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## Truro Music Festival excites local director

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**'The interest and dedication of parents and choir members is outstanding'**

**Another Truro Music Festival kicks off next week and Ann Legere couldn't be more pleased.**



*Ann Legere, far right, director of the Truro Youth Singers and Lorraine Brocklehurst, accompanist, enjoy working with young singers.*

Legere is the artistic director of the Truro Youth Singers, a member of the Cantabile Choir, choir director at the Immaculate Conception Church, offers private voice lessons and serves on the board of the Truro Music Festival

"The Truro Music Festival always excites me," Legere, of Truro, said. "I grew up studying piano and voice. As a young girl, every year when it was time for the Bathurst Music Festival, it was the highlight of my life."

Now in its 92nd year, the local music festival begins Monday, March 17 at 2 p.m. at the Marigold Cultural Centre in Truro. The festival begins with musical theatre and jazz with all classes involved. Beginning in April, voice, piano, choral/school classes, band and guitar

are other categories taking part.

Under the leadership of president Kent Loughead, the festival takes place over a period of four weeks.

Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. will see a performance by Legere's Truro Youth Singers, Comprised of 28 young girls, Ann's daughter Lorraine Brocklehurst is accompanist.

"This year Jennie Appleby wrote and choreographed the complete performance of the excerpts from Peter Pan," Legere said. "This has been so helpful to our choir. We are so grateful for Jennie's expertise in musical theatre."

Made up of girls from in and around the Truro area, the Truro Youth Singers have been going strong for 10 years.

"During the first years Jeff Joudrey was instrumental in supporting and encouraging our choir," Legere said. "My daughter Lorraine has been a major contributor since the beginning. Without Lorraine's support this would not be possible."

Legere and Brocklehurst try to keep the choir number at about 30 each year.

"This is a workable group for girls from ages eight to 12," Legere said. "We usually have a waiting list of young singers waiting to join. They are auditioned before joining the choir."

Legere, who moved to Truro from Bathurst with her husband Max in 1998, loves working with these young singers.

"The interest and dedication of parents and choir members is outstanding," she said.

"It fills my life with joy. It is very rewarding to see these young girls develop as singers. For anyone who loves music and is interested, I'd like to point out that the Truro Music Festival is always looking for volunteers."

Several of the Truro Youth Singers shared interesting comments.

Lauren Farrell, 13, Peter Pan: "I love all components of musical theatre - singing, acting and dancing. It's been fun to have an opportunity to work with Jennie Appleby who wrote the script and broke it down so we all understood the characters."

Laura Hughes McKay, 13: "Working on Peter Pan has been so much fun. We've worked so hard and it will be fun to see the final product."

Emma Somers, 13: "Our musical theatre presentation gave me the chance to become another character. It is so great to see what all the singers had become."

Emily MacKinnon, 11: "I love musical theatre because we get to move around as a choir and do some acting. Having a part to play is just super."

Ella Boudreau, 10: "I really enjoy doing this in a group -- singing, dancing and moving around. Peter Pan is one of my favorite musicals."

Delia MacKinnon, 9: "I'm excited about our musical theatre. I love the dancing that Jennie Appleby taught us and I love the songs from Peter Pan. It's good to see that everyone has learned their words. It is so much fun to see their expressions."

For further information and scheduling go to [www.truromusicfestival.ca](http://www.truromusicfestival.ca).

***Lyle Carter's column appears every Tuesday in the Truro Daily News. If you have a column idea, contact him at 673-2857.***