

# Music Ministry 2023 Annual Report

*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.*

*Colossians 3:16a*

## January of 2024

In writing this Annual Report I have been required to reflect on this last year as Music Director at Cordova Bay United Church. Simply put, it has been a joy. What a gift to be able to lead people in worship and prayer to our God! This congregation has been a blessing, and Mark and I are grateful to have found a church home here at Cordova Bay.

## Responsibilities

My position as Music Director involves:

- Planning most of the hymns we sing for Sunday services and meeting with the team on Tuesday mornings to plan worship for the next Sunday.
- Choosing, practicing, and playing preludes, "Music for Contemplation," service music, choir anthems, and postludes. It might also involve contacting soloists, vocal or instrumental, finding music, practicing it with them, and accompanying them at services.
- Choosing choir anthems (hopefully anthems that support and enhance the theme of the service), learning/practicing them, leading Thursday night and Sunday morning choir practices, and directing the anthem during Sunday services.
- Ensuring the instruments are kept in good working order, i.e. booking tuning when needed, making sure the organ is kept in good working order, or keeping the Damp Chaser filled.
- Administration of the music program, including liaising with Margaret, the choir President and Chime Choir Director, and Glenn, the Worship Band Leader. I am also responsible for managing the choir library and budget.

## 2023 in Review

Some of the highlights of this past year include:

- *CBUC Choir:* What can I say except thank you?! Our choir is made up of enthusiastic, committed, welcoming, musically-literate, willing people, and is a genuinely caring community! They sing almost every Sunday ten months of the year and practice every corresponding Thursday night. I am humbled by and so grateful for and to them for singing our message of hope and peace and praise of God each Sunday with such passion and beauty.
- *Holy Week:* The choir sang at our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday worship services. We sang two pieces on Good Friday, one of which was a hauntingly lovely mini cantata. Easter Sunday was a celebration indeed with organ, piano, flute, and a vocal ensemble, thanks to Glenn Parsons on piano, Johanna de Lieu on the flute, and our quartet from the choir.

- *Community Building:* We enjoyed a great end-of-the-year (choir year) party in June, and a Christmas appetizer potluck the Thursday after the cantata. It is important to recognize their continued commitment, and the important work choir members do to animate worship and bring the message of God's love into the hearts of our congregation members.
- *Cantata:* We sang a new cantata this year, "Seekers of the Light," by Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes. Due to my unexpected absence Glenn had to start – and nearly finish - teaching it to the choir. Thanks to the choir for their willingness to come for three extra practices on top of the extra half hour at the end of Thursday night rehearsals for the two months prior. It beautiful and meaningful when the choir sang it December 17. Johanna played the flute and Glenn was at the piano so I could direct: both were a great gift to me, the choir, and the congregation. It was a special pleasure to have Casey, Erich, and Marcia join us for the cantata.

### The Year 2024 – and Onward

Looking to the future, you may be aware that a **new hymn book** is being released by the United Church of Canada! It is called "**Then Let Us Sing**" and will be released first on-line this fall (2024), and then in print form in 2025. The timing of the hymnal is significant: 2025 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Its release is both in celebration of our past century of existence, and in recognition that our future is looking quite different than our past, and music likewise needs to change as we begin to live into this next century. The UCC describes "Then Let Us Sing!" as

*a new online musical portal ['an online hymnal and music resource']. It will contain most of the pieces you've come to love from Voices United, More Voices, and Nos voix unies, plus a growing collection of NEW music. This digital platform will provide copyright cleared to all available hymns for print, projection, and streaming.*



### Thank You!

- To Margaret and the Chime Choir for bringing us worshipful haunting music each month, and to Margaret for the lovely pieces during communion.
- To Glenn for always being ready to add beauty (and fun!) to our worship from the piano bench.
- To the CBUC Worship Band and Glenn, their leader

- Lynn Dennis for his willingness to play whenever asked, whether it be 'Music for Contemplation' or a postlude or filling in when needed.
- Thank you also to **Jane** for making my work here so much easier. (I recently heard Bill Walker describe Jane as the "Church Administrator from Heaven" and I heartily agree!)

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Prindle Collins,  
CBUC Music Director*

## **CBUC Choir:**

### **Sopranos:**

- Sam Boehner
- Margaret Chambers
- Chris Cardy
- Peggy Dayton
- Ria Korteweg
- Carol Paton
- Lois Steeves
- Jeanette White

### **Altos:**

- Margaret Bates
- Kate Insley
- Beth Parsons
- Ruthe Tiessen
- Elaine Zandee

### **Tenors:**

- Stephen Godfrey
- Alan Hodgson (on leave)
- Guy Lokhorst
- Alan Priestley

### **Basses:**

- Mark Collins
- Lorne Holland
- Glenn Parsons
- Casey Vandenbrink (on leave)

## **Chime Choir**

Margaret Chambers, Director

- Barbara Shobbrook
- Christine
- Pat Shumka
- Peggy Dayton
- Chris Cardy

## **CBUC Worship Band**

Glenn Parsons – Leader

- Stephen Godfrey - bass
- Bruce Mackenzie - drums
- John Hobbs - guitar
- Doug Thompson - guitar
- Joe Bradley - soprano sax
- Kate Insley - flute
- Kathy Rassenti - clarinet
- Lynn Dennis - keyboard
- Brenda Paterson - accordion
- Peggy Dayton - vocal
- Alan Priestly - vocal
- Glenn Parsons – piano

(10 instrumentalists and 2 vocalists)