

# University of Victoria Chamber Singers

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# Alumni Newsletter

## Classmate News

**'74 Jean Godden** has lived in New York City since leaving U.Vic., singing only briefly in the U.S. By the age of 27, she moved into administration at Columbia University, and has had little contact with "Victorians" although she and **Charles Barber '84** are in touch every few years. She will retire in the next few years after her children finish college and plans to be a regular visitor to the west coast.

**'79 Betsy Burke** is the author of three *chicklit* novels for Red Dress Ink (*Lucy's Launderette*, *Performance Anxiety*



and *Hardly Working*) and is currently working on a mystery series set in Florence. Her first mystery novel, *The Laughing Madonna*, is about to be re-released in a Kindle edition. She lives on the Arno river (Florence) with her husband and daughter. Here she is during a visit by Connie & Bruce in June.

**'84 Elizabeth MacIsaac** - in addition to her superb women's chorus in Victoria, Ensemble Laude, Liz enjoys a career as a solo performer in early music. She gave a recital at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris on June 15 of this year (which Connie and Bruce sadly just missed, since we left Paris for Italy on June 7.)

**'83 Robb Hogan** is a Travel Consultant in Vancouver.

**'84 Keith Todd** is a Music Educator in the Kootenay Lake School District.

**'86 Margaret Gillie**, a free-lance clarinetist in Toronto, wrote to us to "one up" our world travels: "I'm greatly enjoying the your travel experiences! I drove to Vaughan (suburb north of Toronto) for a soccer tournament last weekend. Bet you're jealous! ...and en route, I enjoyed some fine dining at an air-conditioned Tim Horton's in a strip mall alongside of the freeway! Bon appetit mon ami."

**'87 Karen Shumka** (Pattullo) is CEO at Delta Global, Entrepreneur, Coach, & "Revolutionary".

**'87 James Carter** is an owner of Carter GM Northshore and a Board Member at Better Business Bureau of BC.

**'87 Benjamin Pease** (one of 2 ringers from UC Berkeley on the Europe tour) lives in San Francisco and just got back from 6 days in New Orleans. He is researching maps for the next in a trio of books by local author Rebecca Solnit, this one on New Orleans. Since about 1996 he's been doing cartography, mostly for trail guidebooks, tourist guides and also for websites and park agencies. He fondly remembers the '82 Xmas tour with the Berkeley choir (P5), our marvelously grouchy Scottish bus driver, and the Canadian singers exclaiming delight at seeing palm trees.

**'88 Bryan Berryman** - Christmas is the high season for musicians in Germany (as in most places) and November the "penitential" month with lots of Requiems. Bryan played (flute) in Mozart's C Minor Mass, Bach's B Minor mass, Handel's Joshua and then the first Advent started the Christmas Oratorio Orgy, which he will have played in 8 different concerts by the time Christmas Eve is over.

**'89 Doug Green** is a Market Analyst at Schneider Electric, Victoria.

**'91 Michelle McKenzie** is in the Donor Stewardship section of the Victoria Foundation.

**'91 Lauren Millin** (Moline) is Operations Manager at GIC direct.com in Victoria.

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**'91 Allison Girvan MacDonald** and her Corazon Youth Choir participated in Edmonton's "Voices West" festival with 4 other choirs including **Carrie Tennant '90** and her Coastal Sound Youth Choir on November 12. Allison is also preparing a lead role in husband **Don MacDonald's '89** new opera: *Khaos*, March 7 - 10 at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson.

**'93 Kim Dedman** (Braaten) is an Engineer in Technology Systems at SaskTel.

**'97 André Cormier & Robin** (Streb) '97 are moving from Vancouver to Montreal. A successful composer, André has had the opportunity to travel to premieres fairly regularly in New York, Montreal, LA, Germany (Munich & Düsseldorf) including 40 minutes of a full (3hr) opera workshoped and staged in Montreal

**'97 Gabriel Solomon** is a Boston-based violinist and violist who performs baroque, classical, and 21st-century music as well as avant-garde, improvisational, jazz, and folk music. He maintains a private teaching studio in Lexington, Massachusetts, and is a Registered Suzuki Teacher. He currently works as the Sound Studio Manager at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Born to Gabriel and Leah on September 14 was Oliver Solomon shown here in all his glory.



