

NEIGHBOURS OF

A VOICE SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF RIVERBEND,
WARBLER WOODS, WICKERSON, SUMMERCREST
AND WEST BYRON • JUNE 2025

RIVERBEND

**FULLFILLING
ENCORE**
for This
Conductor



A Harmonious
Journey for
**Jo and Ty
Paterson**

POWERED BY
BVM
BEST VERSION MEDIA

Cover photo by Image Design

Make a Joyful Noise!

The Creative Musical Maelstrom of Jo and Ty Paterson

BY APRIL WALL
Photos by Image Design

Jo and Ty Paterson are a dynamic duo whose love for music and each other shines brightly in their community. Their story weaves together the threads of love, career, creativity, and family, all anchored by their passion for music. With roots stretching from Ottawa to Vancouver before settling in London, the Patersons embody a lifestyle rich in artistic exploration.

Relocating to London in 2012, when Jo accepted a job at Western, she is now employed in the role of Scholarly Communications Librarian at Western University, where she expertly navigates the digital transformation highway from Western Libraries. Reflecting on the evolution of her profession, she notes, "Information always needs to be sorted and managed... Now, with AI, it is really important to have that understanding of critical thinking and responsible use." Jo recognizes the shift from traditional card catalogues to digital resources, illustrating how technology continues to impact how information is accessed and utilized.

Ty's journey in music began when he and Jo first met at the University of Calgary, where they both studied music and played in a jazz band. "Ty always says he got the prettiest girl in the band," Jo affectionately remarks, adding with a laugh, "I was the only girl in the band!" Their shared passion for music blossomed during those early years, with memorable experiences, including Jo performing in the pit for one of Ty's university productions.

As a lifelong conductor, Ty's career has been nothing short of remarkable. He made his debut in 1988 with the Calgary Philharmonic



and went on to conduct challenging operas like Strauss's "Salome." He tells a story of conducting once in a castle courtyard in Austria, "...the orchestra and I were off to the side, and the singers had to follow me via the jumbotron. All went well until the soprano got lost in the labyrinth behind the stage. We vamped until she made it back. The show must go on!"

In recent years, Ty has embraced a new chapter by stepping back to explore jazz piano and trombone, stating, "After decades of conducting everything from Puccini to Pacini, I've taken up jazz piano—something I've always wanted to do but never had the time for."

He now performs with a small jazz group called the *Second Act Combo*, bringing his flair for improvisation to the forefront. "I also play trombone with *Sounds of Swing*, *Sophisticated Swing*, and the *London Concert Band*—keeps me on my toes!" he laughs.

"Byron feels like a place where stories settle in and grow roots."

While Ty conducts and composes, Jo reignites her musical journey, returning to the trumpet after years away from performance. After moving to London, she met Henry Meredith, who encouraged her to join local ensembles. Embracing how music has once again become an integral part of her life, Jo joins various bands, including the *New Horizons Band*, designed for adults returning to music. "I rediscovered my instrument... I got into that," she shares, shedding light on how these opportunities helped her reconnect with her musical roots.

Their life in Byron is blessed with family, good books, and their shared sense of humour. The couple have a wonderful son, Benjamin, who is getting married soon, and they couldn't be happier for him. The joy of life intertwines in their musical endeavours; Jo reminisces about the special moments when three generations of their family—Jo, her father, and Benjamin—played individually, and later all together in the *Mocha-Shrine Trumpet Band*. "I'm one of the only female brass players invited to play in the band, which adds a unique twist to our musical gatherings," she notes proudly. Her musical endeavours don't end there, though. "I also play trumpet with several community bands—including *Sounds of Swing* and the *London Concert Band*, as well as *The Jazzables* (an all-woman jazz band) and *Barclay Road Brassworks*, an eight-piece brass ensemble!"

Community and creativity are at the heart of the Patersons' lives. They love sharing their music as much as they revel in the peacefulness of Byron, where they recharge in their backyard space filled with enchanting visitors like woodpeckers, finches, and cardinals. "Byron feels like a place where stories settle in and grow roots," Jo expresses. This sense of belonging extends to their enriching interactions with neighbours, fostering a genuine village atmosphere marked by camaraderie and mutual support.

Looking ahead, Jo and Ty are excited for the summer filled with musical performances and community engagement. They will soon join one another onstage at the Wolf Performance Hall, performing and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the *Sounds of Swing Jazz Band*.

In November, Ty will return to the podium to conduct "Tosca" for Manitoba Opera, marking another highlight in his storied career. Amidst this whirlwind of musical activities, Jo is delving into a personal project involving genealogy and historical storytelling. "I have a deep fascination with genealogy and historic maps... I can spend hours tracing long-lost relatives through old land deeds and newspaper clippings," she shares.

"Many of my ancestors were United Empire Loyalists—which might explain my fondness for constitutional monarchy, old maps, and well-organized land records. Oh, and I'm currently building a retro, GeoCities-style website just for fun—complete with sparkle bursts and a marching Yoshi!"

As Ty and Jo harmonize their lives with liberal sprinklings of music, humour, love, and creativity, they exemplify how passion can create connections and define us. With insight and a commitment to their crafts, the Patersons continue to inspire one another and those around them. Whether performing or amidst family and friends, their joy resonates in what they share, illustrating that life, much like music, is best enjoyed together. ■



