

Civic Christmas Carol returns for year 30 via television broadcast

Dec. 4, 2020 — Despite any changes 2020 may have delivered, one holiday tradition will not be missed this year.

The 30th Annual Civic Christmas Carol Concert will return next week, albeit in a different format as it is broadcast by YourTV Niagara. While guests won't be invited to pack into St. Thomas' Church for a live performance, there will still be plenty of opportunity to revel in the songs and sounds of the season with four YourTV Niagara broadcast dates on:

- Dec. 8 at noon;
- Dec. 10 at 8 p.m.;
- Dec. 12 at noon; and
- Dec. 13 at 12:30 p.m.

The concert was recorded last week at St. Thomas' Church, celebrating the 30th year of the traditional holiday event. To mark the anniversary Peter Partridge Jr. served as emcee, paying special tribute to the founders of the concert, his father, the late Peter Partridge Sr. and retired City staff member Ross Stretton.

With the help of retired Laura Secord Secondary School music director Dave Sisler as producer, this year's concert features the Niagara Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble, directed by Bradley Thachuk; a performance of "Happy Christmas" by country music artist Tim Hicks; a tribute from Mayor Walter Sendzik to healthcare workers on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19; and a talk on the personal meaning of Christmas from guest speaker Dr. Janice Giesbrecht, Medical Director and Chief of Oncology for Niagara Health.

"This year's holidays won't be the same for any of us as we continue to work as a community to slow the spread of COVID-19, and, while it may mean some changes to how we experience them, it is important we hold onto the Christmas traditions we can, even if they have to evolve," said Mayor Walter Sendzik. "For 30 years the Civic Christmas Carol Concert has been a way for our community to come together, and celebrate the spirit of the season to help those in need, this year is no different, even if we have to come together at a distance."

The spirit of giving won't be absent this year either. In the past attendees have been asked to make a freewill donation to Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold, an effort that has raised over \$100,000 for the agency over the 30-year run of the concert. This year those who take in the performance can still support Community Care, by

donating online, or contributing to the organization's Great Holiday Food Drive on Dec. 11. For more information visit www.communitycarestc.ca.

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