

# THE DCAT CHORUS



## 20th ANNIVERSARY

1994 - 2014

# The DCAT Gala Purr-spective

*DCAT (Drum Corps Alumni Toronto) 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.*

The Newsletter of the Drum Corps Alumni of Toronto – September 27, 2014

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## Message from our President:



A hearty welcome to those who are attending and others who will be reading about DCAT's 20<sup>th</sup> Gala event. Who would have thought a venture discussed after GAS 1994 would now be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Those attending will meet some of the Founders of this great organization, Past Presidents, members who have been honoured and voted into the Hall of Fame and others who still keep propelling this organization to greatness. The members work hard at honing their skills, memorizing the music and presenting to the best of our abilities an entertaining show. To get us into this position we have been blessed with two wonderful and talented Music Directors and Arrangers with the late Ted Key and now Wyatt Gill guiding us along the way. You will see from our repertoire that 120 songs have

been learned and memorized.

Our roots are from the drum corps days in the 50's and 60's and many of us had not seen each other for 25 years but that quickly disappeared and we continued on with the nicknames, old jokes, old stories and singsongs of the past. The drum corps training really prepared us well for the transition to the chorus world. Over the years we are delighted that many friends, and associates albeit non drum corps folks have joined us to keep the torch burning.

DCAT has performed at Roy Thomson Hall Seniors Jubilee (six times), Breakfast TV, twenty GAS Reunions, hosted two GAS Reunions and raised the bar each time, eight "For the Love of Music" Concerts, Shriner's events, Drum Corps events, Community events, Business Association events, Seniors Homes, Christmas events, social events with a lot of fun and memories and many other recordings and gigs that I have not categorized.

We have accomplished a lot and in a very classy manner. I would like to thank the past members, associates and supporters for their time and efforts to get us to today and the current members, associates and supporters to take us to tomorrow.

Orton Beaumont  
President

# Past DCAT Presidents



**Tom Hamilton**  
1994 - 1995  
1 year



**Gord Moffatt**  
1995 - 1996  
1 year



**Orton Beaumont**  
1996 - 2001  
5 years



**Paul Kelly**  
2001 - 2005  
4.5 years



**John Jones**  
2005 - 2007  
1.5 years



**John Dickinson**  
2007 - 2008  
1 year



**Marion Shearer**  
2008 - 2011  
2 years

## Our founding Fathers - and Mother!

### The ones who started it all in 1994:



**Stanley Babiartz:** A key issue, when DCAT began, was to give the organization a name. We had suggestions for logos that included a top hat and a cat, so we definitely needed to incorporate a cat in our name. I had heard kids talking - using 'd' instead of 'the' - so I thought of 'd cat', which would form the initials for Drum Corps Alumni Toronto. And it seemed that everyone agreed that would fit.

Some baloney from the past: at a N.Y. GAS conference, Joan English and I took a tour bus to N.Y. City. No other passengers. Once there we got married and had a two hour honeymoon. Joan went shopping and bought me a wallet. I went walking. The next morning we were divorced on the bus back home. I don't want to talk about it - goodnight.

P.S. She did in fact buy a wallet for me. Very generous lady.



**Dave Cook:** A funny thing happened on the way to The DCAT 20th Anniversary. More than one, actually.

There were 101 Ellie moments: 1) straddling the Do Not Enter sign on a construction barrier; 2) magically making a spoon stick to her nose, then fall into her cleavage as she rushes to give a choking woman the Heimlich maneuver; and 99 more.

Other memorable moments include: Marg Gill's X-rated choreography to Swing Low Sweet Chariot; Ted Key being creamed in the face with a hand-full of shaving cream during a Bon Bons performance; a 20 minute bus ride from our hotel to the GAS venue that took 2 1/2 hours; Parky's pink tutu and his wardrobe malfunction with his California Girl bikini. Ah nuts. Well, one anyway.

We were asked to perform at the Estonia House Christmas Party. We were going to perform The Jersey Boys Medley. Wyatt asked the audience, mostly senior Estonians to raise their hands if they have heard of the Jersey Boys - and no hands went up, oh boy.



**Marg and Don Gill:** Well, it is hard to believe that we have been going for 20 years. It is also very difficult to look back and express the many feelings that run through my veins at this time. There are such positive feelings that come from the very beginning that this group could get off the ground and experience the camaraderie and sheer fun and pleasure that was part of the early days with all working together to produce something that we really didn't know, at the time, what it would be.



There was never a doubt that we were going to have a chorus. How good it would be we didn't know and thankfully for Ted Key it was a case of - you get the bodies out and I'll teach them to sing. Well for some of us it is still a teaching situation. Others had the music background and the voices to go along. We started with approximately 15 singers and grew. He worked hard and arranged music that he felt would be easy for us to learn, pleasant for listening, enjoyable to learn, as well as some

challenge to us, to keep us interested. It took time and we slowly grew into a chorus that was presentable to say the least.

