

Goulbourn Jubilee Singers - A Chronology of 40 Years of History

General notes:

- GJS has always had a very active social component outside of rehearsals and performances
- We are *always* looking for new members, especially men
- In between concerts, GJS has always done sing-outs in the community, in local businesses, retirement homes or local community events – this is part of our mission as a community choir
- We are truly open to people of all ages and abilities; you just have to like to sing and be able to carry a tune!

September 1977 – Goulbourn Jubilee Singers are formed (this was the year of the Queen’s Jubilee)

- Grace Thompson, Sibby Fennema, Madge Powell, Diane McConachie and Rita Rottman met at the Thompson home in Stittsville to discuss the formation of a community choir, open to all who enjoy singing.
- Termed a “community choir”, the name was chosen in order to welcome members from the entire township of Goulbourn.
- Open to anyone interested in singing, rehearsals took place Wednesday nights at the Stittsville Public School. The first director was Kathryn Nicholson, and the accompanist was Kathy Otterspoor
- Registration fees that year were \$2 to help fund the purchase of music; intent was to sing a wide variety of pieces
- 24 people attended the first rehearsal
- First concert was 14 December 1977 (Santa was also in attendance!); they also performed at Carleton Lodge that season
- First spring concert was on Wednesday May 17, 1978

1978/79 Season

- Children’s choir was formed – there were 11 “honourary junior members”
- Performed both Christmas and Spring programmes
- Children’s choir was renamed “Sugar ‘n’ Spice”

1979/80 Season

- New choir director Ilva Gierman (adult choir) and Barbara Simester (Sugar ‘n’ Spice)

- Over 200 in attendance at Christmas concert and 300 at the spring concert

1980/81 Season

- Spring programme featured the operetta “Trial by Jury” as well as selections from Brigadoon, complete with costumes and an instrumental ensemble

1981/82 Season

- Spring programme was a performance of HMS Pinafore, presented by GJS and the Kanata Music Association, with all proceeds going to the Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Canada (April 30 and May 1 at Early of March High School, and May 6-7 1982 at Hillcrest High School)
- Controversy over the dropping of the word Goulbourn from the choir’s name, leaving it just as Jubilee Singers

1982/83 Season

- Name appears to be changed back to “Goulbourn Jubilee Singers”
- Christmas concert performed together with the Kanata Music Association Orchestra
- Spring production was “Pirates of Penzance” in collaboration with the KMA Orchestra – 4 performances at Woodroffe High School
- Grants received from Ottawa Carleton Regional Government (\$975) and Munster Community Association (\$500)

1983/84 Season

- Spring programme featured a wide variety of music, from opera to Gilbert & Sullivan
- This programme was Ilva Gierman’s last with GJS

1984/85 Season

- New choir director Roy Morris
- In the eight years since it was formed, choir membership had doubled, with members coming from all over the west part of Ottawa-Carleton

1985/86 Season

- New logo contest with a \$25 prize for the winning design, plus two complimentary tickets for either the Christmas or spring performance

- Contest was open to members and their families; winning entry submitted by Karen Berg, daughter of Arne and Dorothy Berg, both of whom were choir members
- “Festive Sounds of Christmas” performed, featuring St. Andrews Ringers Bell Choir
- “A Breath of Spring” performed with the Nepean Concert Band – new twist...wine was available at intermission!
- Spring concert featured costumes for several of the numbers, and after the concert, the band continued to play big band music as people danced

1986/87 Season

- 10th anniversary season
- Christmas program “Christmases to Remember” – joined by the Gwalia Singers, a new Ottawa-based Welsh choir – this was their debut performance
- Program included a selection of favourites from the past 9 Christmas concerts
- GJS sponsors 1st annual “Soc Hop” featuring band “The Startools” – music from the 50s and 60s, hot and cold buffet at midnight and prizes for best costumes – tickets sold out a week prior
- Spring concert titled “The First 10 Years”, with guest appearance by the Nepean Symphony Orchestra – selection of favourites from previous spring programmes

1987/88 Season

- GJS joined by new Director Denise Hawkins
- Christmas concert features the GJS Children’s choir as well as a guest appearance by the Glen Cairn Public School Choir
- Record crowd...we had to turn people away at the door!
- GJS sponsors 2nd annual “Soc Hop” featuring band “The Startools” – music from the 50s and 60s, hot and cold buffet at midnight and prizes for best costumes
- “Songs of Spring – Songs to Sing” featuring an appearance by the Earl of March Dancers
- GJS puts out a call for non-singing members to help out with ticket taking, serving refreshments, cleaning up after concerts, etc.

