



Quayside Voices – 2020

Quayside Voices is a five-piece vocal band who's making waves representing Canada in the A Cappella genre. Coming off of an incredible 2019 by hosting international vocal jazz sensations – The Real Group – the band had plans to record their first EP and tour Canada.

In January, Quayside engaged internationally renowned audio engineer Tony Huerta to come to Vancouver and work with the band over a weekend. Flying in from Denver, Colorado, he spent three (3) days recording the band as well as offering technical seminars to the public. In addition, he provided a beatboxing seminar with our very own Justin Pham at New West Secondary School.

February and March came, and Quayside was grateful to perform at the Volunteer Festival at Royal City Centre as well as the International Women's Day Charity event at Sapperton Pensioner's Hall. They performed at a memorial held at Greens and Beans deli, and continue to host and assist the Open Mic Nights at their home - 100 Braid Street Studios.

When the Pandemic hit, the health and safety requirements were devastating to the group. Singing had been defined as a dangerous activity, and as such they refrained from in-person rehearsals for over two (2) months. During this time, the group refused to stop singing, and committed to the "30-day song challenge", where each day called for a song under a specific theme. Using the Acapella app by Mixchord, They also offered a "Name that tune" interactive series. Quayside posted box videos each day in order to provide the community with some routine and joy during a very unsettling time.

These projects kept Quayside busy until the end of May, and thankfully – the Province shifted phases and we were able to be in each others "bubble" as a quintet. Through the Responsive Neighbourhood Grant, they were able to receive a small stipend to hold two virtual concerts titled "Quayside in the House", which was broadcast live on social media and youtube. The group was also engaged to provide a concert to New West Artists in August, which took place outdoors at their Gallery.

This Fall the COVID numbers brought hesitation to the band. Anticipating that restrictions on gatherings would come, the group decided to commit to recording a holiday EP in order to provide their fans with a taste of Quayside over the winter. With the help of New Westminster Audio Engineer – Emil Wu – the band laid tracks for five songs which will come in December.

Last, but not least, Quayside learned that their home – 100 Braid Street Studios – would be a closing their doors permanently. Devastated that they couldn't give one last concert, the Team reached out to past Braid musicians, asking for a video message or performance. Performers from the lower mainland, Victoria, Latvia, and Sweden came together to gift an online concert titled "Braid Street Lullaby: A Final Curtain Call" to a space that was imprinted on their hearts.

As the year comes to a close, the Band will be releasing a holiday EP, music video as well as making virtual appearances at events across the lower mainland.

They are extremely grateful for the ongoing love and support of their fans, and the Community of New Westminster. They sincerely hope to be able to provide live music to willing audiences in 2021.

Quayside

www.quaysidevoices.com