**'01 Haley Tarnow** hosted a Canada Day reception at her zillionth floor condo in James Bay which included several Chamber Singers alumni.

**'02 Tricia Truemner** is Regional Sales Manager at Bell Mobility in Vancouver.

**'04 Lucas Marchand** celebrated his June 25 wedding to Jenny in Cuba. **Graham Robinson '02** asked Bruce for "input" for the reception and always happy to oblige, I sent a "presentation" (see page 2).

**'06 Ryan Cho** is on the Board of Directors at British Columbia Aikido Federation and Check Your Head. He is also Curriculum Coordinator at the Pearson Seminar on Youth Leadership and International Education Coordinator at Terry Fox Secondary School in Burnaby.

**'07 Vanessa Johnson** (Hughes), having been accepted into all the law schools she applied for across Canada, is currently studying at UBC Law School.

**'08 Andrew & Sarah** (Helgeson) **Scambler** are preparing for a move to her hometown of Wrangell, Alaska (much to the vocal loss of Victoria choral resources).

**'09 Nathan MacDonald** and wife Candyce have moved back to Victoria in the Fall where he is studying voice with Nancy Argenta, having done her summer Oratorio program last year. He hopes to transition from being a trumpet player who sings to being a singer who plays the trumpet.

**'10 Andrew Clark** is a Bank Clerk at CIBC, University Heights, Victoria.

## The first annual summer retreat



Bruce Hill, Bruce Moore, Andrew Scambler, Don Elogge, Rick Knoles, Michael Joyce, Ruth Bard, Ivan Marko, Hayley Crittenden, Stephanie James, Rasma Bertz, Connie Moore, Bruce Hill, Evan Fahri, Allan MacPherson, James Robertson, Darryl Neville

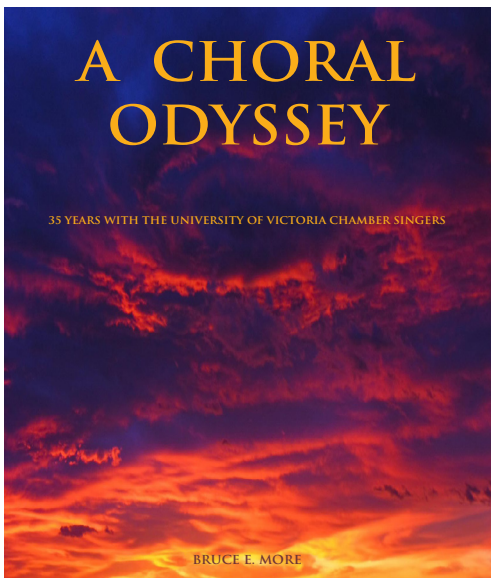
17 singers ranging from grad '81 to 2007 converged on Morehaven, (Bruce, Connie & Mac's summer home on Thetis Island) July 15 -17, coming from as far away as Toronto. Although by no design, the majority of the singers spanned the 1999 - 2003 tours so that the days (rainy) and evenings were filled with stories and laughter enjoyed by all, including those who were not on the particular tour being described. The pile of tour diaries & partial draft of my upcoming book saw lots of readers. I suspect the most magic moments were when this group of evenly divided parts (!) sight read through a half dozen of our old favourites: Casals: O Vos Omnes; Rachmaninoff: Borogoditse Dievo; Arvo Pärt: Solfeggio; Carrissimi: Plorate filii Israel; an attempt at "Mercedes" & "Cochero Pare" and acceptable renditions (from memory) of "Lord I Know I Been Changed" and "Schweelo".

