



# GRAND NOTES

THE GRAND RIVER CHORUS  
PRESENTS **HANDEL'S  
Messiah**

SINGALONG

Fri. Dec. 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH, 360 Colborne Street, Brantford

*Handel's 'Messiah' is a masterwork and has become a Christmas time favourite in Brantford. This event invites and encourages one and all to take part and enjoy the opportunity to revel in the performance of this wonderful work.*

Soprano - Heather Plewes  
Alto - Claudia Lemcke  
Tenor - Rob Cairns  
Baritone - Jordan Stumpf

TICKETS: Adults \$25, Seniors/PS Students \$20  
Children and High School Students with ID \$5

AVAILABLE: At the door or:

In Brantford: The Brantford Bookworm, 33 1 Brant Avenue  
In Hamilton: The Westdale Bookworm, 852 King Street West  
In Paris: Green Heron Books, 47 Grand River Street North  
In Simcoe: Florian Clinic, 25 Colborne Street South  
For information or tickets email: [grandriverchorus@rogers.com](mailto:grandriverchorus@rogers.com)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Richard Cunningham  
ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR  
Cara Blackwood  
ACCOMPANIST  
Ann-Marie MacDairmid



Email: [grandriverchorus@rogers.com](mailto:grandriverchorus@rogers.com)



[www.grandriverchorus.com](http://www.grandriverchorus.com)

Our photo courtesy of Victoria Strick

Video production courtesy of Victoria Strick

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### We're on the Web:

[www.grandriverchorus.com](http://www.grandriverchorus.com)

Tickets can now be purchased online:

[www.ticketscene.ca](http://www.ticketscene.ca)



### Some thoughts from the podium...

After a successful concert, I am always grateful to the choir for working so hard to make everything work so well. There has not been an unsuccessful concert since I

had the good fortune to start directing this choir, and so I've watched and listened as we've had a series of great events, and I've been thrilled to watch and hear the choir get better and better. Our concert at the end of October this season, was no exception for me, in terms of enjoying how well the choir performed. Listening to the Requiem unfold in the beautiful acoustic of St Basil's Roman Catholic Church, filled me with a great sense of joy.

The Grand River Chorus sings with passion and energy; they enjoy what they do and enjoy each other's company. There is quite a lot of laughter in a typical rehearsal, and there is usually a fair bit of good-natured banter back and forth between sections and from chorus members to me and back. I have always felt that keeping rehearsals light-hearted will create an atmosphere where singers will give of their best. It is a delicate balancing act sometimes. We try to keep making serious progress on the music, but not taking ourselves too, too seriously. Of course, there are

times when our progress is slow, and things get a little tense, but for each and every concert, this group of fine singers comes through with a wonderful performance. I cannot begin to say clearly, just how proud I am of the singers. If I said what I really mean, it would sound trite with the use of superlatives that I want to use. I think that that is why we continue to perform so well, and why we continue to enjoy what we do so much. The love of the music overshadows any difficulties that arise, and we use the energy and the positivity to encourage each other to do even better next time out.

Finally, I need to especially thank the more than 35 members of the choir who came to sing at my mother's funeral in September. I also need to say "Thank you" to each and every person who helps the Grand River Chorus. From the singers to the hard-working board of directors, to the support staff and volunteers at our concerts and to the audience who continues to enjoy the concerts. I can hardly wait for our *Singalong Messiah* performance on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> and our *Gospel Glory* show in April!

BlesSINGS

Richard Cunningham, Artistic Director  
The Grand River Chorus





The Grand River Chorus is pleased to congratulate **Monica Admiral** on her appointment to the position of **President of the Grand River Chorus Board of Directors**. The Annual General Meeting of the Chorus members was held **Saturday, September 10 2011 at Central Baptist Church**. Members of the Grand River Chorus installed an almost full slate of Directors which includes: **Elfrieda Neumann, (Past President), Monica Admiral, (President), Jane Daw, (1<sup>st</sup> V.P.), David Johnston, (Treasurer), Betty Stephan (Secretary)**. Directors: **Terry Kowalski, Robert Saunders, David Dean, Betty Decker, Gerald Hogeterp, Jim Dunning, John Howe, Pat Eyzenga, and Artistic Director Richard Cunningham (Ex-Officio)**.

Hail to the Chief...

