REAWAKEN THAT TALENT-
REDISCOVER MAKING MUSIC

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

www.resaspieces.org
Robert Graham
Conductor, Resa's Pieces Singers

Robert Graham is a Toronto based Canadian/Australian pianist, singer and songwriter. He has worked as a professional pianist, accompanist, vocalist, music director and vocal repertoire coach, and has played with many multi-genre ensembles on two continents.

Robert took up the mantle of conducting Resa’s Pieces Singers in 2013 and is enjoying every minute of it! In 2009 and 2010, he toured the UK with Canadian roots supergroup, “Tanglefoot”. Robert’s debut album, “Storm in a Teacup”, garnered numerous song writing awards and also elicited licensing deals in Italy, Canada and Australia, including the Canadian feature film “Clean Break”. Most recently, he was the Music Director of “Killer Business” at the Next Stage Festival, which is part of the Toronto Fringe Festival. This summer, Robert is looking forward to being Musical Director of “Anne and Gilbert” at the Guild Theatre in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

www.robertgraham.org

June 8, 10 and 17, 2014

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am pleased to offer greetings to everyone attending the 2014 Resa’s Pieces Gala Concerts.

I would like to commend the musicians and vocalists for their commitment to bringing audiences the joy of music — and join in a round of applause for these talented artists. Performers, supporters and audience members can take pride in knowing that they are helping musical expression to flourish within our province.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable series of concerts.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

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Premier
Resa’s Dream

Resa’s Pieces first came together in the year 2000. But the creation of what has evolved into a very special group was a dream born out of my own life experiences and was many years in the making.

As a little girl, I watched my eldest brother wave his arms around as if he was a virtuoso conductor. I could feel the music radiate and come alive visually through his passionate motions. I began to play the piano at a young age. In grade seven, I discovered the flute and fell totally in love. After grade thirteen, it was inconceivable that I would study anything else but music.

I loved every day at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Music. I learned how to play almost every instrument - well enough to teach beginners anyway. I studied because I loved it. While I looked on, many of my classmates competed for the privilege of playing the first chair in their section, spending hours and hours in the practice rooms - and I hated it. Oh, I practiced, but being the best was not what drove me. I just wanted to enjoy my love for music without the added pressure. I wanted to be the best I could be – FOR ME! As Bela Bartok once said, “Competition is for horses, not artists.”

After graduating with my Bachelor of Music (Education) I became an itinerant music teacher. It was the perfect job for me - and I LOVED it! I loved the fun we had in class, and I really loved watching the children’s faces beam with their accomplishments.

In 1972, I married the love of my life, Marshall. We started a family and I became a stay-at-home mom. My flute lay dormant for 23 years!

As much as I treasured those years spending time at home with my children, I so missed music in my life. I missed the camaraderie and the excitement of playing music with other people, and the joy of musical expression. So in 1998, and after a 23 year hiatus, I took my flute out of its case and joined the North York Concert Band. Although quite rusty, I loved putting my daily routine behind me, concentrating on the music, and being surrounded by like-minded people. I loved the challenge and the sense of accomplishment as I continued to improve with practice and the support from my new music friends.

And then along came...

The Birth of Resa’s Pieces Concert Band

During those years I realized there were many people who, like me, loved music. But, just like me and due to life circumstances, they had also abandoned their instruments. I realized there was a real need for adults to come together and return to making music as I did. I began to dream... I imagined a fun, social atmosphere of a high school concert band – but for adults! I hoped that if I created such an environment it would provide such individuals with the same joy and pleasure I had found. I also wanted to provide an opportunity for people to learn, to grow as musicians, and to share their accomplishments. My ultimate goal was to have members of this new group learn repertoire, perform for audiences, and share their expression of music within the community.

On a “magical” day in late 1998, I was talking to the Music Director at the Koffler Centre of the Arts. When I told her my idea her immediate reply, which I will never forget was, “Resa, I don’t like your idea – I LOVE IT!” And right then and there I knew it would happen. I wondered, how many people would join? I was hoping for eighteen as it’s a symbolic number for LIFE, and music is so much part of everyone’s life.

A few weeks later, at a party, I shared my idea with others. Surprisingly, it became the buzz of the evening with those interested wanting to start immediately. “Can’t we start now?” asked Ruthie Fishman, (who eventually became President of Resa’s Pieces and is now our Executive Director).

