



CAPELLA REGALIS CHOIRS

6036 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1Y9 www.capellaregalis.com



Songs of the Sea

1. PETTY HARBOUR BAIT SKIFF	J. Grace, arr. P. Halley	5:46
2. AWAY FROM THE ROLL OF THE SEA	A. MacGillivray, arr. P. Halley	4:09
3. FAREWELL TO NOVA SCOTIA	Trad., arr. P. Halley	3:36
4. O WALY, WALY	Trad., arr. J. Rutter	3:17
5. THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS	H. Sumsion	6:31
6. THE LEAVING OF LIVERPOOL	Trad., arr. P. Halley	3:33
7. THE GREY SELCHIE	Trad., arr. P. Halley	4:58
8. SKYE BOAT SONG	Trad., arr. N. Halley	4:38
9. BLOW THE WIND SOUTHERLY	Trad., arr. P. Halley	3:56
10. UNITED IN SONG	P. Halley	4:59
TOTAL TIME		45:23

Cover: Oil painting by Margaret Race, courtesy of rockwellgallery.com. Used by permission.



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Capella Regalis Choirs | Media Kit

Songs of the Sea CD

[DIGITAL ALBUM BOOKLET](#)

Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir

Directed by Nick Halley with Paul Halley, piano & organ

Release Date: June 6, 2025

ARTIST BIOS

CAPELLA REGALIS MEN & BOYS CHOIR

Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir is the flagship choir of Capella Regalis Choirs, a Canadian charity dedicated to training singers within a centuries-old choral tradition and performing choral music of the highest excellence. Founded in Nova Scotia by director Nick Halley in 2010 to build upon the best aspects of a centuries-old European choral tradition and to revitalize this method of music training in Canada, Capella Regalis now comprises a Boys Choir, Girls Choir, and professional Men's Choir (including Young Men with recently changed voices). In November 2024, Capella Regalis launched its South Shore Program, which provides weekly singing rehearsals in Lunenburg for children from Nova Scotia's South Shore communities. All Capella Regalis children's choirs are free and open to any child who is keen to learn music.

Capella Regalis Choirs regularly sing Choral Evensong in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax. The choirs also perform concerts around Nova Scotia and beyond in a busy September – June season, and have collaborated with professional soloists and instrumentalists from across Canada in major productions including J.S. Bach's *Easter Cantata BWV 4*, Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien*, Rutter's *Visions*, and the Paul Winter Consort's *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*.

Capella Regalis has completed seven performance tours in the Maritimes, and has released five CDs: *Songs of the Sea* (June 2025), *Benjamin Britten: A Ceremony of Carols* (2023), *Love Came Down: Carols for Christmas* (2019), *Greater Love* (2017) and *My Eyes for Beauty Pine* (2014), as well as many online performance broadcasts.

Learn more at capellaregalis.com.



NICK HALLEY (*Founder & Artistic Director, Boys Choir Director*) is the Founder and Artistic Director of Capella Regalis Choirs, and Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax. He is a choral conductor, percussionist, keyboardist, singer, and music educator who is passionate about making musical excellence accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. From 2008 to 2021, Nick served as Assistant Director of the University of King's College Chapel Choir, and for eleven years directed The King's Chorus, a choral society for members of the King's and Dalhousie University communities.



As a drummer and world percussionist, Nick performs and records internationally with a wide range of musicians, including American musical icon James Taylor, Dinuk Wijeratne, Sandeep Das, Chris Norman, Old Man Luedecke, Nazih Borish, Kinan Azmeh, Suzie LeBlanc, Paul Halley, Viradouro Escola de Samba, and the late Oscar Castro-Neves. He is featured on many recordings, including a CD of his own compositions performed by an ensemble of young jazz stars (*Barnum Hill*, 2008). He also teaches at the Boxwood Festival, Aldeburgh Festival, Interlochen Summer Festival, LAMP, and other workshop venues around the world.

In 2012, Nick was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of his contributions to Canada and Nova Scotia through the arts, particularly through his work with Capella Regalis. In the 2013–14 season, he served as host of CBC's national radio program *Choral Concert*.

