

# MAGA//ZINE

Issue 9: December 2018

**NEWFOUND  
BRASS**  
visit Ontario

**IN HIS TIME**  
new CSB 50th Anniversary book

**BUT I'M NOT A SINGER**  
reasons everyone **can** sing

Music and Gospel Arts



Canada & Bermuda Territory

**THIS ISSUE:***Reasons to Sing**Drama Ministry**NewFound Brass Trip**Visual Arts***UPCOMING EVENTS:**

December 27 - January 5  
Territorial Youth Band  
(California)

January - June  
Bandmaster/Worship Leaders  
Online Training

May 17 - 20  
Adult Music Camp  
(Jackson's Point)

June 21 - 23  
Commissioning  
(Vancouver)

August 24 - 31  
TMS/LDI  
(Jackson's Point)

**CHRISTMAS JOY**

By MARCUS VENABLES

It's a Christmas miracle! Today, the MAGAZine is two years old. This magazine/newsletter exists to share highlights of what has been happening over the last few months, to keep people informed about events coming up, and to offer new ideas or bring to light topics that encourage conversation.

The ninth issue highlights the recent visit of NewFound Brass to the Toronto area for the Fall Festival and Santa Clause Parade weekend. As an admitted Salvation Army band enthusiast, I found joy in seeing the energy of these young people as they shared in ministry. Hearing stories of their excitement to play alongside the Canadian Staff Band recalled memories of when I experienced that same feeling as a young person.

We also include a report from Oshawa Temple on a new drama team ministry that has just started. This is an area in which the possibilities are endless for reaching different individuals who may be looking for something other than music. There is joy in seeing new ministries emerge. This doesn't negate ministries that are effective and already in place, but rather helps us to consider how we can continually expand to reach a wider audience.

Included in this issue is the start of a new series of articles that will help us to think about visuals in ministry. On-screen material and its connection to music ministry is always growing and evolving, but are we staying up to date and are we at a sufficient level? Perhaps you may think that it is becoming overdone. Personally, I find joy in conversations that spur on new ideas and I hope this series will encourage those conversations.

Finally, at this time of year, I receive joy by seeing Salvationists serving tirelessly. Year after year, I am amazed that so many people brave the crazy weather, play for hours at the kettle, help with the toy drive, and still show up to teach Sunday School on a Sunday morning. The truth is that we love ministry. We see the value in it and we are committed to it. It should, and it will, bring people closer together. Amazing friendships can be made around the kettle in fellowship. Bring that joy out in each other, spread it to people around you, and then stop at Shoppers Drug Mart on Christmas Eve to do your Christmas shopping.

Merry Christmas!



**MAGAZine - Issue 9 - December 2018**

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# BUT I'M NOT A SINGER...

By HEATHER OSMOND



Let me begin by saying that I think I am a decent singer, as long as the car windows are rolled up! The reality is slightly different. I started taking voice lessons in high school simply because I knew I wanted to study piano performance at a university level and would therefore need to prepare a vocal audition. I also knew there would be many courses that would include vocal training. I did not love singing instantly and often dreaded having to perform as a vocal soloist on stage. I've always been grateful to myself, if that is even a thing, that I pushed myself to do this. I faced the challenge and I saw it through. Still, this did not increase my love of singing.

One time, I was asked to sing at my corps. I accompanied myself on piano. It was even a song that I had written myself. I was never asked to be on the vocal roster again! One can try and convince themselves that this was merely a clerical oversight, but I doubt it was.

I have received more than one criticism that I did not have the strongest or most lyrical singing voice, or even that I wasn't always perfectly in tune. Basically, I was only an okay singer and would be lying if I said that those comments didn't have a long-lasting effect on me. Singing was something that I dreaded and was viewed as a necessary evil in my chosen course of study.

During my first year of university, this way of thinking started to shift. It was mandatory to be a part of the university's Festival Chorus. We had been working on David Fanshawe's African Sanctus. I had been assigned to singing "Alto I" which meant that I was an alto who could sing some high notes. I'm not sure how I got into that section, but after a few months of rehearsals, it dawned on me that I was singing high F's for the first time ever in my life! I did understand that the likelihood of me doing this by myself in front of other people was slim to none, but I was able to do it with a band of women around me. As a

group, we were rocking our harmonies and busting out the high notes like nobody's business. From that point forward, I discovered a real enjoyment of choral singing. The notes are a little less scary when you are surrounded by voices singing alongside you. There is comfort in rehearsing with people that grow to become a part of your life's story. There is immense fun to be had when singing with others, whether it is in the songs you are actually singing, or in the struggle to find the notes you are supposed to be singing. There is a sense of accomplishment and responsibility as a team player. This doesn't just happen in sports.