Friday night's meal was pea & ham soup made by James Robertson paired with Bruce's "famous" gumbo, salads, and ice cream with Haley Crittenden's chocolate banana bread. Saturday night was Mexican with Ruth Bard's incredible rhubarb, raspberry, blackberry & apple pies. Rasma Bertz provided cinnamon buns and pizza pretzels, and several shared copious amounts of beverages (notably Darryl Neville and Michael Joyce).

A message from Darryl after the retreat used many words that summed up his feelings about the Chamber Singers: belonging, socializing, maintaining friendships, further ties, welcome into the family, near and far, old times, new times and most of all seeing people again. In addition to the retreat, in the past couple of years Connie & I have had the great pleasure of visiting 3 former students in England, one in Italy, many in Toronto, and also others in Kingston, Medicine Hat, Nelson, Castlegar, New York City, Westport CT and Charlottesville, Virginia.

As the group left, there was a unanimous desire expressed to do it again next summer. {Unfortunately Xenophobia reared its ugly head as Evan yelled "no new members", to general laughter}. As long as we can do it, we'll organize this event. During the school year, a retreat had specific musical rewards; now that we are retired, we reap the manifold benefits just mentioned.

## Bruce's Book Progress



I've had a productive 6 months with my writing - that is to say I've turned from navel-gazing to novel gazing! I've finished the years up to 2000 now and added a lengthy intro - I started with "It was the best of times....." but someone pointed out it's already been done. Then I tried "It all started in a little town called Ocean Falls", but I found out that it doesn't exist anymore. All kidding aside, writing about my life's steps leading to a career in choral conducting has been fascinating and has brought back many fond memories (yes, there was a life before Chamber Singers). So.... a decade of tour chapters to go... I'll keep you posted.

Bruce

## Retired School of Music Faculty



In February, Connie and Bruce hosted a dinner party for our retired colleagues (and spouses). All those years of abuse by music students did little to dampen the enthusiasm of seeing each other again.

**Back row** from right: Bruce More, Lanny Pollet, Connie More, Alexandra Browning Moore, Eric Schwandt, Elaine Daniels, George Corwin, Joanne Corwin, Barb MacDougall, Brian Fullerton (Elaine's husband).

**Front row:** Fran Pollet, Catherine Young, Sheila Longton, Michael Longton, Bernard Turgeon, Terry Turgeon and Ian Mac Dougall.

Unable to attend: Rudolf and Hana Komorous, Maria Sandor and Joan Backus.

We "raised our glasses" to our departed colleagues: Phil Young, Paul Kling, Dick Ely and Janos Sandor.

## S.E. Asia Tour 2009

*Those Cambodians may not be able to sew, but you oughta Siem Riep!*

Many thanks to Jenni Woodcock and Heather Russell for sending me a voluminous file of journals from the 2009 tour.

A sample - May 3, 2009 - Karolien Swaak

Finally, we made our way over to Baekdam Temple to enjoy our Temple Stay experience. The bus ride up the mountain where the temple was located was an experience in itself. Driving on a narrow, curvy road and with only cliff, rocks, and river to the left of us, we sped up the mountain jerkily - a ride which I found surprisingly enjoyable but which others found terrifying. Upon leaving the bus, Braden began kissing the ground in joy to have survived the journey.



After dinner, we all tried unsuccessfully to pile into a small space where monks were chanting and praying. We were quickly told to leave, likely because there were way too many of us and we were proving to be a distraction for the monks. We were, instead, led to a different room where everything was already set up for us to participate in a tea meditation. There were two large tables with large empty bowls and small cups of tea leaves on them for every choir member. We were then told to retrieve a thermos filled with extremely hot water and a small towel to bring with us over to our place at the table.

