my corner and encouraged me to do things I never thought I could do on my own. What you also need to know about Jim is not only does he love me but he has a love in his heart for sea turtles and whales, but he was a young boy, he fell into a lake and almost drowned, and so he never wanted to go into the water. Until last year. While on vacation in St. Maarten, I persuaded him to trust himself (with a little help from a swim floatie) to go snorkelling with me. That first moment in the water when he looked at me and smiled because he realized he was floating in water over 20 feet deep amongst tropical fish, I was so happy. I wasn't sure if he even knew I was crying behind my goggles. Not only did we see sea turtles on our vacation I fell in love with Jim again, as I do every time I think of the smile on his face in that blue Caribbean water of St. Maarten.

T&B's bring out Water Prop (from Mermaids)

Caribbean Blue

All

concert formation; use water prop

MC: Our next song, "Gate Gate," is a Buddhist chant about everyone "crossing into the light." I'd like to ask Margie to the microphone to help introduce this song.

Story: Margie

I took a leave of absence from my teaching position during the 2008/09 school year in order to spend 10 months exploring Nepal and India. During this trip-of-a-lifetime I experienced many incredible opportunities, including trekking in the stunning Himalayan mountains, volunteer teaching English to young women who wanted to become trekking guides, and taking part in numerous yoga and meditation retreats. It was a year of wonder, discovery, and personal & spiritual growth.

One of the richest experiences of this journey was a 6 weeks stay at an active Buddhist Monastery in Boudhanath, Nepal, outside of Kathmandu. During my stay there, I meditated and studied Buddhist teachings with 300 other foreigners. Though most of our days were spent almost exclusively with the other foreigners, we were given some inside glimpses into the lives of the Buddhist monks studying and living at the monastery. On several occasions, we joined the hundreds of monks in the ornate main Gompa, or meditation hall. We would sit cross legged for hours as drums were beat, horns were sounded, and chants and mantras were recited in Sanscrit.

We were there over Christmas, which was a fascinating dichotomy for the vast majority of foreigners with Christian backgrounds. On Christmas Eve, we gathered at the Stupa, a beautiful Buddhist monument. There, surrounded by glorious gardens and Buddhist statues, we lit hundreds of tea lights. Nepali monks and foreigners alike circled the stupa repeatedly reciting "Om mani padme hum", while others broke out into the signing of "Silent Night". Though it was strange to be so far from home on Christmas Eve, the whole experience brought me great warmth and joy.

Gate Gate All wearing Rainbow Scarves

MC: And finally, as we bring the evening to a close, we'd like to offer something a little different, something philosophical for you to take home with you, a song written by a graduate of Cambridge University in England. Don't be intimidated by this song's pedigree, or by the prestigious accomplishments of its composer. In fact, I'll bet you know it.

Always Look on the Bright Side All + Solo's - Soloists to front mic's; Choir goes to front steps in V formation, then out into the audience to sing. Kick up on Bar 64 to end. Back to stage.

MC: Good night, everyone, and thank you for sharing the light and the music with us. We invite you downstairs for refreshments and the Raffle Draw. Don't forget to get your last minute raffle tickets.

ENCORE (YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND)

1st Half

Enter from all doors
Wearing beachwear & props
(*Bandanas in pockets*)
Form party groups

KOKOMO

Toss beachwear behind risers
Form pairs (same voice)

Start shivering

BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

Put on bandanas
Form "work" groups (same voice)

STEAM HEAT

SIT DOWN (Except Ensemble)

Ensemble picks up sparkly scarves

WHEN YOU WISH

 (Ensemble)

Ensemble puts down sparkly scarves

Pick up candles (extras for ensemble)

BACK TO STAGE - Standard formation

Hold candles or place discretely on floor

STARLIGHT

Move to V formation

Turn on candles (randomly)

LUX AURUMQUE

SIT DOWN

Ensemble to the stage with sparkly scarves

MAY YOU ALWAYS

 (Ensemble)

Ensemble puts down sparkly scarves

Pick up rainbow scarves (extras for ensemble)

Scarves around back of neck

BACK TO STAGE - Standard formation

FIREWORK

-After last "moon" grab scarf at BACK of neck
with RIGHT hand and THROW on final chord

2nd Half

Process in from sides (front row from right,
back row from left, soloists from centre)

Start snap-step-clap-step as per Judy

Annetta will cut off snap/claps

UNDER PRESSURE

Soloists to front mic's

THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU

Altos & Sops SIT DOWN

Soloists to mics

HOMEWARD BOUND

Altos & Sops BACK TO STAGE

BUTTERFLY

SIT DOWN (ALL)

Altos & Sops pick up leis

(As story is finishing - watch Moe...)

Altos & Sops BACK TO STAGE

GIRL FROM IPANEMA

SIT DOWN (ALL)

Rainbow scarves tucked into RIGHT side of pants

BACK TO STAGE - Standard formation

Pick up water prop

-Back row hold at mid-chest

-Front row hold just above waist

CARIBBEAN BLUE

-Front row will start GENTLE sway

-Once "stable" back row sway in opposite dir.

-The sway will work itself out during the song,

Put down water prop

Rainbow scarves around back of neck

GATE GATE

Move to "horseshoe" formation, soloists to mics

ALWAYS LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Move back to Standard formation

Bows: down 2,3,4, up 2,3,4

Watch Moe to acknowledge Annetta, MC etc.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

REMEMBER:

*We are ONE BUM (watch Moe)

*Sing it like you mean it (even if you're not sure)

*SMILE!! (You'll look and sound even better!)