As Christians, there are new and endless ways to share the gospel through choral singing. It is so easy to grab a few people and sing on a street corner, or even on the "street corner" of today such as Facebook Live or other instant sharing options that are available to us.

By mere definition, a choir is more than one person singing together. Where two

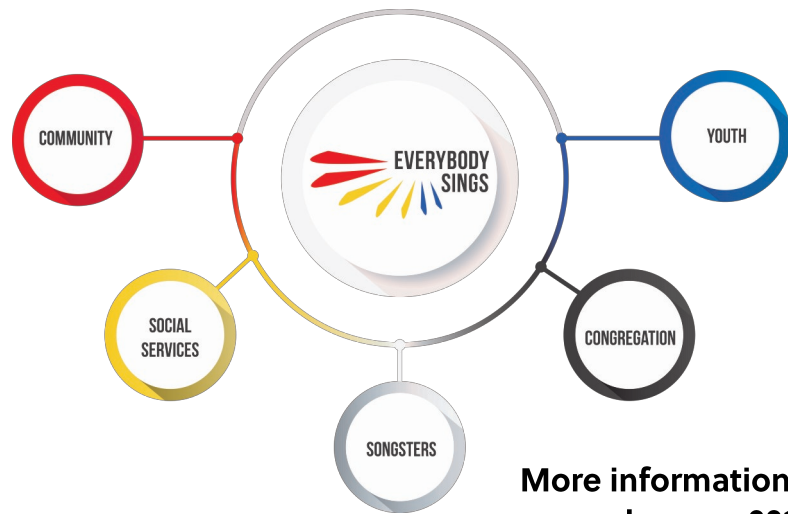


or three are gathered, God moves and His message is spread.

Don't wait until you have a 60-piece choir. Don't wait until you have had the right number of voice lessons. Don't wait until you feel good enough to do what God has called and equipped you to do.

I may not cut my solo vocal album anytime soon, but to say I'm not a singer would be incorrect. God has called us to sing His praise. If I am going to try and

live out all of the other things He tells me to do, why not that one too?



**More information coming  
January 2019**

# MAGA IN OTTAWA

By MARCUS VENABLES



In October, the MAGA team was travelling once again. This time, we were off to Ottawa Citadel for a day of rehearsals with various music sections from the corps. The day began with an information session for corps leaders about resources available to them from the MAGA department. This was a great opportunity to highlight specific resources that may meet their needs currently, but also to gain feedback about what could be added or improved. After lunch, I led the beginner and junior

bands while Heather ran songster and singing company rehearsals. Simon worked with the worship team while Craig led the senior band. The rehearsals provided an opportunity to connect with musicians, model rehearsal techniques, and prepare selections to be used in the evening program. The program later that night featured the music sections from Ottawa Citadel and culminated in blended worship through the singing of *This is Amazing Grace*. The team stayed and led the Sunday morning worship service. It

was wonderful to witness how Ottawa Citadel is alive and how they are using music as a tool for outreach. The corps has many new families who are new to Canada and have found a home in this church. MAGA is grateful for the time spent together that weekend in music ministry. We are grateful for committed leaders who serve every week throughout the territory. We would love to visit and support your music ministry.





## A NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

By TRACY CHURCH  
Oshawa Temple

It wasn't exactly what I was expecting during a meeting with our new corps officers shortly after they arrived at Oshawa Temple in mid-August. A short discussion about how to base the Grade 5 – 7 Sunday School lessons on the sermon topics morphed into a new opportunity for ministry. It was a ministry that I utilized regularly, putting to use the four drama/vocal stream performing arts students who were assisting my class. Not only did they excel at their performing arts school, but they regularly appeared as lead or featured characters in community theatre productions.

Majors Ron and Toni Cartmell, our new officers, proposed bringing drama into the mainstream ministry at the corps. In their short time at Oshawa Temple, they had already recognized that there were a lot of people in the

traditional corps sections such as band and songsters.

