

The Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo Wellington presents:

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Alison MacNeill

Artistic Director

Chris Fischer

Collaborative Pianist

Saturday, May 25, 2024

At 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Harcourt Memorial United Church

87 Dean Avenue, Guelph, Ontario

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City of Guelph, Harcourt Memorial United Church & Stantec

programme

Land acknowledgement: Jason

Welcome: Alison

Alison: We come to dance, and we come to tell our stories (because we are a story-telling choir!) I asked the chorus to share with me something about what dance meant to them, and as you might imagine, the stories poured out, too many to include during the concert!

Dance has long played a deeply significant role in the LGBTQAI+ community.

It opens a door to a place where identities can be explored and affirmed, a means to feel true selves and embody gender and sexual identities in ways that words can never fully capture.

Safe havens where acceptance and belonging are found, where people can connect, share, heal, grow, leave cares and fears behind for just a while. And find friendship and love.

Stories: Nico (spoken by Louise), Adam, Tanner & Bonnie

Nico (spoken by Louise): I have a tic disorder that causes my brain to make my body move in ways that I don't want to, drawing negative attention from other people. On the dance floor I am free of this. My body and my brain feel coordinated in graceful and joyful movement. The dance floor is the only place anyone has ever wished they could move their body like I do!

Adam: Dance is an escape from the monotony of day-to-day life — when a song moves throughout my body, I have no choice but to honour it with movement. As someone with chronic depression, dancing brings me to an otherwise difficult to access state of release and capacious joy, outside of the inertia of regular existence. It provides me with a sense of pure, incandescent happiness that

can only be encapsulated through the whole movement of one's body. Dancing is a state of pleasure.

Tanner: Dancing is everything to me because it's about LETTING GO and feeling free. I spent way too many years of my life closeted and in fear - leading me to be very guarded and stiff at times... so, when I moved into my forever home, I paid Guelph Glass a wild amount of money to give me a "mirror wall" in the main room so my friends and I can dance around like maniacs and pretend we are in a dance studio! Truly the best money spent of my life!

Bonnie: For the winter concert in 2008, Paula and Bonnie were paired up to do a simple folk dance. Paula and Bonnie are not known for their dancing skills. Margie gave them private dancing lessons at her house and in the process Paula and Bonnie became much more than choir dance mates! We are celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary today, 16.5 years after the dance of 2008!

Dynamite

Taio Cruz, Lukasz Gottwald, Max Martin, Benjamin Levin, Bonnie McKee

arr. Alan Billingsley

[Verse 1]

I came to dance, dance, dance, dance

I hit the floor 'cause that's my plans, plans, plans, plans

I'm wearing all my favorite brands, brands, brands, brands

Give me some space for both my hands, hands, hands, hands, you, you,

[Pre-Chorus]

'Cause it goes on and on and on

And it goes on and on and on, yeah

[Chorus]

I throw my hands up in the air sometimes

Sayin' "Ayoh, gotta let go"

I wanna celebrate and live my life

Sayin' "Ayoh, baby, let's go"

[Post-Chorus]

'Cause we gon' rock this club

We gon' go all night

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

'Cause I told you once

Now I told you twice

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

[Verse 2]

I came to move, move, move, move (Yeah)

Get out the way of me and my crew, crew, crew, crew

I'm in the club so I'm gonna do, do, do, do

Just what the heck I came here to do, do, do, do

Yeah, yeah

[Pre-Chorus]

'Cause it goes on and on and on

And it goes on and on and on, yeah

[Chorus]

I throw my hands up in the air sometimes

Sayin' "Ayo, gotta let go"

I wanna celebrate and live my life

Sayin' "Ayo, baby, let's go"

[Post-Chorus]

'Cause we gon' rock this club

We gon' go all night

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

'Cause I told you once

Now I told you twice

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

[Bridge]

I'm gonna take it all, I

I'm gonna be the last one standing

Higher overall, I

I'm gonna be the last one landing

'Cause I, I, I believe it

And I, I, I, I just want it all

I just want it all

I'm gonna put my hands in the air

Hands, hands in the air

Put yo' hands in the air

[Chorus]

I throw my hands up in the air sometimes

Sayin' "Ayoh, gotta let go"

I wanna celebrate and live my life

Sayin' "Ayoh, baby, let's go"

[Post-Chorus]

