

University of Victoria Chamber Singers Alumni Newsletter



Isaiah Bell '06

Victoria tenor's role in the new opera from composer Rufus Wainwright and librettist Daniel MacIvor could wind up being the opportunity of a lifetime. In fact, 33-year-old Isaiah Bell's steady ascent in the opera world might become a rapid trajectory after this weekend's performance at Toronto's 2,070-seat Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. (October)

**Robin (Powell) Mitchell '74
1954-2018**



From her husband Jory: Sadly but also rejoicing, I announce the passing of my beautiful, precious and godly Robin into eternity to be with Jesus yesterday, May 27th, 2018 at 7:25 a.m. I was with her through the night and quietly, peacefully and with incredible strength, she slipped into eternity ensuring that I would be there with her walking her home.

Elizabeth MacIsaac '84
Congratulations from all of us on receiving her DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington last May. Liz conducts Victoria's superb women's ensemble: Ensemble Laude. Liz's partner is Ian Bullen '96 and her Assistant Conductor is Carolyn Howe '93.



Jackie Fay '07

Note from the desert (Israel)



I am on a hunt for a piece of music we sang when I was in chamber singers. I'm looking for the music to "Lyeeepa," which we sang on the Russia tour.

We've started a program here in the desert (college level) for improvised music as a vehicle for social change. Its mostly a jazz program and I am brining the classical training. This year I decided to start choir with them! The students are mostly instrumentalists but we sing Bach chorals twice a week in the morning for solfege and whatnot and it became obvious that they need an a capella choir!

Charles Barber '84

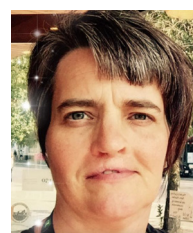
Announces **Chinatown**: A New Chamber Opera from O! City Opera by Madeleine Thien. City Opera's next commission, scheduled for world premiere in late 2021, is underway. It tells the story of the people and culture of one of our most vital neighbourhoods. It won the Governor-General's Award, and the Giller Prize, and has been translated into 17 languages.



Jennifer (White) Parlee '97



Carrying on Chamber Singer's tradition, her Allegra Singers went on a two week concert tour to Ireland last June. The Allegra Singers are particularly active in their support of local charities.



Rasma Bertz '90

Ari and I have been living in West Sussex for a year now, on the south coast between Bognor Regis (where my mum was conceived) and Littlehampton.

Last year, I volunteered at the Southbourne Public Library, west of Chichester (not to be confused with Southbourne near Bournemouth). With my increasing musical activities this year, I am staying closer to home - in the garden that I've been allowed to design pretty much from bare bones; on the beach at Elmer Sands which is 2 minutes away from our house; at the Weald & Downland Living History Museum, where I volunteer as a reference librarian; and at Boxgrove Priory, where I've virtually been living this Holy Week because they do things very old school (we get to sing some music from original facsimile and illuminated manuscripts found in the priory archives, so not only have I had to remember my crochets, quavers and minims, but I'm now fully versed in neumes and sarum too).

The choirs of both Boxgrove Priory and a small chamber group, Chantry Quire have been very welcoming and are happy to have someone bi-sectional in their midst. The Boxgrove peeps also inveigled me into learning to play the viola da gamba, although I'm happier learning folk tunes than Playford, and I'm not dedicated to practising, I must admit. I'm getting increasing requests to sing for talks, funerals and weddings as part of Boxgrove's musical outreach, and my next gig is with a small group of us singing madrigals at a local Beltane celebration - probably accompanied by Morris dancers (a big thing down our way). The lady who set it all up also gave my name to a conductor who organises programmes of music with reknowned early music choral conductors in amazing settings for small groups of invite-only singers. I find myself looking forward to the "Venice Music Party" in October. I've booked a fabulous Dosadura apartment less than one minute walk from the rehearsal space, which is next to the Guggenheim, and will enjoy a week of rigorous rehearsals before a performance in one of the big catholic churches near St Marks. Thanks to Ari, it's my 50th birthday present although we'll keep the actual date on the down low! I plan to host my forty-eleventh birthday party in BC in 2020.

Re-connect
this year!

Summer
Retreat
2019

Morehaven
Thetis Island

Friday-Sunday
July 12-14

(RSVP BY JUNE 15)

FRIDAY - JULY 12:

Afternoon - retreat begins
7pm: dinner & socializing

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Morning: Breakfast & socializing
11am - Singing
1pm - Lunch
Afternoon: socializing,
hiking, sports, swimming etc.
7pm - Focus dinner
8pm - Best Chamber Singers
stories, games, more singing.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

8:30 am Breakfast
9 and 10:55 departures.

Thetis Island
Ferry Schedule:

[HTTP://WWW.BCFERRIES.COM/
SCHEDULES/SOUTHERN/CHTI-CUR-
RENT.PHP](http://www.bcferries.com/schedules/southern/CHTI-CUR-RENT.PHP)

MOREHAVEN Telephone #
250-246-2105
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Hell-bent for old-age!

Connie and I persist in our quest for obscurity, but we're just not very good at it! Connie is busy with political work: Premier John Horgan's constituency executive, proportional representation voting, etc. I'm still working with the Dandelion Society (homeless aid), doing several newsletters and websites and family history. We have just returned from a house exchange in Lokeren, Belgium, from which we visited Ghent, Bruges, Antwerp, Brussels, and the First War western front, where my Grampa fought. Our big news, however, is that our son-in-law Eric has gotten our daughter Alexis pregnant. Needless to say that in addition to their excitement, Gramma and Grampa are "over the moon" about this upcoming mid-August event!

It's been 10 years now since we retired together, and life just gets better and better!

