

# Nova Voce

2025 - 2026



**Nova Voce**  
Nova Scotia's Provincial Men's Choir

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## **A Message from the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia**

As The King's representative in Nova Scotia, I am pleased to offer my first greeting as Honorary Patron of Nova Voce. Since its founding, Nova Voce has enriched the cultural life of our province with performances that inspire and unite audiences. I am proud to carry forward the legacy of my predecessor and to support this talented choir during my tenure as Lieutenant Governor.

Nova Voce has distinguished itself as Nova Scotia's provincial men's choir, engaging audiences with a repertoire that captures the spirit of our province. From its first performance in Wolfville to appearances at national and international festivals, including Festival 500 in St. John's, Podium in New Brunswick, and the Europa Cantat Festival in Italy, the choir has earned acclaim at home and abroad, ensuring that communities across Canada and around the world can experience the excitement of live music.

Through Nova Voce's music, Nova Scotians are reminded of the beauty and vitality of our culture. I thank all members of Nova Voce for sharing talent, skill, and passion with the artistic community in the province. I look forward to welcoming Nova Voce to Government House this October for a live performance and to speaking with choir members in person.

On behalf of all Nova Scotians, I extend best wishes for a successful season and continued success in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mike Savage".

Mike Savage, ONS  
Lieutenant Governor

**Jack Chen & Rachel Desoer**, flute and cello  
Saturday, October 18, 2025

**ChromaDuo**, guitar duo  
Saturday, November 15, 2025

**TongWang**, piano  
Saturday, February 7, 2026

**Coburg String Quartet**  
Saturday, March 21, 2026

**iTromboni**, trombone ensemble  
Saturday, April 11, 2026

All concerts held at

**7:00 PM at Woodlawn United Church**  
**54 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth**

Tickets and memberships are available for cash or cheque at the door or on our website.

**Tickets:** Adult \$30 / Senior (60+) \$25 / Student \$15

**Membership** (all five concerts): Adult \$75 Senior (60+) \$65 / Student \$35/ Family \$150

For more information visit our website at:

**DartmouthCommunityConcert.ca**



Tong Wang is presented in collaboration with  
Debut Atlantic

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2025/26 SEASON

### THIS WOMAN'S WORK

A powerful program centering women's voices and stories.

Oct. 25 Halifax, NS

Oct. 26 Wolfville, NS

### LOVE LIGHTS THE WINTER SKY

Celebrate the season with music that brings light, warmth and community.

Dec. 13 Halifax, NS

Dec. 14 Tantallon, NS

### ECHO

In collaboration with Camerata Singers, this program explores music that reflects and resonates.

May 23 Dartmouth, NS

### LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

A celebration of five decades of song, community and resilience.

June 13 Halifax, NS



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## Premier's Message

Welcome to a new season with Nova Voce. Your choir brings communities together across our province, showcasing excellence, collaboration and the joy of live performance. Choral singing strengthens well-being, bridges generations and reflects the creativity that makes Nova Scotia special.

Thank you to the singers, artistic team, volunteers, partners and audiences who bring this season to life. Your dedication enriches our civic and cultural life.

Congratulations on the season ahead—and enjoy the music.

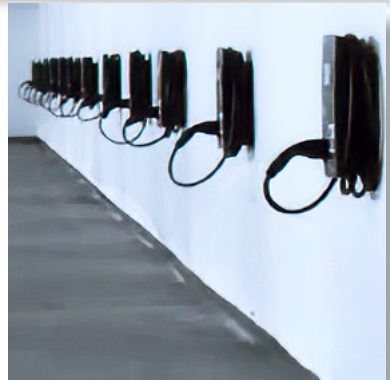
Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Houston".

Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia



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Welcome

On behalf of Nova Voce, Nova Scotia's Provincial men's choir, it is my distinct honour and privilege, as the recently re-elected President of this fine body of men, to bid you welcome to our 2025/26 season of concerts.

Nova Voce's Halifax home, more appropriately known as Kjiptuk, is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, whom we acknowledge as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. This territory is covered by the Peace and Friendship Treaties which Mi'kmaq, W'last kwiyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and W'last kwiyik (Maliseet) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We are all Treaty people.



We also acknowledge that people of African descent have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, and we honour and offer gratitude to the ancestors of those who came before us to this land. Together with the rich and diverse cultural and artistic contributions from the Celtic, Acadian, and so many other traditions, our unique melting pot of musicality continues to produce iconic and distinctive material that lays bare the soul of every Nova Scotian. Although I have the misfortune to have been born far from these shores, it took me no time at all to realise on my arrival that the very specific sense of belonging that Nova Scotians' fundamental connection with music engenders has a universality that Nova Voce exists to preserve and popularise.

