

Biography— Naomi Russell

Naomi Russell is a proud founding partner of the Canadian Chamber Choir/Choeur de chambre du Canada and has sung in the ensemble since its inception in 2001. This national ensemble provides professional choral experience for emerging Canadian singers, conductors and composers. A registered nurse by trade, she feels very fortunate to be able to use music in healing ways, especially in the area of palliative care.

Her conducting experiences include directing the Ladies barbershop chorus "Women in Harmony" of Brandon, Manitoba since 1992. In November 2001, she had the honor of directing the Mass Sing at the Harmony Incorporated International Convention and Competition. Since the summer of 2001, she has been the guest instructor for the Adult Ladies Barbershop chorus at the International Music Camp at the Peace Gardens on the border of Manitoba and North Dakota. In 2003, Naomi led a weekend workshop in Kenora, Ontario for a perspective ladies chorus. Her barbershop quartetting experience has included a one-song debut with the "Nu-tones" in 1985, "True North" in 1994 and "Great Expectations" since 2001. In 2003, she was thrilled to be involved in the formation of "AmeriCan Dream", a quartet whose members hail from Manitoba, Michigan, Illinois and New York (providing quite the challenge for getting together for rehearsals!).

Naomi's time spent over the years as a singer in a variety of choral settings has provided her with a multitude of opportunities to observe some of the finest conductors in North America. Among the highlights are experiences in 1994 and 1996 with the National Youth Choir of Canada, and participation in the Manitoba Choral Association Summer Academy in Advanced Choral Conducting (Professional Voices) Choir under the direction of Frieder Bernius in 2000 and 2002. She was the contralto soloist with the Brandon Choral Society for the Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio in November 2003, Haydn's "Nelson Mass" April 2005 and with the Brandon Community Choir for Beethoven's "Symphony Nr. 9 Finale" in 2008. Naomi currently sings with a nine-member female uncondacted chamber ensemble "das Femmes", of which she was a founding member in 1998. She studied voice with Doris Mayoh (1993-1996) and is a member of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities and the Manitoba Choral Association, serving on the Board of Directors of MCA since 1990. She is proud "Auntie" to Cameron, Kayleigh and Ella.

"I view each opportunity to study with a choral conductor as a fabulous chance to learn new ideas and approaches to the choral art. In my opinion, one can never stop studying that which gives them so much joy and fulfillment. Each choral experience provides an opportunity for growth. The lasting friendships, knowledge and memories gained are invaluable to any musician and to any human being."

~~~~~ *Naomi Russell* ~~~~~