


1-1-1991

Program; 1991

The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus

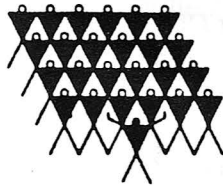
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Contact Person Gerry Eyles 295-4217

THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS



First Tenors

Eric Bell
D'Arcy Cashmore
Ted Chamberlain
Alan Eidt
Eric Sheridan

Second Tenors

Gunter Buchler
Brian Packham
Roger Purdy
Ron Quinsey
Mac Robertson
Fred Spoar

Baritones

Bob Bowman
Carey Calder
Daniel Caron
Rick Evans
Gerry Eyles
Jim Forrester
Jim Kidd
Rae King
Ed Kirkby
Lloyd Kirkby
Bob Passfield
Alex Trent

Basses

Mike Burnett
Bob Heatherington
Gary MacGillivray
Jim Mitchinson
Ken Styles
John Van Wyk

Sharree Eidt

Sharree has been involved in music for most of her life. She received her Bachelor of Music at the University of Western Ontario and her Bachelor of Education from Brock University. Sharree is continually upgrading her music skills by completing various courses to enhance her leadership of our chorus. She has been Music Director of Productions for the Niagara Falls Firehall Theatre, and has sung with the Brock Chamber Choir. Sharree has been teaching elementary school for fifteen years and has received many awards and scholarships directing her children's choirs in the Niagara Falls Kiwanis Music Festival. We have been fortunate to have Sharree as director for four years. Her experience and musical expertise made our 1990 trip to Germany a success. Sharree has one daughter and her husband Alan, is a First Tenor with the chorus.

Director

Fran Spoar

This is Fran's third year with the Gentlemen Songsters. Her talents at the keyboard have certainly enhanced the quality of our singing. Fran is also a member of the Robert Wood Singers, and is the Accompanist for the Fort Erie Youth Choir. She teaches Grades 1, 2 and Primary music with the Niagara South Board of Education. Fran lives in Fort Erie with her husband, Fred (who sings Second Tenor), and their son Ryan (who is Page Turner this evening).

Accompanist

The Royal Serenaders

Male Glee Club

Buffalo, New York



Roy Mathis
Joyce C. Mathis

Director
Accompanist

Tenors

Lamont Glover
Otis Glover Jr.
Henry McClemmon
Cecil L. Mathis
Jim Robinson
Ernest Stallings

Basses

Richard Bailey
Norris Beasley
Melvin Coley Sr.
Sterling Jones Sr.
Wardell Lewis
Ted Mathis
Walter Loiver

History

This year The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus Celebrate their 45th Anniversary. In 1946, Roy A. Mathis got together with his brothers Jimmy E., Cecil and Ted to form the Mathis Brothers Quartet. However, after singing as a foursome for a while, it was decided to open the invitation to other men to join in serving the community with male choral music. Thus, the male chorus was formed.

In the beginning the chorus sang entirely "A Cappella". However, the musical excellence of the group was enhanced by the addition of a wonderful Accompanist; Joyce C. Mathis. Not only does she have superior technique, she also has a feeling for the spirit of the chorus.

Featuring the talents of soloists Wardell Lewis, Jim Robinson, and the Glover Brothers; Otis and Lamont, The Serenaders have become well-known and well-loved for their outstanding musical ability and their enthusiasm.

The Gentlemen Songsters Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Program

The Gentlemen Songsters

We Believe In Music
The Whiffenpoof Song
Hey! Look Me Over
Harmony

Mac Davis arr. Cassey
Minnergerode, Pomeroy, Galloway

Simon, Kaplan arr. Ades



The Gentlemen Songsters' Own

Ron Quinsey



Step to the Rear
You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile
Sunrise, Sunset
The Impossible Dream
Man of La Mancha
Rhythm of Life

arr. Cassey
arr. Metis
Soloists: Alan Eidt, Rick Evans
arr. Ringwald
arr. Ringwald
Fields and Coleman

Intermission



The Royal Seren

The Twenty-Third Psalm
View That Holy City
Somebody's Prayin'
When I Fall In Love
Walkin' in the Spirit of God

Co
with The

Amazing Grace
Lord, Listen to Your Children
I Feel Good

Ron Quinsey

The G

The Children's Song of Hope
Let There Be Peace on Earth
I Believe
Hymn to Freedom

Gentlemen Songsters Anniversary Program

The Royal Serenaders Male Glee Club

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Newman

View That Holy City

arr. Mathis Soloists: Jim Robison, Ottis Glover

Somebody's Prayin'

arr. Elliot Soloist: Jim Robison

When I Fall In Love

arr. Shaw Soloist: Norris Beasley

Walkin' in the Spirit of God

Hayes



Combined Chorus with The Gentlemen Songsters

Amazing Grace

arr. Coates

Lord, Listen to Your Children

arr. Schrader

I Feel Good

arr. R. Mathis



Ron Quinsey

Sings Broadway

The Gentlemen Songsters

The Children's Song of Hope

arr. Simon

Let There Be Peace on Earth

arr. Brimhall

I Believe

arr. Ades

Hymn to Freedom

arr. Seppo Hovii



The Gentlemen Songsters

Twenty five years ago, seven gentlemen met for an evening of song. Three of them were former members of "Our Lady of the Scapular" Church Choir, the rest were ex-members of the "Memorial Marching Band". Music, and in particular singing, was the common bond which had brought the group together.

