



NANAIMO SINGS!: LOOKING BACK

In September, 2009, **Nanaimo Sings!** collaborated with the BC Choral Federation to present a choir management workshop which was attended by people from all parts of the Island from Victoria to Campbell River and Port Alberni.

A spring “Choral Tune-Up” workshop facilitated by renowned clinician, Bruce Pullan was held in February, 2010.

On February 18, 2012 **Nanaimo Sings!** was pleased to present “A Vocal Winterlude” with workshops for both women and men. Morna Edmundson and Elektra presented the women’s workshop and Jim Sparks facilitated the men’s workshop. This was our chance to “Elektra-fy” and add “Spark-le” to our voices! **Nanaimo Sings!** extends its appreciation to SMBC (Spectacular Music BC) and Windsor Plywood for their support for this event.

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, a **Spring Tune-Up!** - Vocal workshops for men and women - was held with clinicians, Frances and Geordie Roberts. The women’s workshop was held in the Shaw Auditorium of the VI Conference Centre. The Men’s workshop was held at St. Paul’s Anglican Church.

On April 2 & 3, 2014 we welcomed Swedish musician Sanna Valvanna as we collaborated again with the BCCF to present **Sing and Shine with Body and Soul**. 270 children and youth aged 8-17 from six elementary schools and one secondary school worked with Sanna over the two days. Workshops were held at Park Avenue, Pauline Haarer and Woodlands Secondary schools.

On Saturday, October 18, 2014, **AnySing Goes!** was held at St. Andrew’s United Church. This was a choral party during which **Nanaimo Sings!** member choirs sang for and with each other. It was an opportunity to hear each other perform and celebrate the richly diverse choral community we all enjoy being part of.

On March 16, 2016 a workshop for children entitled **South African Choral Music**, was presented by Sarena Mynhardt in collaboration with the BCCF. 63 children attended and 9 adults audited the workshop to observe/learn from Sarena.

On Saturday, November 5, 2016, **Nanaimo Sings!** hosted its first Choral Coaching Clinic. Fiona Blackburn, Brian Wismath and Willi Zwozdesky, three highly qualified choral clinicians, shared their knowledge and expertise with eight **Nanaimo Sings!** choirs. Each participating choir had the opportunity to work with two different clinicians on pieces that were works in progress. It was a great day of learning and song.

A **Summer Sing!** with Patricia Plumley was presented for the first time between June 17 – August 12, 2017. It was originally planned to be separate sessions for men and women; however, registration numbers necessitated combining them. Sixteen men and women sang, danced and learned more about the human voice and vocal production than they ever had before. Feedback was excellent with requests to do a **Summer Sing!** with Trish again next year.

UP YOUR GAME: Strategies for Tenor/Bass Voices, held on Saturday February 10, 2018, was a skill-building demonstration workshop for experienced tenor/bass choral singers committed to refining their craft. Led by Willi Zwozdesky, participants sang together and individually, exploring the unique attributes of the male voice including voice type, register, timbre and falsetto.

Ready, Set, Sing! Facilitated by Patricia Plumley in collaboration with James Duthie, this was our second mid-summer choral boost for those who just love to sing! Four two-hour sessions held in June/July allowed participants to explore new levels of vocal efficiency and artistic enjoyment in a supportive summer environment.

AnySing Goes! Take Two ... We had many requests to repeat this event and the time was finally right on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Eleven **Nanaimo Sings!** choirs came together at St. Andrew's United Church to celebrate the Nanaimo choral community by singing for (and with) each other.

Sight Singing from the Ground Up – September 8, 2018 at the VI Library downtown. This was a three hour workshop offered by James Duthie to explore the fundamentals of sight singing.

Sing 'Hello' to Spring with a Vocal Tune-up, held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at St. Paul's Anglican Church, was a full day workshop dedicated to working with Soprano/Alto and Tenor/Bass voices, both separately and together. We were pleased to welcome Morna Edmundson and David Stratkauskas as our facilitators. Morna is one of Canada's best-known choral conductors, with a strong reputation for excellence. Based in Vancouver, she is Artistic Director of Elektra Women's Choir and EnChor, an auditioned SATB choir. David, a native of Victoria, is the organist at the Church of Saint John the Divine. He has directed the St. John's Chamber Singers, the Victoria Baroque Players, the Victoria Children's Choir and the Recital Choir, an ensemble for 10-12 year old singers. Over 90 singers from all parts of Central VI and the Gulf Island attended this successful workshop.