1988/89 Season

- New choir director David Chin joins GJS
- Christmas programme “A Jubilee Christmas” – guest appearance by St. Philip’s Catholic School Choir
- Spring programme “A Little Light Music” with guest appearances by Goulbourn Middle School Senior Band (led by Linda Crawford!) – the band was fundraising for a trip to Quebec City and GJS donated towards the trip – over 200 people in attendance

1989/90 Season

- New choir director Lisette Canton joins GJS
- Auditions are held for “Trial by Jury”, an operetta to be performed in the spring
- Christmas programme “Music With a Christmas Spirit” performed to a capacity crowd, featuring guest performers, the grade 3 and 5 choirs of Holy Spirit Catholic School
- Spring programme to be performed at Sir Robert Borden to introduce the choir to new audiences – first half a selection of old favourites and the second half a performance of “Trial by Jury”
- Donation of \$500 to GJS by the first annual Goulbourn Home Show

1990/91 Season

- New choir director Cia Matsell joins GJS
- Christmas programme “A Gift of Song” with appearances by The Children’s Orff Ensemble and the South Carleton Concert Choir
- Over 300 people in attendance (!!!) at Holy Spirit Catholic School
- Spring concert “Around the World in Song” (first concert featuring a multi-page program with advertisements)
- Guest appearances by the Dnipso Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Ottawa Chinese Choral Society
- Attendees had to purchase a “passport” (ticket), which was also the boarding pass for their journey

1991/92 Season

- 15th anniversary season

- Fundraising dance held in August 1991 at the Stittsville Legion; live band and refreshments served
- Band was DWG featuring music from the 50s and 60s – the choir profited \$555.37!
- Christmas programme “Christmas Bells” with special guests St. Andrews Ringers Bell Choir
- Spring Programme “A Show Tune Celebration” with a selection of songs from productions done in the past 15 years; MC Brian K. Smith of CBC Radio
- 1st annual Midsummer Night’s 5K Road Race and Fun Run, benefitting GJS among other community organizations

1992/93 Season

- Christmas programme “Festive Music” with a guest performance by The Goulbourn Band
- Spring programme “Spring Portraits” featuring favourites from Gershwin to the Beatles
- 2nd annual Midsummer Night’s 5K Road Race and Fun Run, benefitting GJS among other community organizations

1993/94 Season

- Christmas programme “Christmas Around the World”, featuring an appearance by the Glen Cairn Public School Choir
- Spring programme “Spring Harmony” with guest appearance by West Carleton Concert Choir
- 3rd annual Midsummer Night’s 5K Road Race and Fun Run, benefitting GJS among other community organizations

1994/95 Season

- Christmas programme “Christmas in Goulbourn” featuring guest performers Stittsville Public School Choir
- Spring programme “Collage of Sound” with guest performers Shawne Elizabeth and Sally Robinson

1995/96 Season

- New choir director Gloria Jean Nagy joins GJS

- Christmas programme “Welcome to Winter” with guest performers Glen Cairn Public School Choir
- Spring programme “Something to Sing About” with guest performers Goulbourn Middle School Senior Band
- July 1996 GJS in cooperation with the Goulbourn Parks & Recreation Department staged the 5th annual “A Midsummer’s Night 5K Road Race” and the accompanying 1K children’s Fun Run, as a fundraiser for the choir – 120 adults and 40 children participated

1996/97 Season

- 20th anniversary season
- Christmas programme “A Winter Concert of Chorus and Bells” with special guests the Waldorf School Choir and Bells 4/4
- 20th anniversary spring concert – a selection of favourites from over the years, including pieces from Gilbert & Sullivan and Gershwin

