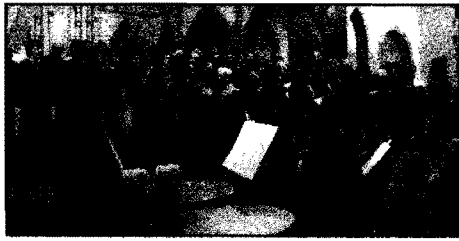


# Grebel Alumni Making Sweet Music

The Music Department at Grebel describes its program as flexible, offering students an opportunity to "explore the many ways that music is meaningful in today's world." Music alumni continue to use their degrees in a variety of ways - from performance, teaching and graduate degrees to more unexpected careers. Read on to discover ways that Music alumni are making a difference in the world.

## Music of Peace



Pax Christi Chorale was founded in the fall of 1987, inspired by the choir assembled for the Toronto celebration of the 1986 Bicentennial of Mennonites in Canada.

Over the last 21 years, the choir has grown from about 35 to 80 members, including both Mennonites and singers from various faith traditions and cultures who sing in a three-concert sacred music season in Toronto.

The choir is rich with music graduates and former choir members from Grebel. Since 1997, former Grebel instructor Stephanie Martin has been the Artistic Director, building on the work of former conductors Robert Loewen, Lee Bartel and John Ford. Six Grebel alumni are currently part of the choir.

Grebelite Emily Burgetz ('69) is a cofounder of the choir and has served as its president since 1994. She says the name of the choir was chosen "to reflect our faith base and hope that the music we'd offer the public and the supporting Mennonite churches over the years would be 'an instrument of peace.'"

The choir has released three recordings: *Rejoice!*, *Seasons of the Spirit*, and *Buxtehude SuperConcert*. They also started a Pax Christi Children's Choir project and choral scholarship program and have collaborated with many artists and choirs in a variety of locations. As part of last year's 20th anniversary initiatives, the choir launched the Pax Christi Chamber Choir. Both choirs were semi-finalists in the 2008 CBC National Choral Competition.

This season's concerts include Canadian Hymns (October), Haydn's Creation (December) and Bach's Mass in B Minor (April). More information or tickets can be found at [www.paxchristichorale.org](http://www.paxchristichorale.org)

## Singsation Saturday

In the fall of 1999, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir began inviting the public to attend choral workshops, to sing the major repertoire with guest conductors and members of the TMC. Now celebrating its tenth anniversary season, the choir was pleased to have Grebel's Leonard Enns as its composer-conductor in April 2008. Reception to Enns' composition was described by the choir as "enthusiastic."

For more information, go to [www.tmchoir.org](http://www.tmchoir.org)

## Music Plus

Lynn McRuer ('85) and her husband operate Music Plus, a print music and instrument shop that sells sheet music, band and string instruments, acoustic guitars and musical gifts and accessories through the store and by mail order.

Lynn began in the Chartered Accounting Co-op Math Program before switching to Music. She was active in the Music program, studying piano, singing in the University Choir, Chamber Choir and playing in a recorder ensemble.

She says Grebel was "a hugely calming experience through a time of change in my life," and that relationships formed with Music professors continue to this day.

She began working at Music Plus after graduation, buying the business in 1994. Music Plus now includes the Beckett School of Piano and Kelman-Hall Publishing. Today, Lynn is part of countless music projects in the K-W community.

More information can be found at [www.musicpluscorp.com](http://www.musicpluscorp.com)

## Menno Singers

In 1955, a group of Mennonites in Waterloo Region formed a choir simply for the joy of singing choral music. Today, the choir has a membership of 45 singers drawn from inside and outside the Mennonite community but still maintains the vision of a choir "rooted in the Mennonite tradition



## Musical Mentors

Sheila Wallace ('91) was an accomplished pianist when she arrived at UW but had decided to become an accountant. A few music courses changed her direction. Today, she runs the K-W School of Music and Art where hundreds of students, ranging in age from 4 to 70, take lessons in various instruments and genres.

Sheila's experience at Grebel inspired the philosophy of her school. "The professors at Grebel were musical mentors to me. The quality of education was incredible, but even more than academics, the leadership they provided on a personal level were very influential in my life."

To Sheila, motivation is key. "As you become a mentor to a student, they are motivated by your energy and enthusiasm and they want to work."

Sheila carefully matches students with one of her 18 teachers, listening to what the student wants and needs, and offers trial classes to ensure a good fit. Students are partners in their learning and while many pursue classical training, they also follow their own musical tastes and interests.

Sheila is involved in various professional and business ventures, including serving as the pianist for the Waterloo Regional Police Male Chorus.

"In the same way that my professors at Grebel motivated and mentored me to follow my passions, I'm helping students do that through my school."

For more information, call the K-W School of Music and Art at 519-746-6455

and dedicated to excellence." A number of Grebel music alumni are and have been involved, including current choir co-president Mark Diller Harder ('89) who also serves as the rehearsal director for the associated Mennonite Mass Choir's 2008 Messiah concert. For more information, go to [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)