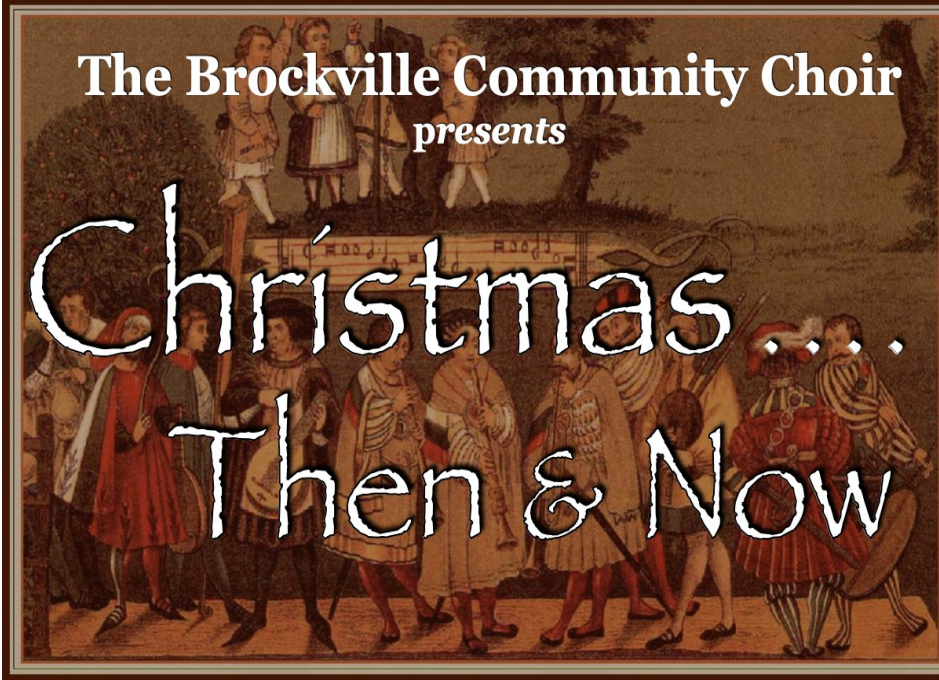


Sunday December 13, 2026 2 p.m.

Madelyn Mensen Artistic Director
Abe TeGrotenhuis Collaborative Artist

With
Foxwood String Quartet

St. Lawrence Anglican Church
80 Pine Street, Brockville

CANARM

The Brockville Community Choir
Welcomes

Foxwood String Quartet

John Gomez – Violin
Pauline McCombe – Violin
Karen Finstad – Viola
Janette Jensen – Cello

O Canada!	Calixa Lavallée arr: Godfrey Ridout
Confortamini Et Iam	Orlando di Lasso
Angelus Ad Virginem	Traditional arr: Michael McGlynn
The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came	Traditional arr: Robert Neurmeyer
Magnificat	J. S. Bach
The Rose	O. Gjelo/C. Rosetti
The Road Not Taken	R. Thompson/R. Frost
What Strangers Are These	Traditional (Scottish) arr: Richard Purvis
O Holy Night	A. Adam/C. de Roquemaure arr: John Rutter

Evermore Traditional
arr: L. Moorehouse/S. Paul

INTERMISSION

In Dulci Jubilo Traditional (German)
arr: R.L. de Pearsall

Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella Traditional (French)
arr: Russell Robinson

Madrigal For Christmas Thomas Morley
arr: John Leavitt

To Us A Child Is Given J. S. Bach

Shepherd's Carol William Billings
arr. Abraham Kaplan

Gloria In Excelsis Deo J. S. Bach

Videntes Stellam Francis Poulenc

Choose Something Like a Star R. Thompson/R. Frost

Rideau Carol David Rain

A Christmas Portrait arr. Jerry Nowak

The Brockville Community Choir

Artistic Director Madelyn Mensen

Collaborative Artist Abe TeGrotenhuis

Sopranos

Karen Cornish
Heather Dundas
Marianne Emig Carr
Ann Faurschou
Carol Gellrich
Cynthia Jacob
Marsha Lindsay
Mara Mallett
Adele McLeod
Catherine Oxenford-Grant*
Emma Soldaat
Michelle Soldaat

Altos

Christine Barrows
Jocelyn Beaudette
Denise Bowes*
Emily Conger
Lynne Gardiner
Virginia Glover
Dilys Leman
Lois Lorimer Nunn
Karen Mahon
Christina McCarthy
Irene Mitchell
Lynn Mitchell
Eleanor Newman
Charlotte Patterson
Kathryn Powell
Barbara Robinson
Theresa Wiegert

Tenors

Persephone Antoniou*
Allison Cherry
Laurens deKleine
Mary Harding
Donna Matheson
Barry O'Brien
Catherine Orth
Jacob Smith
Mike Trussell

Basses

Peter Athersych
Phil Hosick
Daniel Knudsen*
Benjamin Louwersheimer
Neil Matheson
Kris Michaelson
Peter Onstein
Charlie Pritchard

*section leader

O Canada!

