

# The ACCOB Newsletter

January 2021

Issue 1



ARTS & CULTURE  
COUNCIL OF  
BURLINGTON

Incorporated in 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Events & Highlights .....  | 1  |
| AGM .....                  | 3  |
| Member Contributions ..... | 4  |
| Opportunities .....        | 10 |
| Call for Support .....     | 10 |

## CALENDAR

### February...

AGM

### March...

ACCOB Board meeting  
Newsletter submissions due

### April...

ACCOB Board meeting

**Please stay tuned for  
future events**

## The Arts & Culture Council of Burlington [ACCOB]

is a not-for-profit arts and cultural organization dedicated to creating a vibrant, diverse artistic and cultural community

## EVENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

Events which we hope help you as members:

- **Burlington Community Support Fund** - As part of the City of Burlington's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City relaunched its existing community support programs into a streamlined program called the Community Support Fund. This program joined existing programs to provide financial support to residents and community groups who want to enrich and connect the Burlington community through sport, recreation, art and cultural experiences. Read more about it at <https://www.burlington.ca/en/live-and-play/community-support-fund.asp>.
- **Music Performance Trust Fund** - The Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) is funding 100% of both live and streaming performances during the pandemic. It costs the "employer" nothing but a little paperwork. For live performances during COVID, you must upload a letter from the employer and/or venue stating that (1) the performer(s) have the venue's permission to stage a performance, and (2) safety protocols will be followed. Specific questions should be addressed to Brent Malseed at the Hamilton Musicians Guild Local 293. Telephone: 905 525 4040 or Email: [local293hmg@bellnet.ca](mailto:local293hmg@bellnet.ca)
- **Newsletter** - ACCOB started a quarterly newsletter in 2019. If members in good standing have anything to contribute please send the information to [info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca) by March 15, 2021. Please send in **Word format**, no more than 1 page in length, all photos must be in **jpg or png** format and attached to your email.

- **ACCOB Fundraiser** – ACCOB is a self reliant arts and culture council, receiving funds through membership and fundraising. For this reason, it is important that you renew your membership annually (2021 was renewed compliments of ACCOB) and tell others about membership. It is also important to attend fundraisers as the funds help us help you. ACCOB hopes to plan some fundraisers and workshops in the future. We would love to hear your ideas and would love for you to be involved either as a participant or as a volunteer! Please contact us at [info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca).

- If you have some interest in being a volunteer or in being on our Board, please contact us. As a Board we meet once a month at the AGB and we also work on various things throughout the year. Please contact us at [info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca).



**The Canada Emergency Response Benefit ["CERB"] has now ended.**

**If you were receiving CERB, you may be eligible for one of the new recovery benefits retroactive to September 27, 2020 and available until September 25, 2021.**

**The Canada Recovery Benefit will provide eligible workers with \$500 per week (taxable, tax deducted at source) for up to 26 weeks for those who are not employed or self-employed due to COVID-19 and who are not eligible for EI, or had their employment/self-employment income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19. This benefit will be paid in two-week periods.**

**Please visit**

**<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/benefits/recovery-benefit.html>**

**for more information.**



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

**GUEST SPEAKER  
MYLES RUSAK  
OF SOUND OF MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Come out and meet your colleagues, learn what ACCOB has accomplished so far and what ACCOB hopes to accomplish in 2021.



Memberships for 2021 have been renewed compliments of ACCOB! If you'd like to become a member, please visit our website\*

**TIME: 7PM | DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021  
VIRTUAL EVENT VIA ZOOM**

To receive the link register for free at  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/accob-agm-tickets-137071591821](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/accob-agm-tickets-137071591821)

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\*[www.artscultureburlington.ca/get-involved/become-a-member/](http://www.artscultureburlington.ca/get-involved/become-a-member/)

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Koogle Theatre Company – Leslie and Christopher Gray, Co-Artistic Directors**

KooGle Theatre Company's vocal students participated virtually in the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival for the first time this year, singing musical theatre pieces, receiving Gold and Silver placements and gaining valuable feedback from industry professionals.

Our musical theatre students have been training virtually in singing, dancing and acting and will begin rehearsals in the New Year for Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, to be presented in May.

[www.koogletheatre.com](http://www.koogletheatre.com)

- **Burlington Welsh Male Chorus – Julian Murray, President BWMC & Louise Murray, President BWLC**

In what has been a very challenging 2020, both the Burlington Welsh Male and Ladies choirs have continued to work, making use of technology to keep members connected.

The Male choir is working through a new repertoire for a Tour and Massed Choir concert to be held at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Initially planned for 2021, COVID-19 has forced the postponement to 2023, so no excuses for not knowing the repertoire.

