

Robert Jones earned music degrees from the University of Windsor (1980) and the University of Western Ontario (1982). He also studied at the Royal School of Church Music in England and holds the Associateship and Choir Master diplomas from the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Active in the RCCO, Bob is currently the president of the Ottawa Centre. From 1982-99, Bob served as Director of Music at Central United Church in Sault Ste. Marie. He served as Organist and Choir Director at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Ottawa from 1999 until the end of 2022 when the church closed following a fire. He is now serving in a similar capacity at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Ottawa's west end. Bob has played for the Saturday mass at St. Basil's Church (Ottawa) since 2000 and has been the conductor of the Seaway Valley Singers since 2004.

Accompanist **Margaret Whisselle** graduated from Queen's University in Kingston with a Bachelor of Music degree. She was the original Seaway Valley Singers' accompanist (1993-2000) and returned to us in September 2010! She is Organist/Choir Director at Lakeshore Drive United Church and Music Program Director for St. James Anglican Parish, both in Morrisburg. In addition to her private music students, Margaret teaches piano/vocal lessons at Rock My House Music Centre in Kemptonville. She has been involved in local theatre for years, particularly noted for playing character roles with the Brockville Operatic Society. Margaret has recently been inducted into the Brockville and Area Performing Arts Hall of Fame!

Born in Sarnia, our Master of Ceremonies **Wendy Gibb** came to Iroquois to teach at Seaway District High School. She fell in love with the school, the kids and the community and never went back. She graduated from Trent University in ancient history and 20th century history, with special training in theatre, but she also taught media studies and law over the years. She has directed several theatrical productions over the years, including the Lions Club community plays at the Upper Canada Playhouse. Wendy also directed productions through St. James Anglican Church in Morrisburg, including a couple of comic murder mysteries and a Vicar of Dibley cabaret as fundraisers for the parish's outreach programs. Since retiring from teaching, she has been working for the Morrisburg Leader as a reporter, usually in the arts as well as a column called *Gibberish*!

Nicholas Howard grew up in Iroquois, the youngest in a musical/noisy family. He took piano lessons as a child with Betty Casselman and later with Margaret Whisselle. He studied cello and piano with Thérèse Motard and played tenor sax throughout high school. He has just completed his third year at Queen's University studying both Psychology and Music. After his time at Queen's he hopes to explore the field of Music Therapy.



Seaway Valley Singers

Spring is in the Air!



Friday, May 12, 2023
Christian Reformed Church
Williamsburg, Ontario

Robert Jones, Director

Margaret Whisselle
Accompanist

Wendy Gibb
Master of Ceremonies

Programme

Programmę

God Put a Rainbow in the Sky	arr. Aaron Robinson
Carry Me Home	Spiritual; arr. Jean Anne Shafferman
That Judgment Mornin'	Spiritual; arr. Don Besig
Wheatland (Nicholas Howard, piano)	Oscar Peterson
Selections from 'West Side Story' <i>Tonight</i> <i>I Feel Pretty</i> <i>One Hand, One Heart</i> <i>America</i>	Leonard Bernstein; arr. William Stickles
Gonna Get Through This World	Lisa Gutkin
Bridge Over Troubled Water	Paul Simon; arr. Mark Hayes
Cotton Jenny (Margaret, Isabelle, Tony, Randy)	Gordon Lightfoot
Liebstraum No. 3 in A flat major (Nicholas Howard, piano)	Franz Liszt
Swell the Full Chorus	G. F. Handel
Linden Lea	Ralph Vaughan Williams; arr. Arthur Somervell
The Ash Grove	arr. Katherine Davis
Zadok the Priest	G. F. Handel

Please join us for refreshments following the concert.

Seaway Valley Singers

Sopranos	Joanne Baker, Nancy Dean-Melanson, Helena Glaus, Elizabeth Irwin, Chris Jarvis, Marilyn Markell, Margaret Reid, Pat Rémillard, Rhonda Schneckenburger, Madeleine Sisk, Rosemary Wells, Susan Wells, Mary Ann Whittaker
Altos	Carol Barkley, Nancy Bresnahan, Isabelle Delage, Jill Dumaresq, Heather Garlough, Lorraine Howard, Nancy Jordan, Annette McRae, Lis Vandenberg, Margo Van Gilst
Tenors	Tony Glen, Volker Gruetzner, Bob Ruddock, Brian Vandenberg
Basses	Dave Black, Ab Carr, Jim Hindorff, Graham Jacques, Randy Lacey, Gary Unsworth
Absent:	Sam Moss, Judy Veinotte, Marilyn Weixl

Established almost 30 years ago, *Seaway Valley Singers* is a non-profit organization based in Williamsburg whose members, as the name suggests, come from throughout the Seaway Valley, including Avonmore, Brinston, Chesterville, Ingleside, Iroquois, Mariatown, Morrisburg, Mountain, Williamsburg and Winchester. The first director of the Seaway Valley Singers was Michael Goodwin. Alex Thomson took over in 2000, followed by Mark Ehlebrecht for the 2003-2004 season. The current conductor, Robert Jones, has been leading the choir since 2004. Seaway Valley Singers strives to provide members with the opportunity to improve their singing skills by learning and singing choral music, both sacred and secular, for the entertainment of the general public.

New members are welcomed at the beginning of each of the fall and winter sessions. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening (7:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg. **The next session will begin on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.** For more information, please contact Robert Jones at (613) 220-3420 or seawayvalleysingers@gmail.com or visit www.seawayvalleysingers.ca.