



PEMBROKE COMMUNITY CHOIR
www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org

MEDIA RELEASE

November 2018

**COMMUNITY CHOIR TO PERFORM TWO CHRISTMAS CONCERTS
IN PEMBROKE & RENFREW**

Picture a beautiful and silent winter night....a velvety black sky, crisp winter air, and snow-muffled walks. If only we could capture that peaceful feeling throughout the busy holidays ahead.

Let the Pembroke Community Choir set the tone for the season, as they perform a beautiful Christmas concert in both Pembroke and Renfrew this year. ***"Night of Silence"*** will include sacred and secular pieces, some new, and some familiar, but all will bring a sense of hope and renewal at this spiritual time of year.

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Before a mini-concert at Marianhill seniors' residence, a few singers from the Pembroke Community Choir's 85 voice ensemble display the poster for their two upcoming concerts of "Night of Silence". In the front row are Heather LaFroy and Diane Wolfgram. Back row from the left are Ann Zadow, Suzanne Hartlin, Cathy Kennedy, choir accompanist Darlene TerMarsch, Jennifer Francis, Jane Mottershead, and Janet Schultze-Jones.

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In 2018, the 85-voice choir has been celebrating its 60th anniversary Diamond Jubilee and is looking forward to performing their Christmas concert in two communities this year. Choir director Gerald LaRonde is enjoying his ninth year in the conducting role, and once again, he has chosen some stirring music with interesting arrangements for concert audiences.

He has also assembled some talented musicians to round out the choral performance. The choir's long-time piano accompanist Darlene TerMarsch, an excellent singer and musician in her own right, will be joined by an experienced string ensemble that features Jana Lau and Kirsten Waymann on violins, along with cellist Marion Arthur.

The soloist is the talented soprano Jessica Belanger, a Renfrew native, who said she is thrilled to be performing in this concert with the Pembroke Community Choir. Jessica is a graduate of the Schulich School of Music at McGill University, where she studied voice performance with tenor Stefano Algieri and subsequently completed her education degree at Nipissing University.



She currently teaches music in Renfrew to students from Kindergarten to grade 7. Since 2009, she has directed the Renfrew Children's/Youth Chorus and for several years she was the professional chorister with the Ottawa Choral Society. During that time, she frequently performed with both the National Arts Centre and Ottawa Symphony Orchestras. Jessica has also been involved with the Ottawa Valley Music Festival since its inception in 1994 and has performed as soprano soloist on many occasions over the years.

For the Pembroke and Renfrew concerts, Jessica will be featured in several pieces including *Song of Mary*, *This Holy Night*, *Ave Maria*, and *Et Misericordia* from “Magnificat”. She will also sing a solo performance of *Winter Lullaby* and *Dans le silence de la nuit*.

Mr. LaRonde hopes to have another sold-out Christmas concert this year and encourages audience members to get their tickets early. “It’s a hectic time of year”, he said. “We hope you will come out and listen to one of our concerts and enjoy the beginning of a peaceful and relaxing holiday season.”

The Pembroke concert is on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 7 pm at Calvin United Church. The Renfrew concert will be held the following evening, Monday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Advance tickets are \$15 or \$18 at the door and children under 13 are free. Pembroke tickets are available from choir members, at the Pembroke Mall office, and at Kevin's Flowers, in Petawawa. Renfrew tickets can be purchased at the TD Bank, Raglan St. S., in Renfrew and also at Pembroke ticket venues.

For more information, visit the choir's website at:

www.pembrokecommunitychoir.org