The Ladies choir continue to grow and strengthen their repertoire, in readiness for the return of in-person rehearsals and concerts. In the summer months some outdoor rehearsals were held with safe distancing and masks.

The technology provided by Zoom allows members to connect weekly, socialize and learn new material. It is far from perfect, but in these trying times it works. The ability to meet and sing is an important part of all our lives. It takes a significant effort from the music teams to make this happen, we are very grateful to Janice Beninger/Larisa Gulenco for the Male choir and Janice Beninger/Chris Hunt for the Ladies choir.

We look forward to brighter days ahead in 2021 and the continued growth of both organizations.

- **Hayley Verrall**

Hey, everyone! While a lot of people would call 2020 just one big dumpster fire, on reflection it has not been that bad for me. I got to hang out with some amazing musicians – CMAOntario Rising Star Aaron Allen, CMAOntario Rising Star Nominee Dustin Bird and a whole bunch of up and coming Canadian country stars. I was part of Sirroma Entertainment's Diamonds in the Rough Showcase this year which

was livestreamed from Manitoba and I was honoured to be chosen as the first artist to perform for the Sound of Music Festival's new local initiative and my set even got clips shown on CTV, CP24 and CHCH. I took part in also had many interviews with various radio stations and podcasts.

And just when I thought 2020 had reached its peak, I was surprised yet again – I received the news that my song was accepted and being played on CBC Country 171 on SiriusXM!



If you have SiriusXM in your car or at home I hope you will listen for my song! I hope you will all go look me up on Spotify or Apple Music and follow me at

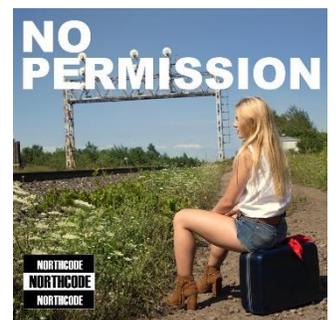
<https://www.facebook.com/hayleyverrallmusic/>  
<https://www.instagram.com/hayleyverrallmusic/>  
<https://www.twitter.com/hayleyvmusic/>  
[www.hayleyverrallmusic.com](http://www.hayleyverrallmusic.com)

- **Northcode Band – Marie-Carmen Loyo**



We released our latest single, No Permission, on October 9th, 2020. It is an upbeat, empowering rock song that celebrates the freedom to choose one's destiny. With heartfelt lyrics, a catchy tune and an epic guitar solo, it'll have you rockin' in no time! It is available on all major music streaming platforms and you can also check it out here:

<https://www.northcodeband.com/no-permission>



Please follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @northcode.band

- **Kim Verrall**

I undertook my very first community project in 2020! I applied for a Community Support Fund grant and was able to create Rock-Out Take-Out: A Restaurant Revue. I asked 10 Burlington based musicians to each order food from an independently owned Burlington restaurant and to then video themselves dedicating an original song to that restaurant. Craig McNicoll at Epilogue Productions put the video together and it premiered on ACCOB's YouTube channel on December 11, 2020. I hope you'll go and check it out at <https://youtu.be/LPtH55-CuYo>



- **Margaret Lindsay Holton**

To my mind, the pandemic has made recluses of us all. And what do recluses do? They work on multiple personal projects!

**PROJECT 1:** I am super thrilled to announce the completion of the Canadian historical fiction TRILLIUM, as an audiobook. With thanks, in good part, to the months-long effort by Voice Artist Jens Hansen.

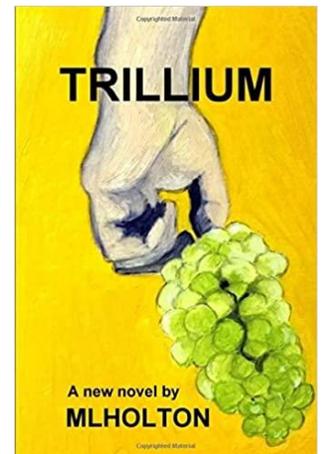
Starting in the lush backwoods surrounding Niagara Falls, a dynamic and diverse range of characters traverse tumultuous decades in pursuit of land, love and loot.

Jens adeptly brings these multi-faceted men and women to life with engaging displays of tenderness and ferocity.

To those new to audiobooks, consider it as a thought-filled gift to those who like to do other things while listening to a good yarn – like cook, garage putter, exercise, knit or drive long distances. It's also great for those with eye issues or for the infirm who just want to listen to a good old-fashioned adult story.

