

ACN

A Cappella Niagara

A Member of



www.niagarasingers.com

2018



President's Message



A Cappella Niagara is a male chorus that shares its love of song with audiences in the Niagara region. We maintain a high-quality repertoire that includes old and new songs in many varied styles including ballads, rock, jazz, spirituals, Broadway show tunes and seasonal favourites.

Our chorus welcomes new members. If you are a man who enjoys singing I invite you to visit a practice. Go to our web site or call me to learn more about singing with A Cappella Niagara.

A Cappella Niagara has had an eventful year with our new director Jim McConachie and the addition of several new members. We were deemed most improved chorus at the annual Ontario District Spring Convention.

In August 2017 we hosted the Annual Corn Roast and continued the tradition started by the St. Catharines Singing Saints. With much support and encouragement from Linda Hilko we held a very successful event at a new location, Club La Salle. This proved to be an ideal location and with increased participation the event was very successful. **The tradition will continue August 25, 2018 at Club La Salle.** The Corn Roast is a family friendly event open to everyone.

We will continue to practice at Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill, Fonthill, ON. The new venue provides more flexibility with the length of rehearsals and is convenient since it's also where we hold our annual show. Practice time is from 7:00 to 9:00 PM most Tuesdays, August through June.

Saturday, November 25, 2017 A Cappella Niagara presented, **It's a Brand New Day** at Fonthill United Church. Our featured guest was **The Aristocrats**, an a cappella quartet associated with Toronto Northern Lights. This international award winning quartet entertains with a unique repertoire of humorous and witty renditions of well-known songs to parody and to deliver enlightened social comment.

We have changed the participation in The Santa Clause Parade to the Pelham (Fenwick) parade and continue to sing at various Senior Citizen Homes throughout December. We continue to participate in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Candle Light Stroll.

In 2018 our annual show will move from fall to spring. In November we will perform a good will offering concert with the proceeds contributed to a local charity. In 2018 ACN will getting out more to bring its distinctive sound to more people in the Niagara region. We are working to increase our chorus numbers and to spread the joy of song to as many locations as we can

Please see the Calendar of Events on our website listed below, to see the various activities of the chorus throughout the year. It is updated regularly and gives detailed information for your use.

In January we will start preparing to for the Ontario District Spring Convention, an event at which barbershop choruses sing for one another and are evaluated by trained judges. The feedback from judges after the performance provides valuable tips on how to improve our singing. Preparation for the convention is intensive, rewarding work interspersed with other activities such as the Tag and Gag contests and visits to other choruses. Although the work stretches us to grow musically, the camaraderie is infectious, and the activity keeps us young. This year we have the added incentive to show we continue to grow and improve our performance.

While sharing its love of song, A Cappella Niagara raises funds to support charities such as Harmonize for Speech, which helps children in our community who have speech impediments, and Sing Canada Harmony, which supports equal access to vocal music arts for Canadians of all ages. Each year we contribute 10% of the proceeds from our annual show to one of these national foundations or a local charity. Proceeds from our 50/50 raffle at the Corn Roast are donated to the Niagara Children's Centre in St. Catharines.

A Cappella Niagara is fortunate to have the support of many area businesses as demonstrated by the advertisements in this programme. We appreciate their generous support and encourage you to patronize these businesses and professionals. Let them know you value their support of A Cappella Niagara!

I look forward to another year serving the members of this remarkable chorus. It offers the novice or experienced singer many opportunities to experience the joy of singing and I can attest to that. To find out more about the chorus and becoming a member visit our web site or call me.

Timothy Healey (Home: 905 684 1634; Cell: 905 341 3415)

Web Site: www.niagarasingers.com

Email: infoniagarasingers@gmail.com





MEET OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR Jim McConachie

Like many of us, Jim got his introduction to vocal music through the primary and secondary school systems. Singing in school choirs led to participation in Broadway style and Gilbert and Sullivan productions and then to a college level jazz choir. After school, a move to Burlington to start a career as a paramedic brought Jim into touch with barbershop harmony.

'Roadshow' – the Burlington barbershop harmony chorus – was a natural move. Jim sang with the chorus and with several quartets in that chapter. After several years with the chorus, Jim took on the role of performance coach for the group and helped the music team to take the chorus to several Ontario District Championships.