A very pleasant and funny female monk led us through the meditation, instructing us to pour the thermos water into the bowls and then to sprinkle in the tea from up above. We were then to place our heads into the bowls, covering our heads with the towels to receive the full effect of the steam. We were told to remain in this position for quite some time, breathing in the tea and reflecting on the question "Who am I?" I, surprisingly, found the experience to be quite relaxing and very cleansing for the sinuses. It would have been even more relaxing if not for the loud crashing sounds that occurred every so often as choir members knocked over their thermoses. When we lifted our heads, our faces were all bright red and covered in sweat. We were told to massage our sweaty faces with our hands, were asked to perform a few stretches, and then were made to flex our fists open and closed 200 times. During this torturous exercise, the monk kept telling us to smile, knowing full well the amount of discomfort we were experiencing. She made us all laugh. After the meditation, a few of us decided to take a short walk around the temple before bed to enjoy the peacefulness of the surroundings. The air was fresh, the sound of the river was soothing, and the lanterns placed around the grounds for Buddha's birthday were beautifully lit up. It was an amazingly beautiful evening and the perfect ending to a great day in Korea, one of the last ones we would experience before moving on to our next destination, Cambodia.

The diaries can be found in their entirety at:  
<http://people.finearts.uvic.ca/~bmore/Prima/Tour09Diaries.html>



## Lucas Marchand - a roast:



### BRUCE'S INPUT FOR LUCAS & JENNY'S WEDDING

When applying for admission to the UVic School of Music, Lucas was asked in his interview what his career goals were. When Lucas said "musician", they thought he said "magician" and, based on his audition, they thought "magic" would be a good choice, so they accepted him. Lucas's career in magic was cut short when he was charged by Art Metrano with "egregious copying of intellectual property". Having said that, I sincerely hope that he will do his act at some point during the wedding festivities. It might help keep things sober.

When asked for references, I never had problems using superlatives describing Lucas: I always said Lucas was the tallest (if not the cutest) red headed tenor Connie and I ever had in our choirs!

Always the environmentalist, Lucas is to be congratulated for his generous 2001 financial support of the Cuban vodka sector and particularly all the nutrients he donated to the bay in Cienfuegos. (If Dallas is here today, for God's sake, keep him away from Lucas!)

The world of dance will forever be in Lucas' debt for his stunning Mexico performances with Graham of "Draden's dance".

Lucas's grand solo debut as "Peter" in the St. John Passion was marred by his interpretation of the text. It takes a lot of talent and preparation to blow one out of two lines, Lucas. (And Graham was about the cutest "Jesus" I've ever heard). (click on "passion" below)

And thank you Lucas for your solo performance with Prima. Your rendition of "O Happy Day" was superb. It was a sort of "Stevie Wonder meets Whoopi Goldberg." (click on "happy" below)

I still think Lucas has missed his calling. I think he would have been an excellent Anglican Priest. (click on "anglican" below)

My dog Mac enjoyed his first love affair with Lucas's leg, a passion which has been lifelong (for Mac, not Lucas..... as far as I know). I know it was you, Lucas, who wrote on my student evaluation form: "his dog humped my leg!"

Connie and I very much enjoyed meeting Jennifer on two occasions. We thank God for her coming into Lucas's life and diverting him from the path of excess and debauchery on which he was headed.

In closing, let me say to you, Lucas, that of all the hundreds of singers I have conducted over the years, you were definitely one of them!

We send our warmest greetings and love to you both on this wonderful occasion. If you're worried about the sustainability of the marriage of 2 musicians, you can relax. Take it from a couple in their 42nd happy year together, marriage rocks!!!!

Check out the More Family website at:  
<http://krunchd.com/morenews>

# Bruce's Tunes Website

An invitation to all Chamber Singers Alumni

Please contact Bruce at [bmore@uwic.ca](mailto:bmore@uwic.ca) if you wish access & membership

This is a site dedicated to my singers and/or conducting students from the past 40 years who are actively engaged in conducting School, college, Church or community choirs

It contains .pdf scores & mp3 soundfiles of my arrangements and transcriptions and are offered to you free of charge (40 years of fond memories being my payment).

They are not particularly imaginative arrangements - mostly music which I have heard and finding no printed versions, have transcribed for Chamber Singers. In a couple of cases they are public domain arrangements. None of them are in "publication polish", so you should rely on the recordings for details. Only "Logdriver" has a piano accompaniment.

