

VICTORIA HALL VOLUNTEERS PRESENT

A HALL SO GRAND

A CELEBRATION OF
160 YEARS OF VICTORIA HALL
IN WORDS, IMAGES, AND SONG

Saturday May 13, 2023, 7:30 pm
Victoria Hall Concert Hall, Cobourg
Reception to Follow - All welcome

TICKETS: \$50
All proceeds to benefit
Victoria Hall

For tickets call the Box Office at (905) 372-2210
www.concerthallatvictoriahall.com



A HALL SO GRAND

Celebrate Canada's Most Beautiful Historic Building In a Unique One-Night-Only Event!

The 160-year saga of Cobourg's Victoria Hall is as fascinating as the building itself. In this outstanding concert performance, historian and playwright Hugh Brewster and Shaw Festival actress, Brigitte Robinson, recount the story of how Cobourg came to have "a hall so grand."

It is highlighted with music by the superb Oriana Singers conducted by Lynn Janes, and an ensemble of guest soloists accompanied by pianist James Bourne. Featuring a multimedia screen show, the performance takes us from the "very pretty ball" that the Prince of Wales described to Queen Victoria in 1860, to the gala 1899 opening night of the Opera House with the cream of America's social register in attendance, to the gallant group of volunteers who saved the hall from the wrecker's ball in the 1970s.

Along the way we meet a remarkable cast of characters from Cobourg's past: architect Kivas Tully; Father of Confederation James Cockburn; Colonel William Chambliss, who launched the town's American Colony; retired diva and hotelier Madame Albertini; Victoria Cross winner John Weir Foote, and Cobourg's showbiz legends Marie Dressler, Katharine Cornell, and Beatrice Lillie.

The music selections range from stirring anthems by Mozart and Haydn to operetta favourites once performed in the Opera House, to songs from both world wars, to modern tunes by Marvin Hamlisch and Leonard Cohen.



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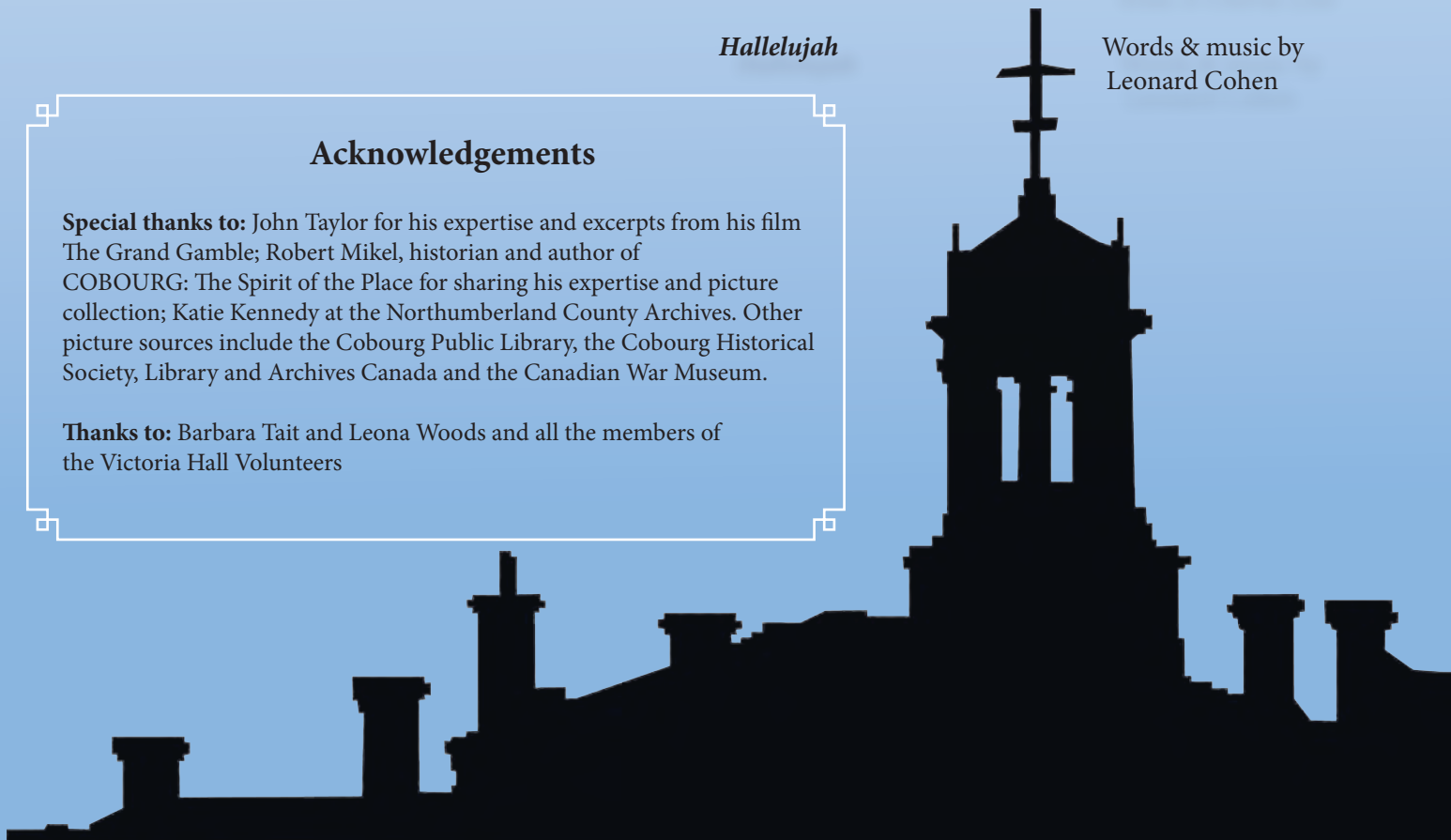
MUSIC PROGRAMME