Fortunately we had Wyatt to take over where Ted left off. He has the same sense of our beginnings and where we all came from with our drum corps background, as well as an understanding of GAS, which we all look forward to each year. His arrangements and music choices come with a theme, which include six or so songs for each new program, so we have the variety required to please an audience.

On the way to becoming what we are today there were many, many laughs, jokes, standing ovations, as well as tears, lots of tears. We grew older and unfortunately for some of our early members, who had been with us from the start, left us far too soon and we miss each and every one of them.



**Tom Hamilton:** In 1994 it came to the attention of several of my drum corps comrades and myself, that Scout House was hosting a drum corps reunion in Cambridge called G.A.S. (Great Alliance of Seniors). Several of us decided to go and see what this was all about. We saw a fun show with singing groups including The Musketeers and featuring the complete chorus of The Princemen! The following week Don Gill and I resolved to create an alumni organization in Toronto to join in the annual G.A.S. reunion. We had several meetings of those who wanted to participate. The subject of an organization name was discussed and it was agreed that we would each write our suggestions to be discussed at our next meeting.

At the start of the meeting we got out our lists and Stan Babiarz was asked to begin. He read the first suggestion from his list: -“The Drum Corps Alumni - Toronto” .....Abbreviation: - “DCAT”

We all tore up our lists and proceeded with the meeting! We managed to get hold of membership lists for: The Ambassadors, Signals, Jolly Jesters and Royalaires. We had a big mail-out to see if any others were interested and got a surprising response. I contacted Ted Key and he offered to be our music director. Don and I flew to Hawthorn, NJ to the executive meeting of G.A.S who I had written to, asking to be included in their organization. We were accepted and the rest is history!



The late **Brian Hill** was also one of the founders of DCAT.



**Joe Watson:** Several former drum corps members from the Toronto area attended the GAS reunion on the 1st weekend in May 1994 in Preston, ON. It was also the 1st time the reunion had been held outside the United States. We had heard that some Americans who used to march competitively were coming also. At the Saturday talent show many acts performed, including “The Princemen” chorus, who were 40 members strong and were most entertaining. A group of us sitting around started to discuss what fun this all was and that age did not seem to be a factor. Tom Hamilton turned to Don Gill and said, “we could do that!” More ideas were mentioned and later in the summer, a group gathered at Don & Marg Gill’s home. By the end of the evening, formation of DCAT had begun. The rest is history. It was great to be part of this group.

## *DCAT Hall of Fame*

Their enthusiasm and many years of hard work is what made them special!

2008: Ted Key, Don Gill, Terry and Lois Nicholls

2009: Orton Beaumont, Dave Cook, Jim Jennings, Paul Kelly

2010: Gord Irvine and John Dickinson

2011: Wyatt Gill and Barb Jennings

2012: Marg Gill

2013: John Fox

## *20 years worth of songs!*

Here we are, with one image for each year, starting in 1994, of course:



Our Motto says that we provide “a social environment for the purpose of companionship and musical activities”. In other words, we get together and sing! And during 20 years we have learned an enormous amount of text and music, and learned it well, since we never carry music to our performances. It boggles one’s mind just to think of what we have been able to cram into our heads! This list is from Edna Kingsley.

- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street – T. Key      | Empty Chairs – W. Gill                       | I Dreamed a Dream – W. Gill  |
| Alexander’s Ragtime band – Ted Key    | Eternal Father – T. Key                      | I’ve Been Lookin – T. Key  |
| All the Things you are – B. Bernert   | Fare Thee Well – T. Key                      | Imagine – W. Gill  |
| Amazing Grace – Ted Key               | Feelings – T. Key                            | In the Wee Small Hours – W. Gill   |
| America The Beautiful – Ted Key       | Fun Chorus 2003                              | Jersey Boys Medley – Who Loves You, Can’t Take My Eyes off You, Big Girls Don’t Cry, W. Gill |
| An Irish Medley – T. Key              | GAS Opening – T. Key                         | Jerusalem – T. Key   |
| Auld Lang Syne – Bill Bernert         | Georgia on my Mind – T. Key                  | Let There Be Peace – Dick James  |
| Battle Hymn - Ted Key                 | Give my Regards to Broadway. For All We know | Look Down- W. Gill   |
| Beatles Medley – T. Key               | Goodnight Sweetheart – W. Gill               | Looney Tunes – T. Key  |
| Because – W. Gill                     | Gotta Go – T. Key                            | Lord & Master – T. Key   |
| Best of Beach Boys - W. Gill          | Gotta Go II – T. Key                         | Love is Here to Stay – T. Key  |
| Betty @ Dupree - Ted Key              | Gotta Open – T. Key                          | Mame – T. Key  |
| Big Girls Don’t Cry – W. Gill         | Grand March from Aida – T. Key               | My Eyes Adore You – W. Gill  |
| Bill Bailey March - T Key             | Great Gates of Kiev – T. Key                 | New Orleans Funeral , reprise – T. Key   |
| California Girls – W. Gill            | Hair Medley – T. Key                         | New World Symphony – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Movement- D. Wicken                                     |
| Chatanooga Choo Choo – W. Gill        | Hallelujah – Leonard Cohen – W. Gill         | O Canada - 2 versions - Ted Key & Bill Bernert   |
| Curtain Up – Booze Brothers – T. Key  | Hallelujah Chorus – T. Key                   | On My Own- W. Gill   |
| Curtain Up – T. Key                   | Happy Birthday – W. Gill                     | On The Square March – T. Key   |
| Danny Boy – W. Gill                   | Hello GAS – T. Key                           | One Day More – W. Gill   |
| DCAT Blues March – T. Key             | Here’s to the Heroes - W. Gill               | Queen of Sheba – T. Key  |
| DCAT Radio – W. Gill                  | Here’s to the Heroes – W. Gill               |  |
| Do You Hear the People Sing – W. Gill | How Great Thou Art – T. Key                  |  |
| Ein Fest Burg – T. Key                | Hymn to the Fallen Soldier – T. Key          |  |



