

DECEMBER 2023

THE

Zine

ISSUE 29



MUSIC AND ARTS MINISTRIES



CANADA AND BERMUDA

PEACE IN THE BUSYNESS

BY SEAN VAN GULIK

In the flurry of twinkling lights, joyful melodies, and the warmth of giving, the Christmas season often sweeps us into a whirlwind of activities. Amidst the concerts, bustling gatherings, and volunteering at kettles, it's easy to feel swept away by the tide of busyness.

Yet, in the midst of this hustle and bustle, there lies a whisper of tranquility – God's peace, patiently waiting for us to embrace it. The very essence of Christmas rests not only in the celebrations and the acts of kindness but in the profound serenity offered by the presence of God.

As we rush from one event to another, let's remember to carve out moments of stillness. Just as Jesus sought solace amidst the chaos of His time, finding refuge in prayer and quiet communion with the Father, we too can seek that quiet space amid our busy schedules.

Let this season be more than a checklist of activities. Let it be a journey towards the manger, where the true essence of peace was born. In the midst of the carols and acts of generosity, may we find ourselves enveloped in the peace that only God can provide – a peace that transcends circumstances and fills our hearts with quiet assurance.

As we immerse ourselves in the joy of the season, let's also take deliberate steps to seek moments of tranquility, to rest in God's unwavering peace, allowing it to anchor us amidst the delightful chaos of the Christmas rush.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- CHRISTMAS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY
- CSS LEADER - CATHIE KOEHNEN
- FALL FESTIVAL 2023
- NEON - CANADIAN STAFF WORSHIP TEAM
- TECH VISIT - TSA PRINCE GEORGE
- PLANNING A CONCERT?

ZINE - ISSUE 29 - December 2023

EDITOR: SEAN VAN GULIK

ADDITIONAL EDITING: RACHEL EWING

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY:

THE SALVATION ARMY MUSIC AND ARTS MINISTRIES,

CANADA AND BERMUDA TERRITORY



Christmas with The Salvation Army

Concert Report by Jahred Warkentin

This year's annual *Christmas with The Salvation Army* at Roy Thomson Hall dazzled attendees with its spectacular blend of music, unity, and festive joy. The venue resonated with the warmth of adoration and the true spirit of Christmas as Salvationists, ministry partners, and donors gathered for an unforgettable evening. The event, a musical journey curated to evoke the dynamic range of emotions within the Christmas story, featured special guest Miriam Khalil, alongside the Canadian Staff Band, Canadian Staff Songsters, NEON, Ian Sadler, and the triumphant return of the 97-person Festival Chorus.



The festivities commenced with a captivating rendition of *Hope Alive*, a collaboration featuring all Staff sections, organ, and the festival chorus, skillfully led by Heather Osmond. Chief Secretary Colonel John Chamness set the stage with a heartfelt welcome. The performance reached a breathtaking climax with a jubilant blast of the band, organ, and choristers together, leaving the audience on their feet. This energy seamlessly transitioned into a congregational carol sing of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, fostering a sense of unity and joy among attendees.

Miriam Khalil then took center stage, delivering a crystalline rendition of *White Christmas* accompanied by the CSB. Expressing her sentiment of singing among family, Khalil joined forces with piano and drums for performances of Christmas classics *The Christmas Song* and *Greensleeves*. This collaboration created an intimate atmosphere reminiscent of a cozy living room filled with the warmth of holiday melodies. The staff sections each took a turn playing a Christmas tune. Notably NEON, the latest addition as Staff Worship Team, led a contemporary arrangement of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* that had even the ushers dancing!

