

TO: Orillia Vocal Ensemble Members
FROM: OVE Board of Directors
SUBJECT: WELCOME TO THE 2018-19 SEASON!
DATE: August 20, 2018



Hello, all. I hope you are enjoying, and have enjoyed, the summer. I hope you have also been thinking with pleasure of the 2017-18 season of the OVE. It was a successful season, and I think all of us enjoyed the music that Roy and Mary-jo brought to us to perform.

Your Board has met a couple of times since the conclusion of our season and we need to announce a couple of changes as we enter the 2018-19 season of the Orillia Vocal Ensemble.

1. The 2018-19 budget will see an increase in membership fees to \$125 per Fall and Winter session (\$250 per year). Choir members will NOT be required to pay a music fee (which has been \$10 per session or \$20 per year). The new fee therefore reflects an increase of \$15 per session over the current fee of \$110 per session (which included \$10 for music). ***(As has been our practice, we do not wish the fee to discourage anyone from joining the OVE. ANY singer who feels unable to pay this fee should speak with Carol Benedetti, our Manager.)***

Having looked closely at the 2018-19 budget, the Board feels this small increase in fees is required; there has been no change in the membership fee for several years and, as everyone knows, costs have gone up. In addition, we have seen the last of a Trillium grant that we have had over the past three years—a grant which has covered some of those costs.

2. We hope to maintain an average of 70 paying members over the year in order to meet our budget needs; current members can help with ongoing recruitment to ensure this number. ***Think about friends and acquaintances that might join the OVE with a little encouragement. We would ask each of you to invite a friend or two out to our first rehearsal; if they enjoy the experience, we think most will stay on for the season.***
3. The OVE will continue to seek out grants and sponsorships, some of which will go toward the purchase of music. Members of the community (and yes, members of the choir) will be encouraged to “sponsor” a piece of music (*Typical cost = \$250 for 80 copies. One piece has already been sponsored and purchased*).
4. We will endeavour also to initiate a “Friends of the OVE” campaign (seeking \$100 per Friend) with a goal of enlisting 20 or more people as “Friends.” (*One person in the community has already presented us with a cheque to be the first “Friend” for this year.*)

We do hope that the increase in the fee will not inconvenience or discourage any of you from returning to the choir this season. Think of the fun we have and the beautiful music we are able to produce—for the benefit of local charitable organizations. Our singing is doing wonderful work in the community each year!

Finally, a reminder to all that rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's (Chamber Choir at 6:45 as usual). We look forward to seeing all of you again—and look forward to a wonderful season of song!

Fred

Fred Larsen, President--on behalf of the OVE Board of Directors

P.S. We will be holding the OVE's Annual General Meeting at the commencement of the third rehearsal on Tuesday, September 25. At that meeting, in addition to electing your Board of Directors for 2018-19, we will be presenting a more detailed budget (for those interested) plus a more detailed explanation of the need for the fee increase. A motion such as the one below will need to be moved, seconded and approved by those in attendance.

Be it resolved that the members at the Orillia Vocal Ensemble (OVE) 2018 Annual General Meeting approve the recommendations of the Board of Directors and accept the 2018-19 budget as presented.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____