

La Jeunesse Choirs

A YOUTH CHOIR OF DISTINCTION



Info Package 2023



La Jeunesse Choirs

Find your voice!

Since 1988, La Jeunesse Choirs has provided its members with the highest possible calibre of musical experience and training.



The proven benefits of choir work on the brain are well documented: reduced stress, enhanced function, reduced depression and a feeling of social well-being.

Choirs provide the opportunity for youth to participate in a meaningful community service that enriches the cultural life of Northumberland County and beyond.



Our programs challenge young people, to develop their ever-increasing potential.

Choristers learn the rewards that come from working in a creative discipline: mastery, self-respect and a deepened responsibility to each other. They feel a sense of belonging and accomplishment as they work together in performance settings.

We believe our singers experience a boost in self-confidence when enrolled in La Jeunesse Choirs programs.



About our Choirs

La Jeunesse Choirs are comprised of three performing youth groups: Senior Choir, Children's Choir, and the Musical Theatre Intensive program. Each group enjoys its own weekly rehearsal time, however they often perform together to showcase their repertoire and to build collaboration. All three groups operate at the highest musical and performance standards.



The Junior Choir

Youth aged 7 to 12 are taught the foundations of singing and harmony in an active and engaging way. These singers develop maturity, discipline and a sense of accomplishment through a wide range of youthful song selections from folk songs, to musical theatre and popular music.

Participation in the seasonal concerts and festivals allow these young singers multiple opportunities to sing their songs for different audiences.

The Senior Choir

Youth aged 12 to 19 build excellence in choral abilities through a challenging repertoire including folk, classical, pop, musical theatre & world music.

Rehearsals focus on the development of tone and vocal production in an inclusive team environment. Participation in seasonal concerts, festivals, workshops and trips are planned throughout the season.

2023 is our post-Covid re-building season!

Musical Theatre Intensive

A theatrical program for youth who share a passion for the performing arts. Designed to inspire and excite students to reach their personal best, the program builds dramatic skills, self-confidence & team-building and cumulates in an exciting for local audiences.



Who We Are

Choir members learn all aspects of singing and musical theatre performance under inspired creative leadership.

Markus Howard: Artistic Director

Markus Howard joined La Jeunesse Choirs in 2007. As an experienced conductor, director and choreographer Markus creates a rich and joyful learning environment for our Choirs.

Having worked with musicians of varying ages, cultures and abilities throughout Canada and abroad Markus has built expertise in conducting both adults & youth. He is a sought-after private voice teacher and provides training in various musical genres including opera/oratorio, choral, musical theatre, pop music and jazz.

Markus has been recognized by Yamaha Music Canada, the Swedish Ministry of Culture, the Ontario Arts Council, and the International Association of Jazz Educators. He pursues an active adjudicating schedule across North America, including Classical Voice and Music Theatre at the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals National Finals, Nova Scotia Provincial Finals for Voice and Choirs, and the Ontario Music Festivals Provincial Finals.

Other notable engagements include:

Artistic Director, Durham Philharmonic Choir
Artistic Director, Guelph Youth Singers
Director, Oriana Singers of Cobourg
Interim Conductor, London Pro Musica Choir
Founding Conductor, La Movida Chamber Choir
Conductor, Guelph Symphony Orchestra
Conductor, Halifax Summer Opera, *Alcina*
Lead Artistic Educator, Canadian Opera Company
Faculty, Royal Conservatory of Music
Faculty, Glenn Gould School
Faculty, Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts.
Lead Voice Coach, Mirvish Productions Lion King School
Director, Hart House Jazz Choir, Massey College Choir, U of T



Markus' students have gone on to grace opera and concert stages across North America including Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Toronto's musical theatre stages, and several Broadway & National Touring companies.

Markus is a PROUD recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International.

Debbie Fingas: Associate Director & Accompanist

Debbie Fingas joined La Jeunesse Choirs in 2007. As an accomplished conductor, musician and instructor, Debbie brings her wonderful artistic talents to all of our Choir programs.

An experienced organist, pianist, choral director, singer and flautist, Debbie has performed in concerts and recitals throughout Southern Ontario. As the Minister of Music for Trinity United Church, Cobourg, she accompanies weekly Church services and directs Church choirs of all ages.

Other notable engagements include:

Founding Artistic Director – Alloy Fusion Handbell Choir

Conductor – Chancel Choir

Conductor – Jubilate Handbell Choir

Conductor – North Lakeshore Chorus, Northumberland Chapter

President – Northumberland Centre of the Royal Canadian

College of Organists

Chair – Music United

Music Director & Accompanist – VOS Theatre

Music Director & Accompanist – Capitol Theatre

Accompanist - Northumberland Players



Debbie graduated from the University of Toronto's Emmanuel College with a Doctor of Ministry. Her doctoral thesis explored how group participation in Church music nurtures the participants spiritual life. Debbie holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto, a Master of Arts in Church Music from Trinity Lutheran seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and has received her Associate diploma from the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Debbie's latest pet project is the restoration of a beautiful and historic pipe organ for Trinity United Church in Cobourg.