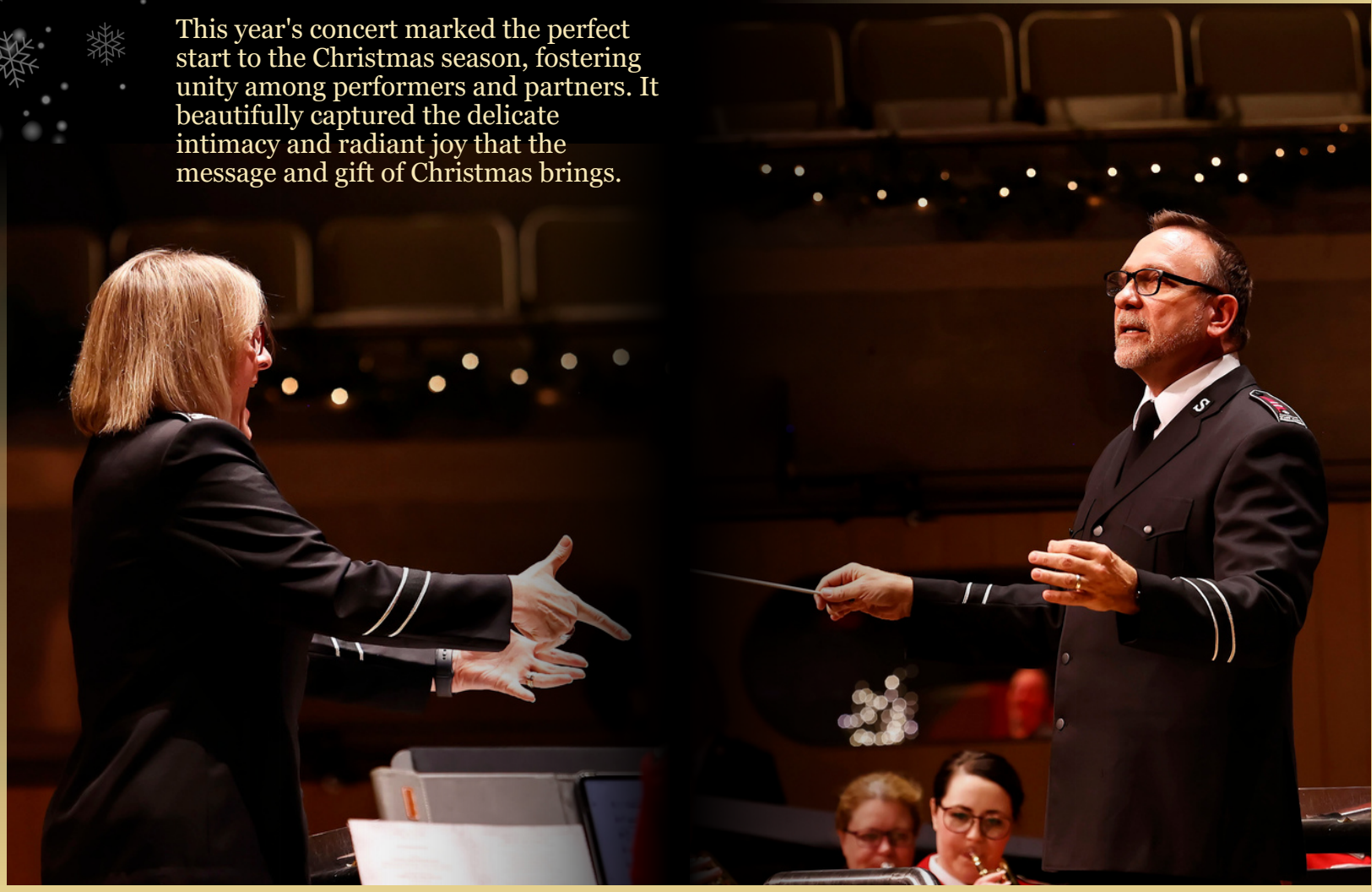
The second half of the evening erupted with triumph as six percussionists from across the Staff sections took center stage, building up the anticipation for a declaration of salvation. Traditional Christmas arrangements like *Carol of the Bells* and *Tidings of Great Joy* resonated through the hall, showcasing the prowess of the CSB and CSS. Khalil returned with pianist Rachel Ewing for a mesmerizing performance of Handel's *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion* from *The Messiah*, leaving the crowd in awe of their melismatic mastery.



