



Next Concert:

REMEMBRANCE

Saturday November 2 at 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster
115 Askin Street

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MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Christmas

I am very excited to be starting our 2019/20, the first season I have programed as music director. I can't wait for you to join us this season as we build on the the thirty year legacy of Brassroots. We will be bringing you the same musical excellence, as well as expanding and pushing our repertoire. We begin on November 2 with our concert, **Remembrance**. Through words and music, we will honour those who served in the military, protecting our country in times of war. In this program you will hear themes from some of the most well-known war movies including *Midway*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Born on the Fourth of July* and *War Horse*. Along with traditional marches, patriotic songs, and popular war tunes, your evening will be filled with unforgettable music, featuring soloists from your very own Brassroots.

To enrich your experience of the concert in the following pages you can read about some our member's own personal remembrances.

I look forward to seeing you at *Remembrance!* - Jeff

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

A Word on Heroism

By David Ennis, *Chair*

My father was a slight and quiet man who never seemed to distinguish himself in any particular way. He kept his head down, worked hard on the family farm and managed to raise six of us to become reasonably competent citizens who also went to work, paid their taxes and kept themselves out of trouble. Our own kids are fine and they're doing okay too. In short, we're good and ordinary Canadians.

It wasn't until after my grumpy tenure as teenager that I started to listen more carefully to the stories of my father during World War Two. He was a tail gunner on Viceroy airplanes, a smaller sibling to the infamous B-17's and, as an obvious target for the German fighter planes, he endured his fair share of terrifying flights from England to Germany and back, often in the dark of night. This included an unnerving experience with a bomb that was snagged and dangling from their plane over the English Channel. They couldn't land with it in that condition, so my father held his friend (the source of all of these stories, told decades later) by the parachute straps over the open bay doors so he could kick the bomb off the plane into the sea. Minutes later they landed without incident.

This wasn't considered particularly heroic during these daunting times, for a whole generation was much more focused on winning the war than being acclaimed for any heroism. I feel sometimes that almost any good act that takes place these days is called heroic' when I'm more inclined to call it 'decent' or perhaps 'the right thing to do.' Maybe I've changed from grumpy teenager to grumpy old man in what feels now like the blink of an eye.

On the other hand, we still celebrate and acknowledge those veterans – living and dead - who have fought in wars on our behalf. I don't think these veterans see themselves as heroes, but all of us need to pause and contemplate the sacrifices they have made to give us the quality of life we all enjoy. When exceptional heroism was required on a daily basis, those among us who were veterans of any war stepped up. We can't possibly thank them enough!

And that's why I'm so pleased that Brassroots is offering a special concert where all of us can express our gratitude for the sacrifices our veterans made on our behalf. This concert is both for them as a token of our gratitude and for the rest of us – lest we forget! Let's remember dear, ordinary Canadians, that our blessed lives are founded on the sacrifices of ordinary people taking heroic action for our country. Let's celebrate them well! - *David*

MUSIC IN TIMES OF WAR

By Adam Corrigan Holowitz, *Director of Audience Development*

If someone needed to be convinced of the sheer power that music can have, I would ask them to consider the role music plays during wartime. Popular songs from World War One and World War Two provided solace for soldiers and civilians alike. The voice of Vera Lynn (still alive today at age 102) became a force of hope during World War Two; just as Ivor Novello's *Keep the Home Fires Burning* inspired those living through World War One. It makes sense, as neuroscientists have proven, our brain behaviour changes significantly when we are listening to music. So music directly affects how a person feels during, even in the darkest of hours.

Music also serves as social commentary during war. Perhaps this is most evident in some of the songs from World War One, which are incredibly satirical and subversive. Consider songs like Courtland and Jeffries 1917 song *Oh It's A Lovely War*. Is that song all that different from Country Joe and the Fish's Vietnam protest anthem *I Feel Like I'm Fixin To Die?* The later song is in the style of a music hall number, so it is possible to see the music of World War One directly influencing the music of the Vietnam War.

Another genre of music that will be heard at Brassroots' *Remembrance*, will be music from the scores of war films. The scores by John Williams for *Born on the Fourth of July* and *Saving Private Ryan* have become part of the commentary that we associate with these wars.

This music, now part of contemporary popular culture, has become linked to our reflection and remembrance, just as the popular music from the period of the wars was part of people's lived experience.



REMEMBERING MY FATHER

By Karl Hermann, *Founder of Brassroots*

My Father, Ken Hermann joined the Royal Canadian Navy as soon as the war broke out, when he was 17. He was the youngest of 11 kids (the only boy), and he had a big role as a family supporter (his Dad was out of the picture at a young age), but he knew he had a duty to serve in WWII. (He was also a huge Brassroots supporter over the years!) Ironically he served on the same type of ship at Dave's Davidson's Dad (a corvette), the HMCS Orangeville. He was also a "submarine detector" during the "Battle of the Atlantic." Few people these days actually know how many German U boats were hiding just meters off our home shores. My Dad's job was to detect the U boats and tell the Captain when to drop depth charges with the hope of possibly sinking the enemy. He called it "an art not a science." Before he passed in 2014 my Dad recorded some "war stories." They can be heard at

<http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/2930:kenneth-hermann/>



Our two most recent CDs are available on iTunes, Amazon and CDbaby. You can download an entire CD for \$9.49 or an individual track for \$0.99. BUT these are US dollars! You can buy each of these CDs from us for \$10 CAN. The CDs are available at our concerts. Surely much better to have the tactile pleasure of owning these acclaimed CDs. What a great gift for someone who has never heard Brassroots!

Two CD covers are shown. The top one is 'Passion for Brass' by Brassroots of 30, featuring a hummingbird and a trumpet. The bottom one is 'Cocktails' by Brassroots, featuring a martini glass with a lemon and a trumpet.

HOW YOU CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN BRASSROOTS!

VOLUNTEER: From ushering and front of house to working as part of the board of directors, volunteers perform essential work that makes Brassroots a vibrant community-minded organization. All of us at Brassroots would love for you to consider volunteering with us. We need help on concert days, with communications, board duties and more. There are not that many hours required and, above all, the only skill we need is that we can depend on you to step up. Please think about this, dear supporters. Help us form a team of good people who back Brassroots so those wonderful concerts can carry on for years to come. If you are interested you can **Contact David Ennis** at davidbryanennis@gmail.com or call at **519-777-7967**. A few hours of work offstage can make a big difference onstage.

DONATE: Making a donation to Brassroots goes directly towards our concert programming and educational outreach. You can make a donation to Brassroots at www.canadahelps.org and then search Brassroots in the charity search bar.





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Jeff Christmas, Music Director

St. James Westminster Anglican Church
115 Askin Street
London Ontario

Tickets available from
Tuckey Home Hardware, at the door, and
from

www.onstagedirect.ca/brassroots

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