

# Spring 1958

## Premiere Performance

The first Community Choir was formed to celebrate Pembroke's Centennial. Victor Togni directed and Elva Remus (later Merredew) accompanied, while Agnes Boucher was the featured soloist.

About 600 people attended the concert in the Pembroke Collegiate Auditorium (now École Publique Équinoxe).

Early One Morning

Rounds:

Are You Sleeping, Brother John?

Three Blind Mice

Doubleround

Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms

Ah Si Mon Moine Voulait Danser (solo)

Steal Away (Ladies' Choir)

Santa Lucia (Men's Choir)

Pledge the Canadian Maiden

*Solos:*

Poor Wandering One - Gilbert & Sullivan

Una Voce Poco Fa - Rossini

*Girls' Choir*

Blue Moon

I'm in the Mood for Love

Hallelujah, I'm a Bum (Men's Choir)

Song of the Pedlar - L. William

Alleluia - Mozart (solo)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach

According to the review in the Pembroke Observer, Agnes Boucher also sang the Polish folk song "Mother Dear". There was mood lighting for "Blue Moon", and the "ragged players ascended the stage from everywhere and joined in a carefree, vagabond rendition of 'Hallelujah, I'm a Bum'".

This is a partial listing based on the choir photo (see the Gallery page):

Pat Trottier, Audrey (Kennedy) Waddell, Margaret Lyons, Helena Kropp, Martha Kodzynski, Joyce (Griffith) Moore, Agnes Boucher, Edythe Woods, Barbara Montaigne, Lois Saar, ?Lyons, Marjorie Cotnam, Pat Deavitt, Joyce Nelson, Shirley Kirk, Myrtle Smallpiece, Bernice Levoy, Thamer Brose, Elva (Remus) Merredew, Doris (Brandenburg) Gauthier, Arlene Wolff, Hildred Hamilton, ? Zieroth, James Hampson, Mickey Hammond, Mary Biesenthal, Irene Remus, Doris Saar, Victor Togni (director), Edward Risto, Graham Kranz, Mel Bryant, Rudy Kodzynski, Henry Akre, Charles Kropp, Royden Kropp, John Dixon, James Gauthier.

PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

of the

# Pembroke Community Choir

**Wednesday, April 23rd**

8.15 p.m.

**COLLEGIATE AUDITORIUM**

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Director - - - - - Victor Togni

Guest Soloist - - - Agnes Boucher (Soprano)

Pianist - - - - - Elva Remus

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M.C. - - - - - "Tug" Wilson

This evening is something more than just another evening of song. It is a significant step forward in the cultural life of this district in that it is the first time in its history that Pembroke and neighboring communities have been invited to enjoy and support their very own Community Choir.

Singers drawn from every part of the community represent all that is finest in individual choral groups in churches and other activities. All have been delighted to unite their talents in one common purpose . . . to have Pembroke share in a nation-wide sense of urgency in building those things which one day will make us known more for what we are and less for what we have.

Sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the choir began rehearsals in January, 1958, under the direction of Victor Togni, A.R.C.M.

It is significant that the undertaking should have its beginning in this Centennial Year. It is the choir's intention to be a permanent part of the Ottawa Valley's cultural life for the 100 years to come.

—RUTH GORDON

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
PEMBROKE HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD  
THE PEMBROKE OBSERVER  
RADIO STATION CHOV  
SMART TOGS LADIES' CLOTHING STORE  
SERVICE PRESS