1997/98 Season

- Christmas programme “A Christmas Portrait” with guest performers “The Singing Pedagogues”
- Quilt raffle to raise funds for the music library
- Spring programme “Let’s Sing the Old Songs” with guest appearance by “Acoustic Chaos”, a barbershop quartet – featured a selection of old favourites and was performed as a sing-along with the audience

1998/99 Season

- New director Tony Bove joins GJS
- Christmas programme “Light the Candles” with guest appearance by Ottawa Waldorf School Children’s Choir
- March 1999 – Ladies’ Spring Fashions presentation, show and sale, hosted and modelled by GJS; there was also a quilt raffle. The quilt was made by choir member Janet Lefebvre.
- Spring programme “Broadway Comes to Goulbourn” with special guests The Northern Stars Chorus
- GJS, along with other Goulbourn community groups receives a \$1000 grant from OLG
- GJS sponsors 8th annual Midsummer’s Night 5K Road Race and Fun Run

1999/2000 Season

- GJS hosts Ladies' Fall Fashions presentation, show and sale
- Christmas programme "The Reason for the Season" with guest appearance by the Ottawa Waldorf Children's Choir – the Christmas story as told through speech and song
- February 2000 – GJS is selected to sing at UNISONG 2000, a consortium of choirs, large and small, chosen from across Canada to sing together on Canada Day
- GJS performs their spring programme "Decades" at the new Theatre of the Performing Arts at Sacred Heart Catholic High School, as a benefit concert to raise funds for the facility; the choir donated \$2000
- The formation of an official GJS children's choir is announced in the spring programme
- July 1 2000 – GJS takes part in UNISONG 2000

2000/2001 Season

- First practice was an Open House/Information night resulting in about a dozen prospective new members for GJS and 12-15 for the children's chorus
- 3rd annual Ladies Fall Fashion Show and Sale fundraiser
- Children's chorus is named "Junior Jubilation Singers" aka J.J.s
- Christmas programme "The Perfect Tree", inaugural performance of the JJs; the matinee featured a visit from Santa
- Poetry contest launched in conjunction with GJS' spring programme, entitled "Made in Canada"; open to students in three categories: Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8 and Grades 9-OAC with a theme of pride in Canada or being Canadian
- Winners to be announced at the spring concert; first prize in all categories was a \$25 gift certificate for Chapters
- Winners were Robbie Parent (Grade 4) and Matthew Hicks (Grade 7) – there were no entries for the third category
- Spring programme "Made in Canada" featured exclusively Canadian music of all styles

2001/02 Season

- 25th anniversary season
- New artistic director Linda Crawford joins GJS (she is currently still our artistic director)

- Christmas programme “A Global Christmas” with guest appearances by the JJs and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra Brass Ensemble
- Spring programme “25th Anniversary”, featured the world premiere of “Let All Our Voices Raise” by composer James Wright; MCs Robert Maxwell and Angie Poirier from the NewRO

2002/03 Season

- Christmas programme “Glory of Christmas”
- Spring programme “Celtic Homecoming”, described as “cabaret-style performances featuring Celtic music and dance”

2003/04 Season

- Christmas programme “Midwinter’s Eve” with guest performers the Ottawa Brass Quintet
- Spring programme “Body and Soul” featuring the Canterbury Jazz Musicians – a selection of gospel and jazz music

2004/05 Season

- Christmas programme “A Village Christmas” featuring guest performers the Cantiamo Girls’ Choir of Ottawa
- Spring programme “Water Music” with guest performers the Canterbury Strings Ensemble
- Premiere performance of “When Your Daddy Comes Home from the Sea” by Janet Kidd
- A portion of spring concert proceeds went to WaterCan, a charity dedicated to providing clean drinking water to the world’s poorest people