... and there is more!

Rhonda – T. Key

Rovin Gambler - T. Key

Rule Britannia

Sara Lee – T. Key

Scarborough Fair – T. Key

Scottish Medley – T. Key

See You in September – W. Gill

SH-Boom – W. Gill

Sherry – W. Gill

Silver Lining - & Old Lang Syne – B. Bernert

Sleepers Awake – T. Key

Somewhere – West Side Story - T. Key

Somewhere Over the Rainbow – T. Key

Special Angel – T. Key

Stand By Me – W. Gill

Stars & Stripes – T. Key

Stout Hearted Men – T. Key

Strike Up the Band – T. Key

Superman – T. Key

Swing Low Medley – T. Key

Thank You for the Music

The Barber of Seville Overture – T. Key

The Flesh Failures – Let the Sunshine In – T. Key

The Lord's Prayer - Bill Bernert

The Maple Leaf Forever - T. Key

The Old Songs – T. Key

The Star Spangled Banner – 2 versions – T. Key @ B. Bernert

Tribute Bucky Swan – Thank You for the Memory,

Tribute to Princemen – T. Key

Tribute to New York Skyliners- T. Key

Tribute to Ted Key – W. Gill

Upon the Mountain – T. Key

Walk Like a Man – W. Gill

Walkin Along – 2 versions – T. Key @ W. Gill

Waltzing Matilda – T. Key

We'll Meet Again – T. Key

What a Wonderful World – W. Gill

William Tell Overture – W. Gill

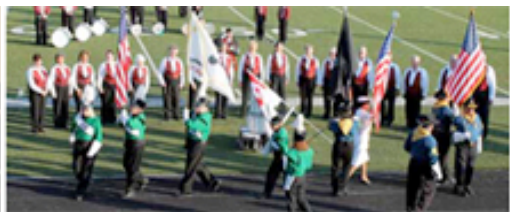
You Made Me Love You – T. Key

You'll Never Walk Alone – T. Key

CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Adeste Fideles, Deck the Halls, Good King Wenceslas, Hark the Herald Angels, Jingle Bells, Joy to the World, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, O little Town of Bethlehem, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Silent Night, We Three Kings, Westminster Carol

And after all that singing we enjoyed each others' company, had a drink, danced and, sometimes, went a little crazy. Just a little. And then we sang some more. It was great!!!





If you have counted the years, the last photo – showing us back again where we started: out on the field with flags and music – is a bonus, making it two images for 2014.

**From our friends**

**TORONTO SIGNALS BAND**

**Congrats!**

**20 years is a very important milestone**

Since 1926,

**CANADA'S MARCHING AMBASSADORS**

The Toronto Signals Band is the volunteer duty band of 32 Signal Regiment based at Fort York Armoury.

**SIGs** have enjoyed the friendships developed over the years and look forward to many more years of music and merriment.

*On behalf of the Audubon Bon Bons, I would like to congratulate our friends in the DCAT Chorus on your 20th anniversary. This is also our 20th anniversary year and from the first GAS Reunion we attended, a bond was formed. The friendship we share with you is very precious to all of us. We all look forward to another 20 years of spending time together even if it is only once a year. I'm sure Ted and Rip are smiling from above.*

*Carol Pennisi Terreri*

As your friends since 1994, we salute DCAT on reaching the milestone of your 20th Anniversary.

Great Music –  
Great Memories –  
Great Friends –  
Simply "Purrfect"

The Archer-Epler Musketeers, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania

**DCAT mailing address:** DCAT c/o Orton Beaumont, 194 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill, Ontario, L3T 3V5

Visit our website: [www.dcatchorus.ca](http://www.dcatchorus.ca)