

2018-2019
Season

near
NORTH VOICES
NORTH BAY'S UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY CHOIR

Member
Information

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: <http://nearnorthvoices.com>

NNV Facebook Members' Group (Closed group):
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/149830001717832/>

Password for Choristers' Page:

sing2me

Password for Secure Listening Page:

listen2me

NNV Facebook Public Page (Public page):

<https://www.facebook.com/nnvoices>

Twitter: @NNVoices

Dr. Adam Adler, Artistic Director
adama@nipissingu.ca | (705) 471-7766 (cell)

Near North Voices' Advisory Group

Assistant Conductor, Concert Manager and Tenor/Bass Section lead	Raymond Gauthier	raymondgauthier725@gmail.com , (705) 845-8520 (cell)
Membership Coordinator	Wenda Caswell	wendac@nipissingu.ca
Librarian and Alto Section Lead	Belle Kizell	bellekizell@gmail.com
Internal Communications Coordinator	Senta Blackbourn	sentablackbourn@hotmail.com
Community Liaison	Nancy Davies (On leave term 1)	nanda1140@gmail.com
Print/Broadcast Media Coordinator (Term 1)	Jason McCutcheon	jgmccutcheon@gmail.com
Soprano Section Lead	Elizabeth Peters	elizabethvpeters@gmail.com
Donations/Sponsorships Coordinator	Catherine Trenker	catherinef1@sympatico.ca
Online (Skype) Rehearsal Coordinator	Miao Chen	mchen596@community.nipissingu.ca (705) 358-6662 (cell)
Member-at-Large	Laurie Kruk	lauriek@nipissingu.ca

Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:00-9:15ish p.m. F212, Nipissing U. Please arrive by 6:45 to get settled, so that we can begin promptly at 7:00, and bring your music. Rehearsals may end earlier or go later than 9:15 depending on the needs and progress of the ensemble. Social time at Casey's normally follows each rehearsal for anyone who wants to come.

Additional rehearsals/retreats and sectional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed either by consensus or by doodle poll. Opportunities also occasionally arise for performances in the community as service or for fundraising; funerals requiring a choir can come on short notice. These will be announced as much in advance as possible and are "all hands that are available on deck."

Chorister Responsibilities and Expectations

Rehearsal attendance is critical to the success of this group. While for many singing in a choir is a leisure activity, singing in an advanced choir like NNV requires a higher level of commitment of time and effort akin to being on a team. While things do *occasionally* “come up,” the expectation is that members make rehearsals, retreats and performances a priority, including timely arrival and participating in the entire rehearsal. Please alert employers about your availability in good time to ensure that you can attend all rehearsals, retreats, pre-dress and dress rehearsals, and performances. Members with too many absences, particularly leading up to a concert, may be asked to sit out a performance or to leave the choir.

Members who are out of town (or contagiously ill) can attend rehearsals virtually in real time via Facebook Live or Skype; these will not be counted as absences (within reason). You can sing along but be sure to turn your microphone OFF, as your voice will sound delayed to the choir. Skype can be set up with advance notice for people who don't use Facebook; please communicate with our Online Rehearsal Coordinator to set this up in advance of rehearsal.

Education students are expected to attend **all** rehearsals while on campus, and to FBL or Skype in as often as possible during practicums.

Taking Music Home: Returning members can take their music folder home as soon as they have registered, paid their fee and deposit (if not carried over). New members may take their music folder home after attending **two** consecutive rehearsals, registering and paying their music deposit and fee.

Home Review and Practice: Given the level of music we perform and how little rehearsal time we have each week, members are asked to review the music between rehearsals. All rehearsals are audio-recorded and posted to our Choristers' Page for you to review and, if you missed a rehearsal, to get new score markings. Performance videos, listening files for individual parts, and PDFs of most of our music is also posted to help you learn the music. Suggested ways to review and enhance your learning might include:

- Watching the performance videos while following along in your music;
- Listening to the audio files for your part while following along in your music, THEN watching the performance video to see if you can better hear/follow your part;
- Marking spots in your music where you/your section are experiencing difficulty, and emailing the conductor by the Tuesday before the next rehearsal for inclusion in his rehearsal plan.
- Attending occasional sectional rehearsals.

