



ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR

Jenn Forsland, Musical Director

*Voices in Remembrance:*

# *In Their Words*

with:

Canadian Military Wives Choir (Courtenay)

Wendy Nixon-Stothert, conductor

Campbell River Children's Choir (Campbell River)

Jennifer Abbott, Beth Kingston, conductors

*November 11, 2017*

*St. George's United Church  
Courtenay*

*St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
Campbell River*



## The Songs

**Epitaph:** Welsh poet Sarah Williams published her second book of poetry in 1868. These lines, from "The Old Astronomer" have become a well-known round.

**When I am Silent:** Subtitled "A song for the girl in Auschwitz", Joan Varner's haunting piece conveys both the innocence of youth, and the anguish and helplessness felt by those imprisoned.

**Danny Boy:** There are various suggestions as to the true meaning of "Danny Boy". Some have interpreted the song to be a message from a parent to a son going off to a war or uprising (as suggested by the reference to "pipes calling glen to glen").

**Fare Thee Well, Love:** From the 1990 album by the Rankin Family, this tender melody has become a Canadian standard.

**Boots:** With a text by Rudyard Kipling, this piece shows the frustration of soldiers faced with gruelling marches and deplorable conditions.

**Hear My Voice:** Calgary composer Kathryn Parotta uses jazz harmonies in this evocative piece. The speaker repeatedly pleads for his voice to be heard - in the wind, in the trees, even in Paradise.

**In Flanders Fields:** John MacCrae's eloquent poem has been set in many ways by many composers.

**Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye** is the story of an Irish woman who meets her former lover on the road to Athy. After their illegitimate child was born, the lover ran away and became a soldier. He was badly disfigured, losing his legs, his arms, his eyes, and in some versions, his nose, in fighting on the island of "Sulloon" or Ceylon, and will have to be put out with a bowl to beg. In spite of all this, the woman is happy to see him and will keep him on as her beau.

**After the War:** Sung by Sarah Slean in the movie *Passchendaele*, this arrangement by Canadian Mark Sirett tells the tale of a soldier yearning for home. David Keeley once commented that when Paul Gross called him and began to sing the words to this song, he handed the phone to his wife, Laura, who 'began crying immediately'.

### **Ubi Caritas:**

*Where charity and love are, God is there.*

*Love of Christ has gathered us into one.*

*Let us rejoice in Him and be glad.*

*Let us fear, and let us love the living God.*

*And from a sincere heart let us love one another.*

**Alleluia:** This thoughtful and prayerful setting is by Toronto composer Stephanie Martin.

**Pacem:** BC composer Don Macdonald has borrowed Latin quotes about peace and war:

*Peace not war; eternal Peace;*

*Grant us peace; peace on Earth;*

*War is a crime; war is the poison of the world;*

*If you want peace agree to keep the peace.*

**Espiritu de Dios** is a traditional Cuban melody, and a plea:

*Spirit of God,*

*Fill my life, my soul, my very being,*

*And fill me with your presence, your power, your love.*

**We Wear Red For You:** On 11 June 2007, while on a resupply mission in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Six-one Delta hit an improvised explosive device that took the life of Trooper Darryl Caswell, and injured the remaining crew members, one of which was Cpl. Wade Wick. Upon his return, Lesia met Wade and learned the true meaning behind R.E.D. (Remembering Everyone Deployed) Fridays. This song was then written to help spread awareness and the importance of wearing red on Fridays.

### **Nella Fantasia:**

*In my imagination I see a fair world,*

*Everyone lives in peace and in honesty there.*

*I dream of souls that are always free,*

*Like the clouds that fly,*

*Full of humanity in the depths of the soul.*

*In my imagination I see a bright world,*

*Even the night is less dark there.*

*I dream of souls that are always free,*

*Like clouds that fly.*

*In my imagination there exists a warm wind,*

*That breathes on the cities, like a friend.*

*I dream of souls that are always free,*

*Like clouds that fly,*

*Full of humanity in the depths of the soul.*

**One Song at a Time** speaks of the power of togetherness and the possibility that we can change the world.

**Hope is a Thing With Feathers:** In this poem, Dickinson is creating a metaphor of hope through a bird. The hope that is within the speaker is much like a bird that continues to fly inside her. While we may all experience some dark times, hope can offer some encouragement.

**Inscription of Hope:** The Holocaust is a stunning reminder of where authoritarian rule, fueled by popular prejudice, fear and hatred of "the other", can lead and the power of hope to stand in its way. "Inscription of Hope" is based on a text reportedly found on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews were hiding from the Nazis during World War II.

## Their Stories

**Ruth Masters:** Born and raised in the Comox Valley, Ruth Masters joined the RCAF Women's Division in June 1942, serving as an administration Sergeant and surviving the London Blitz. Although known most recently as a passionate environmental advocate, Ms. Masters' historical work has been instrumental in developing this concert. Her comprehensive scrapbook, found in the Courtenay Museum, chronicles the lives of all Comox Valley personnel killed in WWI and WWII.