Joined by Ian Sadler, the CSB, CSS, and the festival chorus, Khalil led a harmonically rich arrangement of *O Holy Night*, earning a thunderous applause. The evening continued with Lt-Colonel John Murray's annual report followed by Territorial Commander Commissioner Lee Graves who brought a touching devotional on the gentleness of the coming of Jesus and His kingdom. He emphasized the sharp contrast between the terror of King Herod's reign and the tender nature of baby Jesus.

The grand finale was nothing short of spectacular, with a dynamic and exuberant performance of *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*, featuring the full force of the band, choirs, worship team, and organ, earning Khalil a well-deserved standing ovation. The audience then joyously joined in singing *Joy to the World* that concluded the night with a resounding exclamation.

This year's concert marked the perfect start to the Christmas season, fostering unity among performers and partners. It beautifully captured the delicate intimacy and radiant joy that the message and gift of Christmas brings.





OF MUSIC AND MENTORSHIP

Cathie Koehnen, new leader of the Canadian Staff Songsters, shares her journey of music ministry and vision for the future.

After a life of music ministry in The Salvation Army and seven years in the Canadian Staff Songsters (CSS), Salvationist Cathie Koehnen has taken over leadership of the CSS following the retirement of Major Len Ballantine. Abigail Oliver, *Salvationist* staff writer, spoke with Koehnen about her experience teaching music, the importance of mentorship and her vision for the future of the group.

Can you share a little about your background in Salvation Army music and your journey to this position? How have you felt God's hand in this journey?

I'm an officers' kid, so The Salvation Army has been my life. I've always absolutely loved music and participated in the singing company, young people's band, music camps—I just couldn't get enough of it as a kid. I used to go to National Music Camp, and when I was too old for that, I was disappointed because it was such a big part of my life. Brian Burditt, who was the territorial music secretary at the time, brought me on to faculty, encouraged me and gave me opportunities. I accompanied the songsters in various corps and when I was 28, with the encouragement of my then songster leader Wayne Taylor, I became a songster leader at Mississauga Temple, Ont. I did that for 13 years.

I also established the first Ontario Central-East divisional youth chorus. Those 10 years were amazing, and one of my greatest musical highlights was taking that group to the Boundless 2015 international congress in London, England, as we were chosen to represent our territory and sing at the O2 Arena.



I studied piano, went to university for music and became a high school music teacher. Music is my whole life outside and inside The Salvation Army. So, when the CSS began seven years ago, I auditioned and got in, and then Major Len Ballantine wanted me to be the deputy leader. When I look back, I can see the progression from when I was a kid until now, and I have felt God's hand in it. I can recall one moment that really inspired me, when I was 14 years old at Beaver Creek Camp in Saskatchewan, and Len Ballantine was the musical guest. That changed my life because he brought music that I wasn't used to hearing in The Salvation Army. It was more contemporary. That's when I caught the bug and became even more involved with music in the Army. I was really humbled when I was asked to take on the role of leader of the staff songsters.

What is your vision for the CSS going forward?

We need to make connections and reach out to more young people. We need to stay relevant. At many of our concerts, we have an older crowd who enjoy the older music. But I want to look at how we can get young people interested in hearing more from the staff songsters.

And one of my visions, too, is not just to mentor leaders in other corps but to mentor leaders within our own group. We have a lot of leaders within the staff songsters. It's great that they have a place where they can come and sing, and then they can go back to their corps feeling inspired and excited about leading their own groups.

I was first mentored by Len Ballantine at music camp when I was 14 years old. I don't think he realized at that time what an impact that made on me. So, I think that it is important that the CSS continue to go to music camps and different events where we have an opportunity to mentor others.

I've had people come up to me over the years and tell me that God has used me to make an impact on their lives and it is really humbling. That kind of mentorship is important to people.

How do you envision continuing and building upon the tradition set out by Major Len Ballantine under your own leadership? How do you balance honouring this tradition with the goal of staying relevant?

