

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 secretary 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. He has been the Director of the Seaway Valley Singers since 2004.

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 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 Kemptville and in Brockville. She has been involved in local theatre for years, particularly noted for playing character roles with the Brockville Operatic Society. Margaret has been inducted into the Brockville and Area Performing Arts Hall of Fame.



Seaway Valley Singers

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Sunday, December 14, 2025

**Christian Reformed Church
Williamsburg, Ontario**

**Robert Jones, director
Margaret Whisselle, accompanist**

Programme

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All: Hymn 335 *Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes* Descant by Robert Jones

Advent Carol of Hope Don Besig
Lorraine Howard, flute

Mary, How Could You Have Known? Jay Althouse
Lorraine Howard, clarinet

Ring, Christmas Bells Mykola Leontovych
Gesù Bambino
Margaret Whisselle, soprano | Kristina Medina, violin

A Child is Born in Bethlehem Malcolm Archer

Gloria in Excelsis Deo (from *Gloria*) Antonio Vivaldi

Come to Where the Shepherds Kneel David Lantz III

All: The First Nowell (see insert for text) arr. Healey Willan, David Willcocks

Coventry Carol Andrew Balfour

Hanukkah Night Dave and Jean Perry

Yule Be Rockin' Mac Huff

The Christmas Song Mel Torme, Robert Wells

A One-Horse Open Sleigh (In a Jingly Minor Way) Greg Gilpin

Hallelujah Chorus (from the oratorio *Messiah*) G. F. Handel

Sopranos Joanne Baker, Susan Bradley, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Helen Glaus, Shirley Helder, Elizabeth Irwin, Chris Jarvis, Lisa Praine, Margaret Reid, Pat Rémillard, Rhonda Schneckenburger, Madeleine Sisk, Rosemary Wells, Susan Wells

Altos Dawn Atwood-Ouellette, Carol Barkley, Nancy Bresnahan, Isabelle Delage, Heather Garlough, Lorraine Howard, Kristen Hunkin, Nancy Jordan, Annette McRae, Donna Quesnel, Lis VandenBerg, Margo Van Gilst

Tenors Volker Gruetzner, Sam Moss, Bob Ruddock, Brian Speer, Brian VandenBerg

Basses Graham Jacques, Randy Lacey, Liam Rolley, Mike Ouellette, Bill Simmonds, Rob Whythe

Absent Dave Black, Ruth Bradley, Angela DeVries, Jill Dumaresq

We dedicate this concert to the memory of Joan Thomson,
one of our altos, who passed away on November 22.

Established in 1993, *Seaway Valley Singers* is a non-profit organization based in Williamsburg whose members, as the name suggests, come from throughout the Seaway Valley. 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 and celebrated his 20th anniversary at the helm last year. 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.) here at the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg. **The next session will begin on Wednesday, January 7, 2026.**

Please join us for refreshments following the concert.

For more information, please contact Robert Jones at (613) 220-3420 or seawayvalleysingers@gmail.com, or visit www.seawayvalleysingers.ca.