'Cause we gon' rock this club

We gon' go all night

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

'Cause I told you once

Now I told you twice

We gon' light it up

Like it's dynamite

Story: Laura

Laura: The Robins Nest was queer dance club in Cambridge. It was sort of a combination of line dancing meets wedding... One night a group of us from the choir met up to spend a night of dancing

together. Margie, who is known for her dance fire poi, really wanted to bring it, but, for obvious reasons, you can't bring fire into a dance club. So, we made her poi from old cat leashes and glow sticks. The rest of us covered ourselves in glow bracelets and went to the club. When we got there the folks at the club all gathered around us, thinking we were really cool and must be "from Toronto". It was the first night a group of us had all hung out together, dancing, and being "Toronto cool".. and we have been friends ever since. Lifelong friendships were made on that dance floor!

I Wanna Dance with Somebody

George Merrill, Shannon Rubicam

arr. Roger Emerson

[Verse 1]

Clock strikes upon the hour

And the sun begins to fade

Still enough time to figure out

How to chase my blues away

[Pre-Chorus]

I've done alright up 'til now

It's the light of day that shows me how

And when the night falls

The loneliness calls

[Chorus]

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat with somebody

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat with somebody

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

[Verse 2]

I've been in love and lost to my senses

Spinnin' through the town

Sooner or later, the fever ends

And I wind up feelin' down

[Pre-Chorus]

I need someone who'll take a chance

On a love that burns hot enough to last

So when the night falls

My lonely heart calls

[Chorus]

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat with somebody

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

[Bridge]

Somebody who, somebody who

Somebody who loves me, yeah

Somebody who, somebody who

To hold me in their arms, oh

[Pre-Chorus]

I need a man who'll take a chance

On a love that burns hot enough to last

So when the night falls

My lonely heart calls

[Chorus]

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat with somebody

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

Oh, I wanna dance with somebody

I wanna feel the heat with somebody

Yeah, I wanna dance with somebody

With somebody who loves me

Story: Colleen

Colleen: What have you done today to make you feel proud? Let me take you back to 2001: my partner Kathy and I were in our early 30s and by this time we had both been to a lot of weddings - cousins, friends, ex-girlfriends (ha!). These were joyful events where the couple was celebrated, and family and friends were as well.

Gay marriage was not yet legal, but we made the decision to have a wedding to celebrate our love and our commitment to each other. We were both fortunate to have very supportive parents and siblings. We invited extended family and friends - some people didn't come, but over 70 people did - most not having been to a same sex wedding before.

Music was an important part of the ceremony, with friends from the Rainbow Chorus, Michael Rouse and Lynn Brown singing, with Sylvie Plamondon on the piano.

So where does Proud come in? The song was originally featured on the TV drama *Queer as Folk*. The lyrics talk about letting go of fears, taking steps that make your heart and soul rise, and celebrating those actions.

Proud was the perfect song to play after we exchanged our vows and walked hand in hand down the aisle in front of friends and family.

That song set the tone for the rest of the evening. We danced for hours; it was so much fun, such a celebration!

I still feel proud, love you Spark.

Proud

Peter Vettese, Heather Small

arr. Greg Gilpin

singers: C.J., Denny, Kadin, Katrina & Lisette

[Verse 1]

I look into the window of my mind
Reflections of the fears I know I've left behind

[Pre-Chorus]

I step out of the ordinary
I can feel my soul ascending
I'm on my way, can't stop me now
And you can do the same, yeah

[Chorus]

What have you done today to make you feel proud?
It's never too late to try
What have you done today to make you feel proud?
Mmm, mmm
You could be so many people
If you make that break for freedom
What have you done today to make you feel proud?

[Verse 2]

Still so many answers I don't know (There are so many answers)
Realize that to question is how we grow (To question is to grow)

[Pre-Chorus]

So I step out of the ordinary
I can feel my soul ascending
I'm on my way, can't stop me now
You can do the same, yeah

[Chorus]

What have you done today to make you feel proud?
It's never too late to try

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Mmm, mmm

You could be so many people

If you make that break for freedom

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

[Bridge]

(Yeah) We need a change (Yeah)

Do it today (Yeah)

I can feel my spirit rising

(Change, yeah) We need a change (Yeah)

So do it today (Yeah)

'Cause I can see a clear horizon

[Chorus]

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

(To make you feel proud, yeah

Let me hear ya, let me hear ya, let me hear ya)

So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

(Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah)

'Cause you could be so many people

If you make that break for freedom

So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Yeah, let me hear ya

(What have you done today? What have you done today?)

