

THE ROCA REPORT

The **Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association** (ROCA) is a group of dedicated amateur musicians under professional leadership who believes that a rich cultural scene is essential to building a strong, healthy and vibrant community and music enhances the lives of both performers and audience members.

This newsletter is intended to keep ROCA members and friends up to date on plans for the chorus and orchestra. If you have comments or ideas for a future report, please contact us at roca.office@gmail.com to inquire or to join our committee!

In this edition of the **ROCA Report**, we feature:

- Spotlight: our health and safety committee!
- Reflecting on December 2021
- Planning for the remainder of 2021-2022

Spotlight: ROCA's Health and Safety Committee

With THANKS to the ROCA Health and Safety Committee: Doris Bruce, Brigid Coult, Jennifer Dufour, Shannon Long, Susan Ohannesian (Feb 2022)

The Health and Safety Committee is excited about our return to in-person rehearsals! Knowing that Omicron is highly transmissible, the committee has the following recommendations to help meet our goals to keep each other safe:

1) It is crucial that each member self-monitors for COVID-19 symptoms prior to each rehearsal (cold symptoms, sore throat, cough, fever or chills, headache, body aches and/or or loss of sense of smell or taste), and stays home if feeling the least bit unwell.



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Board of Directors 2021-2022:
Check out our website for
the *new Board Member Portal*
coming soon!

***We continue to seek a vice president...
please share your interest with us?***

Read more about our board and all the committees that make ROCA work... Let us know if you'd like to be involved!

<https://www.roca.ca/board-of-directors>

Spotlight: ROCA's Health and Safety Committee

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- 2) Zoom sessions will continue to be offered for Chorus members who cannot attend in-person rehearsals.
- 3) If you develop COVID-19 pre or post rehearsals, please inform your conductor immediately.
- 4) Masks: 2-layer cloth masks are no longer acceptable for singing. Masks should have a minimum of three layers, of which at least one should be NWPP (non-woven polypropylene). Alternatively, it is possible to double-mask a cloth mask with a surgical mask. The wearer should aim to have a close fit to the face, with no air able to escape at nose, chin or sides. Use surgical tape or an extra mask over the top to prevent gaping.
- 5) Due to the ease of Omicron transmission, please keep masks on inside the building *and* during socializing outdoors.

Members: In addition to improved masking, we will continue to use distancing, sanitizing hands and keeping mingling to a minimum as our tools to reduce our risks. Please follow your conductor's/volunteer's instructions for venues and safety protocols.

December Concert Recordings: Overwhelming Success!



From audiences across the globe, and from our own members, both the orchestra and chorus recordings from Chris Haas were a great success. Confidence building, strong sound, a proud effort at both shows, these recordings have served to share our music with audiences not before tapped into! We were fortunate to share the online concert recordings with long term care home residents as well as family and friends in several countries.

After all ticket sales (albeit only \$10 each for online!) and donations to ROCA for both in person and online shows, we were able to make a profit of over \$300. This doesn't sound like much, but when previous, typical concerts have created a deficit, we see this as a win! Note that the online concert link has now been archived, but we can share it again in the future as the orchestra/choir would like to.

December Concert Recordings: Overwhelming Success!

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Other December Highlights:

- Choral singing at the City of Richmond Winter Wonderland
- Providing assisted living and long term care homes with online concert and previous Christmas recording links for their residents
- ROCA Christmas Tree- great community presence at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery with thanks to the decorators!

West Coast Recordings is managed by Christopher Haas, a multi-talented musician/conductor/teacher with over 35 years of performance experience in the areas of popular, jazz, Afro-Cuban, choral and classical music. Chris has been a high school band director since 1996, and in 2008, he began frequent recording of concert bands, jazz bands, community orchestras and chamber ensembles. As the years passed, he utilized his experience as a musician and honed his skills as a recording engineer to create outstanding recordings. His recording credits now include professional big bands such as John Korsrud's Hard Rubber Orchestra, South Van Big Band, Randers Big Band, jazz combos for artists such as Ingrid Stitt, Ben Henriques, high school recordings at Eric Hamber Secondary and chamber musicians such as the Vancouver Wind Quintet.



