



# The DCAT Purr-spective

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*DCAT is an organization dedicated to the preservation and joy of Drum & Bugle Corps camaraderie, bringing together past members, relatives, friends and associates in a social environment for the purpose of companionship and musical activities.*

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G.A.S. 2001 is quickly approaching and our new show is starting to come together. We are all looking forward to another great reunion with its' camaraderie and nostalgia. We are arranging for a DCAT hospitality suite for the three nights. The majority of people are going on the bus but some people are driving or flying down.

The chorus is working very hard and learning some strange sounding tunes for the performances at Roy Thomson Hall. Ted is also putting together a 90 minute show for the Air Stream Convention.

The two most dreaded words to DCAT choristers are "Choreography Rehearsal". Ted Key is not just a musical arranger/conductor but also a fitness instructor. Our choreography is a real workout. It includes strutting, umbrella spinning, dancing, arms up, arms down, thumbs on chest, cooing, pointing, spitting, silly faces (two kinds), hollering, waving, squatting, stomping, more dancing, marching, saluting, mingling, holding hands and swaying... and sing while yer doin' it. Now, I can't say for sure whether these events are related but... Wilf and Donna have had their hips replaced, I blew my knee out, Tony had to have his heart fixed, Brian had the things in his ear replaced and Edna wheezes constantly. Aside from that we're are really enjoying it.

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## ***The election of the DCAT Treasurer is now official.***



The election officials ordered a total recount of all ballots including previously considered spoiled ballots and now, it is my pleasure to announce that Paul Kelly has won the treasurer position by a landslide.

### ***Congratulations Paul.***

The executive has decided that for the next election we will rent the Florida State voting machines to speed up the process.

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The chorus performed at the Nokia Mens' Curling Championships in Woodstock on Saturday, February 10th. It was a fun bus ride until we came to a grinding halt because of an accident on the 401. We were shunted off the highway and seemed to be destined to crawling along the service road. Our bus driver noticed that the traffic was allowed on the highway if you were approaching from the other direction. So, making a u-turn on a narrow road we were happily on our way again.

Finally arriving at the curling arena, Ted was there to greet us. The chorus performed, had a bite to eat and we were on the road back to T.O.

In the early years of the chorus one of the features of the newsletter was a section called **"We'd like to know a little bit about you for our files"**. It was a line from one of the songs that we sang at that time "Hey, Mrs. Robinson". Members submitted bio's and it made for interesting reading.

Edna Allen was telling me how she came about finding and becoming a member of the DCAT Chorus. I suggested that she write it up for the Newsletter. *Everyone is encouraged to submit material for the newsletter.*



Edna Allen

## WHAT'S A "DCAT?"

On February 14, 1999 an ad appeared in the Scarborough Mirror, Wanted Female Singers for DCAT Chorus. My first reaction was interesting but "What's a DCAT"? So the story begins, a frustrated singer, an advertisement, and a phone call to Paul Kelly that changed my life forever. My first introduction to this group not only presented a wonderful choir, but a genius of a director (who I was very timid of for over a year) and a dynamic group of fun loving people. And now like many of you my calendar revolves around the schedule of the DCAT Chorus.

Now backing up a little to my earlier reference of myself as a frustrated singer let me explain. My very first singing attempt was at 5yrs.of age singing -"A Tisket A Tasket" (some of you may remember that little ditty) on radio station CHSJ St.John, N.B. The prize for this performance was a bottle of Schwartz Peanut Butter (not quite a golden globe). For most of my life, significant events seemed to have happened in 5year increments or at least it seemed that way. At age 10 I was hospitalized with Scarlet Fever. At 15 I was presented with a (so called) scholarship for singing by the local Auxiliary. My singing at that time consisted of weddings and local social events, which included the Saturday night dance for \$2.00 and the monthly Box Socials (do you remember them)? At age 20 it was time for the big train trip to Toronto where I joined a local church choir enabling me to sing solos and duets. By age 25 I was working, married and starting my family (not all in that order) and unfortunately singing was put on a back burner for quite awhile. After 20 years with Warner-Lambert as a Pharmaceutical Librarian, 10 years of running by own shop in flowers & gifts, and teaching floral design on the side, I decided that singing had been on the back burner for far too long and it was time to make it a priority again. So while I was teaching crafts for seniors at Pine Tree Senior Centre the opportunity arose to join their choral group. Although it was great to sing again especially the solos, I must admit that a little frustration did occur, as I was the youngest member and had the strongest voice (the oldest member was 95).

So I started bugging Jim to check the papers for any ads that needed female singers (the reason for asking Jim is, well he reads the paper back to front, top to bottom, so I knew he wouldn't miss anything). I almost didn't know what he looked like for years as he was always hidden behind the paper. But this time it paid off he found the DCAT ad.

After speaking with Paul the next day, I came to check you out on Wed. Feb.17th. I was greeted with a friendly atmosphere and amazing voices. My first reaction was quite mixed. Initially I thought you were a Religious group singing songs such as Amazing Grace, Great Gates and the Lords Prayer. Then when you started to sing the Stars & Stripes, I thought you were American. But as the evening wore on I realized that you were just a bunch of fun loving and sociable singers with a very diverse repertoire, rehearsing for the upcoming "G.A.S." in Toronto. Well this was obviously the challenge I was looking for and as scared as I was I decided to join.