Cell Phones are a distraction for you and your neighbors. Phones on silent/vibrate and/or left on the desk distract with the expectation of calls/texts and take you mentally out of the rehearsal. Phones should be turned OFF and put out of sight during rehearsal time, including during announcements. On-call workers may keep phones on vibrate but out of sight. Choristers are asked to refrain from checking messages until break or the end of rehearsal. Failure to do this may result in a chorister being asked to leave the choir.

Absolutely No Scents: We rehearse and perform in a scent-free environment. Some of our choristers (and the director) have sensitivities or allergies to artificial scents, gasses and smoke particles. Please refrain from wearing perfume/cologne, body spray, hair spray, spray-on deodorant, heavily scented hand creams, or clothes carrying scents from when you were wearing scented products previously.

Communication with members is through our email list, website Announcements page, *NNV Members' Group* on Facebook (we also have a public Page), and occasionally by text or phone. Please check these regularly, and make sure we have your correct email address and cell phone number.

It Takes A Village...

Any choir members who want to take a more active role in facilitating the choir's operations are welcome. Roles tend to be task-oriented and can evolve over time, and volunteers often share responsibilities as needs require. Members can step forward to take on existing roles, or with suggestions for how they might contribute. The ongoing operations performed by members include:

- Membership and fees
- Attendance
- Library administration
- Recruiting/Advertising
- Internal communications
- Community relations
- Student/campus relations
- Media relations
- Donations and Sponsorships
- Concert logistics
- Online rehearsals (Skype, FB live)
- Running sectional rehearsals

As the principle scholarly/creative activity of its Artistic Director, Near North Voices operates as a "*Benevolent Consultative Monarchy*." The people who make the choir work also form the choir's **Advisory Group (AG)**; they assist the Artistic Director with planning and organization, while representing the views and interests of the members.

You can also get involved by:

- Helping with setup and takedown before and after weekly rehearsals
- Helping with retreat logistics and refreshments
- Helping with riser setup and take-down before and after concerts
- Helping with church setup and clean before and after concerts
- Coordinating flowers and gifts for guest artists
- Soliciting public donations and/or business sponsorships and advertisements

Yearly Member Fees and Music Deposit

Near North Voices is a member-supported group. We won't turn anyone away for the inability to pay, but all members are encouraged to contribute. Financial assistance for students' membership fees is available. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like to support student(s') fees.

An online registration link is available on our Choristers' Page on the NNV Website (password **sing2me**). **Returning members** are encouraged to register prior to the first rehearsal. **New members** may register **after** attending a rehearsal (and reading this Chorister Information). Paper registration forms are available for members who don't have access to a computer.

A **refundable music deposit of \$25** is due at the beginning of the season. **Music folders may not be taken home until you have paid your membership fee and music deposit.** As the deposit only covers a portion of the replacement cost of your music, the balance of the replacement cost may be billed if you lose it. Music for each concert must be returned at the end of the concert; folders handed back after all of the music has been catalogued and filed will incur a fee equal to your music deposit, to help cover the additional costs of re-filing your music and updating our music library database.

Member fees (Adults \$80, Students \$40) and music deposits are payable by cash, cheque made out to *Near North Voices*, or by e-transfer to Adam Adler at adama@nipissingu.ca.

Where Your Member Fees Go

NNV is a fiscally independent, non-incorporated community of interest based at Nipissing University. The choir serves as the vehicle for part of the Artistic Director's research/scholarly/creative activity, which is 40% of his responsibilities at the university; as such, the Artistic Director does not collect a separate salary from the choir itself. The Artistic Director also serves as Executive Director and assumes financial responsibility for the group. He pays for much of the choir's expenses out of pocket, and (hopefully) claims that money back at the end of the season.

An average NNV concert costs over \$10,000 from conception through preparation to presentation. Money from concert ticket sales helps to cover the costs of advertising, event insurance, venue rental, equipment rental, and the hiring of guest artists and orchestral musicians. However, concert proceeds typically cover less than half of the cost of preparing and presenting each concert.

The choir's only regular source of operating funds is member fees, which help to pay for the costs of music purchase and rental, accompanist fees, retreat expenses, copying, and other material and incidental expenses. Member fees (\$80 adults, \$40 students) are kept low to make membership as accessible as possible. Other sources of operating funds include business sponsorships, programme ads, and fundraising events. Project grants have been occasionally received from the university's Cultural Affairs Committee, the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, and the Ontario Arts Council.