A job move in 2001 took Jim to Grey County Paramedic Services, where he became the music director of 'Encore!' – the Owen Sound barbershop harmony chorus. Under Jim's leadership, 'Encore!' grew from a small group of ten or so into a thriving chorus of thirty men. They quickly became one of the more popular vocal ensembles in the Grey/Bruce region.

Retirement and a recent return to the Burlington area seemed a perfect time to join A Cappella Niagara as music director. He is enjoying his work with our chorus to develop an entertaining musical performance package.

Over the course of several years, Jim has studied choral direction and vocal performance at the Barbershop Harmony Society's summer college program at Missouri Western State College. His quartet accomplishments include several chapter level quartets, top five finishes in District and International Preliminary contests with 'Q. E. Connection' and most recently top ten finishes in International Preliminary contests with 'Three'.

Jim and his partner Jennifer enjoy snowboarding in winter, sea kayaking and camping in summer and have taken up the sport of wine hunting in the between seasons.

Say "I Love You" with a Singing Valentine



A Cappella Niagara will send a quartet, in formal attire, to your sweetheart's or other special person's office, home, class, restaurant or any other place in the Niagara area. The quartet will arrive unannounced, sing a love song or two, and present a lovely silk rose and heart-shaped box of chocolates. To find out about rates and schedule a Singing Valentine send a message to infoniagarasingers@gmail.com. For best

availability contact ACN mid January 2018.



Monday: 9am - 8pm
Tuesday: 9am - 8pm
Wednesday: 9am - 6pm
Thursday: 9am - 8pm
Friday: 9am - 8pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm



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There is no mystery. You have been doing it all your life. What!?! , you say. Not me. Since you were a baby learning about your new world, you experimented with making sounds. Words came as you learned that certain combinations of sounds got positive feedback. We went to school and sang in class, then accompanied our favorite musical artists, while listening to 'our music'... We imitated the sounds of all varieties of famous or important people and things in our lives. The story changes as we mature and for many reasons we become more self-conscious and concerned with our image. That's where the journey ends for too many people.

Singing is merely the imitation of specific sounds in a specific order. Simple really. If I sound like (insert favorite artist) then I will feel accomplished. Remember all professionals, like singers, must practice with dedication and precision, be self-motivated and have outside help. These three principles, precise practice, motivation, and outside help, are the basis for success.

If you like to sing, and want to do it with confidence, then take the first two and see us for the outside help. We have programs that will fit your needs. It is a proven medical fact that music and singing in general will improve your health and you'll live longer. So talk to one of us and get healthy. We'd love to have you aboard. The 'voice of reason' says," Give it a try!!!"



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Join us for an evening of good food and family fun. Saturday, August 25, 2018, 5:00—9:00 PM, 111 Arthur Street, Club La Salle, St. Catharines.

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A Cappella Niagara Chapter Quartets

JAQ

JAQ is a Registered Barbershop Quartet and has been singing for the last 10 years. We started singing as chorus members of A Cappella Niagara spending time learning our respective parts under the direction of Derek Stevens, considered one of the finest young directors in the Ontario District.



Our A Cappella Niagara experience provided us the opportunity to become one of the premier a cappella quartets in the Niagara Region. We have performed at numerous venues and celebrations throughout Niagara including singing Christmas Carols for Niagara Falls Mayor Diodati and his family. JAQ, our unusual name, is pronounced Jack and is an acronym for Just Another Quartet. We are comprised of Tenor-Jym Cummings, Lead-Kerry Russ, Baritone-Dan Roy, Bass-Howard Bogusat. We are now booking for the Holiday Season and would be happy to sing for your Christmas party. Please contact Kerry 289-241-6626 or email kruss902@gmail.com.



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VINTAGE BLEND

The four members of this quartet – Jym Cummings, Bill and Bob Laing, and Jim McConachie - are ‘veteran’ barbershop singers, each joining their first quartet more than 35 years ago. But it wasn’t until five years ago that they came together to form Vintage Blend and have been entertaining Niagara audiences ever since. When you see and hear this quartet you will understand why the name ‘Vintage Blend’ is so appropriate for the group. For the first 4 years the quartet’s lead singer was Don Ursino but in late December of 2016 Don left the quartet and in early 2017 we were lucky to land Jim McConachie, a talented and experienced singer. For more information contact Bill at 905-892-3895 or wlaing3@cogeco.ca.



