

# Linda Beaupré (2012)



As the founding conductor and artistic director of the Guelph Youth Singers, Linda Beaupré began enriching the musical lives of young people, their families and the Guelph community in 1991 and continued to do so for more than twenty years.

Beginning with two children's choirs, the GYS grew under her guidance to four groups of young choristers, ranging in age from six to the late teens and from beginners to polished singers.

Linda was already the conductor of the Bach Childrens' Chorus in Toronto and a member of the famed Elmer Iseler Singers when she agreed to lead a new musical venture in Guelph. Before coming here, Linda recognized Guelph as an artistic city, and felt confident that its young people could reach a high level of singing, and perform challenging repertoire. Under her guidance, they have achieved a consistently high, award-winning standard. In return, the choristers enjoy the camaraderie, personal satisfaction and artistic outlet of making beautiful music together.

The choirs take part in the Guelph Kiwanis Festival, winning the trophy for Best Choral Program annually since 1996 as well as various awards at the provincial and national levels. They perform in major community concerts, workshops and choral clinics. The choristers have travelled to conventions and performances in cities across Canada and the United States and hosted choirs from as far away as Japan and Slovenia. They have recorded three solo CDs: Bird in the Nest, Wind in our Sails, and Into the Breeze.

Linda received the Women of Distinction Arts and Culture Award from the Guelph YM/YWCA in 2002, The Leslie Bell Prize for Choral conducting in 2006, and served as the conductor of the Ontario Youth Choir in 2008. She is also a choral clinician, adjudicator, workshop facilitator and co-author of a series of workbooks and teachers' aids, A Young Singer's Journey.

She describes singing as "an all-body experience and a pure expression of emotion" and she has enjoyed enabling our young people to experience the joy and exhilaration of this artistic expression.