



**Maple Ridge Choral Society  
News Release  
June 1, 2025**

### **Maple Ridge Chorus invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** The Maple Ridge Choral Society (MRCS) is thrilled to announce they have been invited to sing at New York's prestigious Carnegie Hall this November. The choir will take part in the Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) choral series, performing Heather Sorenson's *Requiem* alongside singers from around the world, a full orchestra, and professional soloists.

Artistic Director, Frank Zieginson, first shared the exciting news with the MRCS Board back in November. He had received the invitation after DCINY viewed a performance by one of his other ensembles, the Lynn Valley Voices. He then submitted an audition video of the Maple Ridge Chorus and both choirs were subsequently invited to participate. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—even for a professional musician," said Zieginson. "I'm humbled and proud of the singers in both choirs. Their dedication each term has brought us to this moment."

Fifty singers will make the trip to New York, including six from the Lynn Valley Voices. In preparation, members will begin rehearsing the eight-movement, 40-minute *Requiem* this fall. Prior to the November 17 performance, the choirs will attend rehearsals and a technical run-through in New York.

"When Frank shared the news, I was speechless," said MRCS President Thyra Gillese. "To reach this level in just 18 months under his leadership is incredible. For a local, non-audition community choir to be invited to Carnegie Hall is beyond exciting. I also recognize this is a challenging time to be traveling to the United States, but this is a reminder of music's powerful healing ability and how the arts bring people together."

To help offset costs—\$995 USD registration per person, plus travel—the choir is launching a fundraising campaign, seeking sponsors and donors. Despite the expense, members are eager to seize this rare and inspiring opportunity.

Established in 1933, the Maple Ridge Choral Society, which performs as the Maple Ridge Chorus, is the longest continually running Community Choir in the area. It is an all-inclusive, non-audition mixed choir with 70 members.

**For More Information, contact:**  
Thyra Gillese, MRCS President  
president@lovetosing.net  
Frank Zieginson, MRCS Artistic Director  
artisticdirector@lovetosing.net