Choir members are welcome to "top up" their membership fees with additional donations to help supplement our post-secondary students' member fees, to support our Student Choral Scholarships, and/or to help with operating expenses. The choir also accepts donations from members of the public made to *Near North Voices c/o Nipissing University*, and the university provides tax receipts for all donations \$20 or greater on our behalf. These funds go into a research account from which some operating and project expenses are paid. Donors are recognized in our concert programmes. All members are encouraged to seek donations from friends, relatives and members of the public, and/or to solicit business sponsorships (donations of goods or services) or paid advertisements.

Concert Dress

The philosophy behind our concert dress is informed by the British choral tradition of sound-focused performance. We dress with a view to focusing the audience's attention on our music making and not on our individual bodies and how we look.

Men:

- Black dress pants and a long-sleeve black dress shirt (black tie optional). Dark blue or brown is not black. No low-hanging trousers or exposed underwear (i.e. wear a belt if needed). Please visit an iron prior to concerts.
- Black dress shoes with black socks (no ankle/sport socks). Running shoes and boots are not dress shoes. Brown/grey are not black.

Women:

- Black dress, skirt (at least knee-length) or pants, with a black shirt (minimum ¾ sleeve). Nothing that is tight fitting or highly exposed.
- Black dress shoes. Open-back shoes and spikey heels are not recommended as they pose a safety risk.
- No flashy jewelry

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NNV REHEARSAL, RETREAT AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE, 2018-2019 (v.1) Page 1 of 2

Wednesday September 19, 26 October 3, (10*), 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal. Late registrations following the rehearsal. Only choristers who have registered and paid a fee and music deposit may take their music home.
Saturday November 24* Note: This date may be rescheduled, so stay tuned	Tentative Full-Day Choir Retreat: 9:00 a.m. for coffee and muffins; 9:30 a.m. start; Finish by 1:00 p.m. Start and end times and venue to be confirmed closer to the day.
November 28; December 5, (12*)	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal *Rehearsals in brackets are TBA. Possible Christmas Party December 12 TBA.

Wednesday January 9, 16, 23	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal
Saturday January 19	Tentative Half-day Choir Retreat: 9:00 a.m. for coffee and muffins; 9:30 a.m. start; Finish by 1:00 p.m. Start and end times and venue to be confirmed closer to the day.
Wednesday January 23, 30	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal
Weekend of February 2-3	Riser setup at St. Andrew's, day and time TBA – Volunteer team needed
Wednesday February 6	Pre-Dress Rehearsal at St. Andrew's United Church, 6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal and expect to go later than usual.
Friday February 8	Tentative Dress Rehearsal , St. Andrew's United Church, 399 Cassells St. Enter via the McIntyre St. doors. 6:45 arrival for 7:00 rehearsal and expect to go later than usual.
Saturday February 9	Morning or Afternoon Dress Rehearsal , times TBA at St. Andrew's. 6:45 p.m. Call; 7:30 Concert ; 9:30(ish) post-concert reception in church hall; sanctuary cleanup (volunteers needed); post-reception to follow location TBA
Sunday February 10	Riser takedown at St. Andrew's , early afternoon, times TBA (volunteer team needed)
Wednesday February 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal
Saturday March 23	Tentative Choir Retreat (Full or half-day TBA): Start and end times as well as venue to be confirmed closer to the day. Eddies you need to be at this!!!!
Wednesday March 27	6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal
Weekend of March 30-31	Tentative Riser Setup at St. Andrew's, TBA – Volunteer team needed. Date and time to be announced closer to the day.
Wednesday April 3	Pre-Dress Rehearsal at St. Andrew's United Church, 6:45 arrival for 7:00 Rehearsal
Friday April 5	Tentative Evening Dress Rehearsal , time TBA, at St Andrew's United Church, 399 Cassells St. Enter via the McIntyre St. doors.
Saturday April 6	Afternoon Dress Rehearsal , (times TBA) at St. Andrew's. Possible potluck supper at the church. 6:45 p.m. Call; 7:30 Concert ; 9:30(ish) post-concert reception, followed by take-down; post-reception to follow location TBA
Sunday April 7	Tentative Riser Takedown , time TBA. Volunteer team needed.
Wednesday April 10	Tentative Evening end-of-year Choir Social, time and location TBA