**Brenda Corey Dunne** is an ex-military physiotherapist, author, volunteer, mom of three teens. Her fictional account of life as a military spouse--DEPENDENT--was published in 2014. She recently helped to found the Canadian Military Wives Choir Comox, and is the chairperson of the National Canadian Military Wives Choirs Board of Directors.

**Lancelot Rodney Warn** served in the 30th and 16th battalion with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces during World War One. He survived the war but died in 1919 of enteric fever. He is entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

**Les Marshall:** The quote in the story is from Ruth Master's book *Lest We Forget*, described as *Sandwick 1978*.

**Sargeant Gerry Perrin** served in Korea and was the only Canadian awarded the Presidential Ribbon. He was one of 45 members of the Gloucestershire regiment.

**Leslie Leedham** enlisted on Sept 1, 1939, followed by his brother John, who was only 14 at the time. Leslie didn't realize when he wrote home that his letters would be used for his memorial. His parents in Courtenay received word that Les and his unit had had dinner in a Cathedral on Christmas night 1943 and then they were bombed.

**Bud Mabbet** is 96 years old and lives in his own home at Union Bay. Raised in Port Coquitlam, he served in the Canadian army's 5th Armoured Division, New Westminster Regiment. He scouted for the "Lord Strath's", a tank regiment. He joined the regiment at 19, in July 1940 and served until severely wounded in Italy in Dec. 1944.

**Howard Slessor** was a Courtenay boy, killed in WWII, and posthumously recognized for gallantry.

**Private Edwin C. Everett** enlisted in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Battalions (stationed in Goose Spit) in Feb. 1916. Assigned to the hospital staff, he transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance

Corps and was sent to France in August. Pvt. Everett kept a personal diary about his experiences in the "Great War".

**William Leslie:** An immigrant from Scotland, William Leslie married his wife Maud in Vancouver and enlisted in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Scottish Highlanders, where because of his knowledge of horses, he was made "Sergeant of the Pioneers". However, the 72<sup>nd</sup> wasn't yet certified to go to Europe, so he and Maud went to Vancouver Island where he joined the 67th Scottish and trained with some of the men from Vancouver Island, commonly called THE ISLAND GIANTS due to many of them being loggers, miners, farmers...big stocky lads. He was killed on June 5, 1917.

**Ramona Vanstone** was born on Cortes Island and married Alfred, son of David Vanstone, a well-known businessman. She was sister-in-law to his son David, and a friend of Robert Perkins, both of whom were killed in WWII and had mountains named after them.

**Riki Winter-Vogt:** Forced to leave their native Czechoslovakia after WWII, the family later moved to Australia where three siblings eventually became Olympic athletes. Ms. Winter-Vogt moved to Campbell River in 1969, raising two daughters and practicing massage therapy for 36 years. She honours her parents and grandparents for getting them through those years as refugees.

**Major G.A. Stoner** was originally a prairie farm boy, but he hated it, and joined the army as soon as he was old enough. (Apparently boot camp was a luxury - got to sleep in till 6:00 in the morning, eat second helpings at every meal, and even get dessert on a regular occasion!) He eventually settled on the Island.

**Charles Ashurst** was a fighter pilot in WWII. He survived the war and flew food aid to those in need.

### **Lester B. Pearson**

The only non-Island text comes from a former Prime Minister. In 1957, Pearson's remarkable diplomatic achievements in peacebuilding, and in particular in resolving the crisis of Suez through the establishment of a UN Emergency Force, was recognized and honoured with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Note: We have no idea whose war bride memory we have quoted; it was found in the archives at the Campbell River Museum.

## ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR (Jenn Forsland, director)

**Sopranos:** Janet Bouey, Michelle Johnson, Stephanie Nicoll, Jo-Anne Preston, Andrea Ritchie, Chris Round, Helen Van Spronsen

**Altos:** Jaime Ashurst, Joyce Baker, Sharla Marr, Jean Valikoski, Lorill Vining, Amanda Williams

**Tenors:** Bryan Baker, Doug Blue, John Elson, Felipe Sequeira, Randy Wedel

**Basses:** Kerry Baerg, Doug Colwell, Greg Cousineau, Douglas Sauer, Ted Walker

### Thank You to Our Actors

**Jennifer Moses:** Jennifer has performed with Rainbow Youth Theatre, Courtenay Little Theatre, Light Fantastic Productions and Theatreworks. She also had the privilege of singing with Island Voices under Frances Keen's direction. She is honoured to be part of this year's Remembrance Day presentation.

**Christine Knight:** Christine Knight has lived on the island for 16 years. She teaches Drama and English at Carihi, and is happy to be part of the arts community in Campbell River.