Board of Directors

La Jeunesse Choirs is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which is responsible for finances and the overall management & operation of the organization.

Our 2023 Board Members are:

- Dana Petrillo, Chair
- Denise Raymond, Treasurer
- Anne Burnham, Secretary
- Stephanie Wilson, Member-at-Large
- Teresa Reynolds, Member-at-Large
- Kimberlee Curry, Member-at-Large

The Board is supported by our awesome dedicated parent volunteers!!

Happenings

Expanding our Horizons

Thanks to the ongoing support of our sponsors, La Jeunesse Choirs continues to enrich and celebrate the diverse musical talents of Northumberland's youth.

PERFORMANCES

Annual Christmas Concert
Annual Spring Choral Concert
Musical Theatre Performance

Professional Workshops

- Jazz Skills
- Improv & Comedy
- Bollywood Dance
- Beatboxing
- Yoga for Singers
- Professional Performer Workshops
- Sets & Props Building

Theatre Field-trips

- Come From Away
- Capitol Theatre, Port Hope
- Choir Exchange, Lethbridge AB

Collaborations with Guest Artists

- Cobourg Media
- Chilina Kennedy & Susan Dunstan
- Michael White
- Liona Boyd

Festivals & Competitions

- Kiwanis
- Junior Treble Festival
- Kaleid Festival

Community Outreach

- Warkworth By Night
- YMCA Peace Breakfast
- Buskerfest
- Lang Pioneer Village
- Port Hope Council Inauguration



With a full compliment of rehearsals, community appearances and workshops our choristers develop perseverance, discipline, teamwork, camaraderie and performance skills. Our aim is to provide a sense of accomplishment and confidence that choir members will take back into their schools and communities.

Your Support Means Everything To Us!

To run our first-class choral arts program La Jeunesse Choirs relies on a combination of fees and fundraising. Your financial support will help us with:

- Music Licensing
- Technical Equipment
- Rehearsal Hall & Venue Rentals
- Instruments for Concerts & Musical Theatre Productions
- Choir Exchanges
- Guest Artists
- Drama & Choral Workshops
- Festivals & Competition Fees
- Transportation, Food & Supplies for our Trips & Community Events.

We thank-you for your support! With your help we will continue to enrich and celebrate the diverse musical talents of Northumberland's young Choristers.

- Please Email us at ljchoirs@gmail.com
- Visit our Website at LaJeunesseChoirs.com
- To make a Charitable Donation visit CanadaHelps.org
- Or send Snail Mail to La Jeunesse Choirs, P.O. Box 925, Cobourg, Ontario, K9A 4W4

A YOUTH CHOIR OF DISTINCTION

Join as a Sponsor for our 2023 (post-Covid) Re-Building Season and our Musical production of...



La Jeunesse Choirs' production of
Disney's *Descendants: The Musical* runs
May 19^h to 20th 2023 at Victoria Hall, Cobourg.

Tickets are available now through the Box Office.

Sponsors

Rate Sheet

CHORAL SPONSORS

Providing funds to run our Choral Experiences.

DONOR	Any \$	Thank-you in our Choral Program Charitable Donation Tax Receipt for amounts over \$25
PIANO LEVEL DONOR	\$500	Thank-you in our Choral Program 2x Choral Performance Tickets
MEZZO LEVEL DONOR	\$750	Thank-you in our Choral Program 4x Choral Performance Tickets
FORTE LEVEL DONOR	\$1000	Thank-you in Choral Program 6x Choral Performance Tickets
PROGRAM ADVERTISERS	\$80	¼ Page Ad – 1x Performance
	\$120	½ Page Ad – 1x Performance
	\$200	Full Page Ad – 1x Performance



MUSICAL SPONSORS

Providing funds to run our spring Musical Theatre experience: Disney's DESCENDANTS: The Musical

DONOR	Any \$	Thank-you in Musical Program Charitable Donation Tax Receipt for amounts over \$25
¼ PAGE Advertisers	\$100	Ad Placement at Producer Discretion
½ PAGE Advertisers	\$150	Ad Placement at Producer Discretion
FULL PAGE Advertisers	\$250	Ad Placement at Producer Discretion
	\$400	Inside Back Cover – Full Page
	\$500	Inside Front Cover – Full Page
	\$600	Outside Back Cover – Full Page