



MEMBERS HANDBOOK

2019 - 2020



Welcome to The Canadian Celtic Choir

BIOGRAPHY:

You are part of a SATB choir of more than fifty voices that was founded in 1996. Our stated purpose is to sing and promote Celtic choral music and culture in Southwestern Ontario and beyond.

The Choir's repertoire features songs primarily inspired by Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, and the Canadian Maritimes. Our songs range from the traditional to a more contemporary style (including a few songs sung in Irish, Gaelic, Welsh, and Latin).

The Choir has provided the city of London and surrounding communities with high quality choral music for more than 20 years. The Canadian Celtic Choir (CCC) is co-conducted by William "Bill" Zadorsky and Paul Grambo, who also serves as our M. C. Our accompanist is Jean Willadsen.

The CCC has performed at the following venues: The Canada Summer Games, Windsor Celtic Festival, Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Owen Sound Celtic Festival, Fergus Highland Games, Home County Music & Art Festival (London, ON), Canterbury Folk Festival (Ingersoll), Fieldcote Summer Music Series (Ancaster), Lighthouse Theatre (Port Dover), Wolf Performance Hall (London, ON), with Orchestra London Canada (now known as London Symphonia). We have sung with the Men of The Deeps, The Irish Descendants, John McDermott, Lighthouse, Denise Pelley, Rant, Maggie Rant, Jeans 'n' Classics, John Tesh, James Gordon, North Sea Gas, Shane Cook and various other well-known Celtic performers.

In March 2007, the CCC was the first choral group to be selected from outside of the Ottawa area to sing at a National Ceremony of Remembrance. We were honored to sing at the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge Service at the National War Memorial in Ottawa (it was broadcast nationally on CBC television/radio & CTV). In 2017 the Choir sang for the Citizenship Ceremony at Pier 21 in Halifax as part of Canada's 150th anniversary.

In March 2008, the Choir travelled to Maui, Hawaii for our first international tour. In July 2014, we toured Scotland and England for 10 days singing in historic venues such as Stirling Castle, St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, the Robert Burns Museum in Ayr, and at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Stratford-upon-Avon where Shakespeare is buried. In June of 2017 the Choir toured the Canadian Maritimes with stops in Moncton, Norton, Charlottetown, Cornwall, Baddeck and Halifax. During this tour the choir sang for the Citizenship Ceremony at Pier 21 in Halifax as part of Canada's 150th anniversary. Our next tour is planned for 2020 when we will visit Ireland.

The CCC won the Best Classical Vocal Group category of the London Music Awards in 2008, 2009, and 2010. In 2010 the CCC was inducted into the London Music Awards Hall of Fame. In 2012 we were nominated for the Most Popular Classical Choir at the 2012 Jack Richardson London Music Awards and won the award in 2015. Also, we received the Mayor's Award from the City of London for our cultural contributions.

The CCC is a registered Ontario non-profit organization based in London, Ontario.

MISSION:

Our mission is to delight audiences with our unique Celtic repertoire and sound through engaging, innovative, and impassioned performances and recordings.

VISION:

Our vision is for the Choir to be widely recognized and sought after because of our excellence in the performance of Celtic and Canadian cultural music.

OUR VALUES:

We value: Excellence -- Innovation -- Integrity -- Inclusivity -- Collegiality

CONDUCTORS:**William (Bill) S. Zadorsky**

Bill has been the conductor of the CCC since 2010. He taught music with the London District Catholic School Board for 30 years until his retirement in June 2005. Additionally, he taught choral music at Catholic Central High School from 1998 to 2005. From 1975 to 1981 he taught vocal and string music in the elementary panel and worked as Music Coordinator in service to classroom and other music teachers from 1981 to 1987. Bill taught choral and string music at St Mary's Choir and Orchestra School from 1987 until 1998. In addition to the above, Bill played violin with Orchestra London from 1975 to 1981, and conducted the Holy Family Traditional Choir from 1984 to June 2018. He teaches private violin lessons at the Zadorsky Academy of Music.

Paul Grambo

Paul is an active soloist, conductor and voice teacher based in London, Ontario. He has been the conductor of The Broadway Singers since 2017 and is the Assistant Music Director of St. James Westminster Church. He became the voice coach of the Canadian Celtic choir in 2011, and in 2019 moved into the position of co-conductor. He is currently a member and soloist with the Elora Singers. Opera credits include UWO Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, and locally, Village Opera, and Alvego Root Theatre. Paul has a Bachelor of Music degree from Brandon University and a Masters of Music degree in performance and literature from Western University. As a teacher, Paul maintains an active private studio and conducts workshops for ensembles across Canada.

