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Firmly believing that while business is the backbone of a community, the arts, sports, and philanthropic groups are the soul of a community.

Our rehearsal and concert churches - Comox Valley Presbyterian Church, Comox United Church, and St George's United Church



We acknowledge that we stand on the traditional territory of the K'omoks First Nations. As singers, we join with them in the knowledge that music making is a fundamental human activity across all peoples and that it lifts our spirits, teaches values, and brings us together in cooperative efforts.

North Island Choral Society

Paul Colthorpe, Artistic Director
Julie Matthews, Collaborative Pianist

With Comox Valley Children and Youth Choirs



Carmina Burana

by Carl Orff

With choirs, orchestra and soloists

Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2025
St. George's United Church

Paul Colthorpe – Artistic Director

A third-generation Victorian, Paul has resided in our Valley since 1991. A trombonist, conductor, and music educator, his 37-year career has seen him teach thousands of musicians from preschool to adult. He has worked with session musicians and classical artists from across Canada including many local soloists and even Frank Mills, a Canadian icon of piano. He is currently the music teacher at Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary where he instructs over 500 students in classroom music and beginning band.

In his "spare" time, he is also the Director of Music Ministries at Comox United Church and has been the Artistic Director of NICS for almost 30 years. His mantra of "music for all, and by all" has served him well. He recently had the great honour of being nominated as an Arts Ambassador for the Comox Valley.

Julie Matthews – Collaborative Pianist

Somewhat of an enthusiastic keener about most parts of life, when Julie is not teaching private music lessons, she can be found playing, composing, arranging, accompanying and recording music, as well as continuing to take music lessons herself. She has spent time as a recording artist and studio musician, and she has played and written for film. When not living and breathing music, she can be found passionately growing food, fermenting vegetables, making cheese, quilting, and tending her many beehives.

Naoko Matsumura McKee – Concertmaster

Naoko Matsumura McKee (BMT, MMT) began piano at age 4 and violin at age 7, and trained as a music psychotherapist. Her notable teachers were Tomoko Satake, Junko Tsushima, Hiromi Fujita, Zlatan Srzic, and Jeremy Bell. She has performed in venues in Japan, China, Austria, and Canada. As a music therapist her work was with the Winnipeg school division, care homes, and in palliative care. In recent years, her interest has been in community music and caring for her family. She enjoys working with the North Island Choral Society and leading their orchestra.

Comox Valley Children's and Youth Choir

NICS is delighted to have singers from the Comox Valley Children's and Youth Choir participating in this concert.

Comox Valley Children's and Youth Choir (Nova Voce Choral Society) is a BC registered charitable organization that provides children and youth ages 6-17 in School District #71 the opportunity and guidance to sing in a positive and nurturing environment. The choir is lead by Sophie Simard as Artistic Director and Shelley Crysler as Assistant Artistic Director.

Sophie and Shelley have been involved with the music community in the Comox Valley for many years, both on the stage as soloists and in ensembles, and as music educators. Sophie holds several University degrees and is a beloved local elementary school teacher. Shelley holds a Bachelor of Music degree and is a certified Early Childhood Educator. Both are passionate about spreading their love of singing to the next generation. Sophie Simard and Carol Anne Parkinson (President of Nova Voce Choral Society Board) have graced the NICS stage as soloists.

Comox Valley Children's and Youth Choir Singers

Abigail Ashton, Lucy Ashton, Penelope Aumonier, Grace Baker, Asha Begley, Robin (Birdie) Borsato, Emily Boyd, Ophelia Brogan, Bella Christensen, Rowan Crysler, Lianna Currie, Willow Densmore, Adrian Douglas, Samira Duran, Maisie Finlay, Molly Fisette, Hannah Forsythe, Audrey Frain, Emily Holst, Iver Lang, Odin Lang, Kali Malin, Jasmine Marand, Aila Morse-Hughes, Harley Rewcastle, William Rollin, Sora Sato, Tai Sato, Addison Smith, Mallory Smith, Teodora Todorova, Elowen Tyer, Norah Tyer, Millie Vaillant

Austin Diotte-Turner - Tenor

Austin was born and raised in the Comox Valley and began his musical pursuits with his high school band, playing the clarinet. He received the 'Overall Achievement in Music' award in Grade 12 and began singing in choirs the same year. Since then, Austin has explored many other musical avenues, such as vocal arranging, music and video production, audio mixing, musical theatre, and more. These explorations have led him to create a following on YouTube and other socials under ADT and ADTMusic, as well as a self-produced album titled "Starting Now" (2021). Currently, Austin sings tenor with Island Voices Chamber Choir and Quarantones Male Chorus, while also making solo covers and original compositions under his ADT and ADTMusic banner. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to join North Island Choral for this performance and share his passion for music with you.

