



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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2023





President's Message



A Cappella Niagara (ACN) 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 styles including ballads, rock, jazz, spirituals, Broadway show tunes, and seasonal favourites.

Our chorus welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing, I invite you to visit a rehearsal. We meet at Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill, Fonthill, ON. Rehearsals are from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

most Tuesdays, August through June. Go to our web site or call me to learn more about singing with ACN.

As with most things, Covid 19 also impacted choruses. Singing in groups and performing for audiences was unsafe. Our rehearsals were sporadic and at times were discontinued for months. Fortunately, Zoom helped us keep in touch with each other and to maintain our repertoire through the pandemic.

In late 2022 we were able to start in-person rehearsals. A Cappella Niagara performed on Sing Niagara's wonderful Christmas community fundraiser. It was a joy to participate with this excellent women's a cappella chorus. ACN thanks Linda Hilko and Sing Niagara for giving us this opportunity and looks forward to future occasions to share the joy of Barbershop a cappella music.

In mid-December ACN presented "Yule Love It". It was a delight to sing seasonal songs for an appreciative audience at Fonthill United Church.

The return to performing at the Annual Candlelight Stroll in Niagara on the Lake was an exhilarating experience. We entertained for over two hours and many strollers listened to several songs and showed their pleasure at being part of this traditional event. The Annual Corn Roast will return this year to celebrate a belated 50th year anniversary. It is a family friendly event that is open to everyone. See more details about the Corn Roast in this brochure and on our website.

It is with great sadness we extend our condolences to families and friends on the passing of two cherished members of A Cappella Niagara, Bill Liang and Neville Stevens. They are in our thoughts and remain in our hearts as we continue to carry on the valued tradition of Barbershop they joyously embraced.

While sharing its love of song, A Cappella Niagara raises funds to support charities such as **Harmonize for Speech**, which helps children who have speech impediments, and **Sing Canada Harmony**, which supports equal access to vocal music 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 brochure. 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. To find out more about the chorus visit our web site or call me.

Timothy Healey (Home: 905 688 4253; Cell: 905 341 3415)

ACN website: www.niagarasingers.com

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ACN Chorus Brochure: Designed by Gus Medina. Printed by Great Signs and Graphics, Welland, ON. https://greatsigns.ca/



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 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.

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Brian Berton

BRANCH MANAGER

brian.berton@meridiancu.ca meridiancu.ca

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Past and Present Chapter Presidents

Robert Laing—1998-2007 (10 years)

Gus Medina — 2008-2012 (5 years)

Timothy Healey — 2013-present (10 years)

New to Singing? Never Sung before? Enjoy Singing? Why Not Sing With Us?

Discover a cappella harmony like you've never heard it before. Visitors are always welcomed to listen, learn and participate at our rehearsals. 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 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 rehearse from 7:00 to 9:00 PM most Tuesdays, August through June at Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill, Fonthill, ON.

Experience the Joy and Thrill of Performing!

For more information and to visit a rehearsal write to: InfoNiagaraSingers@gmail.com

Say "I Love You" with a Singing Valentine



Next Valentines Day surprise a loved one with a Singing Valentine. A Cappella Niagara will send a quartet to your sweetheart's or other special person's office, home, classroom, restaurant or any other place in the Niagara area. The quartet will arrive unannounced, sing a love song and present a lovely silk rose and heart-shaped box of chocolates. Bookings begin January 2024. For details contact us at:

infoniagarasingers@gmail.com

2023 A Cappella Niagara Chorus Members

Bob Aitken, Howard Bogusat, Jym Cummings, John Donald, Rob Dreyer, Mike Foerster, Timothy Healey, Greg Jack, Robert Laing, Stephen Lamont, Jim McConachie, Augusto Medina, Dick Moore, Cornie Neufeld, James Parker, Ray Robitaille, Dan Roy, Kerry Russ, Larry Sheehan, Phil Sheehan, and Rob Tripe.

THE VOICE OF REASON

Jym Cummings

To most people, singing is just one of those 'private things' we do when alone, as all 'shower stars' are want to warble merrily in anonymity. Our inner 'voice of reason' says too often, "That was pretty good but, never in front of people." I'm here to tell you that it can be simpler than you think.