ACCOMPANIST:**Jean Willadsen**

Prior to her retirement in 2006, Jean taught elementary school in the London area for over 29 years, including 22 years teaching music at Eckoe Central School in Glencoe. She had a private piano studio for 11 years. Jean joined the alto section of the CCC in 1997. She became our accompanist in 2010.

WEBSITE:

The CCC is very fortunate in that we have a very informative website, put together by our Web Master Eric Duggan. www.celticchoir.ca. Please contact Eric, webmaster@celticchoir.ca to make sure that you can key into the "Members" section of the web site. When you do, you will gain access to the following: Choir Calendar, Choir Roster, Sectionals, our previously recorded CD's, Choir Documents, and member photos. Please take note of the "*Choir Documents*" tab in

the “*Members*” Section, as it contains information that is extremely informative and helpful to you as a member of the CCC.

FACEBOOK:

The Canadian Celtic Choir has a Facebook page. Just type the name and then “friend” the Choir.

HOW THIS CHOIR WORKS:

The Canadian Celtic Choir considers itself a “choir family”. We welcome newcomers, and endeavor to be supportive to all of our members. We contract with our conductors and accompanist, but have no employees, as such. The Choir functions because the members contribute their time and talents to make sure it does. There are many ways to help our Choir to operate in a seamless way.

Most of our members sell concert tickets to friends, family and neighbors, and after every concert we find that a large proportion of our audience came to the performance because of the actions of our Choir members.

There are other ways to help the Choir. You may want to volunteer to be on the Board of Directors, (BOD). Every year one or more positions come open on the BOD, and we welcome new and long-term members to volunteer.

There are many other volunteer positions within the Choir. These include the following: Registrar, Wardrobe Officer, Section Leaders (SATB), Steward, Librarian, Promotions Manager, Market Research Director, Ticket Manager, Safety Officer, Web Master, Equipment Manager, Assistant Treasurer, C.D. Inventory Manager, Recording Coordinator, Archivist, Communications Manager, and 50-50 Ticket Booster. Also, our Social Committee is always looking for volunteers. While most of these positions are currently filled, some of the people doing the work are ready for a break or could use some help with their jobs. If you are interested in helping out, please talk to one of the officers on the BOD.

REHEARSALS:

The usual rehearsal/performance year for the CCC is September to July. There is normally a break of about two weeks around the Christmas-New Year’s holidays. Choir summer vacation is scheduled during July and August; however, schedules may be changed in order to allow the choir to participate in summer festivals and tours.

The success and reputation of the Choir depends on maintaining a high standard of performance. The aesthetic quality of the Choir’s music relies on members’ preparedness, and on having proper balance among parts (sections) at any given performance. **Regular, reliable attendance at rehearsal and performance is essential to both of these goals.**

The Choir normally rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00, in the Music Room at South Secondary School, 371 Tecumseh Avenue East, London. From time to time there may be a need for extra rehearsals or longer rehearsals, to prepare for concerts and/or recording sessions. Schedule changes are announced at least one week in advance. **You are expected to attend every rehearsal on time and stay for the duration, if possible.**

It is important to come to every Choir rehearsal prepared. This means that **you must practice at home**. You may have a piano, and be able to play and sing the music, and that is a great option. However, our web master has put all of the parts for every piece we sing on the web site. Please see "Members", "Sectionals". You can listen to your parts and sing them along with the music using this format. We hope that you rarely, *if ever*, miss a rehearsal, but if you cannot come for some reason, please practice with the help of the Choir website. However, if you do miss rehearsals, please be aware that you will lose out on necessary instruction and guidance from the conductor.

As necessary, brief business meetings may be conducted, or announcements made, during rehearsals so that you can be apprised of the Choir's business.

Each section of the Choir has a section leader. If you anticipate taking holidays during the regular performance season you should discuss your plans with the conductor and your section leaders well in advance. If you are planning to take an extended absence (i.e., more than one month), from the Choir, a leave of absence may be arranged by speaking to the conductor and the registrar, (Jennifer Paul O'Donnell: (226)-268-7524, j.paul@rogers.com.)

Current Section Leaders are:

Alto:	Karen Westhouse,	(519)-649-2276,	kwesthouse@hotmail.com
Tenor:	Rob McGuire,	(226)-663-5309,	robmcg60@rogers.com
Soprano:	Shelly Mason,	(519)-272-3586,	dragonboat1812@gmail.com
Baritone/Base:	Ron McLagan	(519)-473-5949,	ron.mclagan@rogers.com

DUES

Dues are quite important in meeting the choir's financial obligations. The dues are currently \$225.00 a year for members who are not students. The student fee is \$75.00 a year. Please note that the dues have not increased in the last 10 years, although expenses have increased markedly. We have been able to keep the dues this affordable because the number of concerts that the CCC does every year has increased. Please review the dues policy on our website. See: "Members", "Choir Documents", then "Dues Policy".

