



A Choral Convocation

Presented by the Canadian Staff Songsters



April 6, 2024
Toronto, Canada

Featuring the International Staff Songsters, the Canadian Staff Songsters and the four U.S.A. Staff Songster brigades
Supported by the Canadian Staff Band

Founder:
William Booth



Office of
The General

International Headquarters London EC4V 4EH

April 2024

Dear Friends,

It is with great joy that I greet you on the occasion of A Choral Convocation, a gathering of six Staff Songster brigades from across North America and the United Kingdom. This historic event is worthy of celebration and remembrance, as its impact will surely be felt long after the final notes are sung.

Each group of songsters represents a rich history of music making, and their commitment to musical excellence is commendable. But far more important is their commitment to the gospel. The world needs an Army, emboldened by the Holy Spirit, that is ready and willing to proclaim the message of salvation for all who would believe. This Choral Convocation is not simply a concert, but a declaration of God's love for the world and an invitation to faith and renewal.

The Salvation Army has a rich tradition of choral singing, from the early Salvationists whose voices filled the streets of East London to the 134 countries where we are actively engaged in mission today. As the Army's international leader, I have been blessed to sing alongside Salvationists in just some of these countries. No matter the language or location, God has been present in those precious moments, as our hearts and voices united in song.

It is good for God's people to gather together in worship and witness. As I imagine the hundreds of Salvationists and friends congregating at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, joined virtually by those watching online, I am reminded of the psalmist's exhortation: "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.... For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods" (Psalm 95:1, 3). He is worthy of our praise!

Commissioner Bronwyn joins me in offering prayers of thanksgiving for your ministry. May God bless this endeavour, and may the King be glorified as you share the gospel through song.

May God bless you.

Yours in His Service,



Lyndon Buckingham

General



The Salvation Army

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Canada and Bermuda

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April 2024

Dear Friends:

Welcome to A Choral Convocation! It is a pleasure to greet you as we gather for this special occasion. Hosted by the Canadian Staff Songsters, this historic event brings together six of The Salvation Army's Staff Songster brigades for a weekend of praise and ministry.

The Canada and Bermuda Territory is delighted to welcome the International Staff Songsters from London, England, with whom we have enjoyed a connection over the years. Originally active from 1897 to 1928, the group was re-established in 1980 by Canada's own General Arnold Brown, and Major Len Ballantine, a proud Canadian officer, served as its leader from 1992 to 1998. We are so glad you are here!

We are equally as excited to welcome the four Staff Songster brigades from our neighbouring territories in the United States. These groups hold a wealth of God-given talents that they have dedicated back to Him for His glory. May you be blessed as they share with us this weekend.

Commissioner Debbie and I are privileged to travel across this great territory to witness the many wonderful things being accomplished for God's kingdom through music. Whether serving in a songster brigade, brass band or worship team, leading a children's choir or beginners' band, or offering community outreach music classes, Salvation Army musicians in this territory, and around the world, have a common goal-to share God's gift of salvation with others.

As we enjoy the worshipful sound of Salvation Army music, may it serve as a reminder that we are all called to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. And with the psalmist we proclaim: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the Lord, the King" (Psalm 98:4-6).

Commissioner Debbie joins me in prayer as we seek God's richest blessings for you today and always.

Sincerely,



Lee Graves
Commissioner
Territorial Commander

William and Catherine Booth
Founders

Lyndon Buckingham
General

Lee Graves
Territorial Commander



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Laila Biali



in concert with the
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Saturday, April 27, 2024
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3173 Cawthra Road
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Tickets \$20

Tickets will be available
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Christmas
with The
Salvation Army

7:30pm | Saturday
December 14, 2024

Roy Thomson Hall
60 Simcoe Street



PROGRAM

Featuring

The International Staff Songsters

Supported by

The Canadian Staff Songsters, the U.S.A. Central Territorial Staff Songsters, the U.S.A. Eastern Territory Staff Songsters, the U.S.A. Southern Staff Songsters, the U.S.A. Western Territory Staff Songsters and the Canadian Staff Band

Musical prelude provided by the Canadian Staff Band
Bandmaster John Lam

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS SONGSTER LEADER DOROTHY NANCEKIEVILL

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Words: adapted from Psalm 100 Music: Benjamin Harlan

A lively setting of words from Psalm 100 reminding us that the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.

I HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Words & music: Chris Brindley

This song reflects on three encounters where the glory of the Lord is seen: Moses and the burning bush, Elijah and the still small voice, and John's revelation when a million angels cover the skies and all creation lifts its voice in praise!

PRAYER RESPONSE AND WELCOME

Lieut.-Colonel John Murray, Canadian Staff Songsters, Executive Officer

CONGREGATIONAL SONG PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless;
Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Angels in the heights adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon bow down before Him:
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

**U.S.A. WESTERN TERRITORY STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER BARBARA ALLEN**

PSALM 145

Words: Psalm 145:1-11 Music: Mark Hayes

Commissioned for the 200th anniversary of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, this spirited and dynamic anthem exudes joy and praise, extolling God for His greatness.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Words & music: Shawn Craig, Don Koch Arr: Don Wyrzten

A majestic song that declares our source of strength and hope is Christ alone.

**U.S.A. SOUTHERN STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER ROBERT SNELSON**

PSALM 24

Words: adapted from Psalm 24 Music: Robert Snelson

The majestic opening depicts the grandeur and authority of God while the introspective middle section brings a sense of wonder at being in God's presence. The music builds to a quiet intensity before returning to the majesty of the opening section to proclaim the sovereignty of the Lord God Almighty.

THOU ART HOLY

Words: Reginald Heber Music: John B. Dykes Setting: Craig Courtney

This moving setting of the classic hymn, Holy, Holy, Holy, to the tune of Nicaea, begins in a posture of reverence and builds with each successive verse. The climax makes repeated proclamations that "Thou art holy!" followed quickly by a reflective ending that contemplates the same idea, that in all things, whether big or small, God is holy.

**INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER DOROTHY NANCEKIEVILL**

UBI CARITAS

Words: traditional Latin antiphon Music: Ola Gjeilo

**Where there is charity and love, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The translation and beautiful harmonies of this piece allow us to contemplate that the love of Christ brings us together to praise His name.

IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Words & music: Sandi Patti Arr: Darren Bartlett

There is strength, power and hope in the name of the Lord, and His name will be worshipped forever—Creator, Redeemer and King.



PROGRAM

CANADIAN STAFF SONGSTERS SONGSTER LEADER CATHIE KOEHNEN

WORKING WITH JOY

Words & music: Larry Nickel

Canadian composer Dr. Larry Nickel wrote this song while driving a huge tractor. As he listened to the synchronized metallic sounds of the many working parts of the machinery, some fast and others slow, it occurred to him that singers could do something similar. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

WE ARE HELD

Words: Robert Bode Music: Susan LaBarr, Jim Wilson

This work expresses what it is to hold hope in your heart through a difficult season. May this song remind you that no matter what you are going through, you are held.

THE MASSED SONGSTERS and CANADIAN STAFF BAND MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE

HALLELUJAH CHORUS from the Oratorio MESSIAH

Words: Revelation 19:6-9 Music: G.F. Handel

Since Handel's composition of Messiah in 1741, the Hallelujah Chorus has maintained a much-deserved place among the world's most compelling expressions of Scripture.

INTERMISSION

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS SONGSTER LEADER DOROTHY NANCEKIEVILL

VITA MEA DOMINO

Words: Stephen Pearson Music: Richard Phillips

This latest work written for the International Staff Songsters is based on Ralph Vaughan Williams' Randolph, which is associated with the words "Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee." Divided into three sections, this extended song of testimony explores the call of God on our lives, the power of His redemptive love to redeem us and our complete surrender and dedication to His service.

