

30 years!



## Seaway Valley Singers

**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 the past 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 Kemptville. 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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*.

**Sunday, December 10, 2023**

**Robert Jones**  
Director

**Margaret Whisselle**  
Accompanist

**Wendy Gibb**  
Master of Ceremonies

**Christian Reformed Church**  
Williamsburg, Ontario

## Programme

# Programme

All: Hymn 346 <i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	descant compiled by Robert Jones
<i>And the Glory of the Lord</i> (from the oratorio <i>Messiah</i> )	G. F. Handel
<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	Michael Praetorius
<i>Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Charles Wood
<i>Masters in This Hall</i>	William Averitt
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	Harold Darke
<i>The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy</i>	David Blackwell
All: Hymn 356 <i>Go, Tell It on the Mountain</i>	descant by Robert Jones
<i>Run to Bethlehem</i>	Joel Raney
<i>Far Away, What Splendour Comes this Way?</i>	Hugh Keyte, Andrew Parrott
<i>Hanukkah, Holiday</i>	Linda Swears
<i>Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas</i>	arr. Michael Goodwin
<i>The Twelve Days after Christmas</i>	Frederick Silver
<i>A Jolly Merry Christmas</i>	John Leavitt

<b>Sopranos</b>	Joanne Baker, Susan Bradley, Helen Glaus, Elizabeth Irwin, Chris Jarvis, Marilyn Markell, Karla Pool, Margaret Reid, Pat Rémillard, Rhonda Schneckenburger, Madeleine Sisk, Rosemary Wells, Susan Wells, Mary Ann Whittaker
<b>Altos</b>	Carol Barkley, Nancy Bresnahan, Grace Carpenter, Isabelle Delage, Angela DeVries, Jill Dumaresq, Heather Garlough, Lorraine Howard, Nancy Jordan, Annette McRae, Joan Thomson, Margo Van Gilst, Elisabeth Vandenberg
<b>Tenors</b>	Volker Gruetzner, Sam Moss, Bob Ruddock, Brian Vandenberg, Fred Zandbergen
<b>Basses</b>	Dave Black, Ab Carr, Graham Jacques, John Malcolm, Gary Unsworth
<b>Absent</b>	Kristen Hunkin, Randy Lacey

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. Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this 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 10, 2024.**

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

Please join us for refreshments following the concert.