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

(Oh yeah, yeah)

You could be so many people

Just make that break for freedom

So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

Story: Jaye

Jaye: Heartbreak. We've all felt it. Once, twice, maybe many times.

It is the risk of falling in love. Of opening ourselves and our hearts to other people. Beautiful, incredible, joy is possible. And the potential for pain is almost inevitable. We all leave each other, in one way or another. By choice sometimes, and sometimes not.

There's a reason it's called Heart. Break. It hits you in the chest. It breaks us open. It opens a hole that we, in that moment, feel will never be filled again. The loss of that person, of that moment in time, of that feeling, overwhelms our bodies and our senses. Sometimes heightening every emotion to a scream. Sometimes turning everything into a dull blur. In those moments it feels like it will always be like that, the intensity, the dullness.

I've heard it said that grief gets smaller over time. But it doesn't for most of us.

It stays big. There remains a hole in our chest that is the perfect shape of the one we lost. Nothing else can fill that space.

But. Our hearts do grow around the space. Our hearts get softer, our hearts get gentle again. With time. And intention. And care.

We realise that we will never love like that again because everyone that comes into our lives fits into our hearts in different ways. The sun will feel warm on our face again. Our bodies will learn how to dance again. Our hearts will take down the protective walls and let love in again.

I'll Never Love Again

Stefani Germanotta, Aaron Raitiere, HillaryLindsey, Natalie Hemby

arr. Mark Brymer

[Verse 1]

Wish I could, I could've said goodbye

I would've said what I wanted to

Maybe even cried for you

If I knew, it would be the last time

I would've broke my heart in two

Tryin' to save a part of you

[Chorus]

Don't want to feel another touch

Don't wanna start another fire
Don't wanna know another kiss
No other name falling off my lips
Don't wanna to give my heart away
To another stranger
Or let another day begin
Won't even let the sunlight in
No, I'll never love again
I'll never love again

[Verse 2]

When we first met
I never thought that I would fall
I never thought that I'd find myself
Lying in your arms
And I want to pretend that it's not true
Oh baby, that you're gone
'Cause my world keeps turning, and turning, and turning
And I'm not movin' on

[Chorus]

Don't want to feel another touch
Don't wanna start another fire
Don't wanna know another kiss
No other name falling off my lips
Don't wanna give my heart away
To another stranger
Or let another day begin
Won't even let the sunlight in
No, I'll never love

[Bridge]

I don't wanna know this feeling

Unless it's you and me

I don't wanna waste a moment, ooh

And I don't wanna give somebody else the better part of me

I would rather wait for you

[Chorus]

Don't want to feel another touch

Don't want to start another fire

Don't want to know another kiss

Baby unless they are your lips

Don't want to give my heart away to another stranger

Or let another day begin

Won't even let the sunlight in

Oooo I'll never love again

Love again

I'll never love again

I'll never love

Again

Story: Jan (spoken by Alison)

Jan (spoken by Alison): I Will Survive became a symbol of female empowerment; a beacon of hope and positivity for the LGBTQ+ community. “I’ve got all my life to live, and I’ve got all my love to give,” sings Gloria, “and I’ll survive.”

It’s a statement of personal confidence and determination that has brought encouragement and belief to the marginalized and oppressed and anyone going through personal struggles. During the AIDS crisis, her song evolved into a rallying cry of a community that was being decimated by disease.

I Will Survive is an enduring queer anthem for times when survival itself becomes an act of defiance. Times like we are living in today.

I Will Survive

Dino Fekaris, Freddie Perron

arr. Mac Huff

[Verse 1]

And so you're back, from outer space
I just walked in to find you here with that sad look upon your face
I should have changed that stupid lock
I should have made you leave your key
If I'd have known for just one second you'd be back to bother me

[Pre-Chorus]

Go on now, go, walk out the door
Just turn around now, 'cause you're not welcome anymore
Weren't you the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye?
Did you think I'd crumble? Did you think I'd lay down and die?

[Chorus]

Oh no, not I, I will survive
Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive
I've got all my life to live, and I've got all my love to give
And I'll survive, I will survive, hey hey

[Verse 2]

It took all the strength I had not to fall apart
Just tryin' hard to mend the pieces of my broken heart
And I spent oh so many nights just feeling sorry for myself
I used to cry, but now I hold my head up high
And you see me, somebody new
I'm not that chained up little person still in love with you
And so you felt like droppin' in and just expect me to be free

Now I'm saving all my lovin' for someone who's lovin' me

[Pre-Chorus]

Go on now, go, walk out the door

Just turn around now, 'cause you're not welcome anymore

Weren't you the one who tried to break me with goodbye?