**U.S.A. CENTRAL TERRITORIAL STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER MATTHEW WOODS**

O WORSHIP THE KING

Words: Thomas Ken, Robert Grant Music: traditional, Jay Rouse Arr: Jay Rouse
*This piece brings new life to two great and beloved hymns of the church,
The Doxology and O Worship the King, and
adds a new chorus that lifts high the words
"Praise God from whom all blessing flow."*

FAR ABOVE ALL

Words: Mark Hayes, adapted from Ephesians 1:17-23 Music: Mark Hayes
*Majestic and powerful, this original song perfectly reflects the message of Ephesians 1
that emphasizes Christ's power and supremacy.*

**THE MASSED SONGSTERS
MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE**

BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD

Words: Revelation 21:3-4 Music: Len Ballantine
*This descriptive work is based directly on the Scripture from John's divine revelation.
His vision of peace through eternal life in Christ contrasts starkly to the world
events that trouble humanity today.*

**U.S.A. EASTERN TERRITORY STAFF SONGSTERS
SONGSTER LEADER ERIK JONES**

WE WILL SING GOD'S PRAISE!

Arr: Lee Fisher
This lively arrangement shares simple but poignant words of praise and faithfulness.

WHO BUT THE LORD?

Words & music: Craig Courtney
*Craig Courtney offers a contemplative consideration of Isaiah 58 through a haunting melody
that begs us to reflect on the sovereignty of God in our lives.*



PROGRAM

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS SONGSTER LEADER DOROTHY NANCEKIEVILL

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Words: John 3:16 Music: John Stainer

*This timeless choral anthem is a favourite of the Easter season.
In it, the composer expresses the profound depth of the text found in John 3:16.*

SCRIPTURE READING and DEVOTIONAL Commissioner Lee Graves, Territorial Commander

YOU ARE THE SONG

Words & music: Joseph Martin

*God of glory sing Your song, teach the world to share Your music, for You alone are worthy,
You alone are holy, You alone, the perfect song of grace—You are the Song!*

THE MASSED SONGSTERS and CANADIAN STAFF BAND MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU

Words: Numbers 6:24-26 Music: John Rutter

*Among the many settings of this familiar benediction from the Book of Numbers,
the music of John Rutter has endured to become a much-loved anthem in the choral repertory.*

PRAYER

Cathie Koehnen, Canadian Staff Songster Leader

TOTAL PRAISE

Cathie Koehnen, Canadian Staff Songster Leader

Words & music: Richard Smallwood

*For congregations and gospel choirs alike,
Total Praise has become a powerful vehicle for exultant worship.
The music leads us by degrees to a truly heavenly experience,
where we catch a glimpse of divine worship in the very presence of God.*

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS



The International Staff Songsters is the premier choir of Christian church and charity, The Salvation Army, and is at the forefront of Salvation Army vocal music making in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and around the world.

From cathedral to community hall, large concert venues, such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, England, to TV and radio, schools and prison chapels, the songsters regularly reach thousands of people with the good news of God's love and the joy, peace and hope found in knowing Jesus.

Music and singing has always been an integral part of The Salvation

Army. The International Staff Songsters were founded in 1980 to build on this heritage to share the love of God far and wide and to inspire people with the "heart songs" of The Salvation Army.

Their repertoire incorporates a wide range of choral styles and includes music by composers from The Salvation Army and artists such as Bob Chilcott, Mark Hayes, John Rutter and Eric Whitacre.

Each member of the group loves to express their personal Christian faith through singing and is an active member of their local Salvation Army church. The songsters volunteer their time as part of the group

and travel from around the United Kingdom for weekly rehearsal in central London.

The International Staff Songsters are conducted by Dorothy Nancekievill who is a Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Dorothy now enjoys retirement but was formerly Head of Farringtons School in Kent and previously Director of Music at Wells Cathedral School.

Profits from recordings support the work of The Salvation Army.

For more information visit the website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/iss.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP

Staff Songster Leader
Dorothy Nancekievill

Executive Officer
Lieut.-Colonel Jayne Roberts

Manager
Nicola Babb

CANADIAN STAFF SONGSTERS



Music is an integral part of Salvation Army ministry around the world, and the Canada and Bermuda Territory is no exception. The Canadian Staff Songsters are choristers who lead the territory in worship, evangelism and integrated mission through music. The Salvation Army in Canada had a staff songster brigade in its early days, but such a group had not existed for nearly 100 years until the current iteration began in 2016.