With our continuing commitment to fulfilling that significant role, we aim to build on the momentum generated by our highly successful 21st season as we go forward into our 22nd with renewed vigour and confidence. We are delighted and honoured to have been invited to sing at Province House as part of the "Evenings at Government House" series. Then, in November, in response to rave reviews last spring from audiences in Yarmouth and Annapolis Royal, we will reprise our "Pirates and Sea Shanties Concert" in Wolfville and Dartmouth. Our annual Christmas concert with the Halifax Boys Honour Choir and Sackville Brass Quintet returns to St. Andrew's United in December. In the Spring you will find us close at hand. The month of March takes us first to Dartmouth and then on to Tantallon. Later in May, at the invitation of Halifax's own Camerata Singers we will participate in their Mass Choral Festival, and then a particular highlight to bring the season to a close with two performances of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert with Truro's Cantabile Singers and the Tuesday Night Band in Truro and Halifax. These concerts are our way of bringing you the music we love and cementing our proud claim as your Provincial men's choir. Our hope is that you will give us the opportunity to do so, again and again.

Richard Gooch



## BRYAN CROCKER - CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Bryan has been conducting choirs since 2000 when he was appointed Artistic Director of the Dalhousie Health Professions Chorale. Prior to that he enjoyed being a professional saxophonist in Halifax playing with such artists/events as Ice Capades, The Moscow Circus, The Temptations, The Spinners, Rosemary Clooney, Dionne Warwick, the John Alphonse Big Band and many others.

Since that time, Bryan has continued to expand his conducting skills, and besides Nova Voce, he is also the Artistic Director of the Halifax Gay Men's Chorus (HGMC).

Bryan sings baritone with the acclaimed Halifax Camerata Singers and is a long-standing member of the Sackville Concert Band playing baritone saxophone. He is involved with the Nova Scotia Choral Federation, and has sat on a number of planning committees, both provincially and nationally. Between weekends, in his free moments, Bryan is a casual senior analyst with Information Management & Information Technology at the Nova Scotia Health Authority after having recently retired from full-time duties.

## LYNN PELTON - ACCOMPANIST

Lynn Pelton, pianist and former music educator, is a graduate of Nova Scotia Teachers College and Mount Allison University (B.Mus. Major in Performance and Music History). Lynn has previously accompanied many choirs and string groups, including The Aeolian Singers, NS Choral Federation workshops and Halifax Metro Honour Choirs. Many of the school choirs she has conducted won several awards at the N.S. Kiwanis Music Festival. In addition to working with local choral conductors, she has had the opportunity to work with many well known choral clinicians including Mark Sirett, Mark Ramsay and Charles Bruffy.



## BILL PERROT - CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bill graduated from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, in 1975 and has been involved in school, church and community choirs since his arrival in Nova Scotia. He has been active in the Nova Scotia Choral Federation since its inception in 1976 and is also a Charter Life Member of Choral Canada. Bill is the founding conductor of Kings Chorale, a community choir established in 1982. In addition, he has conducted the Annapolis Valley Honour Choir, the Acadia University Chorus, the Acadia Vocal Ensemble, and NSCF's Youth Choir Camp. He has prepared choirs for Symphony Nova Scotia performances as well as for concerts with the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. In 1994, he was the Master Conductor for the Rotary Youth Choir in Halifax, now the Nova Scotia Youth Choir. In May of 2008, Bill was given the Alumni Merit Award from Westminster Choir College for his work with choirs, particularly youth choirs, in Nova Scotia. Bill is extremely pleased to be sharing the podium with Bryan Crocker as Co-Artistic Director.



