

## BCMEA ACCEPTANCE SPEECH – Roberts ( 2mins)

Greetings fellow BCMEA'ers near and far I am honoured to be speaking with you from the unceded ancestral lands of the Tsleil - Waututh , Musqueam and Squamish peoples. What a YEAR this 2020 has turned out to be...this virtual conference is something eh!?

If only someone had told me that I might be approaching the end of my teaching career in a global pandemic in which we can only sing in small groups spaced 2 meters apart MASKED or better yet outside under tent awnings ... NO concerts, NO field trips, NO festivals... and moving into a BRAND NEW school building mid November? ...SAY WHAT??

This crazy roller coaster ride began March spring break – you all remember...luckily our Concert Tour to the Baltics was canceled 48 hours before the planned departure date Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020...

We BC music educators are in a **STATE** : anxious, lost, grieving, technically challenged or even creatively inspired and liberated ? but YOUR presence in BC schools is more vital and important than ever before. You are all cherished by your students. You are bringing back a sense of “normality” and great comfort to their lives. You are bringing the sound of music back into schools!

YOU are rebuilding community.

YOU matter & YOU make a difference!

So for me to be recognized by my colleagues today is the most amazing gift and a huge lift at a time when I have never been so lost and at times totally floundering in my teaching with all this technology (just ask my husband & teaching partner). I am truly honoured and humbled by this recognition.

I never would have thought that what I love and live to do could ever be considered unsafe and potentially life threatening ?!

SINGING is a basic human function!

The human race sang before we ever spoke.

I have sung as long as I can remember and the call to teach for me was inspired by my high school choir teacher Marc Hafso in Grande Prairie AB. Then at UBC School of Music I was in choirs with Jim Fankhauser and Cortland Hultberg – my passion for choral music GREW & I met my wonderful husband Geordie Roberts in these choirs. Then came EXPO 86 and it was a life changer – I worked in Amateur Entertainment with John Trepp and Willy Zwozdesky, met Janet Warren there and the rest is history...

So here I am 32 years later with 3 incredible sons – Aidan, Garreth and Liam and many other supportive and encouraging people to THANK : Diana Chan my amazing teaching partner at Argyle, MANY choral colleagues who continue to inspire and share , my “ Convivium ” collaborators Natassja By & Janet Warren, my UBC Masters Conducting cohort, Graeme Langager and the MANY teachers in training I was lucky enough to sponsor from UBC who taught me so much as well. And to my husband who has supported me throughout it all – I love you!

Finally to my students who continue to amaze and energize me, creating those wonderful goose bump feelings. We get to make music and share special moments: whether it's in the classroom, a Salt Mine in Poland, in a clinic after a festival, on the Great Wall of China or just singing in the Argyle stairwell. I have been so blessed and fortunate to have had these experiences. It has been a wonderful journey, and it ain't over yet. I have so much to be grateful for – THANK YOU BCMEA for this special honour.