

Choir performs Sing, Sing Ye Muses

MAR 1990

Tickets are now available for the Northern Lights Chamber Choir's spring concert "Sing, Sing Ye Muses".

This year's performance will take place in the North Peace Mennonite Church on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The program ranges from 16th century to 20th century music by English, French and Canadian composers.

The choir will sing four excerpts from Handel's "Messiah", two works by the English baroque

composers Purcell and John Blow, a beautiful poetic composition by Frenchman Gabriel Faure and an "Ave Verum" by Imant Raminsh, who resides in British Columbia.

On top of that the Chancel Choir (a small group of singers) will treat you to Thomas Tallis' "Sancte Dues", written in the 16th century.

Also, this time the 70-member choir will be accompanied by the Northern Lights College Ensemble, a group of instrumentalists from this

region.

One piece will be wholly instrumental: a trio sonata by Handel for flute, oboe, cello and harpsichord. The conductor for the performance is Merrill Flewelling.

Tickets for this very interesting

concert are \$5 and are available from the Artspace (785-1990) and from choir members. They're going fast!

For more information about the concert or the choir, please contact the college at 785-6981.

College Choir preparing f

Sing, Sing ye Muses, a sampling of the most beautiful music written for Easter, from the days of Thomas Tallis to the present, will be performed by the Northern Lights College Choir under the direction of Merrill Flewelling.

The concert takes place in Fort St. John on Sunday, April 1, at 3 p.m. in the North Peace Mennonite Church.

In Dawson Creek, concert-goers can catch the Easter performance at the South Peace United Church on Saturday, March 31, at 8 p.m.

Sancte Deus, the earliest work on the

program, written by Thomas Tallis, is one of his longest motets with haunting, floating melodies.

Tallis arranged the plainsong of the English Church service, which is still in use today. Many of his works were dedicated to his sovereign, Elizabeth I.

Sing, Sing ye Muses is by John Blow (1649-1708), an English composer and organist at the Chapel Royal.

He is thought to have been a teacher of Henry Purcell when he was a choir boy there.

Purcell soon out-distanced Blow,

however, becoming organist and composer at Westminster Abbey at age 20, where the output of compositions in his short life was phenomenal.

Purcell, only 36 when he died in 1695, was replaced as organist at Westminster Abbey by Blow.

Rejoice in the Lord always, the "Bell Anthem", is the choir's sampling of Purcell.

Purcell's magnificent choral style is said to have influenced George Handel when he settled in England, where he composed the *Messiah* in 1741 in just 24 feverish days of writing.

for Easter concert

Its premier performance in Dublin was to raise funds for charity.

The choir will present several selections from the *Messiah*, which many consider the greatest oratorio ever written. In addition, a quartet of musicians will play a selection of Handel's instrumental music.

The musicians performing the Handel Sonata in D-minor, and accompanying the Purcell *Bell Anthem*, are Armine Samarco, cello; Esther Oosterbaan, oboe and recorder; Beverly Barradell and Sandra Gunn, flute; and Merrill J. Flewelling, harpsichord.

Born a century after the *Messiah*,

Gabriel Faure, a French organist and composer, brings us into the 20th century.

In his work, *Canticle de Jean Racine*, he set to music the classical poetry of Jean Racine (1639-1699) in a logical and balanced style of flowing music.

The final selection, *Ave Verum Corpus* by Canadian composer Imant Raminsh, published in 1983, brings the long tradition of beautiful choral Easter music into the present.

All tickets are \$5 and are available at Zero News in Dawson Creek and at the Artspace in Fort St. John. Tickets are also available from choir members.

