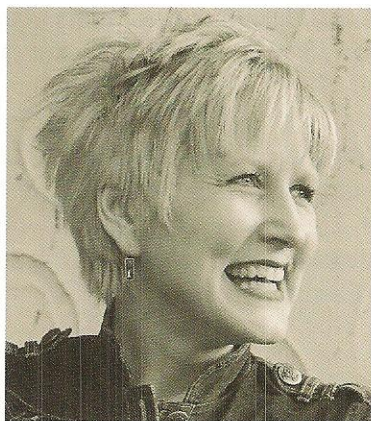


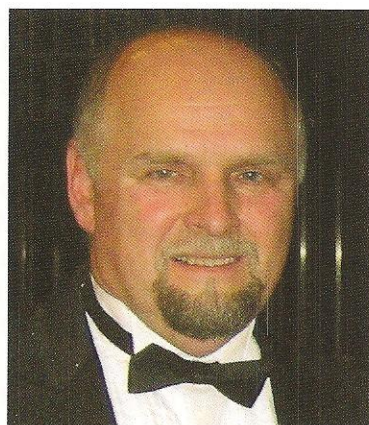
Okanagan Choral
presents
Okanagan Sings

Our Annual Choral Workshop

February 4, 2012



Alexandra Babbel



Tom Klassen

Featured Clinicians: are Alexandra Babbel and Tom Klassen -
both experienced teachers, choral conductors, singers
(operatic soprano and tenor respectively)

When: Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012
9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Register:
Please exclusively at
info@okanaganchoralsociety.com

Where: Will be taking place at a NEW VENUE in
Kelowna Christ Lutheran Church on
Gordon Rd. - near Springfield

Group registration cheques should be
payable to mailed to:

Luther Hall, replete with a stage, a grand
piano, lunch, dining facility with kitchen
and lots of space for choristers, with ample
parking behind and beside the church or
across the street.

Okanagan Choral Society
174 - 1995 Burtch Rd.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 4B4

Cost: \$30 Adult • \$10 Student

Registrant Singers: PLEASE NOTE: groups registering and traveling outside the
greater Kelowna area are allowed a 12% discount per group registration to offset fuel cost.
i.e. 5 persons x \$30 = \$150 minus 12% = \$132 (one cheque for each group please -
music on loan will be provided, not taken away).

www.okanaganchoralsociety.com

Biography of Alexandra Kosachukova Babel, Lyric Soprano

Lyric Soprano Alexandra Kosachukova Babel, being the only American-born member of her family, has approached her music with a great sense of privilege. Her German mother and Ukrainian father met and married in a displaced persons' refugee camp after fleeing the Stalinist terror in Ukraine and later immigrated to the United States where Ms. Babel was born.

Ms. Babel's opera career in Chicago included the title role in the World Premiere production of Philip Hageman's opera *The Aspern Papers* and roles with the Lincoln Opera and the Milwaukee Opera Company in Puccini's *La Bohème*, performing both the roles of Mimi and Mussetta.

Ms. Babel has enjoyed Operatic and Concert Solo performances in Canada, Germany, England, Switzerland, Holland, Italy and solo concert tours in Russia and Ukraine including guest appearances with members of the Kiev Conservatory of Music, Moscow's conductor Evgeny Vechenko, and recital performances in association with the Britten-Pears School.

In addition to training with teachers Galina Vesnevskaya and Kathleen Kaun and Vocal Coaches John Wustman and Joan Dornemann, Ms. Babel sang in Master Class for Maureen Forrester and Elly Ameling. Alexandra Babel holds a BA in Choral Music Education from the University of Michigan, a MA in Opera Performance from the University of Alberta and Post-Masters Certificate of Performance from Northwestern University, Deerfield, Illinois. She held the faculty position of Voice Department Head at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois before relocating to Canada.

Biography of Tom Klassen

Penticton's musical life is enriched by the recent arrival of musician and conductor, Tom Klassen. A native of Summerland, Tom has returned to the Okanagan with his family. He was appointed Director of Music at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and also was the Director of Music, a semi-professional choir in the South Okanagan. He has enriched choirs with his talent with many great performances in the community at large. He is also an inspiring voice and guitar teacher who teaches private lessons at the Penticton Academy School of Music as well as a Teacher On Call for School District 23 (Central Okanagan) and School District 53 (South Okanagan and Similkameen).

A gifted soloist in his own right, Tom has a Bachelor of Music from UBC, with a concentration in voice and guitar, and a Master's in Choral Conducting from New Mexico State University. While he attended NMSU, he taught voice classes and private voice lessons for the university. For over 20 years Tom has taught high school and adult choirs in California, New Mexico, Texas and B.C.

Tom has a special gift for helping singers experience the joy of singing or playing the guitar. Choir is Tom's passion. He is what music educators would call "a builder." In the course of his tenure one choir blossomed from 26 to over 170 students and was soon performing at the highest level of distinction at state competitions. Several of Tom's ensembles were cited as Most Outstanding Choirs at the University Scholastic League contests, Director's Choice Festivals, and other competitions. Tom not only loves teaching singers how to produce a rich and beautiful sound but has a special interest in teaching singers both to read music and to sing directly from the page—especially those who are just learning how to read music for the first time.

Tom is frequently a sought after performer both, as a soloist and a member of an ensemble. While a student, Tom performed internationally with the University Singers of UBC and New Mexico State University. He also sang as a tenor soloist for the Early Music Society of UBC. During his tenure as choir director, Tom participated as the tenor soloist for major works such as Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" and sang several art songs at various venues. Tom also sang as the tenor in the quartet for "Regina Coeli" by Mozart with the OSO orchestra and his choir, Musaïc, during the spring of 2009 under the direction of Rosemary Thompson. His legacy continues for many years where he performed several guitar pieces, including some of his own compositions.