2005/06 Season

- Christmas programme “Ring in Christmas”, featuring guest performers the Cantiamo Girls Choir of Ottawa
- March 2006 – GJS promotes Goulbourn-Kanata Idol Contest, with the winners having the opportunity to sing in the GJS spring show, “CANADIAN, eh?”
- Winners were Jessica Fitzpatrick, Nathan Haller, and Paige Kedrosky
- Spring programme “CANADIAN, EH?” with special guests Canterbury High School Musicians and winners of Goulbourn-Kanata Idol Contest

2006/07 Season

- 30th anniversary season
- Christmas programme “Christmas with Amadeus” with special guests The Celebration Brass Quintet
- Portion of proceeds donated to the Goulbourn Grans who were raising awareness of African families affected by HIV/AIDS
- Spring programme “Puttin’ on the Glitz” featuring guest performers The Aardvark Jazz Band

2007/08 Season

- Christmas programme “Christmas Time is Here”
- Spring programme “The Colours of Song”

2008/09 Season

- Christmas programme “Songs for St. Nicholas”
- Spring programme “A Night at the Proms”

2009/10 Season

- Christmas programme “Handel & Holly”
- Spring programme “Going Home” – a selection of sentimental favourites; each programme included a tissue hanky in case guests were overcome with emotion!

2010/11 Season

- September 2010 – GJS performs at Cultural Stittsville, organized by the Ottawa West Arts Association
- December 2010 GJS performs at the inaugural Stittsville Christmas Festival
- Christmas programme “Christmas – Two by Two”
- Spring programme “Songs from Childhood”

- June 2011 – GJS performs at the International Mondial Choral in Laval, QC, a Quebec World Choral Festival that has become a world class national and international event

2011/12 Season

- 35th anniversary season
- Christmas programme “Changing Seasons...Changing Light”
- Spring programme “Celtic Connections” featuring guest performers The Siamsa Singers from Montreal
- GJS also performed with The Siamsa Singers in Montreal as part of a choir exchange

2012/13 Season

- Christmas programme “Christmas Jubilee”
- Spring programme “Alphabet Soup”

2013/14 Season

- Christmas program “Winterval”
- JJs take part in a production of Charlie Brown Christmas at the Ottawa Little Theatre
- Launch of GJS CD project, recorded in February 2014 and released at the spring concert in May; the CD was called “Why We Sing”, which spoke to the reasons people enjoy singing in a choir, and the unique experience of being a part of such an experience
- Spring programme/CD launch “Why We Sing”

2014/15 Season

- Christmas programme “Welcome Yule”, features debut of the Teen Choir
- December 30, 2014 – GJS/JJs perform at the Aviation and Space Museum in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1914 Christmas Truce
- Spring programme “Big Screen/Little Screen”, the first production to feature costumes and dancing in many years!
- JJs take part in Together in Song, a collaborative mini-festival for non-audition, training level, music education ensembles in the Ottawa area

2015/16 Season

- GJS/JJs sang the Canadian and American national anthems at an Ottawa Fury (soccer) game in October
- JJs record Brian Asselin's song "You Have Made a Difference" in studio at Algonquin College
- Christmas programme "Christmas With Amadeus"
- February 2016 – "An Afternoon in Austria" fundraiser for the Europe trip
- Spring programme "Sing a Song of Nature"
- A portion of GJS traveled to Austria to participate in the 2016 Cantus Salzburgensis Festival in early July. Our massed choir repertoire included singing Mozart's Missa Solemnis in the Cathedral for which it was written. In addition, a trip to Prague following the festival offered a concert with a local choir for a local audience. Our concerts in both Salzburg, Prague and at historic Melk Abbey featured Canadian music.

2016/17 Season

- 40th anniversary season
- Christmas programme "Christmas Jubilee: Our 40th Anniversary Season"
- Spring programme "Made in Canada – A 40th Anniversary Celebration" featuring guest performers Command Performance of Picton, ON, with whom we will do an exchange, performing in Picton the week after the Ottawa concerts
- The concert features 3 world premieres of pieces commissioned for the occasion by composers Laura Hawley, James Wright and Stephen Eisenhauer
- GJS will be performing at the Kanata-Carleton Cultural Festival at the end of May