<i>Hail to Thee</i>	From <i>The Magic Flute</i> by W. A. Mozart, arr by Patrick Liebergen	<i>Tipperary</i>	Words and music by John Judge and Henry Williams
<i>The Heavens are Telling</i>	From <i>The Creation</i> by Franz-Josef Haydn	<i>Where Have All the Flowers Gone?</i>	Words and music by Pete Seeger, arr. by Mark Sirett
<i>The Sash My Father Wore</i>	Trad. Orangemen's Song	<i>When You Get Back to your Home Town</i>	Harry Pomeroy and Bob Albertini
<i>O Canada, Mon Pays, Mes Amours</i>	Words by Georges-Etienne Cartier, music by J.B. Labelle	<i>The Maple Leaf Squadron</i>	To folk tune arr. by Mark Sirett
<i>With Cat-Like Tread</i>	From <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> by Gilbert & Sullivan	<i>We Rise Again</i>	Words & music by Leon Dubinsky
<i>The Merry Widow Waltz</i>	From <i>The Merry Widow</i> by Franz Lehar	<i>What I Did for Love</i>	Words by Edward Kleban, music by Marvin Hamlisch from <i>A Chorus Line</i>
		<i>Hallelujah</i>	Words & music by Leonard Cohen

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to: John Taylor for his expertise and excerpts from his film *The Grand Gamble*; Robert Mikel, historian and author of *COBOURG: The Spirit of the Place* for sharing his expertise and picture collection; Katie Kennedy at the Northumberland County Archives. Other picture sources include the Cobourg Public Library, the Cobourg Historical Society, Library and Archives Canada and the Canadian War Museum.

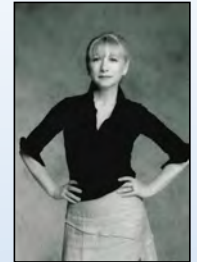
Thanks to: Barbara Tait and Leona Woods and all the members of the Victoria Hall Volunteers



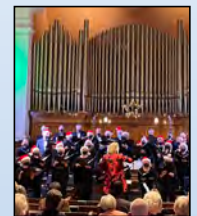
Hugh Brewster is an author, historian and playwright who has created many productions that combine narration with choral music and a multimedia screen show, including *Cobourg's Great War* which launched Armistice18 in 2018. His play, *LAST DAY, LAST HOUR: Canada's Great War on Trial*, enjoyed a sold-out run in Cobourg's Old Bailey Courthouse in the fall of 2018, and received national media coverage.



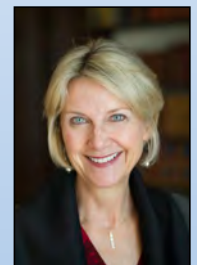
Brigitte Robinson is an accomplished actor who has appeared in theatre, film and television across Canada. She was a member of the Shaw Festival for thirteen years and has also worked in most of Canada's major theatres. Her many film and TV credits include *Murdoch Mysteries* and the title role in the feature film *Punch and Judy*.



Oriana Singers of Northumberland have been singing inspiring music since 1969/70 for audiences in Northumberland County and beyond. Their Christmas concerts, including Handel's *Messiah*, are seasonal favourites and they also perform repertoire in a wide range of styles both classic and modern. We are delighted to have them taking part in this celebration of Cobourg's historic landmark.



Lynn Janes, the artistic director and conductor of the Oriana Singers, is deeply immersed in the world of choral music. She was the conductor and voice coach of the Toronto Children's Opera Chorus for over a decade and also led the Toronto Mendelssohn Children's Chorus and founded the Pax Christi Youth Choir. During a 31-year teaching career she founded vocal programs at a number of Toronto secondary schools and her choirs won many awards. She is also an excellent soprano soloist and has performed frequently with the Exultate Chamber Singers.



James Bourne began piano studies as a young boy in Cobourg and later attended the Conservatoire de Liège in Belgium and the Royal College of Music in London before obtaining a Master's Degree in Music from the University of Western Ontario. He was the accompanist for the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and the Elora Singers for many years and is currently the music director and choirmaster for St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. For this historic concert in his hometown he has assembled an outstanding group of professional singers.



“Hugh Brewster brings history to life like no-one else” –Margaret Wente

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