



Patricia Abbott, Choirs

Patricia Abbott has been active as a conductor, singer, teacher and arts administrator in Montreal for nearly 40 years, 32 of them with the English Montreal School Board Chorale. She also conducts the Chorale du Gesù women's choir, the Cantivo chamber choir and Les Voix du Carrefour. A course lecturer in repertoire and programming at the Université de Sherbrooke, she was taught choral conducting in the music education area at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University from 2005 to 2020. Pat served as Artistic Director of the CAMMAC Music

Centre (Canadian Amateur Musicians/Musiciens amateurs du Canada) Music Centre in the Quebec Laurentians from 2009 to 2016, after serving for 16 years as Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities (now Choral Canada).

Her other teaching assignments over the years have included choral music at FACE (Fine Arts Core Education) School (1996-2007), diction classes at the Atelier Lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal, music history and musicianship at the Université de Sherbrooke and numerous vocal technique workshops for the Alliance chorale du Québec and the CAMMAC Music Centre. She has shared her passion and knowledge of Canadian choral music in workshops, conferences and festivals across Canada, in the United States, in Europe and in Argentina. A judge for the Juno Awards numerous times, she has also been on juries for the CBC Competition for Amateur Choirs and the National Music Festival. Pat was a member of the artistic committee for the Polyfolia International Festival in France from 2002 to 2014 and was a member of the editorial board for the *Choral Journal* published by the American Choral Directors Association from 2004 to 2010. With Dr. Victoria Meredith, she co-authored the chapter on Canadian choral music in the *Cambridge Companion to Choral Music* (Cambridge University Press). She is the recipient of a National Choral Award for Distinguished Service from ACCC, the Ordre du mérite choral from the Alliance des chorales du Québec, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Pat obtained a Master's degree in voice performance and vocal pedagogy from McGill University under the direction of the late Winston Purdy and studied for many years with soprano Gail Desmarais. She also holds undergraduate degrees in history from Carleton University (Ottawa) and in journalism from Concordia University (Montreal). Her choral conducting teachers and coaches have included Louis Lavigueur, Wayne Riddell, Patrick Wedd, Nicole Paiement, Jean Ashworth Bartle, Sir David Willcocks and Ann Howard Jones.