

PRESS RELEASE

The 2024/2025 season will mark Artistic Director Robert Cooper's 35th and final season with Chorus Niagara

After thirty-four years of inspired leadership with Chorus Niagara, Robert Cooper announces that his tenure as Artistic Director will come to a close at the end of our 24/25 concert season.

Since his appointment in 1989, the entire Niagara community has benefited greatly from the powerful impact of Mr. Cooper's artistic vision. Following its incorporation as an organization separate from the Niagara Symphony in 1997, Chorus Niagara has doubled its membership and established an unprecedented standard of excellence.

Robert's personal mission to encourage and support youth through choral singing has resulted in the establishment of the Chorus Niagara Children's Choir, the Robert Cooper Choral Scholars, the Side-by-Side High School Chorale, and the Associate Conductor position. In addition, his continuing mandate to engage emerging Canadian soloists has offered Niagara audiences the opportunity to hear talented young singers on the cusp of national and international careers.



His creative and innovative programming has pushed audiences to consider, feel, and experience the power of choral music, including curated silent movies, dramatized oratorios, multi-media spectacles, beloved choral classics, and powerful programs reflecting our times. Under his leadership, Chorus Niagara has premiered and commissioned works by numerous Canadian composers and introduced audiences to countless premieres of fascinating and accessible works from the current generation of international composers. He has truly excelled in cultivating and curating the "Embrace the Extraordinary" experience.

"Since my arrival in 1989 as conductor of the Niagara Symphony Chorus, I have been the most fortunate of choral conductors. Thanks to the hundreds of talented singers I have had the honour and privilege to conduct, the impressively dedicated Board and volunteers, and the steadfast and invaluable administrative team, we have built a robust and caring choral arts organization of which we can all be proud. Departing the bonds of Chorus Niagara will be for me most challenging."

Robert Cooper, C.M.



In recognition of Robert's significant, transformative, and long-term service in building, nurturing, and promoting choral music in Canada, he has been awarded the Order of Canada, an honorary doctorate from Brock University and Choral Canada's prestigious National Distinguished Service Award. He continues to serve as a strong ambassador of Canadian choral music at gatherings of singers, conductors, and composers the world over.



“Robert’s magnificent leadership and clear vision for the Chorus have set the standard for great choral music in Niagara. He has worked in partnership with the Board to establish Chorus Niagara’s strong organizational identity, and we are immensely proud of all we have achieved together. Robert will always be part of our Chorus Niagara family.”

Judy Willems, Board Chair

We are all so grateful for Robert Cooper’s commitment to developing and advancing the choral art in Niagara, and we eagerly look forward to what lies in store during his 35th and final season as Artistic Director.



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Embrace the

Extraordinary

Artistic Director

Robert Cooper, C.M.