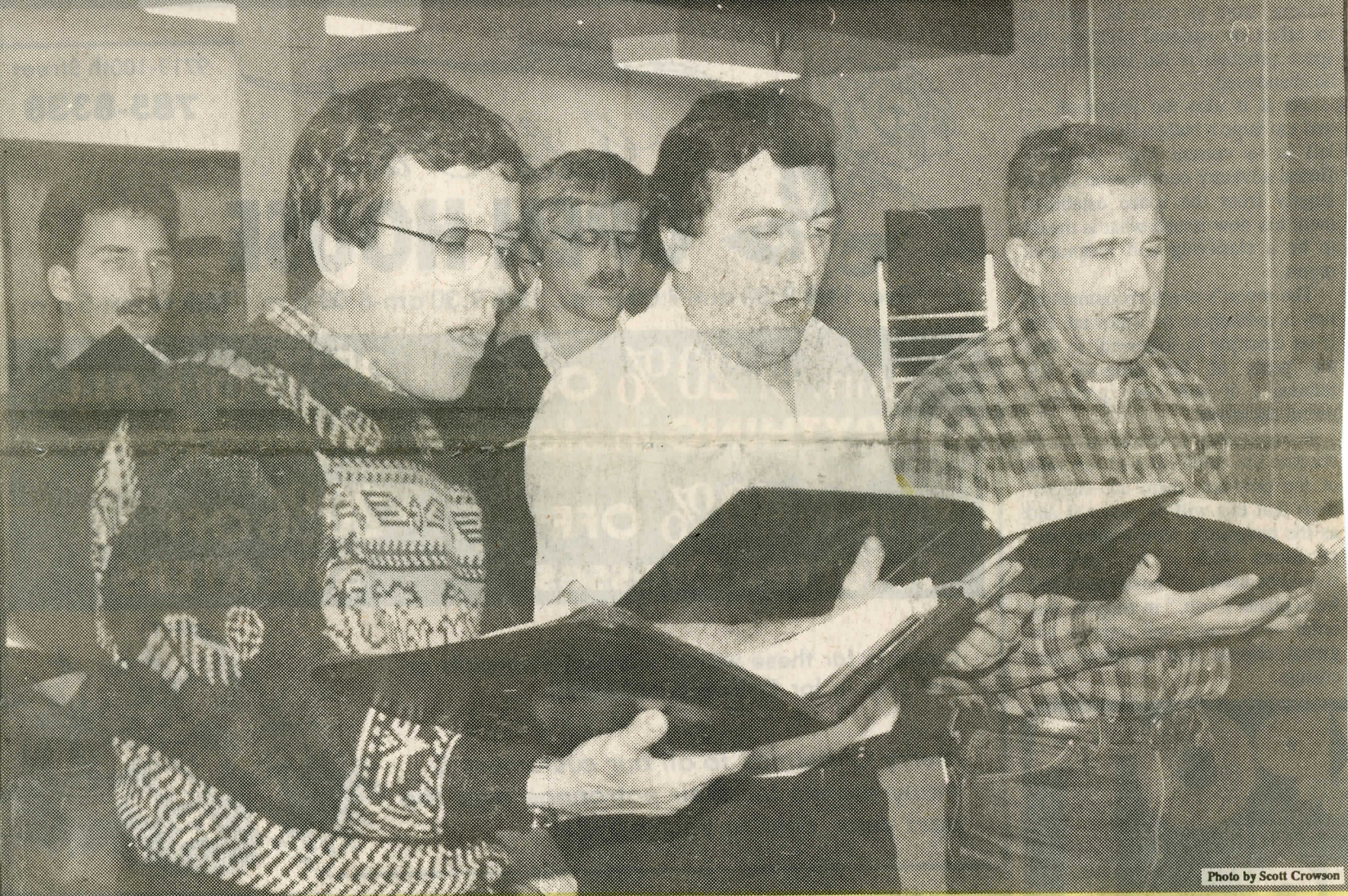


Photo by Scott Crowson

Glenn Henry (left), David Lee and Jim Bell have been singing up a storm during rehearsals with the Northern Lights Chamber Choir, which performs tomorrow in Fort St. John and Sunday in Dawson Creek. The local concert is at the Mennonite Church at 7:30 p.m. SEPT 1990

NLC choir sings of Christmas

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir will celebrate the Christmas season with an evening of song Saturday night.

The 30-member choir will perform a number of the most popular Christmas carols in the show aptly called "A Little Christmas Music." The choir will also sing classical pieces such as J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and two

movements from the *Christmas Midnight Mass* by Charpentier.

The Northern Lights College Chancel Choir, composed of the best singers from the Chamber Choir, will also perform a set of five Christmas carols.

The choirs will be accompanied a 25-piece orchestra composed of the members of the Northern Lights College Chamber En-

semble, the string ensemble from the college, students from The Shepherd's School of Music and local professional musicians.

Richard Williams, a baritone from Vancouver, will be the guest conductor. He will also perform as a soloist with his wife, Lynn, who sings with the North Shore Light Opera in Vancouver. Richard is a

soloist with the St. Andrews Wesley Church in the same city.

The show will take place at the North Peace Mennonite Brethren Church at 10816-106th St. on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors, and they are available at the Arts Centre or can be purchased from choir members or at the door.

Xmas concert Dec. 15

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir and Ensemble is doing it again!

It's an old tradition now — every Christmas this group puts on a Christmas performance and this year is no exception.

On Saturday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mennonite Church, you'll be able to hear "A Little Christmas Music" as performed by this local group of singers and instrumentalists.

The program is a mixture of "serious" and not so serious Christmas music. Excerpts from J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio will be performed as well as two movements from the Christmas Midnight Mass by Charpentier. In addition to this, the audience will be

treated to some very fine Christmas Carols.

Guest conductor and singer Richard Williams and his wife, soprano Lynn Williams, will both appear as soloists in this concert.

The Northern Lights Chamber Choir will be accompanied by the Northern Lights Chamber Ensemble, a group of local professional musicians. They in turn will be joined in Charpentier's Mass by the string ensemble from Northern Lights College, a group of advanced string students of college instructor Dan Dickout.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. They're available from the Artspace, from choir members and at the door.

For more information, call Esther at the college, 785-6981.

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