The songsters come from all walks of

life. Some have had musical training beyond what they learned at the corps or music camp, but the vast majority are just good musicians who can read music and sing. Rehearsals are amazing times of joy in discovery and learning what can be done together.

Through their ministry, the Canadian Staff Songsters aim to enrich the faith of Salvationists across the territory and beyond, to solidify the mission of the Army in the hearts and minds of those who hear them sing, and to move the Army forward in faith.

The brigade has shared in ministry across the province of Ontario, including on Parliament Hill in Ottawa and in the annual Christmas With The Salvation Army events at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall. They have travelled to Calgary to share at the world-famous Calgary Stampede, spent Easter weekend 2023 with Salvationists in beautiful British Columbia, journeyed to the island of Bermuda for a weekend of singing and outreach, and joined in music ministry in Chicago and Old Orchard Beach, Maine.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP



STAFF SONGSTER LEADER CATHIE KOEHNEN

Cathie Koehnen was recently appointed as leader of the Canadian Staff Songsters. She brings to this role a wealth of experience gained through a 35-year career teaching high school music, conducting the Mississauga Temple Songsters for 13 years, founding and conducting the Ontario Central-East Divisional Youth Chorus for 10 years, and serving as the current songster leader at Yorkminster Citadel in Toronto. Cathie has also served on the faculty or as the guest vocal conductor at many Salvation Army camps across North America.

Executive Officer
Lieut.-Colonel John Murray

Staff Songster Sergeant
Janette Brown

Staff Songster Manager
Ken Bailey

U.S.A WESTERN TERRITORY STAFF SONGSTERS



In 2006, the U.S.A. Western Territory launched a program of music and arts initiatives, and the formation of the Western Territory Staff Songsters was part of this program.

In June of 2007, the group had their first ministry weekend together and since then have been fortunate to share their unique music ministry in many corners of the Western Territory and further afield.

The songsters have ministered in places all the way from Juneau, Alaska, to San Diego, California, and from Denver, Colorado, to Honolulu, Hawaii. The Western Territory covers a vast area which includes Micronesia and the songsters have been privileged to take their ministry as far afield as Guam.

Outside the territory, the songsters have travelled to Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom, culminating in

participation at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Songster Leader Barbara Allen has been the brigade's leader since 2013 and has taken them on an exciting musical and creative journey. Through all of this relatively short existence, the group has had only one goal, which is to share the love of Jesus through their music with everyone with whom they come into contact.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP

Staff Songster Leader
Barbara Allen

Executive Officer
Commissioner Colleen Riley

Territorial Music Secretary
Neil Smith

U.S.A. SOUTHERN STAFF SONGSTERS



The U.S.A. Southern Staff Songsters exist to glorify God, present the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, promote vocal music in The Salvation Army and inspire others by modelling excellence in choral singing.

Commissioned at the 1992 Praise Him Territorial Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, the songsters have faithfully supported congresses, annual commissioning weekends and numerous other special events. In 2022, at the Rise Up commissioning weekend, the group was officially renamed the Southern Staff Songsters.

Led by Robert Snelson, territorial music education director, the songsters represent the 15 states that form the geographically expansive U.S.A. Southern Territory, with the singers travelling hundreds of kilometres for rehearsals and territorial events. A high calibre of musicianship and a strong motivation for an effective music ministry are hallmarks of these remarkable men and women.

In October, the Southern Staff Songsters arrived in Tennessee from all corners of the territory to embark on a journey that promised

to uplift and inspire in the Kentucky-Tennessee Division at the Johnson City Corps. Their dedication extended beyond singing, as they observed transient individuals in and around the corps building seeking a meal and a place to rest. Little did these people know their souls were being prayed for and would be blessed with the power of music.

The prayer of every Salvation Army music group is that their gifts and talents will bring people closer to God, and the Southern Staff Songsters continue to trust the Lord to use their musical offerings for His glory.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP

Staff Songster Leader
Robert Snelson

Executive Officer
Lieut.-Colonel Mark Israel

Songster Secretary
Maria Mathieson

U.S.A. CENTRAL TERRITORIAL STAFF SONGSTERS



The U.S.A. Central Territorial Staff Songsters were formed in January 2020. Meeting four to five times a year for rehearsals and performances, the repertoire reflects a wide variety of vocal music expressions, including traditional choral, contemporary and gospel genres.

