

Do you ever look out of the window? (Just asking.)

And when you see all that beautiful white snow, what do you

think, or rather, dream of? Of going to bed like the bears and waking up in the spring? Ah! But you're not supposed to.

Imagine. If you did, you'd sleep right through our most wonderful season and miss all the Christmas celebrations.

Happily, Merrill Flewelling (who seemingly never sleeps) looked out of his window at the beginning of September and dreamed... that yet again this December it would be a white Christmas in the Peace River country. He drummed up a whole bunch of wonderful singers at both the Fort St. John and Dawson Creek colleges and started getting ready to celebrate.

You guessed it! Merrill is the conductor of our own Northern Lights Chamber Choir. Never heard of them? Well, they happen to be the best choir in the Peace district. Not only that, their annual Christmas Carol performances are a tradition here AND they're always sold out.

This December their performances will take place in Fort St. John's North Peace Secondary High School on Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. or before that in Dawson Creek's Unchagah Hall on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. Tickets will be on sale for the last week of November and are available from choir members in both communities, the Artspace in Fort St. John and Friendly Bookworm in Dawson Creek.

For more information about these Christmas concerts, or about the choir in general (such as joining up), please call the Music Department at Northern Lights College, Fort St.



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The Northern Lights Chamber Choir's concert went off without a hitch last weekend, attracting a huge crowd of listeners at the high school. The choir's musical selection included traditional Carols as

well as modern arrangements on well loved Christmas songs. Soloist Laura Cardriver did a magnificent job as the Appalachian Carol, I Wonder as I Wander. The entire choir made the audience remember how beautiful the human voice sounds.

Carols set the Christmas mood

DEC 1988

Yes, they're being played again, on the radio, in the supermarket, all over: Christmas Carols.

That may all well be very nice, but there's of course nothing more satisfying than a "live" performance of carols — a really good live show actually — and this is what you'll be able to go to right here in town Dec. 10, 8 p.m. at North Peace Secondary School.

Carols will be sung by our own (and now famous) Northern Lights Chamber Choir, which has been rehearsing them under the direction of Merrill Flewelling for the last three months.

Vancouver-based classical singer Richard Williams is coming up to guest-conduct the event. He has

given several choral workshops to the choir in the past, besides singing solo in their performances, and he also teaches private voice lessons to choir members. If any of the general public is interested in taking a lesson from him in the next week (Dec. 5-9), please contact the music department at the College (785-6981). He's a marvelous voice teacher.

Getting back to the carols, on the stage program you'll hear not only such classics as Hark the Herald and Good King Wenceslas, but also new and interesting material: A Russian carol and some jazzy arrangements to be sung by the Northern Lights Jazz Choir. We also have several soloists such as Richard Williams,

and choir member David Lee will sing the solo in the Panis Angelicus.

Especially for this occasion a state-of-the-art organ will be brought up from Vancouver on which Merrill Flewelling will accompany the choir. He'll also play a solo. The organ sounds magnificent, just like a big pipe organ.

The visual effect will also be very "Christmassy", but you have to come and see for yourself. If you happen to have a Christmas dinner/party that night, why not incorporate this Christmas performance into it.

Tickets are available at Artspace and from choir members. For more information, call 785-6981 during the day or 785-2035 in the evening.

Submitted article



Photo by Scott Crowson

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir has been lifting local spirits during the past several weeks with Christmas carols and other

seasonal songs. They've performed at numerous venues around town, and earlier this week they sang at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

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