Larry Sheehan
president

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On behalf of myself and Pelham Town Council, I am pleased to offer well wishes for another A Cappella Niagara season.

Groups such as this not only highlight, but promote the artistic and cultural importance in our community.

The Town of Pelham looks forward to another year of A Cappella Niagara.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dave Augustyn

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A Cappella Niagara

Music Director: Jim McConachie

Assistant Music Directors: William Laing and Robert Laing

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Past President.....	Gus Medina
Secretary.....	William Laing
Treasurer.....	John Donald
VP Chapter Development.....	Robert Dreyer
VP Music/Performance and Honorary Member-at-Large	Bob Laing
Music Director.....	Jim McConachie
Member-at-Large.....	Jym Cummings
Member-at-Large.....	Dick Moore



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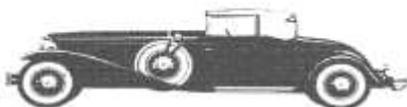
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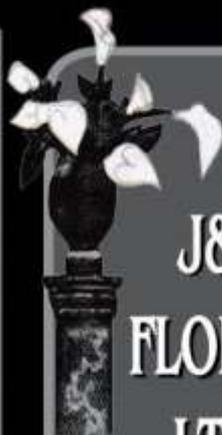
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A HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS OF A CAPPELLA NIAGARA

Robert Laing

BEGINNINGS

A dream of moving forward musically and becoming better performers was realized when 18 men united to form a new SPEBSQSA Chapter on July 23, 1998. The charter members were: Howard Bogusat, Gary Carr, Stan Carr, Michael Cockhead, Jym Cummings, John Donald, David Laakso, Braydon Labelle, Robert Laing, William Laing, Douglas MacDonald, Dylan Moore, Derek Stevens, Neville Stevens, Paul Thrower and Ronald Wills. The name “A Cappella Niagara” was chosen by the executive which represented the membership. The first executive was formed in 1998 and consisted of the following charter members: President – Robert Laing, Secretary – William Laing, Treasurer – Derek Stevens, VP Chapter Development – Stan Carr, VP Music & Performance – Jym Cummings, Chapter PR Officer – Stan Carr, and Chapter Chorus Director – David Chubb

The sponsoring chapter was the Friends of Harmony from East Aurora, NY and the Inaugural Show was held at the Redeemer Bible Church in Niagara Falls, Ontario on February 27, 1999. Our mission was to promote music and charity in our community. We were dedicated to support music for youth by showcasing them whenever possible on our annual shows.

To fulfill our dream, ACN wishes to support our Ontario District and Peninsula Division to the best of its abilities.

During its 18 years the chapter has had three presidents, they are:

- Robert Laing—1998-2007 (10 years)
- Gus Medina — 2008-2012 (5 years)
- Timothy Healey — 2013-present (5 years)



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CHAPTER HISTORY OVERVIEW

September 1998 - February 2000	The first chapter meetings were held at the Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls.
February 15, 2000	Derek Stevens became chorus director and the chapter meetings were held at the Salvation Army Church in Niagara Falls.
February 15, 2000- February 05, 2002	Meetings were held at the Salvation Army Church and the Annual Shows were held at the St. Thomas More Church in Niagara Falls.
February 12,2002 – December 05, 2006	During this period Chapter Meetings were held at the Kingston College (KC) in Niagara Falls. The Annual Shows were held in the KC Auditorium.
January 09,2007 – June 25, 2013	Chapter Meetings moved to the St. John Ambulance building in Niagara Falls. The Annual Shows during this period were: 2007 – “O Canada Eh Dinner Theatre”, N.F. 2008 – Governor Simcoe Secondary School Auditorium –St. Catharines. 2009/2010 – Laura Secord Secondary School Auditorium – St. Catharines. 2011 – St. Catharines Collegiate Auditorium –St. Catharines
September 03,2013 – December 31, 2015	ACN moved to the Welland Community Wellness Centre (WCWC), 145 Lincoln Street, Welland. The 2012-2015 Annual Shows were held at the Fonthill United Church. In 2014, a second show was held at the WCWC. After 15 years Derek Stevens stepped down as Music Director to direct the Simcoe Chorus, Gentlemen of Harmony.
January 1, 2016 - Present	In May 2016 Jim McConachie joins ACN as its new Music Director. October 11, 2016 ACN begins meeting at the Fonthill United Church in Fonthill. The 2016 and 2017 shows are performed at Fonthill United Church in November.



