

THE BARRIE ARTS ALLIANCE

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER WORK

Prepared for the Performing Arts Centre Task Force
January 2022

MEMBERS OF THE BARRIE ARTS ALLIANCE

(FORMED FEBRUARY 2021)

**BARRIE CONCERT BAND
BARRIE OPERA SOCIETY
BARRIE FILM FESTIVAL
BAYTOWNE BIG BAND
BRAVADO SHOW CHOIR
BURRO'D THEATRE
CENTRAL ONTARIO MUSICAL COUNCIL
KEMPENFELT COMMUNITY PLAYERS
KING EDWARD CHOIR
HURONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
LYRICA CHAMBER CHOIR
MacLAREN ART CENTRE
MOVING ART
ONTARIO MUSICIANS CO-OPERATIVE
SIMCOE CONTEMPORARY DANCER
SKYLINERS BIG BAND
SKYLINERS YOUTH BIG BAND
TALK IS FREE THEATRE
THEATRE BY THE BAY**

Members of the Barrie Arts Alliance contribute hundreds of hours a year of volunteer and outreach to various charities and the community at large. This document provides a sample of their work.

BARRIE CONCERT BAND

It has long been the practice of the Barrie Concert Band to make a donation to a different local charity after each ticketed concert. This has included the **Barrie Food Bank, David Busby Centre, Barrie & District Christmas Cheer, Seasons Centre for Grieving Children, and the Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie.** We also bought a **Rotary Club** brick at Heritage Park in support of our community.

We have provided free concerts to **Tollendale Village Retirement Community, IOOF Seniors Home, and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147's Veteran's Salute.** We hosted and participated in the Canadian Band Association Community Band Weekend, **bringing in Community Band enthusiasts from all around Central Ontario and featuring a free concert at Meridian Place.** We have celebrated **Canada Day with a free concert at Meridian Place,** and Christmas by playing on a float in the **Barrie Santa Claus Parade.**

We have collaborated with the **Base Borden Brass and Reed Band, Skyliners Big Band, and the youth of the Tri-Service Cadet Band** in our Veteran's Salute Concerts. We have also featured many **local amateur, up-and-coming, and professional musicians over the years.**

Further afield, we have given several free concerts in the Midland Summer Concert Series, and the Orillia Summer Concert Series. Prior to COVID, we have annually performed a free admission Christmas concert at the Lighthouse Community Church in Wasaga Beach, giving all donations to the Wasaga Beach Food Bank.



Barrie Concert Band at Meridian Place
Canada Day 2019.



Barrie Concert Band at IOOF Home.



The Barrie Concert Band.

BARRIE FILM FESTIVAL

Film as a medium can provide context to complement various topics, artistic disciplines, raise awareness and highlight the great work being done within our community. Over the last 26 years the Barrie Film Festival has been honoured to partner with numerous **non-profit/charitable organizations, art groups, schools, the BIA, City of Barrie, radio stations, local businesses and individuals**. Through these collaborations we have been able to provide special free screening opportunities to the community or collect for causes such as the **Barrie Food Bank** as well as provide a platform for **emerging talent**.

The Barrie Film Festival launched a **Youth Media Project** in the Spring of 2021. It is a free online program that provides ideas and useful filmmaking techniques through a series of videos ranging from: short films, “How To” talks with filmmakers, to instructional tips. The goal was to inspire youth to turn to creating films as an outlet for self-expression during the pandemic, as well as supporting talent in the creation of the videos. This is a program we hope to expand on in the future.

- 2022 -
BARRIE ARTS ALLIANCE



Barrie Film Festival's Annual Short Film Competition, September 2021.



Barrie Film Festival after party.



Barrie Film Festival at Centennial Beach.



Barrie Film Festival at Meridian Place.

BAYTOWNE BIG BAND

Baytowne Big Band recently prepared a video in honour of **Remembrance Day**, only this time we focused our attention on the surviving families of lost loved ones. It is posted on our YouTube Channel and on Facebook. View the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0-Kgm_CYrA.