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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A Cappella Niagara Chapter Quartet

Easy Street

We formed Easy Street in 2022 with the intent of having a second quartet available to perform with A Cappella Niagara and



step in for the chorus when the full chorus is not available to perform, or a smaller group is called for.

With Jym Cummings (Tenor), Bob Laing (Bass), Jim McConachie (Lead) and Jim Parker (Baritone), the quartet brings years of singing experience to their performances. As the name implies, our repertoire includes 'Easy' beat songs from the 40's and 50's made popular by artists like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day, and The Platters.

To contact Easy Street email us at infoniagarasingers@gmail.com.



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A Cappella Niagara Chapter Quartet



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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On behalf of Pelham Town Council, I am pleased to send best wishes for the 2023 A Cappella Niagara Season.

Your dedication to sharing your talents with the residents of Pelham is appreciated.

Sincerely, Mayor Marvin Junkin

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A Cappella Niagara

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John Donald Treasurer

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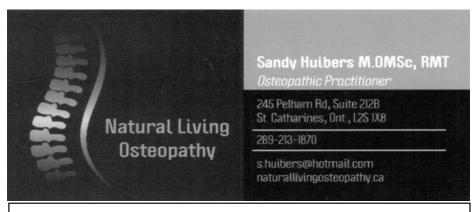
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Service to Our Community

Robert Laing

Since its founding, A Cappella Niagara (ACN) has shared the joy of singing with the community by performing at places and events such as the St. Catharines Hospital, Santa Claus parades, the Candlelight Stroll in Niagara-on-the-Lake, malls, and retirement homes. ACN has participated in the Festival of Lights and the Queen Victoria Park stage in Niagara Falls. In Fonthill, chapter quartets have performed at the 'Christmas in Pelham' and the chorus and quartets have sung at 'Summerfest' and the 'Concert Series.' Other singouts include the M&M Fund Raiser for Crohn's disease and Colitis in St. Catharines, the Fort Erie Optimist Club Fund Raiser and a concert for the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Welland. ACN performed for the C.D. Howe Institute banquet in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at the Welland Community Wellness Centre summer series.

In 2015 ACN became the organizer and host for the Niagara Barbershoppers Annual Corn Roast, which was started and run by the Singing Saints for 45 years. The Corn Roast, which raises funds for the Niagara Children's Centre, takes place every August in St. Catharines.

ACN is proactive in supporting youth by inviting their participation in our annual shows. Participating groups have included school quartets, school and community choirs, jazz choirs, jazz bands, the Chorus Niagara Children's Chorus, and a school drama club.

Our singouts, youth participation in our shows, 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 demonstrates ACN's commitment to our community.



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A HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS OF A CAPPELLA NIAGARA

Robert Laing

A dream of moving forward musically and becoming better performers was realized when 18 men united to form a new 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.

ACN Calendar

Upcoming shows, singouts, and other events for the next year. Please check our chorus website or Facebook page for updates and details.

Date	Event
May 13, 2023	Spring Show - Fonthill United
	Church
August 19, 2023	50 th Anniversary Niagara
	Barbershoppers Corn Roast -
	Port Dalhousie Lions Club
December 2,	Candlelight Stroll - Niagara-on
2023	-the-Lake
December	Holiday Show - Fonthill United
9,2023	Church
May 2024	Spring Show – Fonthill United Church

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 Many thanks to Timothy and Jim who's efforts made it possible for the chorus to meet and sing online during the pandemic.	In May 2016 Jim McConachie joined ACN as its new Music Director. October 11, 2016 ACN begins meeting at the Fonthill United Church in Fonthill. Starting in 2016 shows are performed at Fonthill United Church in November. In 2018 the annual show is moved to the spring and a good will offering yuletide show is performed in November 2018. Between 2020 and 2022 we only had sporadic rehearsal and performing was not permitted. In August 2022 we were able to begin regular rehearsals. The first time we were able to perform in 3-years was at the Candlelight Stroll in Niagara-on-the-Lake in December 2, 2022.