They are mostly light, sometimes humorous pieces which I've tried not to embellish, but present in their simple beauty - they were my programme finishers and some were the backbone of my Christmas humour concerts.

Three of my arrangements (Lord, Well, & Schweelo) are published with piano accompaniment by Santa Barbara Publishing, but I have included my original a cappella arrangements in the collection for your use.

It is my fondest hope that some of them will fill a repertoire void for your choral programme and give you some alternatives to the standard fare forced upon you by the current choral marketplace.

If you know another of my alumni who might like to access this material, please send me their contact information and I will get in touch with them directly.

## **GOSPEL SONGS & SPIRITUALS:**

Amazing Grace - pdf - mp3  
Lord, I Know I Been Changed- pdf - mp3  
My Father's House - pdf - mp3  
My Lord What a Mornin' - pdf - mp3  
O Happy Day - pdf - mp3  
Somethin' Got a Hol' On Me - pdf - mp3  
Well, well, well, Don' Worry 'Bout Me - pdf - mp3

## **"WORLD" MUSIC**

Arirang ( Korea) - pdf - mp3  
Bumba Meu Boy Bumba (Brazil) - pdf - mp3  
Igquirra Lendlela (South Africa) - pdf - mp3  
Kalinka (Russia) - pdf - mp3  
Ladi Pompong (South Africa)- (no pdf) - mp3  
Logdriver's waltz (Canada) - pdf - (no mp3)  
Lyeepa Vyekovaya (Russia) - pdf - mp3  
Nkosi Sikelele (South Africa) - pdf - mp3  
Now I Walk In Beauty (Navajo) - pdf - (no mp3)  
O Canada- pdf - (no mp3)  
Pare Cochero (Cuba) - pdf - mp3  
Pilentze Pe (Bulgaria) - pdf - mp3  
Schweelo (South Africa)- pdf - Tulalima - pdf - mp3  
Siponono (South Africa)- pdf - mp3  
Vela Vele (South Africa)- pdf - mp3  
We Majekeje (South Africa) - (no pdf) - mp3

## **HUMOROUS**

Fawly Towers Theme - pdf - mp3  
Saanich Coffins - pdf - mp3  
Carols from the edge - pdf of all 13  
1. Joy to Home for Christmas - mp3  
2. Holly & the Rudolf - mp3  
3. Once in a Merry - mp3  
4. God rest ye merry snowman - mp3  
5. First Noel Santa Claus - mp3  
6. Lully thou little jingle - mp3  
7. It Came Rockin' - mp3  
8. Lo how a Rudolf - mp3  
9. Hark the Herald - mp3  
10. What Child is St. Nick - mp3  
11. Angels we have heard in snow - mp3  
12. O Holy Santa - mp3  
13. Little Drummer Chestnut - mp3 - (no pdf)

## **TOUR SONGS** - pdf of all 3 - (no mp3s)

1. Thankyou Song 2. "Wrong Song" 3. Late Song

# Bruce's Tunes Members

## **International**

Qatar, United Arab Emirates  
Chester Garber '93 - American School of Doha

Quito, Ecuador  
Maria Giesbrecht '94- Colegio Menor San Francisco de Quito choir

Kiev, Ukraine  
Wes Janzen '79 - Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.

Saigon, Vietnam  
Simon Leung '91 - Saigon Global Echoes Orchestra and Chorus.