Jennifer Rasor - Soprano

Jennifer began her vocal training as a teenager in the Comox Valley, going to McGill University and then the University of Toronto. Her stage formation continued with the Studio of the Montreal Opera. Concert works vary from Pergolesi's Stabat Mater Dolorosa to Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Mozart's Exsultate, Jubilate to Orff's Carmina Burana. Operatic highlights include Gilda in Rigoletto, Oscar in Ballo in Maschera, Rosina in Barbiere di Siviglia, Cio-Cio San in Madama Butterfly, Mabel in Pirates of Penzance. Another genre that interests Jennifer is the song recital, having performed various concerts across Canada, Mexico, and Germany. Currently, she partners with fine local pianist Dagmar Kilian with a series of song recital programs.

Michael MacKinnon - Bass

Michael started singing opera in 2006, training at Opera Nuova (Edmonton), Banff Arts Centre, and M.A.W. (Santa Barbara, CA). Locally, he has performed principal roles for City Opera Vancouver, Burnaby Lyric Opera, Opera Nanaimo, Vancouver Island Opera, and Vancouver Opera.

From 2013-17, he nurtured an international career, singing in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Denmark and Scotland. Since moving to the island in 2020, Michael has regularly performed in local concerts and has drummed and sung in Chemainus Theatre's production "Classic Country Roads" through the summer of 2022.

Program Notes – prepared by Deirdre Rennie

Carmina Burana was composed by Carl Orff between 1935 and 1936. He based his work on a collection of 24 Medieval poems entitled **Carmina Burana** with which he was fascinated. The manuscript of these poems was found in a Benedictine monastery in Bavaria in 1803. The poems were written between the 11th and 13th centuries by Goliards - young men who had studied theology but for various reasons were never ordained in the Catholic church.

Carmina Burana was written to portray the turning of the wheel of fortune where one's life can be changed in an instant depending on how the wheel turns. The wheel of fortune, as it turns, displays the loss or gain of fortune and power, the fleeting nature of life, the joy of the return of spring, the changing of the seasons and the perils of greed, drinking and other such vices.

North Island Choral Society

Soprano:

Louise Argyle, Melanie Bagley, Wendy Banham, Celia Brogan, Laurie Chase, Bea Dolphin, Frances Forgues, Ruth Hibberson, Angela Hope, Caroline Lenardon, Lydia Magnusson, Diane Maxted, Gail Mercredi, Jo-Anne Preston, Hilary Pryor, Johanna Skews, Miranda Sorensen, Sigrid Stark, Petra Strougal

Alto:

Tara Bonham, Diane Bostock, Janice DeMong, Debbie Eaton, Susan Fabrizio, Joyce Falkowski, Marianne Fiendell, Erika Hannan, Margaret Harris, Sherry Lang, Trena McCaffrey, Janina Nicholls, Jocelyne Praine, Bärbel Reynolds, Marianne Slomp, Arlene Sullivan, Sandy Toms, Gillian Venter, Frances McAlanon, Kelly Thomas

Tenor:

Peter Cartwright, Joy Dawson, Keith Fawcett, Margaret Gauthier, Roger Goodman, Barbara Huhn, James Lee, Mo May, Jennifer McQuade, Rosalind Pattison, Rich Revel, Rebecca Richards, Linda Stewart, Sarah Suttmoller

Bass:

Cornelis Brink, Alec Deas, Tony Devai, Matthew Nicoll, Ian Oldaker, Crandell Overton, Aidan Pitt-Brooke, Doug Preston, Rhett Wade

NICS Orchestra

1st Violin: Naoko Matsumura McKee (concertmaster), Evan Mason, Jacqueline Larizza, Gwyneth Pickering, Heather Gatland

2nd Violin: Ardene Larson, Matouš Karas, Kristin Valka, Cindy Budd

Viola: Eleanor Wieser, Natalie Mindell, Heilwig von Koenigsloew, Heather Sinclair, Taryn Johnson

Cello: Jordie Robinson, Claire Mindell, Rossana Paz, Hansen Chan

Bass: Maureen Bedford, Marci Haley

Flute: Antonia Mahon, Tracy Canil

Clarinet: Jane Bouey, Lukas Teocharis

Bassoon: Dan Lehton

French Horn: Yolanda Lehton, Joni Vonkeman

Trumpet: Derrick Milton, Marianne Ing

Percussion: Ram Sudama (timpani), Veronica Klock (glockenspiel and xylophone), Richard Spurrell (snare drum), Lynn Hodge (percussion), Peter Wenzek (percussion)