PAUL HALLEY is a Grammy Award-winning composer, keyboardist, and choral conductor. He is Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Born in England, Halley was raised in Ottawa, Canada where he received his early musical training with The Men and Boys Choir of St. Matthew's Anglican Church. Awarded the organ scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, Halley received his M.A. with prizes in composition and performance, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Following four years post-graduate work in Canada and Jamaica, W.I., Halley was appointed Organist and Choirmaster at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City where he served for twelve years from 1977-1989. During his tenure at the Cathedral, Halley collaborated with The Paul Winter Consort as principal writer and keyboardist on multiple Grammy Award-winning albums. Halley later settled in rural Connecticut, founded the children's choir, *Chorus Angelicus*, and the adult ensemble, *Gaudeamus*, and served as Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington, CT, where he inaugurated a Choral and Organ Scholars program in conjunction with Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music. In 2007, Halley relocated to Halifax, Nova Scotia to become Director of Music at the University of King's College (to 2021), also becoming Director of Music at All Saints Cathedral, Halifax in 2015. Halley's choral and instrumental compositions have been commissioned or licensed by such entities as Sony Entertainment, the Boston Pops Orchestra, CBC, The Toronto Symphony, and Canadian Brass, and are distributed internationally by Pelagosmusic (pelagosmusic.com).



PRODUCT INFO

Where to Buy

Songs of the Sea is available as a physical CD (Canada and US shipping) at:

<https://capellaregalis.square.site/s/shop>

Listen Online

Stream the full album on all major platforms:

- Spotify - [Songs of the Sea on Spotify](#)
- Apple Music - [Songs of the Sea on Apple Music](#)
- YouTube Music - [Songs of the Sea on YouTube Music](#)
- Amazon Music, TIDAL and others

Digital Album booklet

A [20-page full-colour booklet](#) accompanies the physical CD and is also available digitally. It includes:

- Full liner notes by Vanessa Halley, Executive Director of Capella Regalis Choirs
- Archival photographs from the Nova Scotia Archives
- Complete song texts and translations

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@capellaregalis>

Social Media:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/capellaregalis/>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/capellaregalis>

PRODUCTION CREDITS

- **Produced by:** Nick Halley & Vanessa Halley
- **Executive Producer:** Vanessa Halley
- **Recording, Mixing & Mastering:** John D.S. Adams / Stonehouse Sound
- **Recording Location:** The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, Nova Scotia - *May 2024*
- **Liner Notes:** Vanessa Halley
- **Art Design & Production:** Kate Sinclair-Sowerby, Co. & Co.
- **Art Supervision:** Vanessa Halley
- **Cover Image:** "Sailing Among the Islands," Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. Oil painting by Margaret Race, courtesy of rockwellgallery.com - *Used by permission*
- **Photographs:** Beatrice Schuler - *Used by permission*
- **Archival Photographs:** Courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives - *Used by permission*

MUSIC VIDEOS

Three music videos have been released along with the CD and are available on YouTube:

- *The Leaving of Liverpool* (arr. Paul Halley): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TkjD_zJpVQ



- *They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships* (H. Sumsion) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEmYq932yZ0&list=RDrEmYq932yZ0&start_radio=1



- *Farewell to Nova Scotia* (arr. Paul Halley) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6FtrbfFHKo>