**Nick Preston:** Born and raised in Black Creek, Nick is a graduate of the UBC's BFA Acting program. He recently toured the shows *Hamelin* (Axis Theatre) and *The Birth of the CPR* (CMTC), and performed two seasons at the Theatre Royal in Barkerville. A collective creation, "*CAEZR: What would you die for..?*" just performed in Stratford, Ontario, and his first original musical opens in Vancouver, fall 2018. Nick is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and is impassioned to make politically relevant theatre in the future. He was a recipient of the 2015 Ovation award for Outstanding Newcomer, and is excited to be performing with his high school acting teacher.

### Special Thanks to those who have supported our efforts to create this program:

HMCS Alberni Museum  
Comox Air Force Museum  
Courtenay Museum  
Ms. Hazel Lennox  
Ms. Ruth Masters

Ms. Riki Winter-Vogt  
Ms. May Tunningly  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
St. George's United Church

### **To learn more, visit these websites:**

[www.veterans.gc.ca/english/remembrance/those-who-served/heroes-remember](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/english/remembrance/those-who-served/heroes-remember)

<https://legionmagazine.com/en/category/our-veterans/memoirs/>

<http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories>

<http://www.canadianletters.ca/>

If you would like to be informed of future Island Voices performances, please email [jbaker@gicable.com](mailto:jbaker@gicable.com)

**Please visit our website: [www.islandvoiceschamberchoir.bc.ca](http://www.islandvoiceschamberchoir.bc.ca)**

## Courtenay Program

*Actors: Jennifer Moses, Nick Preston*

*Instrumentalists: Joyce Baker, Sharla Marr, Lucas Schuller, Kirsten Wood*

**Epitaph.....traditional round, poetry by Sarah Williams**

**When I am Silent .....Joan C. Varner**

*Holidays in Europe? – Ms. Ruth Masters*

**Danny Boy.....lyrics by Frederick Weatherly, arr. Alan Bevan**

*Day 18 – From the blog of Mrs. Brenda Dunn*

**Fare Thee Well, Love.....James Rankin, arr. Stuart Calvert**

*A letter from Corporal Lance Warn, May 1915*

**Boots.....Don Macdonald**

*Memories of WWI - Mr. Les Marshal*

*Memory of Korea - Sergeant Gerry Perrin*

*Letter from Leslie Leedham, Dec. 1943*

**Hear My Voice.....Kathryn Chomick Parotta**

*Memories of the Italian campaign (from Mr. Bud Mabbet)*

**In Flanders Fields.....John Jacobson and Roger Emerson**

*A War Bride's Memory*

*Excerpt from the diary of Private Edwin C. Everett*

**Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye.....arr. Alice Parker**

*Letter from Corporal William Leslie, June 25, 1916*

**After the War.....Paul Gross & David Keeley, arr. Mark Sirett**

*Letter to Mrs. Gladys Slessor*

**Ubi Caritas .....Maurice Durufle**

*Except from the journal of Major G.A. Stoner*

**Pacem.....Don Macdonald**

*Memory of Charles Ashurst*

**Espiritu de Dios .....traditional Cuban, arr. Brian Tate**

**We Wear Red for You.....Lesia Wick and David Buley**

**Nella Fantasia (solos by Amanda Low and Tannis Harrison)....Chiara Ferrau, Ennio Morricone**

*Quote about Peace –Lester B. Pearson*

**Inscription of Hope.....Z. Randall Stroope**

## Campbell River Program

Actors: Christine Knight, Nick Preston

Instrumentalists: Joyce Baker, Sharla Mar, Lucas Schuller, Cindy Taylor

- Epitaph..... traditional round, poetry by Sarah Williams**
- When I am Silent ..... Joan C. Varner**  
*Holidays in Europe? – Ms. Ruth Masters*
- Danny Boy..... lyrics by Frederick Weatherly, arr. Alan Bevan**  
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- Fare Thee Well, Love..... James Rankin, arr. Stuart Calvert**  
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*Memory of Korea - Sergeant Gerry Perrin*  
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- Hear My Voice..... Kathryn Chomick Parotta**  
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- Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye.....arr. Alice Parker**  
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- After the War.....Paul Gross & David Keeley, arr. Mark Sirett**  
*Memories of Mrs. Ramona Vanstone*
- Ubi Caritas .....Maurice Durufle**  
*Except from the journal of Major G.A. Stoner*
- Pacem..... Don Macdonald**  
*Memory of Charles Ashurst*
- Espiritu de Dios .....traditional Cuban, arr. Brian Tate**  
*Memories of 1946 - Ms. Riki Winter-Vogt*
- One Song at a Time.....Darla Eshelman**
- Hope is a Thing with Feathers.....text by Emilie Dickenson, music by Susan LeBarr**  
*Quote about Peace –Lester B. Pearson*
- Inscription of Hope.....Z. Randall Stroope**