After a few weeks of singing these old sing-a-long type songs and harmonies they approached Mr. Ernie Forhan, a former Church Choir Director who agreed to help formalize the group into a Male Voice Choir and became their mentor, teacher and Director. Marsh Goegan, a well known local dance band pianist was also persuaded to join the group as it's accompanist.

Membership quickly grew, rehearsals were every week and after about four months the group was invited to present their "four song repertoire" to the residents at the Eventide Senoir's Home. Unfortunately, the eagerly awaited debut did not take place, as Ernie had a fatal heart attack on the morning of the planned show.

One of the singers, Don Stevens, an accomplished musician in his own right, but who had joined the group merely to sing agreed to take over the Directorship of the group, and under his leadership "The Gentlemen Songsters" name was adopted (from "The Whiffenpoof Song"). Membership continued to grow, as did the musical repertoire, and the familiar orange and black sweaters that became the Songster's uniform.

Don continued as the Songster's Director until his job necessitated his moving to Kingston, Ontario.

After Don left the group went through a period of uncertainty, during which time a number of Directors were approached, tried and found to be quite incompatible, but eventually a new Director in the person of Wesley Schab, a former member of the local "Gamsmen Quartet" took over the group and together with Marsh Goegan as accompanist helped to rebuild the group and set them back on the road to success.

Under Wes's Directorship, the "Songsters" began to build up a favourable reputation and enjoyed much popularity among audiences in Southern Ontario, Western New York, and Toronto. Wes Schab was eventually succeeded by the late Diane McQuade, who as Director/Accompanist improved the techniques, sound, and stage presentation of the group. Under Diane's direction, the Songsters competed successfully in a number of music festivals and were highly commended by respected judges.

Following Diane's death, her husband Ted, who was a singer in the group at that time, agreed to take over as the Director, and with the addition of Linda Bruch as Accompanist led the group through a difficult but very successful period of rehabilitation.

Ted was eventually succeeded by the present Director, Sharree Eidt and Linda was replaced by Fran Spoar who is also the Assistant Director.

Long time followers of the Songsters agree that today's chorus under Sharree and Fran still maintains the fine technical and vocal sound that was produced by any of the previous groups.

Over the years, "The Gentlemen Songsters", in addition to performing locally and in Western New York, have appeared as far away as Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Bancroft in Northern Ontario; toured a number of cities in West Germany; appeared twice on Channel 11 T.V. in Hamilton; sung the U.S. and Canadian National Anthems at the commencement of Toronto Blue Jay games, appeared at the closing banquet of the World Association of Police Chiefs; and had the

distinct privilege of singing for the Prime Minister of Canada, who congratulated them on their rendition of "Finlandia", one of his favorite pieces. In addition, "The Gentlemen Songsters" have made a practice of supporting as many local charities as possible, either in concert with others or alone.

President's Note

Sometimes in life you are lucky enough to find something that you not only enjoy, but can share with friends.

Something, though it takes a great amount of time and energy, will put a smile on a strangers face and a sparkle in their eyes.

We give up this time because of the rewards, friendship, laughter, happiness all in the name of a song. This is why for twenty-five years there have been **Gentlemen Songsters**.

Carey Calder

To the Wives and Families of The Gentlemen Songsters

Your patience and understanding of our efforts has been essential to our success. Without you behind us, it surely would have been the "IMPOSSIBLE DREAM"

To Our Audiences of the Past 25 Years

Your encouragement and enthusiasm have been our motivation. Without you, our efforts would have been in vain. To each and every one of you...a special thank you. It's been great.

Ron Quinsey

Ron began singing in High School in Ridgeway Ontario doing an Al Jolson impersonation. After performing for a few years at a local nightspot, he moved to Buffalo New York, where he sang with the Harold Austin Orchestra and several other dance bands.

Ron joined the Gentlemen Songsters in 1988. He is also a member of the Greater Fort Erie Community Choir and the Central Avenue United Church Choir in Fort Erie.

Musicians

String Bass
Rhythm Guitar

Lori Weldon
Mike Burnett

Choreographer

Choreographer

Dwight Penner

Acknowledgements

The Gentlemen Songsters would like to take this opportunity to thank the following:

**The Chippawa Lions Club • The Stamford Kiwanis • The Cobra Club
• The Fort Erie Friendship Club ...**

a sincere thank you for their support of our trip to Germany.

The Coronation Centre... for allowing us to use their facilities for our weekly practices.

The Canadian Legion Branch 479... for their support in all our fund raising efforts.

The Gentlemen Songsters would like to acknowledge
with deep appreciation...

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Their support through the years as a ticket agent has made
a very significant contribution to the success of our concerts.

Thank You.