Len has done such an incredible job of establishing this group. And now we must think, *Where do we see ourselves fitting into The Salvation Army of today and in the future? What do we look like and how do we present ourselves?*

Last year, for example, we did a weekend at Etobicoke Temple in Toronto. And instead of doing a regular Saturday night concert, we did a dinner theatre. We had a



meal, we sat with people, and we sang between courses. It's being able to step out of some of the traditions of just singing a concert on Saturday night and being willing to adapt to wherever we are and whoever our audience is.

Music ministry has the power to change people's lives. Could you share any personal experiences or stories that highlight this impact in your own life or the lives of those around you?

For me, music is my whole passion. As a music teacher, I am immersed in music every day. But when we add Scripture into these melodies and rich harmonies, it's even more powerful.

Music can bring comfort, healing, and strength. It encourages us, excites us, and challenges us, and it's great for our mental health. Even in our rehearsals, I can see the group is moved as we sing. You can see it in their expressions. Once, when I was leading the songsters in Mississauga, we were in the middle of a rehearsal when somebody stepped down from their seat and knelt at the altar. If we can be that for each other, and if we feel that ourselves while singing and practicing, then I believe that God really will pour out his Spirit when we're in front of people. If we are right with God, it translates into what we do.

Can you describe some of the challenges you anticipate as the new leader of the CSS, and how you plan to face this?

A challenge for me is going to be encouraging youth. It's a challenge just to get people to come out to concerts—I don't think people go to concerts as much anymore—and to figure out the best way to reach people.

I was on the faculty at National, now Territorial Music School (TMS), for more than 30 years. I talked to some kids at TMS and some of them just don't want to become soldiers now, which is still a requirement to be in the group. So, we need to ask what things are holding younger people back from even wanting to be part of a group like the CSS.

My heart goes out to some of the young people in the divisional youth chorus under my leadership whom I have spoken to, who had aged out of that youth chorus and there was nowhere for them to go next. But on the other hand, we do need to maintain who we are and what we represent. There's just that question of, who's missing out?

What is in store for the future of the CSS? How can Salvationists support this?

In the short term, the group itself is getting comfortable with me as the leader, which I think is already happening and it's been great. Len was the leader for seven years and I have learned so much from him, but I also want to make my mark on the group and choose repertoire that I am comfortable with and that I feel will push us forward. It's important that we maintain the level of excellence that Len has established within the group while we continue to minister where we can, be encouragers and help mentor leaders and singers wherever we go.

Salvationists can support us by praying for our ministry and praying for the direction that we go in. They can come out to hear us and see our ministry for themselves and learn what we're all about.

Fall Festival

Concert Report by Stephen Pavey

The Canadian Staff Band held its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, November 18th at Oshawa Temple. According to CSB alumnus Bob Young, this event marked the ninth time the band has been to the corps in Oshawa. The concert was well attended at the corps, and many were watching via livestream.

NEON Worship joined the band on this occasion and were officially recognized as the newest territorial staff section. Near the start of the concert, an installation ceremony was held, led by CSB Executive Officer/Territorial Secretary for Mission Lt.-Col. Les Marshall, and Territorial Music and Arts Secretary Heather Osmond, to formally recognize the group with their newest title. Members of the CSB who were seen as friends and mentors of NEON members were invited to stand with them in support during a dedication prayer. NEON is led by Simon Gough, our territory's Contemporary Music Specialist, who spoke of how he believes that this turning point for NEON is in God's timing. Simon thanked the band for their support and encouragement as they work as a worship team to move forward and equip the 169 corps in the Canada and Bermuda territory that have similar contemporary groups.

The program consisted of a variety of items where the audience was invited to worship along with both groups doing joint items, as well as through separate items by each group. Together they presented *Be Like Jesus*, *Victory in Jesus* (a re-imagining of the older song), *Who Is on the Lord's Side?*, *Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me* and *Build My Life*. With each massed item, the groups blended well together, and the band added extra





timbre and layering to make the words of each song a powerful offering of worship. NEON's individual items followed a progression from *Praise* ("Praise the Lord, Oh My Soul") to *Gratitude* to God for opportunities He has given to worship and serve Him.