Sokcho, Korea  
Felipe Sequiera '91 - Sokcho International School

Graham Specht

## **Vancouver Island**

Colwood, B.C.  
Glynis Dawson - Belmont High School Choirs

Parksville, B.C.  
Ann Barber - Parksville & District Community Choir, Cantando Chamber Choir

Qualicum, B.C.  
Rick Robson - Ballenas Secondary School  
Brent Kellas - Qualicum Middle School

Nanaimo, B.C.  
Ruth Bard  
Ken Brewer - Nanaimo Senior Secondary  
Wade Noble - Malaspina Choir  
Sharon Sinclair - Wellington Secondary School Choir, Sinclair Singers

Shawnigan Lake, B.C.  
Shannon Tyrrell - Shawnigan Lake School Choir

Salt Spring Island, B.C.  
Rasma Bertz

Victoria, B.C.  
Kristen Birley - Selkirk Montessori School  
Kathy (Coneys) Alexander - Dansko studio  
Arlene Ewert - Selkirk Montessori School grade 5/6  
Jennifer Harvey - accompanist - Glen Lyon Norfolk School Choirs  
Carolyn Howe - Eric Martin Choir, St. John the Divine Children's Choir  
Stephanie James - MacKenzie Elementary School Choir  
Inge (Schenck) Ilman - Glenlyon Norfolk Children's Choir  
Elizabeth MacIsaac '84 - Ensemble Laude - Brentwood College Concert Choirs, Victoria Conservatory Voice faculty  
Melissa (Sequeira) McKnight - 2 Choirs at Cedar Hill Middle School, Community Jazz Vocal Group

Simon Leung - Victoria Summer Chorus  
Nate MacDonald - Lutheran Church of the Cross Choir  
Wade Noble - Prima Choir, Vancouver Island Chamber Choir, Sooke Philharmonic Choir  
Phillip O'Reilly - St. Andrews High School Choirs  
Byron Phillips - Central Baptist Church Choir  
Tobin Stokes - Composer  
Chris Thompson  
Sarah Weicker - Canadian College of Performing Arts

## **U.S.**

Westport, Connecticut  
Robert Kwan - Organist and choirmaster - Christ & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Charlottesville, Virginia  
Chris Morash - Deacon - Holy Incarnation Parish Music Dept.

Anna's Bay, Washington  
Melissa Plagemann - Anna's Bay Chorale

## **Eastern Canada**

Toronto, Ontario  
Dallas Bergen - Univox Choir,  
First Unitarian Church Choir,  
Regent Park School of Music  
Parkdale Children's Choir  
Sarah John - Vespera Choir

Montreal, Quebec  
Ana Alvarez Sandoval '09 - McGill University Women's Choir

## **Mainland B.C.**

Duncan, B.C.  
Sheila (Sartini) Johnson - Cowichan Valley Youth Choir - Junior Concert Choir, Chorale  
Golden, B.C.

Sue Gould - Young Golden Voices

Kamloops, B.C.  
John Churchley - Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources, School District #73

Castlegar, B.C.  
Shannon Moldenhauer - Stanley Humphries Secondary

Coquitlam, B.C.  
Alia Yeates - Riverside Secondary in Port Coquitlam

Langley, B.C.  
Wes Janzen - Trinity Western University as Director of Choral Activities  
Patti Thorpe - HD Stafford Middle School Choirs

Nelson, B.C.  
Allison Girvan - Corazón, Shenango (Choirs)  
Don MacDonald - Composer

New Westminster  
Anne (Wilson) Unger - Vivo Children's Choir

North Vancouver, B.C.  
Mallory Schille - Primary and Intermediate Choir - St. Edmunds Elementary

Penticton, B.C.  
Justin Glibbery -  
Penticton Sr. Secondary School Choir,  
Naramata Community Choir

Richmond, B.C.  
Bryan Dimayuga - Assistant - Richmond Orchestra and Chorus

Vancouver, B.C.  
Ryan Cho - Terry Fox Secondary School Choir  
Taylor Collishaw - Point Grey Secondary School Junior, Senior and Chamber Choirs

Rog Hogan  
Stephanie Loo - Music Teacher on Call  
Carrie Tennant - Coastal Sound Youth Choir,  
Sarah McLachlan Music School Youth Choir,  
Chor Leoni MYVoice Vancouver Choir,  
UBC Chamber Choir

Winfield, B.C.  
Peter DesRoches - 80 voice high school SATB choir and a 32 voice women's chamber choir