However, there were others who were looking to participate artistically but not in a way that was traditionally Army. They also recognized that drama could communicate in different ways than perhaps we are used to at Army corps.

Perhaps when we think of drama in the Salvation Army, we think of the Sunday School Christmas Pageant with young children dressed in oversized bathrobes. Perhaps you think about teens and adults standing in a line with their faces buried in paper as they stumble over their lines while trying to add expression to their voice. It doesn't mean that any of these scenarios should be considered bad or wrong. However, I personally believe that drama ministry can be so much more than that.

Drama is a creative way of reaching people, both Salvationists and the unchurched, without compromising the message of the gospel. It brings the story to life rather than just hearing words. Drama can illustrate a situation that may be even difficult to bring up or talk about. Drama can open our hearts. It can make us laugh, cry, or squirm in our seats. Whatever our reaction may be, the Holy Spirit uses our open hearts and minds to further God's work. A sketch shouldn't necessarily tell the whole story, but rather, set the scene. Unfortunately, not everything can be wrapped up with a pretty bow in five to eight minutes. Not even in the world of make believe acting! That doesn't reflect reality for people, and if people cannot relate, they won't appreciate the message. However, a five minute sketch that introduces a situation is a great springboard to get the congregation thinking and help to put them in the right frame of mind for the sermon topic.

Beyond the benefit of reaching the congregation, both reg-

ular members and newcomers, is the fact that drama can be a blessing for those who participate. A young person who hardly speaks can share the gospel through drama ministry. A middle-aged person who feels disconnected can reconnect with other members of the church through this ministry. A grandparent can participate with every generation of their family through drama. A new convert can further explore God's Word and attributes through drama ministry.

Our official drama troupe at Oshawa Temple has only been in full swing for about six weeks. The four Sunday School helpers I mentioned earlier presented a sketch one morning that related what it is like for a person to walk into one of

our buildings, having never been to church before, alone. The sketch explored the feelings and emotions of the newcomer, but also highlighted the varying reactions of congregation members. We are looking forward to Advent when drama will be incorporated into the services through monologues by familiar Christmas story characters brought into the modern day.

Some corps may feel that drama ministry is too daunting or that their congregation is unqualified. As a community theatre producer, I look around our corps and know that we are beyond blessed. Not many corps can say that eighty percent of their performing arts students are in the drama/vocal stream rather than the traditional Army instrumental stream.

Not many corps will be able to draw from individuals that have starred in community theatre musicals, participated in short films or have starred in North American premieres of award winning plays. Not every corps has "triple threats" lurking in their pews. However, every congregation has people with a passion for sharing God's message and furthering His mission. Every congregation has people that are organized. Perhaps your congregation has even one or two people who have some experience in theatre. Whatever dramatic resources you have in your congregation, commit them to God and remember His words in Matthew 21:22, "and whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

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# NEWFOUND BRASS TRIP

By BAILEY MADDEN



It was two years ago during a regular NewFound Brass practice that we had a surprise announcement. We were invited to march in the Santa Clause Parade in Toronto, Ontario. Of course, we were all ecstatic. We practiced and practiced, and counted down the days until it was time to go.

We met at the airport at 4:00am, boarded the plane at 5:30am and landed in Toronto around 9:00am. We made our way

up to Jackson's Point Camp, where we would be staying, and we broke into a snowball fight while waiting for lunch.

After lunch, we hopped back on the bus and headed to Agincourt where we had a joint practice with the Ontario Central East Divisional Youth Band. We enjoyed a delicious dinner with them that was prepared by a wonderful group of ladies from the Agincourt corps.

When the concert started, we were all a bit nervous but I think we were more excited than anything else. The concert was such a blast! Everyone in the OCE DYB was so nice and they really made us feel welcome. We are thankful for their friendship.

The time spent at Agincourt was even more special for me and my brother Hunter since we were able to visit with our Great-Aunt and Uncle that we don't see very often.







On Saturday morning, we made our way to the Salvation Army Korean Community Church for marching practice in preparation for the Santa Clause parade. It was a great time of meeting new people, eating some good food, and learning how to properly turn a corner while marching. After the practice, we got back on the bus and made our way to Guelph Citadel where we would practice and perform with the Canadian Staff Band.