Involvement in the group's music ministry requires each member to be a soldier in good standing who has had a soul-saving experience. To exhibit the love of God and share the gospel of Jesus Christ, each songster must have first-hand knowledge of the Saviour and His love.

The songsters range in age and background. From students to working professionals to employees and officers within The Salvation Army, all give their time voluntarily.

Shortly after the inaugural rehearsal weekend and a subsequent weekend of rehearsals in Kansas City, Missouri, in March 2020, the songsters were forced to temporarily shift their focus in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In five months, members of the brigade recorded virtual chorus videos, including their virtual launch and

commissioning, and videos for a joint Christmas concert with the Chicago Staff Band.

In September 2021, the Central Territorial Staff Songsters resumed in-person rehearsals and shortly after, made their in-person debut joining the Chicago Staff Band for its annual Sounds of the Season concert. In March 2022, they attended the annual meeting of the Salvation Army Retired Officers Association in Clearwater, Florida, marking the first out-of-territory engagement in the group's history. They look forward to the future God has in store for them.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP

Staff Songster Leader
Matthew Woods

Executive Officer
Major Carla Voeller

Deputy Staff Songster Leader
Jonathon Weller

U.S.A. EASTERN TERRITORY STAFF SONGSTERS



The U.S.A. Eastern Territory Staff Songsters is a choir of pastors and members from the Salvation Army church community. Members are drawn from choirs in Puerto Rico, Kentucky, Ohio and along the eastern seaboard from Delaware to Maine. Thirty voices strong, the choir sings in a variety of musical styles with rhythm combo accompaniment.

The singers are volunteer Salvation Army soldiers with diverse vocal backgrounds, a conviction for teaching and leading church ensemble singing and a long-term commitment

to ministering in The Salvation Army.

Appointed to service as the Eastern Territorial Songsters in 2005 by Commissioner Lawrence R. Moretz, the songsters have accompanied many well-known preachers and shared programming with The Salvation Army's International Staff Band, the New York Staff Band, the Canadian Staff Band, regionally known church artists and many more. The group's name was officially changed to the Eastern Territory Staff Songsters in 2018.

The group has spent time ministering with many diverse corps songster groups, divisional youth choirs and territorial vocal workshops, demonstrating vocal repertory, workshop vocal technique and worship with choral music.

In every exposure to Salvation Army corps songster brigades, the group has witnessed vital and effective corps ministry, enjoyed fellowship with each choir member and experienced effective God-honouring worship led by even the smallest of Salvation Army choirs.

STAFF SONGSTER LEADERSHIP

Staff Songster Leader
Erik Jones

Executive Officer
Colonel Christine Rock

Songster Secretary
Gavin Whitehouse



The Canadian Staff Band sets the example of all aspects of Salvation Army banding in the Canada and Bermuda Territory. The band members are dedicated to the primary task of winning souls for Jesus through the motivation of musical enjoyment and an honest desire to witness Christ.

Throughout the past five decades, the band has led and participated in countless worship services and special Salvation Army occasions, including commissioning events, con-

gresses and concerts, both locally and internationally.

Their most recent trip took the band to South America to share the gospel through music and personal testimonies. Beginning in Santiago, Chile, and ending in Buenos Aires, Argentina, they gave concerts, performed with local musicians, conducted band clinics, and participated in worship, marches of witness and open-air services.

The band rehearses weekly and

strives to display musical virtuosity through their diverse repertoire. The group is comprised of dedicated men and women from various Salvation Army corps around Ontario who form a unique community of faith that provides a vibrant ministry in all facets of Salvation Army ministry.

The Canadian Staff Band continues to seek to be effective in musical and spiritual ministry and eagerly anticipates what God has in store through this ministry.