Baytowne Big Band at work.

BRAVADO SHOW CHOIR

Voices at large (VAL) is a Bravado program where the choir holds an **open rehearsal** in various venues. We have performed VALs at **Seniors Residences and Long-Term Care Homes** including **Amica Little Lake**, and **Tollendale Village**, and at the **Georgian, Bayfield, and Kozlov malls** and the **City Hall Rotunda**. We have sent singers to accompany **Salvation Army kettle** collections at Christmas time for several years.

We have also engaged in other community performances without charge. We have performed at the **MacLaren Art Centre Annual Christmas appreciation event** for sponsors and volunteers for several years. We have entertained at the **Busby Centre Galas** at Liberty North, and at the **Barrie Country Club**, and the **Camphill** fundraiser at Collier St. United Church.

We were involved in the **Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival** at least 3 times, and in **Choralfest** an equal number of times. We also participated in the **Climate Change rally** at Meridian Place. We were featured in the **Remembrance Day Memorial** at **MacLaren Art Centre** several years ago with the **City's Poet Laureate** and **Barrie High School students**.



Bravado with Bravado Kids at "Cirque Musicale,"
Georgian Theatre, May 2019.

When Canadian astronaut **Chris Hadfield** conducted his **Space Station to Earth Broadcast**, Bravado was there at **City Hall** with many elementary school groups to take part. We were also featured in the **Olympic torch relay program** (where it was so cold that part of the time we could see our breath but not our conductor!). From ticket proceeds, we have made donations to the **Out Of the Cold Program**, and sponsored a charity at many of our shows including the **Seasons Centre for Grieving Children**, **Hospice Simcoe**, **Gilda's Club**, **Glowing Hearts Community Give and Get**, and the **Gilbert Centre**. We encourage donations at these events and have a **charity of choice for our concert contests**.

Many of our concerts have featured other community groups such as the **Simcoe Contemporary Dancers**, and **Children's Choirs**. In 2018 we formed our own Children's Choir called **Bravado Kids**. This Children's Choir performs with us on selected numbers and does choreography with their own songs.

During Covid we have **produced 3 online presentations**, consisting of an original virtual song, a selection of past performances for Christmas, and a special selection of Old Favourites for **residents of long-term care homes**.



Bravado Show Choir at "Vegas," Georgian Theatre,
May 2017.

HURONIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Four years ago the Huronia Symphony Orchestra (HSO) initiated an **Instrument Lending Library** through the **Barrie Public Library**. The purpose of this program was to allow people to try out an instrument, **free of charge**, to see if they enjoyed playing it before taking the more serious step of personal ownership of an instrument. We have had significant feedback, especially from parents of children, who were appreciative of this opportunity, especially in households with limited financial means. The Huronia Symphony also looks after basic instrument repairs and maintenance. **There is no cost to the community for this program.**

Ten years ago, the Huronia Symphony added a **Youth Program**, which allows students (and older beginners) who live or attend school in Simcoe County, to rehearse and perform with a professional conductor, and with the Huronia Symphony Orchestra. This program has been provided at no cost to the participants in keeping with the HSO Board's "**no child left behind**" policy. The HSO Youth Program concert is always a favourite, and is geared towards families. Our last concert featured "**Beethoven Lives Upstairs**", and was performed in collaboration with **community actors** Callum Aldworth and Scott Hurst.



Huronia Symphony Orchestra (HSO).

The HSO has participated in **Barrie Culture Days** for a number of years now, with free concerts by the Huronia Symphony, or its members, at the **Georgian Mall and the Barrie Library**, and open rehearsals at Collier St. United Church. A favourite part of these concerts is a portion called **“Conduct Us”**, which encourages audience members to step onto the podium and conduct the orchestra with the guidance of our professional conductor. Our youngest “conductor” to date was around 4 years of age, and our most senior “conductor” was close to 90 years old!