Did you think I'd crumble? Did you think I'd lay down and die?

[Chorus]

Oh no, not I, I will survive

Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive

I've got all my life to live, and I've got all my love to give

And I'll survive, I will survive, oh

[Pre-Chorus]

Go on now go, walk out the door

Just turn around now, 'cause you're not welcome anymore

Weren't you the one who tried to break me with goodbye?

Did you think I'd crumble? Did you think I'd lay down and die?

[Chorus]

Oh no, not I, I will survive

Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive

I've got all my life to live, and I've got all my love to give

And I'll survive, I will survive, I will survive

[Verse 2]

It took all the strength I had not to fall apart

Just tryin' hard to mend the pieces of my broken heart

And I spent oh so many nights just feeling sorry for myself

I used to cry, but now I hold my head up high

And you see me, somebody new

I'm not that chained up little person still in love with you

And so you felt like droppin' in and just expect me to be free
Well, now I'm saving all my lovin' for someone who's lovin' me

[Pre-Chorus]

Go on now go, walk out the door
Just turn around now, 'cause you're not welcome anymore
Weren't you the one who tried to hurt me with goodbye?
Did you think I'd crumble? Did you think I'd break down and die?

[Chorus]

Oh no, not I, I will survive
Oh, as long as I know how to love, I know I'll stay alive
I've got all my life to live, and I've got all my love to give
And I'll survive, I will survive, I will survive

Announcements: Valerie

Intermission

Words from the Chair: Judy

Story: Archer

Archer: I went into my high school Grade 10 dance class without any friends. I was super nervous being a non-binary body in that environment, especially being fairly early in my transition.

Most of the people in that class were cis, straight dance girls and I felt really out of place. However, there was one older student who made sure to use my pronouns, and prompted other classmates if they messed up. She made me feel accepted and safe in that space.

Dance became my favourite class, my refuge, a place where I could express myself in the body I have and the gender I am.

Happy

Pharrell Williams

arr. Mark Brymer

singers: Jasmine, Maude, Oriana, Sarah B & Sarah K

dancers: Archer, Crystal, Erin, Maureen, Meghan K & Terry

[Verse 1]

It might seem crazy what I'm 'bout to say
Sunshine she's here, you can take a break
I'm a hot air balloon that could go to space
With the air, like I don't care, baby, by the way, huh

[Chorus]

(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

[Verse 2]

Here come bad news, talking this and that (Yeah!)
Well, give me all you got, don't hold it back (Yeah!)
Well, I should probably warn ya, I'll be just fine (Yeah!)
No offense to you, don't waste your time, here's why

[Chorus]

(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you
(Because I'm happy)
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do (Hey Come On Uh,)

[Bridge 1]

(Happy), Bring me down

Can't nothing (Happy), bring me down

My level's too high to (Happy), bring me down

Can't nothing (Happy), bring me down, I said

(Let me tell you now)

(Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) Bring me down

Can't nothing (Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down

My level's too high to (Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down

Can't nothing (Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down, I said

[Chorus]

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do (Hey Come On Uh,)

[Bridge]

(Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) Bring me down

Can't nothing (Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down
My level's too high to (Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down
Can't nothing (Happy, Happy, Happy,) bring me down, I said...

[Chorus]

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you know what happiness is to you

(Because I'm happy)

Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do (Come on)

Story: Vanessa

Vanessa: My mother was an extraordinary woman. She survived polio and at only 2 years old she was quarantined in an iron lung for 6 long months. Doctors told my grandparents not to expect much. They predicted that my mother would not be able to drive a car, go to post-secondary school, get married or have children. Well, mom defied the odds. She did it all and more. Not only did she earn an undergrad degree but went on to earn a Master of Social Work at a time when her Quebec university shamefully had a quota for Jewish students. There was one thing my mom couldn't do, however, and that was dance on her own. But I learned an important lesson from her - that just because you can't do something on your own, doesn't mean you can't do it at all.