BANDMASTER JOHN LAM

Bandmaster John Lam was appointed in April 2008 as the fifth bandmaster of the Canadian Staff Band. In taking over the band, Lam brought his own unique vision and leadership style and immediately put his stamp on their musical presentations.

A passionate music educator, Lam has enjoyed his career teaching instrumental music for the Thames Valley District School Board in Ontario. He is currently head of performing arts at Glendale High School in Tillsonburg, Ontario. Lam enjoys teaching at numerous music camps for The Salvation Army.

MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE



General Brian Peddle, then international leader of The Salvation Army, and Commissioner Floyd Tidd, then territorial commander for Canada and Bermuda, present an Award of Exceptional Service to Major Len Ballantine at the INSPIRE Conference and Congress in 2023 at Toronto's historic Massey Hall.

MAJOR LEN BALLANTINE'S LEGACY OF MUSIC MAKING

Looking back on decades of music ministry in The Salvation Army, Major Len Ballantine admits he didn't see music as a potential career when he was a young man. "When you grow up in The Salvation Army, all of your music making is your gift to God, so I never had the sense of, I'm going to be a professional musician one day," he says.

It was General Arnold Brown, then a commissioner leading the Canada and Bermuda Territory, who gave him his first professional musical role with the Army in 1975 as national bandmaster. Retiring last fall as the leader of the Canadian Staff Songsters, Major Ballantine leaves a global legacy of music making—a gift to God and the Army world.

Major Ballantine attended the University of Toronto with a scholarship in piano performance but later switched to composition. "That gave me all of that nerdy analytical stuff that makes you understand what makes music what it is," he says.

"That background in composition served me really well later on."

He became national music secretary in 1984, a position he held until he and his wife, Heather, entered the College for Officer Training in 1988. Four years later, then Lieutenant Ballantine was appointed to lead the International Staff Songsters (ISS) in England.

During his six years with the ISS, Major Ballantine travelled the British Isles, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, with a focus on choral clinics and worship workshops. He also recorded seven albums with the group.

"Len's tenure as the conductor of the ISS represents a golden era for the group," says Stephen Cobb, director of music and creative arts for the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory and conductor of the International Staff Band. "He is an outstanding musician, communicator and preacher whose gifts were so powerfully used with his ministry with the ISS."

Major Ballantine officially retired in 2015, but he did not stay retired for long. For the next year, he was working behind the scenes to get a new musical group up and running: the Canadian Staff Songsters, which was formed in 2016.

Composing music since he was a young child, Major Ballantine is as well regarded for his compositions as he is for his conducting. "When I'm composing, above all, I have to imagine where it's going to be used and what it has to accomplish," he says. "And then you pray into it for inspiration, for the Spirit of God."

Reflecting on his life of ministry, Major Ballantine says, "When the music is not there, what's left? It should be our hearts crying out to God—our prayers through music, our aspirations through music. That's why the staff songsters are relevant; they're bringing Scripture alive. It can't ever be perfunctory. It comes from the heart."

Adapted from "The Gift of Music" by Kristin Ostensen (salvationist.ca/articles/the-gift-of-music-len-ballantine).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

VISITING GROUPS

International Staff Songsters

U.S.A. Central Territorial Staff Songsters

U.S.A. Eastern Territory Staff Songsters

U.S.A. Southern Staff Songsters

U.S.A. Western Territory Staff Songsters

ACCOMPANISTS

ISS—Andrew Wicker, Piano; Chris Carter, Bass Guitar; Andrew Shires, Drums

CSS—Rachel Ewing, Piano; Ken Bailey, Bass Guitar; Matthew Osmond, Drums

CTSS—Major Kathy Hellstrom, Piano

ETSS—Gavin Whitehouse, Piano; Simon Morton, Bass Guitar; Jake Lyle, Drums

SSS—Kevin Downing, Piano; Major James Shiels, Bass Guitar; Bernie Dake, Drums

WTSS—Hilary Lyons, Piano; Steve Allen, Bass Guitar; Mathijs Arens, Drums

TERRITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS





LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church stands on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We recognize the many Indigenous Nations who walked these lands in the past and the many Nations who call these lands home today. We are grateful to work and present in this community.