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Barbershop Harmony Voice Parts*

Barbershop is unaccompanied (a cappella), four-part harmony singing. Although barbershop-style music is usually built on simple melodies and is relatively easy to sing, the a cappella style and ear training necessary for independent part singing make it one of the most challenging and rewarding accomplishments of a vocal ensemble. When the music is sung accurately and with good breath support and vocal technique, barbershop harmony produces overtone vibrations that create a resonant ring unique to this form of music. The voice parts in barbershop have different names and functions than they do in other SATB or SSAA vocal styles. The lead voice, who generally sings the melody, is below the tenor harmony; the tenor part sings the highest note in the chord; the baritone part fills in the all-important missing note in a chord that may be above and below the melody; and the bass part supplies the harmonic foundation (root or fifth) of the chord.

*The above article was adapted from: https://www.harmonyinc.org/the-voice-parts/

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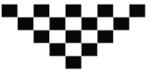
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A Cappella Niagara invites you to Celebrate the 50th Niagara Barbershoppers Corn Roast

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Date: Saturday August 19th, 2023 (Rain or Shine)
Location: The Port Dalhousie Lions Club
201 Main Street
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Parking: Plenty of spaces on site

BBQ: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

BBQ Menu: Hamburgers (beef or veggie), beef hot dogs, buns, fixings, all the corn you can eat, and 50th anniversary cake.

BBQ Tickets: Adults \$15, Children 12 & under \$5.00

Cash Bar: Beer, wine, soft drinks, and water will be

Available at the cash bar.

Scan the QR Code below to buy your tickets in advance. There is a small surcharge added to online ticket purchases.

Show (free): 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Quartets and choruses are invited to perform.
To reserve your spot on the show email:
NiagaraCornRoast@gmail.com
Write: 50th Anniversary Show in the subject line.
You will receive an email confirming your registration. Spaces are limited. Risers and sound system will be set up.

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To learn more about what to see and do
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To keep updated about the Corn Roast visit:

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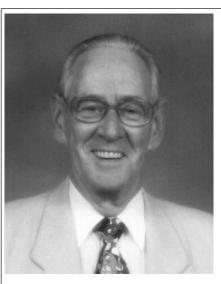


A Cappella Niagara contributes to national charities such as Harmonize for Speech and Sing Canada Harmony and local charities such as Niagara Children's Centre.

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In Memoria

William Laing
A Cappella Member
who is no longer with
us.

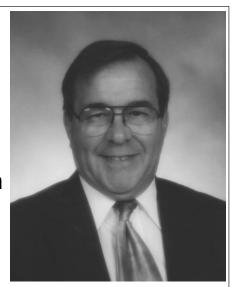
May 25, 2021

Bill had an incredible passion for music. He played trumpet in the Wallaceburg Kiltie Marching Band, the Wallaceburg District High School Teen Town Orchestra, the Bob Jack's Band and the Pharmacy Collegians. His love of music also extended to singing. He was a lifelong barbershop enthusiast, belonging to various choruses, including the St. Catharines Singing Saints and most recently A Cappella Niagara. He sang with many quartets over 50 years -Family Fare, Borderline and Vintage Blend to name only a few. One of his favourite things to do was deliver singing valentines with his quartet. A member of the Fonthill United Church choir, he brought his vocal talents to that group as well.

In Memoria

Neville Stanley
Stevens
A Cappella Member
who is no longer with
us.

January 12, 2023



Neville was raised in St. Catharines and attended the St. Catharines Collegiate. After high school graduation he was employed by Interlake Paper Company in Merritton. He then gained employed with General Motors Ltd. where he spent 27 years working as a machine repairman at the Ontario Street Forge until his retirement in 1995. After his retirement he opened 'Nev's Lawn Rolling' and enjoyed helping people care for their lawns. Neville was a life-long member of the Salvation Army. He found joy in camping, travelling, car racing at Merrittville Speedway, auto repair and Barbershop Singing as a member of A Cappella Niagara.

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Senior Pride Network of Niagara

The Network advocates for an increase and improvement of programs and services for older LGBTQ people.

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