



Newsletter – September 2021

Dear OC Members and New OC Choristers:

Welcome to September and the start of our 3rd online choral season.

David Bowser, Artistic Director, and the OC Board of Directors have been working over the summer to confirm plans for another creative online season. The programme is listed below:

Barbara Assiginaak (formerly Croall) – Chorus 6 (instead of Owl Sees All.. from Miziwe ... Everywhere)
Damien Kehoe – Flow Water
Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly – True Colours
Franz Schubert – An Die Musik
Martin Shaw – With a Voice of Singing
Tomas Luis de Victoria – Ave Maria

Please access the OC website “members page” password: choral1960 at www.oakvillechoral.com to download and/or print your music. ***We respectfully remind you not to share the music because of copyrights.***

Rehearsals, Resources and the December Event

September 21, 7:30 pm is the first rehearsal. A day or two prior to each rehearsal you will receive a ZOOM invitation from Oakville Choral asking you to join. Ideally, please join a few minutes before 7:30pm. David Bowser will begin the rehearsal with warm up exercises and an overview and description of the music and plan for the evening. (David will provide a general overview for the season at our first rehearsal.)

Following the introduction, we move into our sectional breakout rooms – Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass to hear and practice the music.

After our sectional practice, we return to the full group and practice together.

The practicing in our music sectionals and with the full group is repeated for each new piece with David ensuring that the practice sessions are working well and questions are being addressed.

At approximately 8:45, we have announcements, hear about the plan for the following rehearsal, and then we break for a brief social time with the choristers.

As indicated, the music and pronunciation information is now available on the OC website and recordings of the music by section and together as a group will be available the week of September 20.

In addition, there are many versions of the music to listen to online and David will also recommend additional resources to assist our learning during the season.

We are looking forward to a December event featuring Barbara Assiginaak. David will be speaking more about the plans for this innovative and hybrid concert once the season begins.

With each online season we have mastered many technical glitches, however, patience and a sense of humour continue to be required as we work through the occasional technical issue.

Key OC People and your Board of Directors

The OCS Board has held Board meetings over the summer and our next meeting is on September 16.

If any choir members have questions or would like to volunteer and/or take on a Board Director role, please contact Lynda Sturgeoff at any time oakvillechoral@gmail.com. **We are currently in great need of three high school students (preferably grade 12 students) who are looking for volunteer hours.** Students assist our rehearsals by playing the rehearsal videos in the breakout rooms and in plenary.

The students must be available every Tuesday evenings from about 7:20 - 8:45 p.m. and must have a computer to which they can download the videos in advance. They will receive training in advance of the first rehearsal.

Your Board Members are: David Bowser, Artistic Director; Susan Chan, Treasurer; Miriam Clarke, Fund Raising/Grant Applications; Wendy Donnan, Vice President; Elizabeth Peck, Member at Large; Barbara Nixon, Member at Large; Elaine Smyer, Member at Large; Lynda Sturgeoff, President; Linda Zutis, Music Library.

In addition to the Board volunteers, Sandra Litt provides all the support for the OC communication.

We are exceptionally pleased that the following key people will continue to support OC this season:

Section Leads

Soprano – Sarah Leung

Alto – Lydia Palmer

Tenor - Arie Sacke

Bass – Joshua McFaul

Accompanists

Organist – Daniel Norman

Pianist – Christina Faye

Video/Sound Editor

Chris Mayell

Marketing and Public Relations

Stacey Sinclair -Zahary

The Board's continuing priorities have been to ensure our financial viability, the safety and well-being of the choristers and the creation of an inclusive, warm and welcoming opportunity for anyone to join and sing.

Membership Recruitment and Reach Out

Encouraging people to join and keeping our membership engaged is one of the most important things we do. At the writing of this Newsletter, 36 people have already registered for the Fall 2021 season.

Please be sure to encourage your family and friends to think about OC as a singing opportunity and we would be very happy to have people try us out or speak to a Board Member about joining. Please get in touch at oakvillechoral@gmail.com.

Connect, contribute and thank you...

We look forward to an exciting year ahead. We strongly encourage OC members to connect, ask questions, provide ideas and volunteer.

There are many choristers and people who continue to contribute their time, ideas and financial resources to OC and we are forever grateful.

Thank you and we look forward to an incredibly exciting Fall Season.

Your OCS Board