



SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THE QUEEN'S 90th!

A Canadian Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

On April 21, our Queen turns 90.

(Her "official birthday" in Canada is Victoria Day)

Defying stereotypes of age and "retirement," Her Majesty continues her life of service to Canada and the Commonwealth

Here's how **YOU** can join in a national celebration
to wish her a happy birthday:

The Monarchist League of Canada is asking Canadians
to make a video of:

Happy Birthday to You

singing one verse in English and one in French
(*we would also welcome a verse sung in
a First Nations or heritage language*)

All singing **MUST** be a *cappella*

That is a musical term meaning "unaccompanied – voices only"
in the key of F major and at metronome speed 90
which you can then download onto the Cloud:
complete instructions follow, with words and music.

WHO CAN SING?

Please make sure to have a group member or members hold a small banner to identify yourselves, such as “Centennial School, Mytown, Ontario” or “The Rotary Club, Ourcity, BC”

A “group” can be a school choir, or Mrs Jones’ math class, a bunch of friends, a family, a group of residents on your street, a Scouting or Guide group, a faith community, an IODE Chapter, a First Nations community, volunteers at a feeding program, members of the 4H club, a church or community choir, an element within the Canadian Forces, the crowd hanging out at the Legion or the local pub, the neighbourhood curling club, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah class, residents at a Seniors’ home, a service club at its lunch, tellers at a local bank, the gang at your workplace, a soccer or lacrosse team, the kids playing street hockey, the brave firefighters at the neighbourhood fire hall. *In other words, let the setting and group reflect who we are and how we live – dressed in our everyday clothes or uniforms, in a natural setting, being ourselves.*

We will layer the contributions into one mighty chorus of affectionate good wishes, and frame the voices with video captures of the participating groups. These groups will be listed on the sleeve of the DVD, which will then be forwarded to The Queen and uploaded on social media as a national birthday present.



HERE'S HOW

What do we need to prepare for our singing?

- a video camera preferably on a tripod, with someone who knows how to operate it (you could use a phone cam if it fits a stabilizer or tripod, or is placed on a table)
- a metronome: musicians use this device to ensure a regular “pace” – if you don't have one, not to worry: you can download the 90 BPM speed off the internet: just Google *90 BPM Metronome*
- the tuning note “middle C” (first note for Happy Birthday sung in key of F) is available at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtqggYRDTDg>
- an enthusiastic member of the group to rehearse you in terms of tempo (speed) and key

Since your singing contribution and those of hundreds of other groups are going to be layered into one chorus, it is obviously important that everyone sing in the same key – the tuning note, the first note of “Happy Birthday” will be more consistent if it is taken off the Internet and downloaded so everyone can hear it – pianos and organs have widely variable pitches.

Also important is the PACE – if you practice to the 90 BPM Metronome off the Internet there is a better chance that our tech putting together the DVD will not tear out his hair! If you have an actual Metronome, it may be that it can be put in silent mode and sit visibly between the singers and the conductor (at natural eye level – we don't want The Queen to see everyone looking at the floor!)

REALLY IMPORTANT

The one tricky element of the pace of “Happy Birthday” will be understood by everyone from years of singing the song for family and friends – the tendency to “rit” – abbreviation for the musical term “to slow down” - at the third line, “happy birthday, dear Sandra”, then pick up the speed again for the fourth line. Alas, this we can't do if the final product is to sound like one huge group! Please practise singing “Happy Birthday, Queen Elizabeth” at the same speed as the other three lines.

WORDS

A good idea is for your group to practise READING the words together first, then singing – helps keep everyone together and with identical pronunciation!

Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday, Queen Elizabeth, Happy birthday to you.	Bonne fête à toi, Bonne fête à toi, Bonne fête, reine Elisabet, Bonne fête à toi.
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NB : In the French version, pronounce “Bonne” as two syllables: bon-ne (bawn-nuh) with emphasis on first syllable

Also pronounce “fête” as two syllables: fê-te (fay-tuh) again with emphasis on first syllable

Pronounce “toi” as twuh

Pronounce “Elisabet” as AY-LEES-A-BET with the emphases on the second and fourth syllables

MUSIC

(for those musically inclined, the tricky and important element referred to previously is shown by the absence of the fermata at line 2, bar 2, note 2)

Happy Birthday

trad



HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR CONTRIBUTION

When you've completed your contribution, and you've made sure that your banner is legible, please upload the files to this URL:
<https://dbinbox.com/monarchistleagueCAN>

Use a separate file for each language, though it's fine to use the same banner for each verse, the banner being in whatever language you choose to identify your group.

ANY QUESTIONS? Just send us an email at:

domsec@sympatico.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



The Monarchist League of Canada / La Ligue monarchiste du Canada

PO Box 1057/CP 1057
Lakeshore West PO
OAKVILLE, ON L6K 0B2
domsec@sympatico.ca

(800) 465-6925



www.monarchist.ca