The first time I saw my parents on a dance floor, my mom stepped out of her shoes and my Dad pulled her onto his feet. They glided across that floor with grace and dignity. It was a moment of tenderness and love that I cherish to this day. As I recall the experience, I cannot help but think of

my beloved spouse. I may not need to step onto her feet but I can fall into her arms and trust that we will dance together inside the mystery of life's joys and calamities. I know that she and I are in this together and, like my mom, I don't have to dance on my own.

Dancing On My Own

Patrick Berger, Robin Carlsson

arr. Ed Aldcroft

[Verse 1]

Somebody said you got a new friend
Does she love you better than I can?
It's a big, black sky over my town
I know where you at, I bet she's around

[Pre-Chorus]

Yeah, I know it's stupid
I just gotta see it for myself

[Chorus]

I'm in the corner
Watchin' you kiss her, oh
I'm right over here
Why can't you see me? Oh
I'm giving it my all
But I'm not the girl you're takin' home, ooh
I keep dancing on my own
I keep dancing on my own

[Verse 2]

I'm just gonna dance all night
I'm all messed up, I'm so outta line

[Pre-Chorus]

Stilettoes on broken bottles

I'm spinning around in circles

[Chorus]

I'm in the corner

Watchin' you kiss her, oh

I'm right over here

Why can't you see me? Oh

I'm giving it my all

But I'm not the girl you're takin' home, ooh

I keep dancing on my own

I keep dancing on my own

[Bridge]

So far away, but still so near

The lights go on, the music dies

But you don't see me standing here

I just came to say goodbye

[Break]

I'm in the corner

Watchin' you kiss her, oh

[Chorus]

I'm giving it my all

But I'm not the girl you're takin' home, ooh

I keep dancing on my own

I keep dancing on my own (Oh, yeah)

I'm in the corner

Watchin' you kiss her, oh

I'm right over here

Why can't you see me? Oh

I'm giving it my all

But I'm not the girl you're takin' home, ooh

I keep dancing on my own

I keep dancing on my own

Story: André

André: Grade 7. The local dance school came to our school to do a ballet recital for a bunch of 11 year olds. The company was composed of all girls but for 1 boy of my age. I was mesmerized watching that boy as he stood out from the crowd. I had dreams of being a dancer all week. Then I realized that wasn't going to happen, and what I was really dreaming about was the boy. That's when I knew I liked boys!

Dancing Queen

Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson

arr. Roger Emerson

[Chorus]

You can dance, you can jive

Having the time of your life

Ooh, see that girl, watch that scene

Digging the dancing queen

[Verse 1]

Friday night and the lights are low

Looking out for a place to go

Where they play the right music, getting in the swing

You come to look for a king

Anybody could be that guy

Night is young and the music's high

With a bit of rock music, everything is fine

You're in the mood for a dance

And when you get the chance

[Chorus]

You are the dancing queen

Young and sweet, only seventeen
Dancing queen
Feel the beat from the tambourine, oh yeah
You can dance, you can jive
Having the time of your life
Ooh, see that girl, watch that scene
Digging the dancing queen

[Verse 2]

You're a teaser, you turn 'em on
Leave 'em burning and then you're gone
Looking out for another, anyone will do
You're in the mood for a dance
And when you get the chance

[Chorus]

You are the dancing queen
Young and sweet, only seventeen
Dancing queen
Feel the beat from the tambourine, oh yeah
You can dance, you can jive
Having the time of your life
Ooh, see that girl, watch that scene
Digging the dancing queen

[Outro]

Digging the dancing queen

Story: Denny

Denny: In the queer community, I am known as a “baby gay.” That refers to someone who has very recently come out of the closet. I came out in June of 2022, after 23 years in a straight relationship and becoming the proud father of two sons, both adults now.

One of the things I rarely did while in the closet was dance. I was always terrified to dance in front of others, as I was afraid it would make me look “gay”. I knew if I expressed myself authentically I might inadvertently “out” myself, which I couldn’t let happen, so I kept my secret and almost never danced in public. When I did, I’d have to numb myself by drinking heavily and acting like I was “too cool” to dance.

