



New Performing Arts Centre Society

I send you this letter in response to your email of January 4, 2021, in which you explained the goals of your newly formed society. I write to support your efforts and to assure you that I will do whatever I can to help you promote the aims of your society.

I have been part of the Kelowna Arts community for the past seven years. I am the Artistic Director of several local choral ensembles, including Okanagan Children's Choir, OCC Youth, Musaïc Vocal Ensemble, UBCO Chorus and two choirs as part of my work at First United Church, Kelowna. My choirs have performed in many locations throughout the Okanagan, including the current Kelowna Community Theatre. I have been a singer in the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra Chorus and worked to encourage collegiality within the area through the founding of the Okanagan Chapter of the BC Choral Mentorship Project. I am a Regional Director to the BC Choral Federation and have been a volunteer teacher and musical consultant within Kelowna schools. And I am a parent of children who study music and dance locally, performing in various spaces throughout our city.

Kelowna has much to offer the arts community, with many wonderful musicians and ensembles. But what we do not have is a high quality performing arts centre. I know from experience that the Kelowna Community Theatre is ill equipped to host many arts events. It is not a friendly hall to classical music and it is most definitely is not a friendly hall to choral ensembles, because of a lack of good acoustics, back stage space, and onstage flexibility. Simply put, we choose to perform elsewhere, for the benefit of our ensembles and our audiences. Large scale events that I've been involved in helping to host and organize, whether directly or peripherally, all look to alternate venues because of the lack of suitability of our current theatre. One only needs to look as far as Vernon to know just how invigorating a good performing arts space can be for an arts community.

I greatly look forward to the possibility of performing in a new performing arts space in Kelowna before too long. Know that I will do what I can to help support the efforts of your Society and look forward to updates as your work continues.

If there is further that you require from me, please be in touch.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Chiasson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'C'.

Frances Chiasson

Artistic Director: Okanagan Children's Choir & OCC Youth, Kelowna

Artistic Director: Mosaic Vocal Ensemble, Summerland

Music Minister: First United Church, Kelowna

Music Director: UBCO Chorus