To encourage you to give it a try, we are offering one-time access to this 14.5 hour-long “magnificent journey” with a special link. [Sign up to Audible & get your free copy now!](#)

The latest print and ebook editions of [TRILLIUM](#) include a new detailed map created by Dutch artist Chaim Holtjer, The map squarely sets this "epic" fictional story onto the actual Niagara peninsula landscape. Get this 'added bonus' in the Christmas print editions [here!](#) (OR, ask your local library to order it for you.)





**PROJECT 2:** Running parallel to the transformation of TRILLIUM into an audiobook was the rerelease, mid-summer, of my other award winning novel, [The Gilded Beaver](#).

What happens when renown Canadian fine furniture designer, Iris Ann Burdock, meets multi-millionaire, Luke Gerome Henderson? -- Plenty!

This intense designer rom-com reads “like good wine: rich, complex and pleasing acerbic.” (Toronto Star, 1999) - Why the re-release? - All is revealed in this [Second Edition](#).



**Project 3:** With the onset of COVID, intended 2020 art exhibits and studio visits came to an abrupt stop. Everyone adapted. My own efforts included an on-line contribution to Hamilton Arts Week during the spring, and involvement in Culture Days Canada in the fall, with the streaming of my spoken-word & Garageband musical project - [CANADADA: TAKE TWO](#). Have a listen. It's FREE! (x3 - then a small donation is appreciated!)

**Project 4:** I have transcribed my [signature paintings](#) into an archival resource. This digital art resource now houses over 650+ oils & acrylics, painted by yours truly from the early 1970s to the 2020s. If interested in early access to this MLH repository, please contact me directly.

So, that's it ... :)

So, take care of yourselves, ok? Enjoy winter. Enjoy your lives. I'd love it if you drop a line from time to time.

- **Southern Ontario Lyric Opera – Sabatino Vacca, Artistic director**

Dear Opera Lovers: We hope you are all keeping well and staying health during these difficult times. We wanted to send along some updates to let you know what SOLO has been up to during this pandemic. It has been a globally challenging time and particularly for the Arts due to Covid as many of you know. We've had to curtail our full live opera presentations of Verdi's Requiem and Bizet's Carmen at BPAC until further notice, but have been working on new ways to reach audiences through virtual platforms.

Our first foray in this realm was a summer porch concert in early August. Kathy Garay one of our Chorus members graciously hosted this for us. It featured Soprano Allison Cecilia Arends, and Tenor Paul Williamson, accompanied by me on the piano. We presented highlights from Verdi's La Traviata and Rigoletto, and favourite arias by Puccini, Donizetti, and more. Many of you watched as we livestreamed it on our Facebook page. In case you missed it we do have a YouTube link as follows: <https://youtu.be/zJM-D-FGW9M>

It was an amazing experience to be performing live once more for an albeit small invited audience due to Covid restrictions. It proved to be quite an emotional experience for them which spoke to the power of experiencing live music in community which they had very much missed in the preceding months.

Following this concert we were busy compiling a virtual concert featuring artists who have had a connection with us. We were so pleased with their responses very happy and eager to participate. We are grateful for their contributions! It is compiled as a YouTube Playlist with English subtitles, here is the link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXEpX\\_7d0mFggBwIOXa\\_pBas2ZfcceP3](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXEpX_7d0mFggBwIOXa_pBas2ZfcceP3)

December saw us busy once more, pulling together a concert of seasonal favourites featuring Mezzo-Soprano Beste Kalender, and Tenor Riccardo Iannello, along with Nick Cooper, Oboe, Stephanie Numan Scholman, Violin, Gordon Cleland, Cello, and myself on piano. The YouTube was not yet created at the time of writing this article but details are now available on our website.

We are currently in discussion with the Burlington Public Library to resume our Opera series in a virtual online format. Our live presentations were quite popular at the main branch. This has been a very fruitful partnership and we look forward to resume. We will keep you posted as plans become finalized.

On a personal note I was pleased to conduct 2 recent concerts while following Covid guidelines. The first was an outdoor opera program presented by Firmata Music and held outdoors at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Bandshell. We had an orchestra of 24 musicians all wearing masks and socially distanced, and featured Canadian Baritone David Diston. The concert was very well received by the socially distanced audience who listened very attentively. We were encouraged with the results and there are plans to expand and do more of these outdoor concerts in 2021.

I was also very pleased to conduct a Last Night of the Proms programme for the Music Niagara Festival. This was originally to have taken place in early August with our SOLO orchestra and Chorus, along with 2 soloists. However with the Covid outbreak, we taped the performance instead at the Château des Champs Winery in the Niagara region. We had an orchestra of 15 musicians which included members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, and some of our own SOLO members. Soprano Allison Cecilia Arends was the featured soloist. If anyone is interested in watching this concert please go to the Festival website and click on the Proms performance. [www.musicniagara.org](http://www.musicniagara.org) .