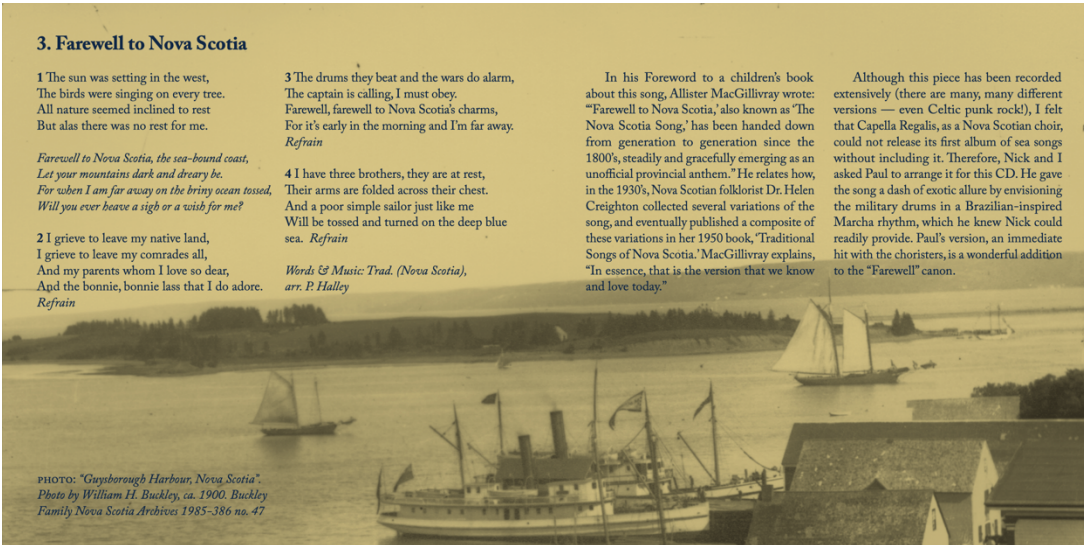


A SELECTION OF LINER NOTES

Read the complete liner notes, written by Vanessa Halley, in the 20-page digital album booklet available online at capellaregalis.com.

Farewell to Nova Scotia *Words & Music: Traditional, arranged by Paul Halley*

“Although this piece has been recorded extensively (there are many, many different versions — even Celtic punk rock!), I felt that Capella Regalis, as a Nova Scotian choir, could not release its first album of sea songs without including it. Therefore, Nick and I asked Paul to arrange it for this CD. He gave the song a dash of exotic allure by envisioning the military drums in a Brazilian-inspired Marcha rhythm, which he knew Nick could readily provide. Paul’s version, an immediate hit with the choristers, is a wonderful addition to the “Farewell” canon.”



3. Farewell to Nova Scotia

1 The sun was setting in the west,
The birds were singing on every tree.
All nature seemed inclined to rest
But alas there was no rest for me.

*Farewell to Nova Scotia, the sea-bound coast,
Let your mountains dark and dreary be.
For when I am far away on the briny ocean tossed,
Will you ever heave a sigh or a wish for me?*

2 I grieve to leave my native land,
I grieve to leave my comrades all,
And my parents whom I love so dear,
And the bonnie, bonnie lass that I do adore.

Refrain

3 The drums they beat and the wars do alarm,
The captain is calling, I must obey.
Farewell, farewell to Nova Scotia's charms,
For it's early in the morning and I'm far away.

Refrain

4 I have three brothers, they are at rest,
Their arms are folded across their chest.
And a poor simple sailor just like me
Will be tossed and turned on the deep blue sea.

Refrain

*Words & Music Trad. (Nova Scotia),
arr. P. Halley*

In his Foreword to a children's book about this song, Allister MacGillivray wrote: "Farewell to Nova Scotia," also known as "The Nova Scotia Song," has been handed down from generation to generation since the 1800's, steadily and gracefully emerging as an unofficial provincial anthem." He relates how, in the 1930's, Nova Scotian folklorist Dr. Helen Creighton collected several variations of the song, and eventually published a composite of these variations in her 1950 book, "Traditional Songs of Nova Scotia." MacGillivray explains, "In essence, that is the version that we know and love today."

Although this piece has been recorded extensively (there are many, many different versions — even Celtic punk rock!), I felt that Capella Regalis, as a Nova Scotian choir, could not release its first album of sea songs without including it. Therefore, Nick and I asked Paul to arrange it for this CD. He gave the song a dash of exotic allure by envisioning the military drums in a Brazilian-inspired Marcha rhythm, which he knew Nick could readily provide. Paul's version, an immediate hit with the choristers, is a wonderful addition to the "Farewell" canon.

PHOTO: "Guysborough Harbour, Nova Scotia".
Photo by William H. Buckley, ca. 1900. Buckley
Family Nova Scotia Archives 1985-386 no. 47

Skye Boat Song *Words: Sir Harold Boulton / Music: Traditional, arranged Nick Halley*

“‘Skye Boat Song’ describes a famous moment in Bonnie Prince Charlie’s monthslong escape from the British after he tried to win the British throne back into Scottish hands but was badly defeated at the Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746. [...] Nick’s arrangement of the song for the men and boys is wonderfully fresh. He gives the hauntingly sweet melody an ethereal backdrop.”

Leaving of Liverpool: *Words & Music: Traditional, arranged Paul Halley*

“We wanted a new sea shanty for the men of the choir to sing [...] Paul chose this ballad-style shanty and created a perfect setting to showcase the wonderful voices of our men.”

United in Song: *Words & Music: Paul Halley*

“Many songs of the sea relate stories of peril or sadness, but we wanted to end the album with this transcendent message of hope and wonder at the beauty that surrounds us — especially the gift of the sea.”