

*Foothills Male Chorus
News Release
April 14, 2008*



Foothills Male Chorus Presents its Spring Concert Series May 9th – 12th

The Foothills Male Chorus presents its 3rd annual Spring Concert Series in Edson (May 9th), Jasper (May 10th – Anglican Church) and Hinton (May 11th & 12th). Concerts will begin at 7 p.m. at the Red Brick Arts Centre in Edson, Jasper's St. George and St. Mary Anglican Church and the Hinton Alliance Church. The Chorus will be joined this year by Edmonton's Tenor Power as well as the Blue Diamond Quintet. In addition, the Chorus's own Pathfinder Quartet and Pilgrims Octet will present some numbers. Tickets are \$15 for individuals, \$40 for families and are available at the Red Brick Arts Centre in Edson, Jasper Rock and Jade in Jasper, and the Hinton Municipal Library. Tickets will also be sold at the door on performance nights.

The Chorus and guests will present a variety-packed program from a broad spectrum of musical genres including folk, classical, gospel, traditional and popular songs.

Notes on Performers:

The Foothills Male Chorus

This 28-member choir, founded and directed by Bob Udell in September 2005, performs at a number of events in the West Yellowhead, including spring concerts every year in Hinton, Jasper and Edson. The choir is widely known for the quality of its singing and repertoire and it appeared as guest artist in the Men Making Music Concert at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton in March 2007. It is accompanied by Dolores Logan, who brings a lifetime of experience as an accompanist and piano teacher, to the role.

Tenor Power



The Foothills Male Chorus is pleased that Edmonton-based Tenor Power is coming to the West Yellowhead area to be part of our spring concert series. Members include:

1. Lary Benson, the founder of Tenor Power, has performed with the Edmonton Opera in some 85 performances over the years and has been a featured tenor in Opera Companies throughout Canada. He is currently nominated for the Atco Lifetime Award for his contribution to the Arts. He has taught voice to some 1500 students over the years and is currently teaching voice at Grant MacEwen Community College and Alberta College.
2. Dan Rowley has been singing since he was about 5 years of age and has been a student of Lary's since he was 8 years of age. He is currently a member the Edmonton Opera Chorus and does a great deal of solo singing for local functions.
3. Marlis Gunderson is a piano adjudicator, and has been the Edmonton Swiss Men's choir accompanist for 10 years.
4. Ralf Maio is also a student of Lary Benson. He is a very well known restaurateur in Edmonton and has been singing with Tenor Power from its start.
5. Jerry Paravicini is past president of Men Making Music and was also a member and frequent soloist with the Swiss Men's Choir for 10 years, and their principal yodeler.

The Blue Diamond Quintet



Formed in 2006, this mixed ensemble has been entertaining audiences in Hinton, Jasper and Edson for the past two years, and in April 2007 presented its first concert in both Hinton and Jasper. Members include:

1. Carol Wray, Soprano. A singer and vocal coach in the Hinton area, Carol is well known for her work with both youth and adult singers. A founding member of the *Blue Diamond Quintet*, she has recently formed a new women's choral group *Eklekta*.
2. Stacy Renard, Alto and Accompanist. Stacy is a voice and piano teacher in Hinton who has also appeared as a solo performer and member of *Eklekta*.

3. Kathleen Giffin, Alto and Accompanist. Kathleen is a piano teacher and accompanist from Hinton who is also a member of *Eklekta*. She, along with her husband, is also a member of the Celtic folk group *Quarter Irish*.
4. Paul Girard, Tenor. Paul is the assistant conductor of the Foothills Male Chorus, and musical director of Hinton's Break a Leg Theatre Group. He is a member of the *Pathfinders Quartet* as well as the *Pilgrims Octet*. Most recently he appeared as a soloist in Break-a-Leg Theatre's *Salute to Broadway*.
5. Bob Udell, Bass. Also a founding member of the *Blue Diamond Quintet*, Bob is the founder and conductor of the *Foothills Male Chorus*, and a member of the *Pathfinder Quartet* and the *Pilgrims Octet*. He has appeared in a number of musical theatre productions in Hinton including roles as Jud Fry in *Oklahoma* (2005) and Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* (2006), and in his spare time performs with the bluegrass band *Loggerhythm*.

Pathfinder Quartet

This men's quartet from the Foothills Male Chorus was established initially to preview and record all music for the male chorus. This role continues but the quartet also performs its own repertoire drawn from many traditions of the male quartet genre. Members include Cliff Mantai (tenor), Paul Girard (lead), Glen Guebert (baritone) and Bob Udell (bass).

Pilgrims Octet

Four men from the Foothills Male Chorus join the *Pathfinder Quartet* to form *The Pilgrims* to explore some of the more challenging repertoire from the male chorus tradition. This Octet also sings the full Foothills Male Chorus repertoire and is often used for performances in venues that are too small to accommodate the full 30-man male chorus. Besides the Pathfinders members, the Octet includes Jeff Danis (tenor), Ernie Lawrence (lead), Bruce Voelker (baritone) and Doug Heine (bass).

Concert Numbers – Preliminary

1. Foothills Male Chorus:
 Folk/Roots/Traditional: Men of Harlech, Do Ye Ken John Peel, Star of the County Down, Irish Farewell, Bonnie Dundee, Tumbling Tumbleweeds, Loch Lomond
 Spiritual: Morte Cristi, Old Ark's a'Moverin,; Battle Hymn of the Republic
 Classical: Pilgrim's Chorus
 Canadiana: Song for Peace
2. Tenor Power:
 Classical: Dein Ist Mein Ganzes Herz, Nessun Dorma
 Folk/ Traditional: Funiculi Funicula, Amore Scusami, Reginella Campagnola
 Broadway: New York, New York
3. Blue Diamond Quintet
 Folk/Roots/Traditional: Mairi's Wedding
 Broadway/Swing: Moonglow
 Spiritual: This Little Light of Mine
 Canadiana: Wood River
4. Pathfinders
 Broadway/Swing: You Are My Special Angel
 Canadiana: We'll Rant and We'll Roar Like True Newfoundlanders

5. Pilgrims:

Classical: Speed Your Journey

Broadway/ Swing: Under the Boardwalk

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Check out our Website at www.foothillschorus.ca