Fast-forward to May, one year ago, and the Rainbow Chorus travelled to Halifax to participate in the Unisson Festival, a celebration of queer choirs from all across Canada. On the first night of the festival, there was a drag show and dance at a local bar. I decided to go, along with a few other friends from our choir: Margie, Louise, and Tanner. When I got there, I was blown away. I was witnessing gay men dancing with other gay men in a safe queer space with no judgement. This was the first time since coming out that I was experiencing such a thing. At first I stood there, petrified, with my back against the wall, unwilling (or unable) to remove my jacket or step out onto the dance floor. The energy and love and freedom of expression I felt in that room was palpable and raw and beautiful. I knew I wanted to dance but I couldn’t—I didn’t know how! I didn’t know how to express myself or feel confident enough in my dance moves to join the others. But I knew I wanted to. And eventually I did—with much prompting from Margie, Louise, and Tanner! Before the night ended, I worked up enough courage to take off my jacket, step onto the dance floor, and dance—perhaps a bit stiff and awkward at first, but at least I was doing it. And it felt AMAZING!!! I literally had the time of my life!

And the next night, the Queer Songbook Orchestra from Toronto performed at the festival and during the last song it was the Rainbow Chorus that jumped up to lead dancing in the aisles, led by Dave V. and others. And then I took a harbour cruise and danced, with Nico as my wingman, as I put the moves on this cute boy from the Halifax Gay Men’s Chorus, who caught my eye earlier in the day. (Spoiler Alert: he’s here tonight, so clearly my moves worked...) And then all the choirs danced together at the closing ceremonies, where unconfirmed reports claim I may have removed my shirt for the first time while on the dance floor.

And I’ve been dancing ever since! Sometimes it’s at Zumba with Adam and Jason. Sometimes it’s at the Newfoundland Club in Cambridge, with Colleen, Cheryl, Kadin, Vanessa, Greg, Marshall, Geoff and others. Sometimes it’s an impromptu outbreak of dancing in an otherwise ordinary Wednesday night choir rehearsal.

So tonight, I want to dedicate this, our last song, to all of you in the Rainbow Chorus. Thank you for taking me under your wing; you have been like a family to me this past year and I don’t know how I would have gotten through my baby-gay years without you. I am having the time of my life dancing with you.

And does it make me look gay? Absolutely. And I love it.

I’ve Had the Time of My Life

Franke Previte, John DeNicola, Donald Markowitz

arr. Mac Huff

singers: Greg & Jason

dancers: Alex, Denny, Kayla, Lynn Maureen Tegan, Vanessa

[Chorus]

Now I've had the time of my life

No, I never felt like this before

Yes, I swear it's the truth

And I owe it all to you

'Cause I've had the time of my life

And I owe it all to you

[Verse 1]

I've been waiting for so long

Now I've finally found someone to stand by me

We saw the writing on the wall

As we felt this magical fantasy

Now with passion in our eyes

There's no way we could disguise it secretly

So we take each other's hand

'Cause we seem to understand the urgency

[Pre-Chorus]

Just remember

You're the one thing

I can't get enough of

So I'll tell you something

This could be love

Because

[Chorus]

I've had the time of my life

No, I never felt this way before

Yes, I swear it's the truth

And I owe it all to you

Hey, baby

[Verse 2]

With my body and soul

I want you more than you'll ever know

So we'll just let it go

Don't be afraid to lose control

No

Yes, I know what's on your mind

When you say

Stay with me tonight

(Stay with me)

[Pre-Chorus]

Just remember

You're the one thing

I can't get enough of

So I'll tell you something

This could be love

Because

[Chorus]

I've had the time of my life

No, I never felt this way before

Yes, I swear it's the truth (I swear)

And I owe it all to you

'Cause I had the time of my life

And I've searched through every open door

'Til I found the truth

And I owe it all to you

[Bridge]

Now I've had the time of my life

No, I never felt this way before (Never felt this way)

Yes, I swear it's the truth

And I owe it all to you

[Chorus]

I've had the time of my life

No, I never felt this way before (Never felt this way)

Yes, I swear it's the truth (It's the truth)

And I owe it all to you

'Cause I had the time of my life (The time of my life)