We all realized that playing with the CSB was a great honour. We had been anxiously awaiting this special opportunity. The practice was so much fun and I had the privilege of sitting next to a CSB member named Maggi. She helped me to feel calm about playing with some of the best brass players in Canada. I can definitely say that the members of New-

Found Brass, including myself, were so thankful for this opportunity and the generous invitation to perform in the Fall Festival.

Before we knew it, Sunday had arrived. Our first stop was at THQ to get our jackets and scarves for the parade. Then, we went to Bloor Central corps where we took part in the morning service. It was a blessing to be able to experience how another church, in a different province, worships every Sunday. After the service ended, we enjoyed lunch together and made our way downtown to the starting spot for the parade. We marched for about two hours through downtown Toronto, seeing the smiling faces of many children who were eagerly awaiting Santa.

After the parade finished, we went back to Jackson's Point Camp where we relaxed and hung out around the fireplace. The next morning, we boarded the bus for the last time and made our way to the airport to fly home.

This was my first flight and first trip outside of Newfoundland. It was truly amazing! I couldn't have asked for a better trip or for better people to share the entire experience. I'm thankful for everyone who put time and effort into making this weekend a success. NewFound Brass cannot thank everyone enough. It was a wonderful time of worship and ministry in Toronto. We would love to come back again soon!



# NEW BOOK RELEASED FOR CSB50

By STEPHEN PAVEY



The Canadian Staff Band celebrates its 50th season this year and several celebration events are underway. Three years have transpired since I was asked to write a book commemorating this special time, and now, after much inquiring, digging, collecting and many late nights, the book is completed. The book represents the most information about the Staff Band in one place and should be of interest to members, alumni and their families, friends of the CSB, and those interested in Army or banding history.

The book is entitled *In His Time*, based on the chorus of the same name, and focuses on what God has accomplished through the Staff Band during the different time periods of each of the five bandmasters. Using the theme of time, this nearly 300-page book begins with historical details and photos of the first Staff Bands, prior to 1914, and leads its way from Major Norman Bearcroft in 1969, to John Lam in the present. As the author and a member of the band for

25 years, this book means much to me because I can recall my audition and first rehearsal with the band, and now the reality resonates that I have more years behind me in the CSB as I do ahead of me. I am reminded that everything on earth that we do for God is “In His Time,” and lasts for a season of time.

In composing this book, I wish to convey several points. Firstly, representing real lives of individuals through a half-century is a humbling task and I have attempted to tread carefully. Many men and women have travelled through the rehearsal room, the concert stage, and the airplane doorway over the past 50 years as they have sacrificed time and different aspects of their lives in the making of music, message and ministry. Some of these people spent a shorter period of time with the band than others. Some have stepped out and gained the opportunity to re-join later in life. Many have come and left their mark through stories, recordings, compositions, and photos, and are no longer with us on this

side of eternity. This year alone, I think of the passing of former Staff Bandmaster Brian Burditt and the only recording engineer the CSB has known, Ted Marshall, and the impact those two have made in the Army world through their ministry. Through reflection on the lives of those who are no longer a part of the CSB, I am very aware of “time.”

*In His Time* also reveals the many aspects that go into being a Staff Band member of which the average Salvationist or person would not be aware. As readers turn the pages, I hope they will become aware of the scope of contact that the band has delivering the gospel. This reach arises from the various places traveled, whether near or far, and the variety of methods used during each event, whether it be billeting, concerts, open-air, mayoral receptions, or the Sunday morning meeting, to name a few. Though we measure the band’s existence in years, a countless measure of time, individual and combined, has been spent



in telling others about Jesus through music, word, and action.

To represent time, the colour of the book pages begins with black for the first chapter, and gradually progresses to white through to the present. Additionally, the book shows a transition from black-and-white photos to faded colour photos, and eventually high-resolution digital photos. Though the band has passed through time, there have been some constants.

I have highlighted the comradery of the band with stories and descriptions of band members from the first Staff Band, prior to 1914. The human side of these members is very similar to that depicted in later years, and it often arises out of ordinary circumstances. Hearing about the entertaining 1898 Staff Band visit to Niagara Falls easily translates to contemporary band trips.