# TEAM NOVA VOCE

Co-Artistic Directors    Bryan Crocker and Bill Perrot  
Accompanist                Lynn Pelton

## THE CHOIR

Tenor I	Tenor II	Baritone	Bass
Evan Boulter	Ken Field	Steven Beeler	Tom Black
Tim McClare	David Gale	Bryan Crocker	Declan Bourke
David Packer	Richard Gooch	Peter Fillmore	Byron Hermann
Norm Scrimger	Ron Macdonald	Alex Maizlish	Jeff Johnston
Weijian Zeng	John Wallace	Bob McCalla	Greg MacLeod
		Bruce McCulloch	Duncan Miller
		Neil Pegg	Bill Perrot
		Phil Porter	Paul Weibe

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Gooch .....	President
Ken Field.....	Vice President
Steve Beeler.....	Past President
Phil Porter.....	Secretary
Tim McClare .....	Treasurer
Tom Black .....	At Large
Declan Bourke .....	At Large
Pat Gooch.....	At Large
David Packer.....	At Large
Judy Porter.....	At Large
Bryan Crocker .....	Artistic Director (ex officio)
Bill Perrot.....	Artistic Director (ex officio)

Nova Voce requests that there be no flash photography or use of recording devices during performances.  
Please remember to turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices before the concert begins. Thank you.





## 2025-2026 SCHEDULE

EVENINGS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.....Tuesday, October 7, 2025  
1451 Barrington St, Halifax NS 7:00 pm

### ARRR! PIRATES AND SEA SHANTIES

Manning Chapel.....Saturday, November 1, 2025  
45 Acadia Street, Wolfville NS 7:30 pm

Grace United Church .....Sunday, November 2, 2025  
70 King Street, Dartmouth NS 7:00 pm

HOLIDAY CONCERT.....Friday, December 5, 2025  
with the Halifax Boys Honour Choir and Sackville Brass Quintet  
St. Andrew's United Church 7:00 pm  
6036 Coburg Rd., Halifax NS

### MIDWINTER CONCERT

Grace United Church .....Saturday, March 14, 2026  
70 King Street, Dartmouth NS 7:00pm

St. Luke's United Church .....Sunday, March 15, 2026  
5374 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Upper Tantallon NS 3:00 pm

### ECHO - CAMERATA MASS CHORAL FESTIVAL

Kiwanis Community Building .....Saturday, May 23, 2026  
26 Grahams Grove, Dartmouth, NS 2:00 pm

### DUKE ELLINGTON SACRED CONCERT

combined concert with Truro's Cantabile Singers  
and the Tuesday Night Band

First United Church .....May 30, 2026  
711 Prince Street, Truro, NS 7:00 pm

Halifax Regional Municipality.....May 31, 2026  
TBA 3:00 pm

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**TERRY HURRELL - CO-FOUNDING DIRECTOR**  
**1938-2025**



With the passing of Terry Hurrell in June of this year, Nova Scotia lost a giant of the musical community. When Terry Hurrell founded Nova Voce in 2004, it was only the latest in a career of musical innovation and choral direction.

After training as a music educator in England, Terry, together with his wife Stephanie, came to Nova Scotia in 1967, where he became deeply involved in the music scene. An educator, innovator, music director, composer, actor and vocalist, there is hardly a choir in Halifax and Queen's counties that hasn't felt his influence.

In addition to being the co-founder of Nova Voce, Terry was the founding music director of such diverse groups as the Lockeport Male Choir, Liverpool Boys' Choir, Halifax Boys Honour Choir, Queens County Community Choir, Nova Scotia Youth Chamber Choir, and two church handbell choirs. He was a past president and honorary life member of N.S. Music Educators' Association, a vice-president and board member of N.S. Choral Federation, a member of The Contemporary Art Society of Nova Scotia and Dartmouth Visual Arts Society.

Terry was a choir member and served on several committees at St. Matthew's United Church. He has also sung with The Halifax Camerata Singers, Symphony Nova Scotia Chorus and has directed Seton Cantata Choir and the Jubilate Singers.

Terry led Nova Voce from its founding in January 2004 until his retirement in December 2010. During his seven-year tenure with Nova Voce, he grew the choir from its infancy to performing at Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa (2005), successfully auditioning for and performing at Festival 500 in St. John's NL (2007), appearing at Podium in Sackville NB (2008) and releasing its first two CDs in 2007 and 2010. He composed and arranged many pieces of music for the choir, both before and after his retirement, and continued to work with the choir as Director Emeritus until very recently.

After the death of his wife Stephanie in 2024, Terry moved to a retirement home and promptly formed a choir, recruiting singers and an accompanist from amongst the residents there. Before his death, they were scheduled to do a tour performing at other retirement residences.

Terry had a direct and personal impact on so many people, from young people who learned choral singing from him, singers who had their first solo under his direction, choirs that he coached to perform at their very best, and colleagues who appreciated his teamwork and mentorship. Through it all, his sense of humour and his absolute passion for music shone.