I had a few hurdles to overcome in the beginning e.g. I don't read music and as a Contralto I really wasn't sure where I would fit in? However with full support from the members, I started out in the Alto section and then joined the Sopranos, all in the same night. Its amazing what you can do when you put your mind to something and you want something bad enough. For example I'm allergic to wool, tuxedo pants are wool (pant slips are good). I am also allergic to satin (T-shirts underneath are

also good). I am terrified of making mistakes (you can only put so much off to age). In all, what I am saying is that, thanks to the support I get from you these little inconveniences have become insignificant. I can only express how important this group is to me and I only hope that I can continue to contribute to the DCAT success.

I am just amazed that we can go off into sections ,learn our part-get back together and WOW' what a magnificent sound. Ted - you really are a genius. We are so lucky to have you. They say life begins at 40, you start to swing at 50 and watch out for the over 60s Well what else can I say? Personally, I have improved not only in voice but my personal discipline too. The DCAT Chorus is like the energizer bunny we keep going and going and get better and better.

*Thanks to all of you.*  
*Edna Allen*

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## ***Ann's notes...***



*Ann White*

Just after our last newsletter was published, I received a call from our treasurer. He was whining. We NOT ONLY FORGOT to put his picture in the last Purrerspective, with all the other executive committee members, WE DIDN'T MENTION HIM AT ALL. Ah. We are so sorry TO have forgotten him. So everyone — Our Treasurer IS PAUL KELLY. (NO MORE WHINING.)

As always getting ready for a new season means a lot of work for everyone, especially Ted. It is always a challenge to try and get it right. Learning the choreography for Up On The Mountain has been an experience and a half. Talk about a 15-minute workout. It is that and more. It certainly works the kinks out. Now it is well known that my co-editor has problems with directions, e.g., getting from A

to B. Now getting from A to B while swaying from side-to-side carrying an umbrella which must go in a different direction was certainly a challenge for Dave but he came through. I think that he and Ordy Beaumont, our lead umbrella carriers are perfectly suited for the job. Lois and Edna did a great job adding colour to the umbrellas and to the show.

### ***Giving a Helping Hand to the Community.***

On Sunday, March 11th, the DCAT Chorus performed at a fundraiser at the Jimmie Simpson Centre. There were many members of the community on hand and they welcomed us with open arms and showed their appreciation through out the show. We were all enthralled with the 90+ lady in the front row who was certainly noticed in her bright red hat. I hope that we are all wearing bright red if we are lucky enough to hit the 90-year mark. Afterwards we all gathered at the Blue Moon (not the one in Petersburg) for a little liquid refreshment and to give an unscheduled performance. The more we drink, the better we sing and sing and sing.

### ***Toronto Signals Celebrating 75 years.***

Congratulations to the Toronto Signals Band on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. Sigs was formed in 1926 and continues the tradition of excellence, military tradition and a great deal pride. The celebrations will start on Sunday June 10th with a march to Toronto City Hall to receive greetings from the City and a reception afterwards at the band's mess at Fort York Armoury. A Celebratory dinner will be held on September 22nd at the Shrine Temple on Keele Street in Toronto.

Many DCAT members are current or alumni members of Sigs and we send them our best wishes as the band celebrates this historic milestone.

## ***Upcoming Events***

### **Thursday, May 3rd to Sunday, May 6th - GAS Reunion**

Departure: Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00 am arriving at the Hilton Parsippany at approximately 5 pm that evening.

Friday morning rehearsal approx. 11:00 am (with Bon Bon and Princemen)

GAS kicks off at 7:00 pm Friday evening with the beer bash.

Saturday Individuals, brass and percussion presentations start at 10:00 am.

DCAT rehearsal at approx. 6:00 pm Saturday night banquet begins with cocktails at 7:00 pm, DACT Chorus performance at 9 or 9:30 pm.

Sunday breakfast 8 or 8:30 pm. Depart for Toronto at approx. 10:00 am and arrive in Toronto at approx. 8:00 pm.

### **Friday, May 25th - Order of the Amaranthe Banquet**

Location: Holiday Inn, 3063 South Service Road, Burlington, Ontario.

Arrival time: 6:30 pm • Rehearsal time: 7:30 pm

### **Sunday, May 27th - Air Stream Convention (WBCCI Region Rally)**

Location: Markham Fair Ground. 10801 McGowan Road, Markham.

Arrival Time: 6:00 pm • Rehearsal Time: 7:00 pm • Time of performance: 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

### **Thursday, August 16th and Friday August 17th - Royal Bank Seniors Jubilee, Roy Thomson Hall**

Thursday, August 16th - arrive at 9:00 am for rehearsal - show starts at 1:00 pm

Friday, August 17th - arrive at 11:00 am - show starts at 1:00 pm

*There will be two Wednesday night rehearsals at Roy Thomson Hall - dates to be determined.*

### **Sunday, June 3rd - DCAT Euchre Party**

2:30 p.m. Royal Canadian Curling Club, \$5 per person.

Cash and Novelty prizes.

See Jim Jennings for tickets.

### ***New Members***

Dennis Juneau - first tenor. Visited. Listened. Joined. Already doin' choreography. Wonder if he speaks French as well as the Beaumonts do? Or maybe legit, like Claire Beatty.

Gillian (alto) and Pat (first tenor) Maloney - Additional out of towners (Niagara-On-The-Lake). The "Bear" (its easy to tell who's which) is ex York Lions and Ambassadors (along with the other Moloney, two thirds of the contra section.) These new Maloney's did time "on the rocks" in sunny Sydney (Oz, not NS).

*That's it for this issue  
Dave & Ann*