Verse #1
O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.
God keep our land glorious and free
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee,
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

Verse #2
O Canada! Where pines and maples grow,
Great prairies spread and lordly rivers flow,
How dear to us thy broad domain,
From East to Western sea!
Thou land of hope for all who toil!
Thou True North strong and free!
God keep our land glorious and free
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee,
O Canada! We stand on guard for thee.

Madelyn Mensen, Artistic Director, has been active in music for over 35 years. Originally from Plum Hollow, she remembers participating in the Brockville Music Festival as a child, performing with the Brockville Operatic Society, school bands, and studying organ at St. Lawrence Church. She sang with the UWO Singers while studying piano performance at the University of Western Ontario, and completed a degree in music at Carleton University, where she was a founding member of the Carleton University Balloon Orchestra. She pursued a career in funeral services and is now a business owner in the bereavement sector. She looks forward to supporting performing arts in the community for years to come.



Abe TeGrotenhuis, Collaborative Artist, was choir director/organist at Bells Corners United Church for 9 years. Wall St. United, First United Ottawa, Merrickville United, Westwood United Guelph before that. A member of the Spencerville Village Voyces ensemble since its inception 16 years ago and accompanist for Spencerville community choir for 26 total seasons now. Currently employed at Eternal Care Ltd. Previously employed as a technology integration specialist at MItra/AGFA medical imaging solutions in Waterloo and Ministry of Natural Resources before that.



The Brockville Community Choir
is grateful for the

R. A. Millar Legacy Grant

of $50,000,
donated in December 2022,
to support special projects and
greater outreach to the community.

Should you wish to become a patron of
the Brockville Community Choir,
please visit www.BrockvilleChoir.ca
or follow the QR Code.

Brockville Community Choir
a registered charitable organization
(Reg.# 140755919RR0001)

The Brockville Community Choir
Administration

Choir Officers

President – Eleanor Newman
Vice President – Ann Faurschou
Past President – Barry O'Brien
Secretary – Denise Bowes
Treasurer – Michelle Soldaat

Choir Portfolios

Fundraising – Eleanor Newman
Hospitality – Marsha Lindsay
Membership – Allison Cherry
Music Library – Charlotte Patterson
Ann Faurschou
Publicity – Christine Barrows
Donna Matheson
Sing-Outs – Charlotte Patterson
Madelyn Mensen
Tickets – Michelle Soldaat
Website – Barry O'Brien
Allison Cherry

Special Thanks & Acknowledgements

Loretta Kivenen – Piano use
Jeff Reusing – Expertise & continued support

Director's Thoughts on...

Christmas Then and Now

Christmas comes but once a year! And in predictable community choir fashion, we are celebrating Christmas with choral style. This year, we are concocting a choral fruitcake, and our program is already soaking in the rum. In *Christmas Then-and-Now*, we are endeavouring to reach further back to the earliest days of this cherished feast as it was celebrated in song and explore how the musical traditions have been introduced, altered, adapted, and preserved over a thousand years. The aim of this program is to find a shared Christmas experience with our musical contemporaries of past and present. It is worth noting the core narrative of the nativity that informs the holiday has remained steadfast in the choral oeuvre through the Middle Ages, The 17th Century Ban, The 19th Century Victorian transformation of the holiday and the pan-commercialization of Christmas post-WW2. It is also worth noting that not every piece in our program is classified under 'Christmas', and yet they are as fitting to the holiday music rotation as fruitcake on the holiday table. Gōd Gēol sīe þē!

And so, our Christmas fruitcake is ready to serve: a little medieval chant, a generous helping of Renaissance festivity, a measure of Baroque splendour, a taste of folk tradition, and a contemporary layer of reflection, nostalgia, and joy. Some ingredients have been carefully preserved for centuries; others have been translated, rearranged, or given an entirely new flavour. Yet all have found their way to the same table.

Perhaps that is the enduring magic of Christmas music. It reminds us that, although the ways we celebrate may change, we continue to return to many of the same hopes: light in the darkness, comfort in uncertain times, welcome for the stranger, joy in one another's company, and the promise of renewal.

In *Christmas Then-and-Now*, we listen across the centuries—not simply to discover how Christmas sounded in the past, but to recognize what still resonates in the present. And as we add our own voices to this long musical history, we become part of its next chapter. After all, Christmas comes but once a year; the music, thankfully, is evermore.

The Brockville Community Choir

Celebrating 40 Years!

Do you like to sing?
Do you enjoy choral music?
Do you enjoy timeless classic music?

Come Sing With Us!

MADELYN MENSEN
Artistic Director

ABE TEGROTENHUIS
Collaborative Artist

Adult membership dues are $100 per session (2 sessions per year)
No membership dues for STUDENTS

Rehearsals are WEDNESDAYS starting at 7:00 pm

at St. Lawrence Anglican Church, 80 Pine St.

All are welcome to attend for up to 3 rehearsals with no commitment

For further information about the choir visit our website
brockvillechoir.ca