As Pamela Burton, conductor of the Halifax Boys Honour Choir (HBHC) which Terry funded in 1985, said, "Though Terry is no longer with us, his legacy of kindness, leadership, and passion for music will continue to inspire. He and Stephanie will always hold a special place in our hearts."

In Terry's honor a new Talent Trust Award has been created and will be awarded later this year for the first time.

Rest in peace, Terry, and rise singing in glory!



### DAVID PACKER - BASS

Growing up in Hants County, family gatherings were always filled with music. Many of my relatives either played an instrument or sang and my sister and I always tried to sing along with them, or whatever old country music was on the 8-track in the family car.



In elementary school when the teacher learned I could carry a tune, two other students and I were always given solo parts in school concerts. I also had a brief stint singing in the church choir. In high school I picked up the guitar to accompany my voice, singing and playing along with the family. After moving to the city, I eventually got connected with the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo (RNSIT) adult choir in 2012 and even sang in a barbershop chorus for a little while. In 2023 a fellow RNSIT choir member invited me to join Nova Voce and the rest, as they say, is history.



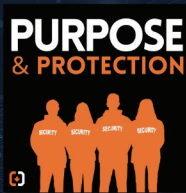
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## OUR MEMBERS

### RON MACDONALD - TENOR II



As a pre-teen, Ron's Dad participated in a number of musical theatre productions arranged by the Acadia Summer Playhouse in Wolfville, N.S. Ron was often encouraged to tag along to rehearsals for a variety of well known extravaganzas such as Carousel, Showboat, Brigadoon.

These adventures produced in him a strong love of music, song and theatre. Through high school, Ron played trombone in the school band and also played bass trombone for a short while in the West Nova Regimental Band.

Ron also performed in several musical productions over the years:

- High School: 'Pirates of Penzance' (as Major General)
- MSVU: 'Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', 'Here's Love', 'The Collector', 'Alexander'
- Gilbert and Sullivan Society: 'Out of Lunenburg', 'Trial by Jury'

Ron says, "It is such an honour to be able to sing with this group of talented men under the guidance of Bill and Bryan and Lynn. There is a special quality to the sounds of the lower voice harmonies...and Nova Voce does it so well!"

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## FUTURE NOVA VOCE MEMBERS?

WE HOPE SO....



Following last year's successful Holiday Concert, Nova Voce gifted these lovely logoed hoodies to the Halifax Boys Honour Choir



## LOOKING BACK ON SEASON 21





## LOVE TO SING? WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US...

NOVA VOCE IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!!!



If you love singing, have always been told you have a great voice, and enjoy the camaraderie of a fine group of men, perhaps you are a good fit for Nova Voce. If you are interested in auditioning for Nova Voce, please contact our Co-Artistic Directors by emailing [artisticdirectors@novavoce.com](mailto:artisticdirectors@novavoce.com).

## STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Nova Voce is committed to the development of young male singers in Nova Scotia. The choir offers five mentorship positions each season and invites young singers (ages 16 to 25) to audition for these positions. Singers who are accepted are welcomed into the choir and have their fees waived. They are provided with skilled choral tutoring in a professional environment where their choral skills are honed.



**Declan Bourke**

## JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nova Voce has opportunities for non-singers to be involved in our organization. You don't have to be a male singer. You could be anyone who has an appreciation for male choral music and shares our vision of bringing this music to a wider audience. If this sounds like you, why not consider serving on Nova Voce's volunteer Board of Directors? The board meets about ten times a year and guides the choir's direction, including finance, publicity, charitable endeavours and most aspects of our program and operations. If it feels like you might be a fit, and you would like to learn more, please get in touch with us at [information@novavoce.com](mailto:information@novavoce.com).

## APPLAUSE FOR OUR SUPPORTERS

### TO YOU:

We would like to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported Nova Voce by attending our concerts and events or making a donation. We also appreciate the support of our advertisers. Please show your thanks by supporting them.

Nova Voce is a not-for-profit registered charity. Our only sources of revenue are ticket sales, fundraisers, or “financial applause” (donations made by our supporters). We couldn’t do this without YOU!

### TO DONATE:

by cheque:

PO Box 29022 Halifax Shopping Centre  
Halifax NS B3L 4T8

by e-transfer:

[treasurer@novavoce.com](mailto:treasurer@novavoce.com)

By Canada Helps



*Thank you*

## NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LEEDS STREET:

Nova Voce rehearses at the Nova Scotia Community College – Leeds Campus.



We are very grateful to Karen Mulvihill of NSCC for the ongoing support and generosity in providing us with rehearsal space for the last several years.

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