And I've searched through every open door

'Til I found the truth

And I owe it all to you

rainbow band

Chris Fisher, piano

Judy Steers, percussion

Steve MacPhee, bass guitar

Anne Monkhouse, flute

special thanks

Christopher Wilson, choreographic mentor

Maureen Anderson, Tegan Frid & Kayla Maiolo, additional choreographic support

Gerry Neufeld & Mark Sears, AV technicians

The Royal City Ambassadors, choral risers

biographies

Alison MacNeill

Artistic Director

Alison MacNeill (she/her) was named Artistic Director of the Rainbow Chorus in 2018. Her deep connection with the choir, spanning 15 seasons as collaborative pianist, made her the ideal choice to spearhead its 25th anniversary celebrations, which culminated in a sold-out performance at the River Run Centre. This past May 2023, she was thrilled to lead the choir in an inspiring performance at the Unison Choral Festival in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and she looks forward to an exciting 30th anniversary season for the chorus this year. In the vibrant musical landscape of Guelph, Alison's dedication to performance and community engagement is evident. She is Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministry at Harcourt United Church, and leads two local community choirs, the Village Singers and the Lightshine Singers. She has been for many years the collaborative pianist for the Guelph Chamber Choir and is featured on several of their recordings. She collaborates with area musicians whenever she can, believing in the power of music to transform lives and bring people together. Her work resonates with emotion, joy, precision, and her deep-rooted love for music and community.

Chris Fischer

Collaborative Pianist

Chris Fischer (they/them) joined the Rainbow Chorus as collaborative pianist (and sometimes tenor) in 2018. They are well known to local audiences as a tenor soloist, organist and conductor. Chris is the Minister of Music at First-St. Andrew's United Church, London, Ontario (an affirming congregation), and has been a teacher of voice and piano for more than 30 years. Chris was the tenor section leader of the Guelph Chamber Choir for 14 seasons and has been a member of the professional Juno- and Grammy-nominated Elora Singers since 2012. Board of Directors Judy Steers, Chair Cheryl Murton, Secretary Bobbie Belfry, Community Outreach & Production Crystal Chilvers, Treasurer Jasmine Jordan, Chorus Connections Ken McRory, Promotion Sarah Brown, Member at Large Valerie Walker, Fundraising Rainbow Chorus Members.

Board of Directors

Judy Steers, Chair

Cheryl Murton, Secretary

Bobbie Belfry, Community Outreach & Production

Crystal Chilvers, Treasurer

Jasmine Jordan, Chorus Connections

Geoffrey Metz, Volunteer Coordinator

Ken McRory, Marketing & Promotion

Valerie Walker, Fundraising

Rainbow Chorus Members

sopranos

Amy Gizas	Janet Doner	Megan Rowe
Anna Vallentin	JJ (Jennifer) Jupp	Meghan Kelly
Archer Smith	Kaitlin Venneri	Monica Chamberlain
Charlotte Reich	Kali Jhirad	Nicola Capindale
Cheryl Durand	Katrina Stephany	Shannon Barnes
Crystal Chilvers	Laura Grise	Sophie Lecomte
Em McQuay	Lindsay Ly	Tammy te Winkel
Grace Mulligan	Lisa Litt	Tegan Frid
Heather Zwart	Lynn Woodford	Terry Hamilton
Holly Hu	Maureen Anderson	

altos

Amanda Pauw-Klapwyk	Emily Rutledge	Meech Kratky
Bonnie DePaul	Jasmine Jordan	Mel Soares
Bonnie Lesky	Judy Steers	Oriana Abrahamse
Carsper Kaija	Kayla Maiolo	Paula Waddick
Carly Robinson	Komal Bassi	Ren Dunollie
Carys Camani	Leah Sprague	Sarah Brown
Cheryl Murton	Liane Cheshire	Sarah Corbett
CJ Janzen	Lisa Farlow	Sarah Cressman
Colleen Lichti	Lisette Machan	Sarah Lawson-Canning
Coreen Jones	Maude Stephany	Valerie Walker
Earlla Vickers	Meaghan Mazurek	Wendy Doornbos-Pauw

tenors

Dave Vervoort	Fort Hui	Kadin Wyer
Denny Culbert	Justin Hong	Kim Ryan

Laura Kinzel

Michael Strickland

Tim Cunningham

Louise Harnett

Nico Hanna

Vanessa Russell

Maggie Coulter

Ron Collins

Margie Johnson

Steve MacPhee

basses

Adam Davies

David Tilley

Kayleb Mitchell

Alex Mitchell

Geoffrey Metz

Ken McRory

André Langdon

Gregory Walsh

Marshall Bowman

Blair Turner

James Lockhart

Matthew Hunter-Tribe

Chris Chihrin

Jason Earl

Tanner Coutts

David Ingard

Jaye Crawford

Tom Auger

want to join us?

The Rainbow Chorus is a welcoming family and community. Watch our website for news on the fall season!

please support us!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to donate to the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo Wellington and make a difference in the lives of local 2SLGBTQIA+ musicians. To learn more about the chorus, please visit our website at rainbowchorus.ca