The HSO has collaborated with local choirs in events such as Barrie **Choralfest**, and private and public school children’s choirs singing carols at Christmas. The opportunity for **students to perform with a live, full-sized orchestra is for many, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity**. For others, it inspires them to further their musical interests. We also collaborate with Systema Huronia, and the Orillia Youth Symphony Orchestra, whose goals are to enrich children’s lives through music.



HSO Youth Program.

Other collaborations include the **Barrie Film Festival**, which partnered with the HSO to provide silent films with live musical accompaniment by the HSO, various narrations, including one by Jeff Lehman and bands such as Barrie's own "Code Blue".

The HSO has been a proud supporter of such worthy organizations as the **Barrie Food Bank, Gilda's Club, Hospice Simcoe and Season's Centre for Grieving Children.**



Beethoven Lives Upstairs.



© Tom Aikins

Choralfest: Members of the Huronia Symphony Orchestra, Bravado Show Choir, King Edward Choir, Lyrica, and Other Community Performers.

KEMPENFELT COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Over the years, Kempenfelt Community Players has been a regular contributor to **Cultural Days**, pop up performances at the fall outdoor **Farmers Market**, and other volunteer performances. These have included performances for the **RVH Volunteer Recognition** event, **Canada Day** celebrations and **Winterfest** activities which have included surprise ticket giveaways. KCP has a long history of providing **educational programming for school groups** and learning/**training opportunities for young people in leadership roles** behind the scenes, directing and performing on stage. This year, with the inability for schools to experience live performances, KCP offered a **free online program** in September before launching the new **filming of our Youth Production** of The Tales of Andergrimm in October. Schools then had the opportunity to sign up for an additional **online Q&A** with cast and crew from the new production. This allowed KCP to meet their **mandate of educational programming for area youth**.

Kempenfelt Community Players **hires local artists** to provide artistic direction and musical direction for their productions. More recently, KCP has also provided additional honorariums to youth who are **training in stage management and developing skills in technical production**.



Kempenfelt Community Players participate at Culture Days.

- 2022 -
BARRIE ARTS ALLIANCE



Kempenfelt Community Players: *Beauty and the Beast*



Kempenfelt Community Players: *Mamma Mia!*



Kempenfelt Community Players: *Shrek The Musical.*

KING EDWARD CHOIR

As for King Edward's charitable work, we have always presented a **mini-concert and sing-along at a long-term care home in Barrie** following our annual Christmas concert; we will continue this when conditions allow.

Before the pandemic hit, we had begun a mentoring relationship with a group called "Quoir", a choir project of the **Gilbert Centre**, for individuals and families **of the LGBTQ community**. (One of our members is Quoir's conductor.) So far, we have shared music with the group, and given complimentary tickets to our concerts. Again, when conditions allow, we hope to expand this relationship through singing with one another.

We also have a **mentoring role with young singers**, inviting them to sing with us with no membership fee. We have one young singer with us at present, and our new director, Leanne Edwards, is planning for some of her high school music students to join us next year. We have participated in the City of Barrie's "**Choralfest**" on every occasion (twice in the period 2016-2019), with no remuneration, and have donated our risers for use by the choirs.



King Edward Choir.

LYRICA CHAMBER CHOIR

Yet another community choir in Barrie, Lyrica Choir, has performed at **Hospice Simcoe**, and **Grove Park home** as well as **The Red Door** on several occasions.



Lyrica Chamber Choir.



High school students who sing with the choir from time to time with former Artistic Director Steve Winfield.

SIMCOE CONTEMPORARY DANCERS

One of Simcoe Contemporary Dancers core values is community. We exist as an organization to create opportunities for our community to engage with dance as **audience members and participants**. We are committed to providing access to dance through performances, classes, workshops and educational opportunities. Annually we offer 2 free performances open to the public at the **MacLaren Art Centre** as part of their **Carnegie Days and Winterfest programming**. We also offer **open classes that are donation based or pay-what-you-can**.