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SINGING WITH A CAPPELLA NIAGARA by Andy Millar

In 2016, I saw a course on singing a cappella in the Welland Wellness Guide. I went to the first meeting with lots of doubts. Was my singing ability good enough, would I like the type of music, and would I be accepted by the other singers? My fears were put to rest as soon as I met Bob Laing. With his help I learned about A Cappella Niagara, singing 4-part harmony, and soon became a chorus member.

Learning the repertoire was a slow uphill task. I memorized the words using the sheet music. I learned the notes listening to recorded music tracks I could play at home and in my car. At practices we put the words and music together and fine tuned the songs for performing on stage.

What a thrill and fun it was to sing on stage at my first convention in London, Ontario. It was a privilege to hear and meet so many guys from all over Ontario and did they ever sing well! I was awestruck by the quality of the music and performance.

If you enjoy singing I recommend A Cappella Niagara to any guy (if you're a gal consider Sing Niagara). Singing with these groups is a wonderful way to become a better singer and find your voice while having a fun time.

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New to Singing? Never Sung before?

Discover a cappella harmony like you've never heard it before! Visitors are always welcomed to listen, learn and participate at A Cappella Niagara practices. At A Cappella Niagara we believe in the power of singing to lift your spirits, put a bounce in your step and help an individual to grow and learn in an environment of fellowship and fun.

Everyone in the chorus was new to singing at some point in time. In fact, 1 out of every 10 men will be involved in singing with a large group at some point in their lives, and each of those men had to take a first step. Many of our members had very little musical experience prior to joining us!

A Cappella Niagara welcomes men from all walks of life. Regardless of your musical background, we encourage you to visit a rehearsal, meet a few of the guys, and discover if membership is right for you! We practice from 7:00 to 9:00 PM most Tuesdays, August through June at Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill, Fonthill, ON.

2018 A Cappella Niagara Chorus Members

Bob Aitken, Howard Bogusat, Jym Cummings, John Donald, Robert Dreyer Sr., Robert Dreyer Jr., Timothy Healey, Bill Laing, Bob Laing, Jim McConachie, Gus Medina, Andy Miller, Dick Moore, Jim Parker, Ray Robitaille, Dan Roy, Larry Sheehan, Phil Sheehan, and Neville Stevens.

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SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Robert Laing

Each year, the chapter has taken the joy of singing to many senior retirement homes in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Chippawa, Fonthill, and Welland; the "Candlelight Stroll" in Niagara-on-the-Lake; Santa Claus Parades in Niagara Falls; Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland.

ACN has participated in the Festival of Lights and the Queen Victoria Park stage in Niagara Falls; in Fonthill, many quartet performances at the "Christmas in Pelham" as well as chorus and quartets at "Summerfest" and the Concert Series. The M&M Fund Raiser for Crohn's disease and Colitis in St. Catharines; Ft. Erie Optimist Club Fund Raiser and a concert for the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Welland. ACN recently performed in May 2015 for the C.D. Howe Institute banquet in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Welland Community Wellness Centre summer series in summer 2015.

In 2015 ACN became the organizer and host for the Annual Corn Roast now in its 45th year. It's been held at the Club La Salle in St. Catharines each August. The event raises funds for Niagara Children's Centre.

ACN has been very proactive in supporting our youth by inviting their participation in our annual shows. This has ranged from school quartets, school and community choirs, to jazz choirs & jazz bands, the Niagara Children's Chorus and a school drama club.

Donations to these groups, co-sponsoring a singing course at Niagara College and donations to charities such as "Harmonize for Speech" and "Sing Canada Harmony" as well as local charities shows true dedication to our mission.

John Wink
Branch Manager

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