Another constant through time is the encouragement members receive through shared ministry. I hope that as current and former members progress through the pages, they will recall the encouragement they received through being present at events where they witnessed God's presence through their ministry. There will be pages that remind some of the difficult days they experienced through loss, troubling diagnoses, or challenging family situations, and the encouragement from a group of members who upheld them in prayer, with words of support, or sometimes a mere hand on the shoulder.

The book highlights obvious practical changes through the band's history. From the first form of uniform, the old high collar, with its fine detailed decorative cording, to the modern tunic and addition of festival red tunics, the band

looks somewhat different through time. Technology has changed, allowing the band to "travel" anywhere with people. Readers will glance at recording cover art to see this progression. From the first inaugural record, the band moved through tape cassettes, CDs, and now downloads. Many concerts are broadcast livestream and people from afar can "attend" concerts.

Through these changes, and more, there has been an important constant: the Canadian Staff Band exists not to merely entertain, although it does its fair share of that through diversified approaches. However, as with the very first Staff Band, the CSB exists for the glory of God, through the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This has been the case through time, and "In His Time."



### CSB ITINERARY 2019

February 2-3	Winnipeg, MB
March 1-3	CSB50
April 6-7	Mt. Pearl, NL
May 4-5	Montreal, QC
June 21-23	Vancouver, BC Commissioning



# CSS WEEKEND AT NORTH TORONTO

By RACHEL EWING

One of the joys of being in a Staff group is the opportunity to travel around the territory, sharing in music and ministry wherever we go. Sharing this with your home corps is even more special. The Canadian Staff Songsters were privileged to be the special guests at my home corps, North Toronto Community Church, in November.

The weekend began in a joint rehearsal with the North Toronto Songsters (Major Bev Ivany, S/L) where two items were prepared for the evening program. One of the mandates of the CSS is to inspire singing across the territory. I don't think there is any better way to do this than by joining in community and through sharing the program with groups from the hosting corps. The evening program featured two of the young people's groups from North Toronto. The timbrel brigade, under the leadership of Melody Cameron, performed an energetic and contemporary

routine to a worship song entitled *Wave Walker* by Citizen Way. The program also featured the Singing Company who sang a solo item entitled *Keys to the Kingdom* (H. Burgmayer). The highlight of the night for me was the singing of *This Little Light of Mine* (R. Phillips) which featured both the Songsters and Singing Company from North Toronto alongside the Canadian Staff Songsters. I heard some of the kids saying that they were singing with the "best choir in the world." If that isn't inspiring, then I don't know what is!

On Sunday mornings during ministry weekends, the CSS enjoys taking full responsibility for the morning meeting. Children's time has become a very special time in the service. Rochelle McAlister leads this segment and each place we go is more humorous than the last as kids try to come up with their favourite answers to her questions. Questions such as "What is your favourite body part? What are you most thankful for?" Some of the answers are unique (and pretty funny) and it is just so encouraging to see young people involved and engaged during this time.

We share in corporate worship led by the CSS worship team. We offer prayers for the corps, for the leadership, for the surrounding community. It is so powerful to hear prayers lifted up by members of the CSS who may not even know what issues are close at heart for the corps.



That is the working of the Holy Spirit and that is why weekends like this are so vital. The CSS invite the congregation into the presence of God through their music selections, but equally through their participation in the service through spoken word such as testimonies, as well as the meditation and Scripture from Major Len Ballantine. I truly believe that weekends like this give people a chance to feel God's presence when they are allowed to sit and just experience everything that happens. Often times, we can find ourselves being so busy on a Sunday morning that we forget that our opportunity as an individual to worship is just as important. I believe that each person who was present over the course of the weekend was blessed by the music and



through the spoken word. We consider ministry weekends such as this a true privilege. We pray that God will continue

to bless the CSS as we continue to do the work He has called us to do.

## CSS ITINERARY 2019

March 3	CSB50
April 6-7	Winterberry Heights
April 20	North York Temple
May 15	Concert with Bermuda Divisional Band



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# VISUAL ARTS:

A look at how we use screens  
in worship and ministry

By MARCUS VENABLES

The physical appearance of our corps is often a hot topic. Maybe it's the paint peeling on the walls, the stained carpets, or the orange pipe along the back wall. While most of these are important property matters, it isn't the only visual that we should be focused on within our corps. Visuals on screen or having a social media presence are two important mediums that can be very powerful when used properly. They can also be distracting, pointless and poorly done. We should always be asking ourselves when, how and why these mediums are being used. The preparation for this type of ministry should be as thorough as any of the other aspects of worship. This article marks the start of a series over the next few issues of the MAGAZINE that focuses on best practices for developing visual arts as they relate to music ministry.