Since 2017, we have worked with our **community** to create community-engaged choreographies that are created in a **collaborative manner and performed at Dusk Dances Barrie and beyond**. These **community-engaged creative processes are free** to participate in and are open to anyone **aged 8+**. Dusk Dances Barrie itself is a community based event that is offered as a pay what you can donation.

We are also proud to say that we won the **Barrie Arts Award contribution to the community** award in 2017, in large part due to our work and commitment to offering free or donation based opportunities for our community to engage with dance. We know that a dance education can be cost prohibitive and we see ourselves as an organization that can bridge that gap.



Simcoe Contemporary Dancers at MacLaren Art Centre



Simcoe Contemporary Dancers

SKYLINERS BIG BAND & SKYLINERS YOUTH BIG BAND

Since its inception over 25 years ago, the Skyliners Big Band has held a monthly dance called **'Make Believe Ballroom' open to the public** on a donate-what-you-may basis. Initially held at City Hall Rotunda it currently takes place at the Legion in collaboration with **Canadian Legion Wing 147** and attracts many **seniors** and dance-minded patrons.

The Skyliners also hosts a free public dance as part of the **Salute to Veterans** held at the Legion and previously at the ANAF, **every year since the early 2000s**.

In 2013 with the help of a Trillium grant the Skyliners Big Band established the **Skyliners Youth Big Band** which would meet once a week for practices during the school year. This continued right up until 2020 and stopped because of Covid. They would perform at **local retirement homes, Barrie Jazz Fest**, and other locations that may arise. The youth band was formed because of the lack of jazz bands in most high schools in Barrie and Simcoe County. As the program has progressed, joint performances have been held with the adult band.



Skyliners Big Band & Youth Members



Skyliners Big Band



Skyliners Youth Big Band

TALK IS FREE THEATRE

Talk Is Free Theatre offers free tickets to all its core-theatre programming in Barrie. This began in January of 2021 as a way to help rebuild audiences and eliminate any financial obstacles that divide individuals or groups from theatre experiences.

We created Dinner à la Art, a community benefit project, led by iconic Canadian and international artists in exclusive online readings, to help support the economic recovery of locally-owned restaurants and retailers. Contributing artists included Len Cariou, Eric McCormack, Colin Mochrie, Alexis Gordon, Cynthia Dale, Michael Torontow and the late Ed Asner.

We also have opportunities for youth to engage and learn from professional artists as part of TIFT's Young Company Program. Most recently, the Young Company performed alongside a professional cast in the company's hit-production of *Into the Woods* at Springwater Park before transferring to Toronto's historic Winter Garden Theatre.

Youth mentorship was adapted to an online platform over the summer and fall of 2020 to include a variety of classes through our CON-ACT program, taught by dozens of acclaimed artists.

TIFT works with local high schools to offer in-class and online programs that connect classes with artists to introduce students to specialty skills training. Previous classes include Stage Combat, Collective Creation, Improvisation and more.



Cast of *Into the Woods*.
Photo by Scott Cooper.



David Ball and Aidan deSalaiz in *Judas Kiss*.
Photo by Scott Cooper.

THEATRE BY THE BAY

Over the last five years, we have provided free tickets to members of the **Women and Children's Shelter**. We have run the **Barrie Theatre Lab - free play development** for writers of all levels of experience - in partnership with the **Barrie Public Library**.

We are a member charity of the **Barrie Rotary Cash Calendar initiative**. Also we performed as part of the **Remembrance Day** commemorations in 2018.



Theatre by the Bay at the Five Points Theatre, 2017.



Theatre by the Bay at the Five Points Theatre, 2021.

- 2022 -
BARRIE ARTS ALLIANCE



Theatre by the Bay Director Iain Moggach at
Stars Come Out, Georgian Theatre.



Colm Wilkinson at *Stars Come Out*