



Festival 2008

The first major **Nanaimo Sings!** project was a three-day choral festival on October 16, 17 and 18, 2008 during which fourteen choirs came together as partners to present a cultural experience that had never been offered before in this area. Nearly 400 singers participated in Festival 2008 and over 1700 people attended one or more of seven concerts that were held over the three days.

The Gala Concert at the Port Theatre on October 18 was hosted by Joëlle Rabu and showcased all choirs performing both individually and en masse. The massed choir performed a specially commissioned piece written and conducted by respected British Columbia composer, Larry Nickel and accompanied by Devon Joiner. For an overview of Festival 2008, see our Photo Gallery.

Festival 2011

Festival 2011, the second **Nanaimo Sings!** choral festival, was held April 7-9, 2011 with sixteen choirs participating. Nine concerts were presented over three days with over 2000 patrons attending one or more of the concerts. The Gala on April 9 was an awesome event featuring all choirs performing both individually and en masse. With CBC's Shelagh Rogers as our host and Bruce Pullan present to conduct nearly 400 singers in the massed choir grand finale, it was a night to remember. For a glimpse of this spectacular event, check out our 2011 Photo Gallery.

Chorfest 2013

2013 was a very exciting year as **Nanaimo Sings!** partnered with the British Columbia Choral Federation (BCCF) to present BCCF Chorfest 2013 on May 17-19. It was a wonderful three-day event that saw singers from all parts of British Columbia come together to share the joy of singing with each other and with the Nanaimo community. The Vancouver Island Conference Centre was the venue for rehearsal and social events on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, three choirs, representing three+ generations presented a gala concert at The Port Theatre.

The Children's Chorfest choir was led by clinician Marni Strome, artistic director of the Calgary Children's Choir. The BC Youth Choir with singers aged 17-23 was led by Frances Roberts from Argyle High School in North Vancouver. Laurier Fagnan, from the University of Alberta in Calgary, led the Adult Choir. BCCF Chorfest 2013 was a successful event that left us smiling about the fun we had and the new friends that were made. Choral music is, indeed, a life-long joy. Check our Chorfest 2013 in our Photo Gallery for some great information and photos.

Festival 2015

On Oct 16-18, 2015, the third ***Nanaimo Sings!*** Festival was presented with 13 choirs and over 350 singers ranging in age from six to very young-at-heart. This year, we were particularly pleased to include two children's choirs (over 100 children). Six mini concerts were held at St. Andrew's on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th. The gala concert at The Port Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 18th was sold out.

Over 2000 people attended one or more of the concerts. There was an air of excitement and energy throughout the three days of the festival.

We were so pleased to welcome Willi Zwozdesky as our guest conductor and MC for the Gala Concert. Willi is widely known and respected as a choral conductor, arranger, publisher, and producer. He is also the Executive Director of the BC Choral Federation. Festival 2015 was truly an "extravaganza of choral music"! To see some of the images from this weekend of song, go to Festival 2015 in our Photo Gallery.