If you wish to make a donation to us please visit our website [www.southernontariolyricopera.com](http://www.southernontariolyricopera.com) and click where it says Donate up at the top. Then on the donate page please click where it says "click here" which takes you to the Canada Helps page and there you can make your donation. You will receive a tax receipt from Canada Helps. If you prefer to pay by cheque please mail us at:

Southern Ontario Lyric Opera  
2005 Barlow Crescent Burlington ON  
L7P 4N7

We look forward to seeing you soon and appreciate your continued interest in SOLO!!

- **Stephanie Numan Scholman, Violin and Viola**

Back in March, we all stopped and held our breath. We were all stunned. Now what? For musicians, work suddenly became non-existent. Those who teach music lessons had the March break to quickly figure out how to teach online. My husband, who works in the technology field, helped me set up Google Meet, and later Zoom, so that I could keep teaching my music students.

At the time of the lockdown, the Rose Orchestra of Brampton, where I play principal viola, was exactly one week away from a concert at the Rose theatre. Our concert master David Rehner was about to perform the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. We were heartbroken! The Southern Lyric Opera Company, for whom I play as concertmaster, was planning to perform Verdi's Requiem at B.P.A.C. in the spring. The remainder of concert seasons the world over were cancelled. Professional musicians, many of whom rely on performing as their sole source of income, were forced to find different work. Some chose to use their musical knowledge to create collaborative videos and share them on social media. We had to keep music alive! David Rehner started producing professional videos almost right away. I was thrilled to help produce a socially distanced YouTube video with him, playing a violin/viola duet of Schubert's Der Erlkönig. Over the spring and summer, with more time on my hands, I had been practising my painting, some of which you can see in the video, which premiered with great success on Dec. 11. Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtpyl-fD8a8&list=PLRbdPdrFM8ebptwu55dGatPd91iO85\\_Xs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtpyl-fD8a8&list=PLRbdPdrFM8ebptwu55dGatPd91iO85_Xs)

With the warmer weather, music moved outdoors. We could perform in parks, in band shells, in court yards, even porches. In September, I was invited to perform in the band shell at Queenston Heights, with a new music company called "Firmata". Maestro Sabatino Vacca, of S.O.L.O. conducted a small, socially distanced orchestra with baritone David Diston. We held a brilliant concert to a large, distanced crowd. We sensed how much people have missed live music!!

As music retreated indoors with the return of cold weather, community orchestras met to discuss possibilities. Online, live-streamed concerts were discussed and planned for. The Rose Orchestra performed a Christmas Concert on December 5th, live streamed by the Rose Theatre. Maestro Vacca also asked me to take part in recording a video for S.O.L.O.'s Christmas concert, with mezzo soprano Beste Kalender and tenor Riccardo Iannello.

At the time of writing, the Burlington Symphony Orchestra is planning a Christmas live stream in BPAC on Saturday, December 19th. I am looking forward to playing principal second violin in my home town again!

- **The Burlington Footnotes Senior Performing Troupe**

The Burlington Footnotes Senior Performing Troupe Inc. are a swingin' enthusiastic group of seniors who have a passion for dance, community involvement and celebrating the art of staying young. They demonstrate various dance styles: tap, jazz, ballet, clogging, and musical theatre. The troupe has represented Burlington twice as the City's Golden Age Ambassadors, performing in our twin city of Itabashi, Japan.

Since its inception in 1995, the organization has grown from 6 to more than 100 members. Their annual production of Gotta SING Gotta DANCE in June at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre is a musical variety extravaganza . It showcases the many talents of the 50+generation with music that transcends the generations combined with a stunning array of costumes , song and dance . You are guaranteed to be entertained and inspired. Their shows bring in visitors to Burlington and are audience favourites.

Due to COVID-19 the June 2020 Gotta SING Gotta DANCE show at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre was cancelled. They are hoping to see everyone at their show in June 2021.



## OPPORTUNITIES & COLLABORATIONS

- **Publish your arts and culture events** – Post your upcoming events on the ACCOB website at <https://www.artscultureburlington.ca/events/> or email [info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca) to post on FB.
- **Send us information** – If you have content for upcoming newsletters please email it to [info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca).
- **Website** - ACCOB has updated and improved its website. Please check [www.artscultureburlington.ca](http://www.artscultureburlington.ca) for information about ACCOB, its board members and member events.

### CALLING FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Please send us interesting and relevant articles! Concerns?  
Questions & Suggestions?  
ACCOB is VOLUNTEER run and needs YOUR help!

Please send new contact info or e-mail changes to  
[info@artscultureburlington.ca](mailto:info@artscultureburlington.ca)