



MEDIA RELEASE

November 2017

**A CELTIC CHRISTMAS:
PEMBROKE COMMUNITY CHOIR SET TO PERFORM SPECIAL CONCERT**



Winter has now made an appearance and that means the beginning of many special Christmas events and activities.

One favourite event that kicks off the holiday season is the Pembroke Community Choir's annual Christmas concert which they have been practicing since September. This year's theme is "***A Celtic Christmas***" where many traditional seasonal favourites have been given a Celtic treatment in melody or arrangement.

Darlene TerMarsch offers beautiful piano accompaniment and will be joined by special guests who add Celtic instrumentation to the songs. Musicians include Paul McClelland on Scottish smallpipes, tin whistle, and bodhran (Celtic drum), Jana Lau playing violin, and Sandra Allen providing flute accompaniment.

Choir Director Gerald LaRonde has chosen many lovely Christmas pieces, some from the 17th and 18th century, that have lyrics set to familiar Irish, Scottish and English tunes.

"These beautiful songs capture the spirit of the Advent and Christmas season and we're sure the audience will enjoy them", says LaRonde. "With one of the largest choirs we've had to date, the blend of voices brings out the dynamics and four-part harmonies well. We're also very pleased to have our talented special guests whose excellent musical skills add an authentic Celtic flavour to the repertoire".

Some of the songs the choir will perform include *A Celtic Silent Night*, *Celtic Advent Carol*, *Enniscorthy Carol*, *Christmas Pipes*, *The Celtic Rose*, *An Irish Christmas Blessing*, and a *Celtic Christmas Lullaby*, to name a few.



A CELTIC CHRISTMAS – Pembroke Community Choir Concert – December 3, 2017



The Pembroke Community Choir was founded almost 60 years ago and performs two concerts a year, in April and December.

Members of this 80-voice choir come from all over Renfrew and Pontiac Counties including Renfrew, Eganville, Cobden, Douglas, Pembroke, Petawawa, and Deep River.

Each year they become involved in community

activities such as singing at senior residences, entering a float in the Parade of Lights, or performing Christmas carols at the Cenotaph before the parade. The choir welcomes new members at the beginning of September and January and no auditions are required...just a love of singing.

2017 has been a busy year for the choir. In addition to performing their own “Canada 150” celebratory concert in April, they were invited to perform at the Yukon Community Choir concert held in Pembroke in July. The PCC has also recently been invited to Carnegie Hall in New York City to participate in a massed international choral performance in January 2019, a special concert they had also been a part of in 2015.

“A Celtic Christmas” will be performed on Sunday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. at Calvin United Church in Pembroke.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and are available from choir members, Kevin’s Flowers in Petawawa, or the Pembroke Mall’s Customer Care office.

If tickets are not sold out, they may be purchased at the door for \$18. Children 13 years old and under are free.



For more information about the concert or the choir, check out the PCC website:
www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org