Shortly afterwards, and with the eighteen names gathered, we held our first rehearsal. We began with a basic review of the names, values of the notes and all the fundamentals – like how to hold the instrument and making the first sound. Everyone left excited and eager to practice. And they did! Resa’s Pieces Concert Band, as named by its members, held its first concert in June 2000. Knowing eight notes and seven songs, the Band performed to an audience of seventy-five people. The concert was 25 minutes long and ended with a rousing standing ovation.

And that’s how Resa’s Pieces was born!

And then along came...

The Birth of Resa’s Pieces Strings

On numerous occasions, string players approached me asking to join the Band. I felt terrible having to say “no” because stringed instruments require a different approach and, other than a double bass, there is simply no place for them in a concert band. With so many requests, I finally realized I needed to start a string ensemble. The challenge was finding the right conductor.

After three years of searching, I finally met Ric Giorgi. Ric immediately “got” what Resa’s Pieces was all about and was eager to join in our mission. In September 2010, Resa’s Pieces Strings met for the first time. Coincidently, they also began with eighteen members. As with the band members, the same joy and appreciation of returning to music permeated throughout the new string ensemble.

And then along came...

The Birth of Resa’s Pieces Singers

I wondered and thought, so what about all those people who’ve never played an instrument but who love to sing? Is it fair that they should be left out of the FUN? No! I simply knew a vocal group had to come next!

And so it was that in April 2013, after another long search for the right conductor, Resa’s Pieces Singers held a six week inaugural session under the direction of Robert Graham. The Singers, as with Band and String members, now share in the fun of returning to making music.

Who knows what musical field Resa’s Pieces will explore next? I believe with my whole heart that everyone should have the opportunity to have music in their lives. It’s one of my greatest joys every week to share my love of music with all of the dedicated players in the Resa’s Pieces Concert Band knowing that in the rooms down the hall, Resa’s Pieces Strings and Resa’s Pieces Singers are having an equal experience with Ric and Robert. Between the three ensembles, we now have a total of 144 enthusiastic people – who every week are experiencing the joy of having music back in their lives, doing their best, and having FUN!

This is my dream come true!!!
A Piece From... Our President

Welcome to the Singers 1st Gala concert!

Resa’s Pieces continued its growth this year with the addition of Resa’s Pieces Singers helping our organization to achieve another landmark year.

Resa’s Pieces Singers, led by Robert Graham conducting over 50 voices, can’t wait to share tonight’s performance with you. Resa’s Pieces Strings, conducted by Ric Giorgi and with a membership of 37 people, recently held their 4th Gala performance on June 8, 2014. Resa’s Pieces Concert Band, conducted by Resa Kochberg and with 55 members, held their 15th Gala performance on June 10, 2014. Thank you to our esteemed and talented conductors for your dedication and devotion to our ensembles.

I would like to thank my executive and fellow board members for their continued dedication and contributions to the continued success of Resa’s Pieces. As well, I would like to thank our new Executive Director, Ruthie Fishman (although by no means new to Resa’s Pieces), for her ongoing dedication and devotion to our organization.

Resa’s Pieces would like to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, for their continued financial support over the past 3 years which has allowed our organization to grow. I would also like to thank all our sponsors and loyal patrons for your ongoing support and generosity.

Tonight’s performance promises to be both entertaining and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Ed Noy
President

A Piece From... Our Executive Director

It’s been a fabulous year for Resa’s Pieces!

As we end the Concert Band’s 15th year, the Strings’ 4th year and the Singers’ 1st year, I want to take this opportunity to wish Resa, Ric and Robert, our esteemed conductors, Resa’s Pieces Board, and all the “Pieces” a big congratulations on a most successful season. It has truly been a privilege planning it alongside all of you.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything,” said Plato. And on this 450th anniversary year of William Shakespeare’s birth, his timeless quote says it all: “If music be the food of love, play on.”

Best regards - enjoy the concert.

Ruthie Fishman
President

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Randi Glass, Lori Katz
Lisa Sinclair, Vicky Wyson-Sher
Congratulations on a Wonderful Musical Season! I commend each of you for your dedication and hard work! Looking forward to another fun filled year! — Resa

Bravo to Resa’s Pieces Singers on Your 1st Gala Tonight & Wishes for Continued Success! The Fishman Family

Proud to Support Resa’s Pieces!
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Best Wishes on Your 1st Gala Tonight! Gayla and Kenny Schwartz and Family

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NEXT SEASON BEGINS SEPTEMBER 2014

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