

**MONICA GEORGE PUNKÉ, Choral**



Monica George Punké was born and raised in New Glasgow, NS where choral music was a major part of her education. Her undergraduate degrees were obtained from the University of Kings College and Dalhousie University and her graduate studies were at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Always included in Monica Punké's many and varied interests has been a special passion for choral work and a study of the voice and vocal technique.

All her life she has sung in choirs both amateur and professional, has led choirs, taught choristers from the very youngest to senior singers, offered professional workshops to choir groups and fellow choir/ music teachers and directors, and adjudicated at music festivals. For more than 25 years she directed the Pictou District Honour Choir program which included many sub-choirs for different voicings and ages. When this program ran its course, she initiated a couple of smaller choir programs for school aged singers: Seinneadair and the Voicetime Music Studio Singers.

Mrs. Punké's choirs have travelled across Canada and had the distinct honour of being invited to sing at Carnegie Hall under the baton of Canadian conductor Jean Ashworth Bartle. Her choirs have won many awards at local, provincial and national levels. One program initiated by the Pictou District Honour Choir, a special gathering of SATB youth choirs called JUVENATA!, was adopted as an annual program of the Nova Scotia Choral Federation.

As well as her work with young singers, Mrs. Punké has for the past 20 years directed the Trinitarians – a choir for “the young at heart.” This choir operates for two semesters each year giving a Christmas and a spring concert.

In addition to her choir work, Monica George Punké has run a private voice studio for young singers interested in the serious study of voice and the vocal repertoire. Many of her graduates have gone on to study voice/music at an advanced level and are pursuing professional careers as musicians.