The band began with the exciting opener, *All-Powerful* (Marcus Venables) which was followed by *Thy Tribute Bring* (John Barber), and *Awakening*, a dramatic piece introduced by composer, Marcus Venables. Marcus talked about how the music can be disturbing to show a "sleepless soul" who is awakened by the Holy Spirit. The piece is based on the words, "Be Still My Soul." Additionally, the band played Phil Rayment's beautiful arrangement entitled *Meditation on Blacklands*, to which we associate the words "He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater." The CSB also performed Andrew Wainwright's *Rhapsody on St. Francis*. This major work featured contrasting variations using the hymn to which we associate the words "All creatures of our God and King."

Lt.-Col. Les Marshall tied the evening together with a devotional thought about the life of Annie Flint, who penned the lyrics "He giveth more grace" as heard earlier in the Rayment piece. He spoke of how NEON had reminded us to see the light of God, and secondly how Annie Flint did not allow her arthritic afflictions to cause her to lose sight of the light of God's grace. The challenge was made to each listener in attendance – can we allow Christ's power to be the sustaining force in our lives when we face difficulties in this world. The concert was a great evening of worship and a meaningful event for both groups as they partnered together. I hope that more groups do similar events as a way to encourage and grow musicians in our territory.





THE NEW CANADIAN STAFF WORSHIP TEAM

Can you tell me a bit about the installation ceremony, what this looked like and when it took place?

The installation ceremony took place at Oshawa Temple during the Canadian Staff Band's Fall Festival concert, in which we were invited to be the guests. CSB Executive Officer/Territorial Secretary for Mission Lt.-Col Les Marshall and Territorial Secretary for Music and Arts Ministries Heather Osmond conducted the installation. Heather Osmond has been instrumental in the progression of NEON to becoming a staff section. Her leadership and vision for music ministry in an evolving musical landscape among our corps saw her push for NEON to be recognized as the third staff section. She has been a great support to the group and their ministry to the territory. As we concluded, Lt.-Col Les Marshall invited NEON to the platform for a prayer of dedication over our ministry and invited family, friends, and significant leaders to pray alongside us. Many of these people were from the CSB which was again, a nice moment of inclusion and fellowship between the two staff groups.

What does it mean to now be considered an official territorial staff section?

It is really exciting for us to be considered a staff section. We are stepping into a heritage of ministry and outreach that has shared the love of God through music with so many people. It was exciting to officially be commissioned as a staff section in a concert with the Canadian Staff Band. The oldest and newest staff sections in the territory coming together to show that we, through different genres, are all about connecting people with God and providing them with an opportunity to know His love for them through the music we play.

It also means a responsibility to connect with and resource worship leaders across our territory. We are excited to see what this will look like and how we can give practical help and encouragement to those involved in the same ministry that we love to do.