MUSIC

The Choir Librarian will provide new members with a binder and the current music. Additional music will be handed out, as needed, each season. All of the music that we use is copywritten, and because of this, it is unlawful for you to make copies, or use the music outside of the auspices of the CCC. Damaged music should be returned to the Librarian.

The CCC owns the music that you use, therefore if you resign from the Choir you must return all music to the Librarian.

A few days before each rehearsal, the music being rehearsed that night is posted to each member via e-mail. This gives you a heads up for practice and assures that you bring the correct music to rehearsal. Arrange your binders according to the current list, and carefully remove and store the music not being presently used. Eventually, you will build up quite a personal library.

Our entire repertoire is available in a SATB format on the CCC website. The repertoire is updated promptly when new pieces are added. (*Please go to the CCC Website and see:*

“Members” section and go to “Sectionals”) to find your part of each piece of music. It may be helpful to listen to your part using headphones.

PERFORMANCES:

This current year the choir is performing three Christmas/holiday concerts and four Spring concerts. In any given season, we may perform in three or four concerts depending on available venues and requests for our participation in various events.

The Registrar will poll Choir members in advance of every scheduled performance so that we know how many members will be participating. You are asked to make every effort to attend performances. Please notify the Registrar as soon as possible if there is a change in your availability or ability to perform.

The Steward is charged with organizing the Choir immediately before and during performances. Please pay attention and follow instructions from the Steward and his/her assistants during these times.

For local performances, you are usually responsible for your own transportation. For out-of-town performances, depending on the distance, a bus may be arranged by the Choir. If a bus is provided, you are expected to travel to the venue on the bus. This is important as it is vital that you arrive at the designated departure point, and at the venue at the time announced.

WARDROBE:

Review the Canadian Celtic Choir Wardrobe Policy located on our website. Please familiarize yourself with this policy as the wardrobe may vary depending on the type of venue. (See *“Members”, “Choir Documents”, then “Wardrobe Policy”*).

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Upon joining, and after a short trial period, you will be asked to sign a “Letter of Commitment” which affirms your responsibility to attend regular rehearsals and to abide by other guidelines contained in this handbook. Failure to abide by the obligations stated in the Letter of Commitment may require action by the Executive Committee or the Conductor.

Behaviour

- While representing the choir you must uphold the highest standards of conduct.
- Do not partake of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants when representing the choir.
- At Performances, follow the directions of the Conductor and/or Steward.
- Remain quiet and orderly during the period before, during, and after going on stage.
- There is to be no talking within the ranks during performances.
- As a member, you are an ambassador of the Canadian Celtic Choir. As such, we ask that any actions that you may take would not be in conflict with the interests of the Canadian Celtic Choir.

Attendance

- You are expected to attend every rehearsal except in the case of illness or other special circumstances. Lack of attendance at rehearsals may prevent you from participating in performances.
- Please advise your Section Leader if you are unable to attend a performance.

Punctuality

- It is important that you arrive punctually for rehearsals, ready to sing, at 7:00 p.m., unless another time is indicated by the conductor.
- For performances, the Conductor will let you know what time you are expected to be at the venue, and you must arrive promptly.

Dress Code

- You must adhere to the dress code, as defined in the Wardrobe Policy.
- Please wear your name tag at rehearsals.

Property

- All music and clothing **issued** to you remains the property of the choir and is to be returned in good condition if you resign from the Choir. Obviously, any articles of clothing that you have purchased yourself belong to you.

Communication & Media

- Please direct all issues relating to choir publicity or activity to a BOD member.

Payment issues

- You are required to pay your dues as per the Dues Policy unless a rare, special arrangement has been made by the BOD.
- You will not be paid for choir performances or management roles unless specifically stated and agreed upon.
- As a Choir member, you waive any right or claim to receive royalties on any audiovisual materials produced by the choir unless specifically stated and agreed upon.

Breach of Code of Conduct

- If you are found to be in breach of the code of conduct, the Conductor has the right to refuse participation in a performance.
- Any breach of the code of conduct by you will be reviewed by the BOD as soon as possible.

Dispute Procedures

- If you are unhappy with decisions made by the Conductor you have the right to appeal to the BOD.
- After the review of any breach of the code of conduct, a BOD member may consult with you, counsel you as to the inappropriateness of the conduct and support you in making changes.
- Following three warnings, if you have made no appropriate change, then the BOD has the right to ask you to leave the choir.

