

Just hearing the name of this northern Canadian territory conjures up vivid and romantic images of mythic proportion – the Klondike Gold Rush, the Land of the Midnight Sun, the Cremation of Sam McGee, the Northern Lights, and icebergs, glaciers and grizzlies.

Although the famous gold rush has long been over, there is something about the Yukon that still draws thousands of people there every year and entices some to stay forever. Is it the landscape . . . or the mythology that brings people there? Or, could it be the history of the mining towns, or the mystery of the Aurora Borealis?

The Whitehorse Community Choir is in Ontario to perform at the Shaw Centre and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa on Canada Day. In a musical celebration called 'Unisong', there will also be 15 other choirs from across the country which will form a massed choir of approximately 600 voices. Some of the songs the Yukon choir has chosen to perform for the Canada Day concert will be sung for the Pembroke audience as well.

WCC choir director Barbara Chamberlin described how some of the pieces were originally developed: "A few years ago, I wanted to do something special to celebrate some of our local poets and songwriters," she explained. "We received a grant and commissioned 12 new works combining Yukon poets and songwriters with arrangers and arranger/composers from the Yukon and across Canada.

The Pembroke audience will actually be hearing three Yukon choirs perform. The Whitehorse Community Choir has an average of 80 members who sing a varied repertoire from modern to classical, but within that large choir, some members have also branched out to form smaller choirs of about a dozen singers in each. The Persephone Singers and the Chamber Choir are two of the auditioned groups who will present some of their repertoire in Pembroke.

"It is always a wonderful experience to hear other choirs, especially when they bring their own unique Canadian perspective to the music," says PCC director Gerald LaRonde. "We feel honoured to have been invited to sing at the Whitehorse Community Choir concert and are really looking forward to seeing this special performance ourselves. It will be a great way to experience the true spirit of Canada."

Liner notes by Jane Hebert, Pembroke Community Choir

Bennett Lake, Yukon
Photo: Grace Snider



WHITEHORSE
COMMUNITY
CHOIR

The Whitehorse
Community Choir Presents

The Spell of the Yukon

Sunday,
July 2, 2017

3:00 P.M.

Calvin United Church

Whitehorse Community Choir
Pembroke Community Choir
Persephone Singers • Chamber Choir

Directors
Barbara Chamberlin • Gerald LaRonde

Programme

Persephones

The Northern Lights – Words by Lex Widdis; Music by Stephen Hatfield

Hudson Bay Boys – Words and Music by Daniel Tlen; Arr by Barbara Chamberlin

Dog of Shame – Words and Music by Barbara Chamberlin

The Whitehorse Chamber Choir

Cold Snap – Words by Clea Roberts; Music by David K. McIntyre

Song for a Winter's Night – Words and Music by Gordon Lightfoot, arr. Robin Salkeld

12 Days of Summer – Words by the Whitehorse Chamber Choir, Arr. by Basil Rathbone

Baba Yetu – Swahili adaption of the Lord's Prayer by Chris Kiagiri, Music by Christopher Tin

After the Goldrush – Words and Music by Neil Young, Arr. by Barbara Chamberlin

Pembroke Community Choir

Log Driver's Waltz – Words and music by Wade Hemsworth, Arr. Mike McCormick

Song for the Mira – Words and Music by Allister MacGillivray, Arr. Stuart Calvert Soloist: Cindy Wheeler

Hallelujah – Words and Music by Leonard Cohen. Arr. Roger Emerson

Something to Sing About - Words and Music by Carl Tapscott. Arr. Oscar Brand

INTERMISSION

Whitehorse Community Choir

Land of Gold - Words and Music by Manfred Janssen, Jim Vautour, Arr. by Barbara Chamberlin

A Love Song - Words and Music by Jerry Alfred, Arr. by Andrea McColeman

Crystal Trees – Words by Lex Widdis; Music by Lydia Adams

Highwind – Words and Music by Manfred Janssen; Arr. by Ron Small

Shadhel – Music by Daniel Tlen; Arr. by Barbara Chamberlin

Ned's Lament – Words and Music by Manfred Janssen and Bernie Phillips. Soloists: Trevor Ratcliff, MaryJane Johnson, Liz Barker

Annie Lake Road – Words and Music by Sylvie Painchaud; Arranged by Olivier De Columbel. Soloist: Sylvie Painchaud

Combined Choirs

Hymn to Freedom – Words by Harriette Hamilton, Music by Oscar Peterson, arr Paul Read

We Rise Again – Words and Music by Leon Dubinsky; Arranged by Lydia Adams. Soloists: Angela Venasse, Dorothy Martin, Astrid Sidaway-Wolf, Sue Edelman, Lillian Strauss, Flynn Fortier, Cindy Wheeler, Terri Peever