To begin, we have to acknowledge that using visuals is not a new concept. We haven't just realized out of the blue that colourful visuals grab people's attention. As early as the thirteenth century, churches have been using stained glass windows or other ornaments to either accentuate the beauty of God's house or to tell

a scriptural story. Today, we see Bible readings, songs, announcements, and even sermon points displayed on screen. However, with even the most captivating sources of entertainment, we still get distracted. Why is it a surprise when people pull out their phones during a musical selection, a rehearsal, or a sermon? Let's discuss how we can engage people through the use of visuals and media to keep their attention instead of losing them to other distractions.

## Informative

How many times have you heard a band selection being introduced by simply reading the words to the featured song? Why aren't these words displayed on screen? Even worse is having the words read out as part of the introduction and then displaying them on screen during the selection. You have already lost people's attention because of repetition. Imagine sitting in a class at school and listening to a lecture where the professor reads the PowerPoint display line by line. Automatically, people shut down or tune out. It would be better to present the band selection without an introduction, or even better, to share why the music and words are impactful either personally or



collectively. Use the screen as an additional ministry tool and present something that hasn't already been said. Major media companies largely invest in tailoring visuals for individual users. Netflix designs specific thumbnails for their content that links directly to your search and watch history...and it works! Using this principal means that you must design informative content made for the congregation, event, and message you want to portray. The disadvantage is not having the endless data to really understand what grabs their attention, and at the end of the day, most people won't even realize why or what that is.

### Thoughtful

One of the best visual displays I've seen in recent years was during a performance at the 2016 TMS Final Festival. The A Band presented the piece *Music of a Legacy* and Andrew Blyth, who was the special guest that year, created a presentation that featured the A Band personnel alongside their musical heroes. It was incredibly moving and in my opinion, it enhanced the overall performance to something that was beyond just the music or the notes on the page. It became a movie soundtrack so to speak. It was inspiring! The music became an addition to the overall message that was being portrayed.

### Supply and Demand

It seems that if you are given everything at once, it becomes less enticing. The same thought applies to the use of the screen. If we are always displaying everything on screen, eventually the information becomes

less valuable. There is no longer an attention signal that goes off in the brain when we are constantly bombarded with visual stimulation. Often we think that we need something on screen all of the time, but what about if we thought about it in a different way? If you suddenly take something away, it draws your attention to what is missing. Does every band selection require the words to be displayed on screen? Does every worship song require that cliché background featuring the rolling hills and a cross? Let's work toward finding a balance of creativity and freshness with practicality and consistency. Try new things and be creative. Don't fall into the trap of repeating old and bad habits. Perhaps it is trying out a video transition as a way to fill a gap in the service. This creates a change in perspective and can speak to the congregation in a new way. If every band piece followed the model that was used in the example I provided earlier in *Music of a Legacy*, these visuals would become less and less impactful every single time.

What would I like to see? I think this is the question we need to keep asking ourselves in order to help us on our path to making visuals more appealing and innovative. It doesn't have to be big and majestic. It needs to be important and relevant. In the next issue of the MAGAZINE, Matt Osmond will talk about using social media as a significant platform for conveying the message of your ministry. The hope is that these articles will help us to broaden our thinking and expand the role of using visuals as a means of growing the Kingdom.

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## Resource Corner

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No. 64	Song Arrangement	My All	[Marcus Venables]
No. 65	Cornet Solo	Away in a Manger	[James Allen]

[www.samagacb.com/maple-leaf-brass](http://www.samagacb.com/maple-leaf-brass)

### Comments and Suggestions

Do you have an upcoming event? Or do you have content suggestions? Feel free to send us your ideas, articles, videos, posters and pictures. This newsletter is meant to cover all music ministry types from across the territory, and we need your help to reach every corner. Forward any information to [Marcus\\_Venables@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Marcus_Venables@can.salvationarmy.org) and we'll do our best to put you in our next issue!

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