Learn more at: <https://westcoastrecordings.weebly.com/about.html>

Spring Dates to Note

- February 22: in-person rehearsals resume
- (Spring break: March 12-27)
- April 19: orchestra recording
- April 26: orchestra concert
- May 7: chorus concert
- May 10: chorus recording
- May 31: possible ROCA event for members
- June 4: cancelled
- June/July: possible impromptu outdoor event for rehearsal/performance/socializing!

Spring 2022: We are now planning for the next set of recordings and will work with Chris, Ryan, and a 'more gentle' camera zoom, again! :) Chris has booked with James and Brigid for April 19 with the orchestra and May 10 with the chorus. Mark your calendars!

Messages from the ROCA Office Administrator: Vincent Ho

- Please ensure any address/email/phone number changes go through the office:
roca.office@gmail.com.
- Our name/email roster will be shared with members this spring, through the member portal. Please alert the office immediately if you do not wish for your email to be made available on this list.
- Something new: we have moved to e-transfer banking! Our staff are now paid electronically through National Bank. Thank you very much to Victor (treasurer) for working on this change!
- For the Board: we will soon have a “Board Member Portal” on the ROCA website - a place for our documents, monthly minutes, committee notes, etc. Stay tuned...

Message from Laura

As we return to making music together again, I continue to think about- What is our vision? What does ROCA mean to the community? How has the community changed and evolved throughout the pandemic, and the 35 years we have been an organization, and where are we headed to, next?

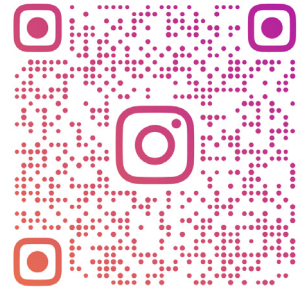
I would like to reiterate the following goals I set for my own ROCA work, and I hope that many of them will align with our members’ desires as well:

- to complete our entire performance season 2021-2022, following the Covid-19 protocols set out by the PHO and our own Health and Safety committee (and modified as needed throughout the season).
- for each concert to have a land acknowledgment and a pre-production Board discussion about diversity and inclusion to ensure the content, commentary, signage etc, meets expectations.
- to modify our elementary education program so we can offer educational and enjoyable performances that represent ROCA and meet health and safety protocols.
- to make our concerts accessible to the wider community, online, and learn about our audiences’ needs and desires going forward.
- to make a profit wherever possible as we require revenue- we are seeking donations, ongoing donors and concert sponsors.
- to provide opportunities for in-person/online retreat and discussion panels where members, staff and board directors can brainstorm and discuss a vision for ROCA’s future, as we celebrate our 35th season!

Thank you for your support. Here’s to making more music in 2022!

With thanks,
Laura

Watch your social media (Facebook, Instagram) / email for updates and notifications about concert updates! We are grateful to those members joining our e-committee so we can best promote and detail our community offerings.
@rocamusicians



Musician Recruitment

Do you know a player or singer who would like to join us?
Get them in touch with our office manager to set up an audition!
Email roca.office@gmail.com

What you can do to help ROCA

Many hands make light work- volunteer your time online-
contact Laura at lrhead.roca@gmail.com to share your ideas.

New opportunities include:

- membership recruitment: ideas and volunteer support appreciated
- know an event we could be part of? Please share with the exec team
- Front of House concert volunteer recruitment needed
- a ROCA educator needed for our Ed Outreach Committee: help us to review our educator's guide for the school concert series!
- consider a Board member position: we continue to seek a vice president interested in the role of president in 1.5 years



BCCF Upcoming Sessions Feb. 26 & Apr. 2, 2022 Bridging tradition and modernity through vocal arts and choral music *with Hussein Janmohamed*

Hussein Janmohamed is a singer, choir conductor and composer. He facilitates choral conversations that spark dialogue, engage diversity and tell new pluralistic narratives, invoking music's unique power to transcend barriers, discover unity, and manifest the depths of the human spirit through the power of co-creation. His two-part continuation of the BC-



CF's ongoing RESPECT workshop series is an opportunity to join in a conversation that explores possibilities for inclusion, representation and intercultural choral being. Join us for one or both sessions – Part 2 will build upon the knowledge and experiences shared in Part 1, offering concrete approaches and ideas for use in your choral practice.

Register HERE: <https://bcchoralfed.com/respect>