MEET THE TEAM



SIMON GOUGH
MISSISSAUGA COMMUNITY CHURCH



RABEKAH WISEMAN
MEADOWLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH



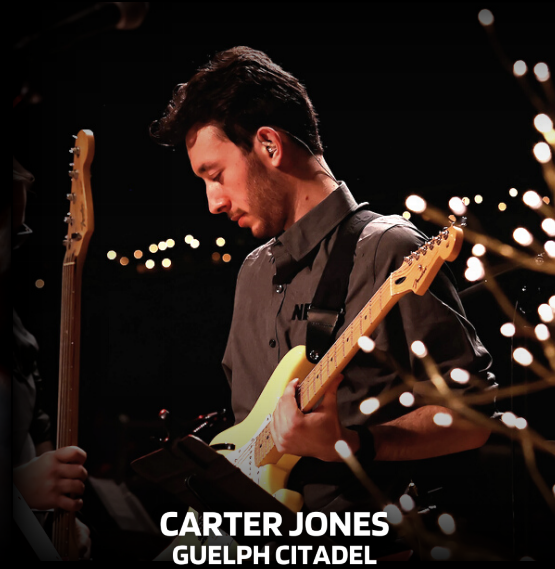
PAIGE SHARP
OSHAWA TEMPLE



VICTORIA EVANS
GUELPH CITADEL



EMAJEAN HOBBIN
MISSISSAUGA COMMUNITY CHURCH



CARTER JONES
GUELPH CITADEL



JAKE WISEMAN
MEADOWLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH



MYLES WASHINGTON-PURSER
MOUNTAIN CITADEL



The Salvation Army Prince George

TECH VISIT

by Sean van Gulik

Stepping into the Salvation Army corps in Prince George, BC, I was met with a sense of warmth and community that immediately embraced me. I had the privilege of working alongside their AV team, focusing on enhancing their live streaming capabilities and projection setup. It was a reminder of how vital AV is as a ministry and its role in fostering a conducive worship environment.

Over the past year or so, I've been fortunate to collaborate with several corps throughout the territory, aiming to improve their AV ministry. Each visit presents a unique situation. Some involve the installation and setup of new equipment, others require training the AV team to utilize their gear, and some require a bit of both.

Every AV system is different. The needs of one corps might be vastly different to the needs of another corps, and the equipment required to make the system work reflects that.

During our workshop, everyone came together to learn. Some knew a lot already, and they shared what they knew. Others were newer and brought a new sense of intrigue about the technology used in the AV corps ministry. It was great to see how everyone, no matter their age or experience, had something important to contribute to enhance worship through their AV ministry. Top of Form

If your corps is seeking support in AV ministry, we're here to help, whether it's a small technical glitch that can be resolved over a Zoom call, or a larger project that requires an in-person visit to your corps. We believe that every corps, regardless of size or resources, deserves to have an AV ministry that enhances your worship experience.

Need help? Contact me at sean.van-gulik@salvationarmy.ca.





PLANNING A CONCERT?

TIPS TO HELP

Decide if there is a theme to the program.

Is there a season or special occasion to highlight?

Choose a variety of music and styles.

Not only does it make better musicians but you will find something that each audience member will like.

Communication to all participants should be as early as possible.

Request that their communication back be as early as possible as well.

Check your visual slides very carefully.

Spelling mistakes and incorrect names can be an unnecessary distraction.

Limit lost time on stage due to movement.

Keep movement back and forth the stage to a minimum.

Movement should happen during spoken introductions as quietly as possible.

Don't plan a program that is too long.

Leave the audience wanting more.

The emcee should write down what they will say, including names of guests to be introduced.

Nerves can sometimes do funny things in the moment.

Your level of energy and excitement will dictate the enthusiasm of your audience.

Be positive and happy to be there.

Order the repertoire so that pieces flow from one to the other.

Think about the energy high's and low's.

Work closely with audio and visual teams.

Give them as much detail as possible as early as possible.





A Choral Convocation

Presented by the Canadian Staff Songsters

**Saturday, April 6, 2024
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Featuring the International
Staff Songsters and
the four U.S.A. Staff
Songster brigades
Supported by the
Canadian Staff Band**

**Yorkminster Park Baptist Church
1585 Yonge Street, Toronto**

**Visit Salvationist.ca/ChoralConvocation
for more details**





FREE DOWNLOAD

ARRANGED FOR FOUR PARTS

ADDITIONAL C/F AND BASS CLEF PARTS INCLUDED

SIMPLIFIED CAROLS FOR BRASS



COMMENTS & 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 Sean.van-Gulik@salvationarmy.ca and we'll do our best to put you in our next issue!

Maple Leaf Brass

Recent Maple Leaf Brass titles:

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| No. 121 | Fanfare Prelude | The Great Jehovah | (David Rowell) |
| No. 122 | Festival Arrangement | Send Forth | (Marcus Venables) |
| No. 123 | Carol Arrangement | Sweet Rejoicing | (Sam Creamer) |
| No. 124 | Hymn Tune Arrangement | My All for Thee | (Stephen Hull) |

<https://salvationist.ca/music-and-arts-ministries/publications/maple-leaf-brass/>