GOVERNANCE:

The CCC is governed by a Board of Directors that must function under specific Bylaws, approved by the membership. The BOD consists of a President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, and four Directors at Large. The BOD meets once a month while the Choir

is in session, and may also meet, as needed, when the Choir is on vacation during the Summer. (See: "Members, "Choir Documents", "Bylaws")

The Executive Committee of the BOD consists of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past President, and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee meets only if an emergency arises and the BOD cannot be called for a meeting. Any decisions or actions taken by them will be reviewed at the next BOD Meeting.

You are welcome to attend any BOD Meeting. The time and place of the BOD meeting will be announced. Minutes of BOD Meeting are posted on the website. (On the CCC Website, See: "Members", "Choir Documents", "BOD Minutes").

Your current BOD Directors are:

President: Wendy Valhoff
(226)-663-6292, wendycdn@gmail.com

Vice-President: Sharon Miller
(519)-870-0544, grandmasharon.sm@gmail.com

Past President: Peter O'Donnell
(519)-933-3986, pcodonnell60@gmail.com

Treasurer: Roger Joliffe
(519)-641-4404, rogerjolliffe@sympatico.ca

Secretary: Michele Vigilanti
(519)-709-7095, michellevig4@hotmail.com

Directors at Large:
Barb Whelan
(519)-433-1146, blwhelan@live.ca
Mary Randall
(519)-679-6845, mary@reisers.ca
Ian Davies.
(519)473-2099, idea.concerts@gmail.com
Mike Murphy
(519)-686-4507, murphy@sympatico.ca

AGM AND OTHER MEETINGS:

Once a year, in October, the Choir has an Annual General Meeting (AGM). You are expected to attend this meeting, as it is very important. This forum is the cohesive gathering where choir members are invited to run for executive positions. Your willing involvement in managing the business of the Choir is fundamental to our success. During the AGM, the membership will decide who will govern the Choir for the coming two years. Also, the President, Treasurer and the Conductor will give yearly reports, and actions of the BOD will be reviewed.

Minutes of the previous AGM, along with the report from the Nominating Committee, will be sent for your review two weeks before the yearly AGM. If you wish to serve on the BOD,

contact the choir President two weeks or more prior to the meeting. (*On the CCC Website, see "Members", "Choir Documents", "AGM Minutes"*).

From time to time the BOD or the conductor may call a short meeting to discuss Choir business. You may be notified to come early for a rehearsal, either the week before at rehearsal or via e-mail.

On rare occasions, a Town Hall Meeting may be called. This would only happen if the conductor or BOD feels that important business needs to be discussed at length with the entire Choir, and it is not yet time for the AGM. Should this happen, you will be asked to come early for a rehearsal or meet on a day when the Choir is not rehearsing.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

The Canadian Celtic Choir does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship, color, creed, disability, gender-identity, national or ethnic origin, race, religious affiliation, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or any other protected status under the law.

RECORDINGS:

The CCC has released five CDs, *Here's to Song* (2001), *Christmas Remembered* (2004) and *We Rise Again* (2007). These three are out of print. The two most recent CDs are: *A Celtic Noel* (2013), and *Celtic Inspiration* (2014) and these are available for purchase from our website and at our concerts. A new CD is being planned for release in 2020. Choir members can obtain copies at a discounted rate from our CD Inventory Manager, Rob McGuire.

The CCC Strategic Plan includes plans for producing new recordings on a scheduled basis.



Canadian Celtic Choir on tour, Pier 21, Halifax, NS – July 1, 2017

TOURS:

It is a goal of the CCC to try to tour every third year. Locations are selected by the Board of Directors with input from the Conductor and Choir members.

In selecting our touring locations, we look for anywhere our performances would be appreciated by significant audiences. We consider countries with a Celtic heritage and locations of historic significance to Canada. We may also tour within the Canadian Maritimes and elsewhere in North America. (*Review our Tour Policy on the website: See "Members", "Choir Documents", then "Tour Policy"*).

Our tours are not limited to members only. Spouses, significant others, older children, and friends have joined us when we tour.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

The Canadian Celtic Choir is known to be a very social group, and to that end, we find ways to socialize often. Members are encouraged to bring a spouse or guest to our get-togethers, if desired.

A weekly social gathering is held at a local restaurant/pub following regular rehearsals and performances. All members, and their guests, are invited to attend these sessions, and to attend Choir parties.

Some of the events that you will be invited to attend include:

- an annual holiday party at a local restaurant in December;
- a Choir picnic potluck in June;
- in late Summer a beach-side dinner in Port Stanley. A number of members come early to play a round of golf first.

GOODWILL:

The CCC has a stated "Good Will Policy". To that end we will send out cards to mark joyous events in your life: births, marriages, etc. We will sing "Happy Birthday" to you in order to celebrate your special day. We also honor choristers and family members who have passed. Please inform a BOD member if a member of your family has died or if there is another life event that you want the Choir to know about.