

# Orillia Vocal Ensemble

## A FEBRUARY 2022, MESSAGE TO OVE MEMBERS FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE:

### **The Orillia Vocal Ensemble invites you to re-commence the Joy of Singing!**

As you know from previous correspondence, the OVE Board has been cautious about reinstating rehearsals for our choir and has continued to look for direction from our local Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit, Provincial guidelines, health and safety protocols in place at St. Paul's Centre, and the concerns of our members. At its recent meeting the Board reviewed all of the updates from these sources and made the determination that we can safely proceed again with rehearsals. We're pleased to make this announcement to members and potential members—and look forward to your participation.

**We plan to hold our first rehearsal on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> at our regular time of 7:30 p.m.** We are asking that you **plan to arrive about half an hour in advance of that time** in order to be registered and cleared for participation. For this first practice, we ask you to use the main doors at the corner of Peter and Coldwater Streets because of the spaciousness of the entry lobby. We will also want to update our records and confirm current contact information for you.

If possible, please bring a change of footwear so that your outside footwear can be left in the entry lobby. To allow for physical distancing the choir will sit in the congregation/audience area facing the stage. It is advisable to bring a 'reading light' with you as the lighting is not as bright in this area of the Great Hall.

### **We are requiring the following:**

- that you not attend any practice if you are not feeling well,
- that you be fully vaccinated, and bring confirmation of this with you,
- that you be masked upon entry to the building,
- that masks may also have to be kept in place while singing—until such time as we are advised by the health unit that it's safe to remove them during choir rehearsals.
- that for concerts, audience members, also, would have to show proof of being fully vaccinated.

In addition, we will do our best to increase ventilation in the Great Hall (i.e. open some windows, weather permitting) during rehearsals and concerts, so you may want to bring an extra sweater.

We anticipate that this first rehearsal will be a bit more informal as we emerge from two years of musical hibernation, as there will be lots of information to exchange with you.

**We are scheduling the long-delayed farewell concert for our former Musical Director, Roy Menagh, for the evening of Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.** At this point, subject to confirmation from both Roy and our new Musical Director, Blair Bailey, we anticipate singing a number of our "favourite" pieces from the past 10 (12?) years because of our familiarity with them.

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We have maintained the fee of **\$125** for this late winter-spring semester to help defray some of the costs of administering the OVE, and, as has always been our practice, we will be pleased to make other arrangements for anyone who may have difficulty managing this cost at this time.

Should there be any change with this plan, you will be notified immediately, but at this point we are “all systems go”! (Pun intended!) Our rehearsal on March 1<sup>st</sup> will also provide an opportunity to welcome **Blair Bailey** as our new Musical Director and **Katie Pergau** as our new accompanist.

Please pass along this information to others in the days and weeks ahead. Do not hesitate to contact Carol Benedetti, Blair or Fred or any member of the Board with your questions.

We welcome you back and look forward to a renewal of our strength and joy at being able to sing together again as the Orillia Vocal Ensemble.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

*Fred, Blair and members of the Executive Board*

## **Contact info:**

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