

THE ERNST FAMILY

A CAPPELLA FAMILY HARMONY



“The perfect unity of their voices - in timing, intonation, pitch - elevated their music into a region that I have never before experienced.” - Keith Wallis, lifelong choral aficionado

“The impression I'm left with is that this entire family was born singing. . . . I assure you the performance will be of the highest virtuosity and professional standard ” - Jack Bearden, church leader

“A blend of love” - Peter Togni, host of CBC's Choral Concert

“Heart stoppingly true voices” - The Chronical Herald

The Ernst Family is a choral ensemble, based in Nova Scotia, consisting of parents Gregg and Jennie, and children Joshua, John, Peter, Elijah, Eva, Ruth, and Esther. They are joined by youngest sons Samuel and Nathan for occasional selections.

They sing many styles: Renaissance and classical, folk, spirituals, pop, and gospel music in everything from solos to eight part harmony. Almost all our music is sung *a cappella*, with an occasional piano or guitar accompaniment.

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Phone (902) 634-3531

Ernst Family Music Ltd.

63 Upper 1st Peninsula Rd.

R.R.#3 Lunenburg, NS B0J 2C0

Nathan, 8

Samuel, 6

Ruth, 13 (soprano)

John, 22 (tenor)

Joshua, 24 (tenor)



Gregg (bass)

Jennie (soprano)

Esther, 11 (soprano)

Eva, 16 (alto)

Elijah, 18 (bass)

Peter, 19 (baritone, alto)

An Ernst Family Concert

Family Harmony. Our family has been blessed with a wide vocal range in genetically similar voices, giving a rich blend with a warmth of tone uncommon in a *cappella* choral performance. Early on, we discovered that singing *a cappella* worked to our advantage, since it exposed the subtleties of the blend and harmonies. Also, as we have found, and as the enduring popularity of *The Sound of Music* demonstrates, there is a strong audience appeal in a large singing family.

Musical Variety. We perform choral works from all over the world, as well as a few of our own arrangements. We sing in a variety of languages, and in styles ranging from motets to pop with vocal percussion. A typical program consists of songs in four to eight parts, featuring various combinations of family members, with the occasional solo thrown in.

Life-Affirming Lyrics. We sing songs of beauty, fun, and faith in God – songs that elevate and inspire the soul. Believing that God gave our family musical talent so that we can bless people, we choose repertoire that is wholesome and uplifting, with appeal to an audience of all ages.

About us.

We have been performing publicly since 2000, touring the eastern US and Canada, and have appeared on national television and radio. We have released four CDs since 2004. Over the years, the composition of our performing group has varied with the needs and abilities of the children. Currently, the eldest sister, Marja, has moved on, and the smallest boys are just starting to perform. Several others are honing their musical talents individually with voice training, music theory, arranging, and instrumental work.

We have also kept busy with other ventures. Gregg is an internationally recognized strength athlete – he competed in “The World’s Strongest Man” competitions in 1991 and 1992, and still holds the official world record for the most weight lifted by a man, at 5340 lbs. Currently, Gregg and Joshua are blacksmiths, John does freelance editing, Peter studies piano tuning, Elijah makes knives, and Jennie homeschools the school-age children. The family lives and works on a farm on First Peninsula, just outside Lunenburg, NS, Canada.

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