

Artistic Director

Passionate about a cappella, Margo Keenan studied voice privately and has sung for many years in several a cappella quartets in and around Montreal. She has taught music at the primary level and founded and directed numerous choirs in elementary and secondary schools in the Montreal area.

Margo founded the Sainte-Anne Singers in 1987. She studied conducting privately with Peter Schubert and Michael Zaugg. In 2013, she was presented with the Prix Jean-Pierre Guindon in recognition of her contribution to choral singing in Quebec over more than twenty-five years.

Since 2014, Margo Keenan also directs the Philomela Singers, a West Island community choir, as well as a 60-voice choir which forms each spring in order to perform at the West Island-based Festival de la Voix.

History

From its beginnings as a small a cappella group in 1987, the Sainte-Anne Singers has attracted members who take a particular pleasure in creating beautiful harmonies with the voice alone, and in communicating that pleasure to their audience. It now includes 20 singers from the West Island, Greater Montreal and beyond.

Much of its repertoire is contemporary, especially Canadian, American and Northern European, but the group also performs works of the Renaissance and the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as sophisticated pop and jazz arrangements.

Over the years, the Sainte-Anne Singers has enjoyed multiple collaborations with the Montreal Chamber Orchestra (Wanda Kaluzny), the McGill University Children's and Youth Choirs, the John Laing Singers (Hamilton) and the St. Lawrence Choir. It has been a frequent participant in events such as the Mondial choral Loto-Québec, the Canadian Connections concert series sponsored by the Montreal Choral Institute, the Festival de musique religieuse, the Nuit des Choeurs of the Festival Bach de Montréal, the Festival de la Voix (West Island) and the Classical Spree concerts sponsored by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

The Sainte-Anne Singers has performed at Podium, Canada's biennial choral conference, in 2012 (Ottawa) and 2014 (Halifax). A third performance at Podium in Montreal in 2020 was cancelled because of the pandemic.

The ensemble has received numerous awards, including first place at the advanced level of the ARCIM competition (2001), and second place in the chamber choir category of the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs (2010, 2015), as well as finalist in the same category in 2019.

Along with the Choeur de chambre du Québec and the Chœur du Plateau, the Sainte-Anne Singers was designated a "Choeur fleuron" by the Alliance chorale du Québec from 2019 to 2021, in recognition of its musical quality and its contribution to Quebec choral life.