



Cordova Bay United Church

Music Director Annual Report 2022

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Col. 3:16, NIV

New Beginnings. I started as Music Director for Cordova Bay United Church on August 2, 2022, the same day Pastor Beth Parsons joined CBUC's (hospitable!) Ministry Team. It has been a joy to be here, working with Pastors Nancy and Beth and with Jane Shumka, getting to know the folks in the choir and congregation, and being privileged to lead our congregation in musical praise and prayer. I have really appreciated the warmth of your welcome and the kindness and competence of my new colleagues, including Stephen Godfrey, the Worship Elder. Thank you to the Music Search Committee as well, for making the application and interview process as comfortable as it was. My husband, Mark, and I are grateful for our new church home at Cordova Bay.

Goals. My primary goal in Music Ministry is animating *worship*. What the choir and I do each Sunday is not about performance: rather it is for the goal of leading our community – including ourselves - into reverence and adoration of God, our Creator and Lover. The United Church's "A Song of Faith" says it well:

*"Grateful for God's loving action
we cannot keep from singing.
Creating and seeking relationship
in awe and trust
We witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love".*

The second goal is to help us all to better live out our faith. Music is a powerful tool to move head knowledge down to heartfelt beliefs and convictions that impel us to take action in our church and world.

What a privilege to have this weekly opportunity!

August was a time of discovery. I spent a fair amount of time learning my way around the church's Allen organ and its MIDI (pretty fun!), reviewing the anthem library, sending out and collating responses for a choir questionnaire, researching and sharing COVID safety strategies with the choir, and planning the initial anthems and practices for September.

Choir: I was uncertain how well the choir would come back together after the years-long COVID hiatus - plus a new Choir Director - but need not have worried. I am blessed and grateful for such great people: they are enthusiastic and experienced singers, many - if not most - read music, and we have some wonderful voices to boot! Our choir is thrilled to have Beth and Glenn Parsons join us, helping to make up a well-balanced ensemble of 20 singers.

We began our choir year with a choir gathering - get-acquainted activities and potluck dinner - before our rehearsal the first Thursday after Labour Day. They surprised me by their ability to sing a beautiful and moving anthem the very next Sunday.



The choir has continued to sing for most of our weekly worship services since then, 13 anthems over 17 weeks – including the 35-minute cantata and the 8 PM service on Christmas Eve.

Our choir members are committed and willing to give of their time to minister to our congregation. The choir led congregational singing and sang a moving anthem for John Rowan's Celebration of Life in October. They willingly gave an extra half-hour each dark November and December Thursday night to practice our cantata, Joel Raney's "A Thrill of Hope" which became the "sermon set to music" (Bill Walker's words) for the December 18 service.

Choir Members:

Sopranos: Valerie Armstrong, Margaret Chambers, Peggy Dayton, Jean Hazemi, Ria Korteweg, Carol Paton, Lois Steeves, Jeanette White

Altos: Kate Insley, Beth Parsons, Ruthe Tiessen, Elaine Zandee

Tenors: Stephen Godfrey, Alan Hodgson, Alan Priestley

Basses: David Chambers, Mark Collins, Lorne Holland, Glenn Parsons, Casey Vandenbrink

Thinking about joining the choir?

Just DO it! As long as you can match a pitch (that is, can tell if you are singing the right note or not) and make most Thursday evening choir practices and Sunday Services we would love to have you. You don't have to be a Barbra Streisand or Luciano Pavarotti or know how to read music, either: if you have a desire to be a part of this group, let Sharon know (music@cbunited.ca). There is space and welcome for you!



Thank You's. It has been a real pleasure working with **Margaret Chambers** as choir president and Chair of the Music Liaison Committee, and Director of the Chime Choir: she has been a great gift to me as I've started here at Cordova Bay UC.

Another shout out goes to **Glenn Parsons**. I greatly appreciate Glenn's leadership of the CBUC band. The band played for the last Sunday in November and is planning more band Sundays to come! As well, his skilled piano accompaniment for the cantata was a tremendous gift to me and to the choir, giving me an opportunity to physically conduct the choir and allow the singers to interpret their director's guidance more easily.

Although before my time, thanks are also due to **Elaine Zandee, Lynn Dennis, James Li,** who played for worship services from January–July of 2022. This year we musicians have all helped the congregation to "teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Col. 3:16

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Prindle Collins

Easter Worship Cliparts #2450290
Choir Clipart #37831;
Choir Clipart #37856;
Hymn Cliparts #140817