After two months at this job, I am just coming up for air ... it has been a whirlwind experience, taking over the reins of this fine organization, and I am greatly behooved to follow in the footsteps of the Neumann dynasty. It is remarkable how much work both Dave and Elfrieda put into this organization. It has been overwhelming for me, to be sure! The most important thing I have learned is this organization is supported by countless volunteers, working tirelessly and invisibly behind the scenes, people whose names I had not heard before, whose faces I had not known. The Grand River Chorus is a healthy organization, with great resources found among

the people who sing in the Chorus, and those who function in a supporting role. This season has already started off with a beautiful first concert in the wonderful St. Basil's church (*I wish the Choir could sing there every week...it is heavenly*), and we are already busy preparing for more... Christmas with the Guelph Symphony on Dec. 11; Sing-along Messiah on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at Heritage United; a gospel workshop with the renowned Brainerd Blyden-Taylor (*conductor of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale*); Gospel Glory on April 1, at St. Pius; Beethoven's Ninth, with the Brantford Symphony on May 6, and then Summertime, on June 1 & 2, our musical salute to the season of fun in the sun; We also will join the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra at the end of June, for a concert of opera favourites. I'm exhausted just thinking about it: what a great year! Be sure to take note of our Fete du Vin, in February: our main fundraiser for the year is always a fantastic evening. Please be our guests!

*Monica Admiral*  
President  
The Grand River Chorus

**Concert Tickets**

Adults .....\$25  
Seniors/PS Students .....\$20  
Children & H. S. Students with ID.....\$5

**Available At These Locations**

**In Brantford:** *The Bookworm*, 331 Brant Ave.  
**In Paris:** *Green Heron Books*, 47 Grand River St. N.  
**In Simcoe:** *Florian Clinic*, 25 Colborne St. S.  
**In Hamilton:** *The Westdale Bookworm*, 852 King St. West

Tickets also available at the door

*It is time to start thinking about our major fund raiser, the Grand Fête du Vin.*

The committee has met once, and will meet again in November. A winery has not yet been chosen. However, we have a couple of leads, and hope to have things confirmed within the next few days. A group from the committee is planning to go to the Niagara region at the end of the month, to do some wine tasting, in order to choose the wines to be used for our event.

There is a lot of work behind the scenes in preparation for this wonderful fund raiser to ensure its continued success. People are already working hard at obtaining items for both the silent and live auction, and plans are underway for the entertainment for the evening. Volunteers are always welcome. The old saying that many hands make light work is so true. The committee members appreciate any help they can get, whether it is for an hour during the night, time given in the weeks leading up to the event, or obtaining the auction items. If you wish to give a little of your time, please do not

hesitate to contact me, the committee members or choristers.

Back by popular demand, Corner Pocket led by Al Newhouse, has agreed to provide our musical entertainment again this year. This season's Fête du Vin will be held on Saturday,

February 25, 2012 at the Best Western. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this great event. It promises to be a night of fun and entertainment.

*Susan Howe*  
Chair of the Twelfth Annual Grand Fête du Vin Organizing Committee

519 753-6758  
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**Concert 2**  
**HANDEL'S MESSIAH SINGALONG**

Friday December 16th, 2011 7:30 p.m.  
Heritage United Church, 360 Colborne Street, Brantford  
**Soloists - Soprano - Heather Plewes, Alto - Claudia Lemcke, Tenor - Rob Cairns, Baritone - Jordan Stumpf**  
*Handel's 'Messiah' is a masterpiece and has become a Christmas favourite in Brantford. This event invites and encourages one and all to take part and enjoy the opportunity to revel in the performance of this wonderful work.*

**Concert 3**  
**GOSPEL GLORY**

Sunday April 1st, 2012 3:00 p.m.  
St. Pius Roman Catholic Church, 9 Waverly Street, Brantford  
**Mezzo Soprano - Jessica Lloyd**  
*Jessica Lloyd is a Simcoe native who travelled to Texas for a post-graduate degree in vocal performance and whose experience involves everything from solo singing with the Toronto Symphony to singing with the Billy Ledbetter Orchestra and the trio Wayward Sisters. As a member of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Jessica is well versed in the Gospel - Spiritual style. Come, enjoy this tribute to southern music with its Afro-centric roots.*

**Concert 4**  
**SUMMERTIME & THE LIVIN' IS EASY**

Friday June 1st, 2012, 7:30 p.m.  
St. James Church, 203 John Street, Simcoe  
Saturday June 2nd, 2012, 7:30 p.m.  
Hope Christian Reformed Church, 64 Buchanan Street, Brantford  
*Summertime inspires us to sing with its longer days and warm evenings. This concert will be a recital of songs to celebrate the arrival of beautiful weather, sunshine and drinks with friends on the deck or the dock. Come, relax and stay cool.*



**Grand Fête du Vin**  
**2012**