



CAPELLA REGALIS CHOIRS

6036 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1Y9 www.capellaregalis.com



ABOUT CAPELLA REGALIS CHOIRS

Capella Regalis Choirs is one of Canada's leading professional choral music organizations, renowned for its world-class performances, recordings, and online broadcasts. Founded in Nova Scotia by Artistic Director Nick Halley in 2010 to build upon the best aspects of the European tradition of church choirs and to revitalize this method of music training in Canada, Capella Regalis now comprises a Boys Choir, Girls Choir, and professional Men's Choir based in Halifax. In November 2024, Capella Regalis launched its South Shore Program, based in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, which provides weekly singing training for children from Nova Scotia's South Shore communities. All Capella Regalis children's choirs are **free** and open to any child who is keen to learn music, and Capella Regalis offers transportation assistance to rehearsals for choristers who would not otherwise be able to participate. A dedication to supporting the artistic practice of professional musicians, focus on training the next generation of singers, and commitment to making world-class music affordable and accessible to the public form the group's charitable mandates.

Capella Regalis Choirs regularly sing Choral Evensong in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, as part of the Cathedral's *Sundays at Four* music series. The choirs also perform concerts around Nova Scotia and beyond in a busy September – June season, and engage the public in many music outreach initiatives. Recent performances include J.S. Bach's *Easter Cantata BWV 4*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien*, Rutter's *Visions*, and the Paul Winter Consort's *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*; annual tour programs of sacred and secular repertoire from across the Western tradition, and the popular, annual Christmas series, *A Chorister's Christmas*. Capella Regalis has released five CDs: *Songs of the Sea* (June 2025), *Benjamin Britten: A Ceremony of Carols* (2023), *Love Came Down: Carols for Christmas* (2019), *Greater Love* (2017) and *My Eyes for Beauty Pine* (2014), as well as many online performance broadcasts. Discover more www.capellaregalis.com.

ABOUT THE CAPELLA REGALIS TOUR TO QUEBEC AND ONTARIO, MAY 2026

Capella Regalis is embarking on its first-ever tour outside of the Maritimes with performance invitations at presenting venues in Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, and Toronto. The touring ensemble will comprise 20 senior choristers of the Boys Choir and Girls Choir (ages 9–14), and 12 men including professional singers and members of the Young Men’s section with recently changed voices, directed by Nick Halley (also playing drums and percussion) and Vanessa Halley, and accompanied by Paul Halley (piano and organ).

Tour Concert Program: **“Sea Songs and Sacred Anthems”**

The first half of the tour concert program will feature selections from the choir’s extensive Evensong repertoire, including a setting of the Magnificat by H. Howells or C.V. Stanford, epic anthems such as *I Was Glad* by C.H.H. Parry, and other works from Gregorian Chant to Baroque composers, Renaissance polyphony through to 20th-century works. Pieces are chosen to illustrate and celebrate the breadth of musical composition found in a rich and continually evolving musical heritage, and the depth of interpretation possible with a rigorous singing training such as Capella Regalis provides its choristers of all ages.

The second half of the tour concert program will feature contemporary arrangements of folk songs from around the world, with particular emphasis on songs from Maritime traditions including historical gems from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, as featured on the choir’s latest album, *Songs of the Sea*, and many of Paul Halley’s exciting arrangements for choir, organ, piano, and percussion (for example, ‘Freedom Trilogy’, which combines Gregorian chant, African chant, and American folk traditions; ‘Les Petits Troubadours’, which was commissioned by the Ottawa Choral Society and is a setting of the prayer of St Francis and psalms sung in French and English; and Paul’s well-known ‘Song for Canada’ in French and English), performed as the composer himself envisioned and with the inimitable Nick Halley on drums and percussion!

Please see following pages for the tour itinerary and key artist biographies.

Audio-Video Samples

(click on icons to watch)



