

BIO – Robert Hall

Dr. Robert Hall completed his undergraduate degree in piano performance at Wilfrid Laurier University before going on to spend several years as a professional chorister with both the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the Tudor Singers of Montreal. He then completed his Master of Music degree in voice performance at the University of Regina and taught on faculty there before pursuing his doctorate in choral music from the University of Illinois. He has held subsequent faculty positions at the University of Saskatchewan, the State University of New York-Plattsburgh, the University of Guelph, and Laurentian University, which included three terms as Chair of the Department of Music. At Laurentian he conducted the Laurentian University Choir, which became known for its annual oratorio presentation over his twenty-five years there, and for several years the Sudbury Studio Singers, a twenty-voice auditioned chamber choir.

As a baritone soloist Hall in recent years has performed such works as Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, the Fauré *Requiem*, and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. In 2005 he was the featured vocalist for the retirement of Justice John C. Major at the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2006 Hall sang the world premiere of American composer Marshall Onofrio's *Carmina Whitmania* at the 2006 convention of Delta Omicron in Bloomington, Illinois. He has also completed two tours as baritone soloist with the Penderecki String Quartet.

Dr. Hall continues to practice in the field of church music and holds a Fellowship from the American Guild of Organists. He is currently Director of Music/Organist at City View United Church in Nepean. In demand as an adjudicator and clinician, he has adjudicated at festivals from British Columbia to Ontario. Another area of interest is in accompanying silent films, which he does on either organ or piano, usually improvising for the presentations. His silent movie presentations occur regularly in Sudbury and have also taken him to Toronto's *Nuit Blanche* as well as shows in Houston and Victoria, BC. For the past three years he has played movies at the Sudbury incarnation of *Nuit Blanche* which has been hosted by the Laurentian School of Architecture. Bob has now played for almost forty different movies and specializes in comedies by Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin.

Recent vocal solo performances have included the baritone solo in the Beethoven *Symphony Number Nine* with the Sault Ste Marie Symphony and the baritone solo in the Brahms *Requiem* with the Timmins Symphony Orchestra. In June 2015 St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury, celebrated his twentieth anniversary at the church with a special concert that featured him singing the baritone solo in the Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*.

Bob has always remained active as a pianist and has accompanied many singers and instrumentalists. He often performs piano/organ duos by himself with the Yamaha Disklavier at St. Andrew's Sudbury church and with the organ sequencer at City View in Nepean. In 2003 he played piano with organist William O'Meara at Roy Thomson Hall, performing two piano/organ transcriptions that he had created. The Biggs-Hall piano duo team with Dr. Charlene Biggs performed regularly including a 2010 tour of York, McMaster, and Laurier Universities and several performances in tandem with the Duo Turgeon piano duo.

Recent honours have included his 2017 reception of the Joan Mantle Music Trust Community Music Award in Sudbury and a promotion to Full Professor at Laurentian University in 2018. In 2021 he retired from Laurentian University and was appointed Professor Emeritus.