TOUR ITINERARY May 22 – 31, 2026

- Friday, May 22** **19:30h Festival Classica, MONTREAL**
Concert “Sea Songs & Sacred Anthems”
at L’Église Sainte-Famille, Boucherville
- Sunday, May 24** **11:00h Saint Joseph’s Oratory, MONTREAL**
Morning Mass, in collaboration with *Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*
- 18:00h St Matthew’s Church, OTTAWA**
Choral Evensong, in collaboration with *Caelis Academy Ensemble*
at St Matthew’s Anglican Church, Ottawa
- Monday, May 25** **19:30h Music and Beyond, OTTAWA**
Concert “Sea Songs & Sacred Anthems”
at St Matthew’s Anglican Church, Ottawa
- Tuesday, May 26** **18:15h Christ Church Cathedral, OTTAWA**
Choral Evensong, in collaboration with *Christ Church Cathedral Men & Boys*
- Wednesday, May 27** **19:00h Saint George’s Cathedral, KINGSTON**
Choral Evensong
- Thursday, May 28** **19:00h Saint George’s Cathedral, KINGSTON**
Concert “Sea Songs & Sacred Anthems”
- Saturday, May 30** **19:30h St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, TORONTO**
Concert “Sea Songs & Sacred Anthems”
- Sunday, May 31** **11:00h St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, TORONTO**
Guest Choir for morning service
- 16:30h Grace Church-on-the-Hill, TORONTO**
Choral Evensong, in collaboration with *Grace Church-on-the-Hill choirs*

NICK HALLEY (*Founder & Artistic Director, Boys Choir Director*) is a celebrated and charismatic drummer/percussionist, keyboardist, composer, and conductor. He is the Founder and Artistic Director of Capella Regalis Choirs, and Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax. Nick founded and for eleven years (to 2021) directed The King's Chorus, a choral society for members of the King's and Dalhousie University communities. Nick also served as Assistant Director of the University of King's College Chapel Choir from 2008 to 2021. As an educator, Nick is passionate about making musical excellence accessible to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds, and about helping people to – quite literally – find their voice.



In 2012, Nick was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contribution to Canada and Nova Scotia through the arts, particularly for his work with Capella Regalis. For the 2013-14 season, Nick was broadcast across Canada as Host of CBC's national radio program *Choral Concert*.

As a drummer and world percussionist, Nick performs and records internationally with a wide range of musicians including American musical icon James Taylor, the late Oscar Castro-Neves, Dinuk Wijeratne, Sandeep Das, Chris Norman, Old Man Luedecke, Nazih Borish, Kinan Azmeh, Suzie LeBlanc, Paul Halley, and Viradouro Escola de Samba. He is featured on many recordings, including a CD of his own compositions performed by an ensemble of young jazz stars (*Barnum Hill*, 2008). Nick teaches and performs at Boxwood Festival (Nova Scotia), Aldeburgh Festival (UK), Interlochen Summer Festival (USA), LAMP (Nova Scotia), Morgenland Festival (Germany), and in other workshop venues around the world. For more information, visit nickhalley.com.

PAUL HALLEY (*organ and piano*) is a multi Grammy Award-winning composer, keyboardist, and choral conductor. He is Director of Music at The Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Born in England, Halley was raised in Ottawa, Canada where he received his early musical training with The Men and Boys Choir of St. Matthew's Anglican Church. Awarded the organ scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, Halley received his M.A. with prizes in composition and performance, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Following four years post-graduate work in Canada and Jamaica, W.I., Halley was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City where he served for twelve years from 1977-1989. During his tenure at the Cathedral, Halley collaborated with The Paul Winter Consort as principal writer and keyboardist on multiple Grammy Award-winning albums. Halley later settled in rural Connecticut, founded the children's choir, *Chorus Angelicus*, and the adult ensemble, *Gaudeamus*, and served as Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington, CT, where he inaugurated a Choral and Organ Scholars program in conjunction with Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music. In 2007, Halley relocated to Halifax, Nova Scotia to become Director of Music at the University of King's College (to 2021), also becoming Director of Music at All Saints Cathedral, Halifax in 2015. Halley's choral and instrumental compositions have been commissioned or licensed by such entities as Sony Entertainment, the Boston Pops Orchestra, CBC, The Toronto Symphony, and Canadian Brass, and are distributed internationally by Pelagosmusic (pelagosmusic.com).



VANESSA HALLEY (*Assistant Conductor*) is the Executive Director of Capella Regalis and the Director of the Capella Regalis Girls Choir. Vanessa has over 40 years of singing experience in chamber and church choirs in four different countries, and music administration experience at both the non-profit and for-profit levels. She is a professional chorister and a core member of the All Saints Cathedral Choir, Halifax. Vanessa holds an undergraduate degree with High Distinction from Trinity College at the University of Toronto (2002), and graduated Juris Doctor Magna cum Laude from Western New England University School of Law (2006). She practiced law in Massachusetts, USA, for five years before making the move to Nova Scotia with her husband and young family to put music performance and education at the centre of their lives. From 2012 to 2021, in addition to her work with Capella Regalis, Vanessa managed the Chapel Choir at the University of King's College.



Capella Regalis Choirs (Halifax), May 2024