

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR CANADIAN AMATEUR CHOIRS

The Canadian choral community has rescued the former CBC Choral Competition for Amateur Choirs! This spring, after more than 30 years of running the competition, CBC Radio was forced to relinquish the biennial event when the national broadcaster's federal funding was cut by 5% or \$56 million.

Representing nearly 40,000 Canadians involved in choral music, the *Association of Canadian Choral Communities* (ACCC) announced in June that it had entered into dialogue with *CBC Radio* and the *Canada Council for the Arts* with the intention of taking over the competition. "We understand

how deeply loved this competition is and rather than seeing it end, we [hoped] there was a way that it could be kept alive," said Mark Steinmetz, CBC's Director of *Radio Music*.

"The Canadian choral community is the nation's largest group of performing artists and can really have an impact when they are mobilized behind a cause. This competition has brought fantastic visibility and pride to our sector and we weren't about to let it die," says Christina Murray, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities. Newly renamed by the ACCC, the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs will involve approximately 5000 of the nation's best choral singers in 12 categories including chamber choirs, children's choirs, and pan-cultural ensembles. CBC Radio has agreed to broadcast the competition finals in May, which will take place in Saskatoon during the ACCC's national choral conference, *Podium*.

For more information about the Association of Canadian Choral Communities and the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs, visit www.choralcanada.org.

About the Association of Canadian Choral Communities:

Founded in 1980, the Association of Canadian Choral Communities (ACCC) is Canada's only non-profit professional service organization for choral musicians and administrators. A national voice for over 600 conductors, 38,000 singers, as well as choral composers, publishers and administrators, the ACCC promotes its art form at all levels throughout Canada and supports and encourages the writing and performance of Canadian choral music. In addition to *Podium*, a large-scale, biennial national conference, the ACCC serves its constituents through key projects including:

Podium (national choral conference)

National Youth Choir of Canada

National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs (in association with CBC/Radio-Canada)

National Choral Awards

National Composition Competition

Publications (Anacrusis, Choral Bytes, ACCC Professional Resource Directory, Recommended Canadian Repertoire series)

A major communication forum for choral musicians across the country, ACCC also provides professional development opportunities and acts as a liaison with other national and international music organizations. ACCC is supported by all the provincial choral

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World Choir Games, Shaoxing, China, July 15-26, '10,
Cincinnati, Ohio, July 4-14, '12

American International Choral Festival,
St. Louis, Nov 17-21, 2010, Reno, May 4-8, 2011

1st European Choir Games, July, 2011

Riva del Garda, Italy, Mar 28-April 1, '10, Oct 13-17, '11

Venice Choir Festival
April 28-May 2, '10, April 27-May 1, '11, April 29-May 3, '12

Malta Choir Festival, Nov 3-7, '11

International Franz-Schubert Competition,
Vienna, Nov 24-28, '10, Nov 16-20, '11, Nov, '12

Germany: (Brahms) Wernigerode, July, 2011
(Schumann) Zwickau, Oct 20-24, '10

Linz, Austria (Bruckner), June 22-26, '11

Budapest, Hungary, April 17-21, '11

Rome, July 1-6, '11

Asian Choir Games, Fall, 2011

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MEMBERSHIP:

BCCF membership is valid for one year. Choirs are warmly advised to establish a permanent mailing address such as a post office box.

RATES:

Choirs \$50
Individuals \$30
Individuals in BCCF Choirs \$25
Lifetime Memberships \$500
Institutions \$75
Corporations \$150



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We are happy to act in partnership with the following music organizations in Canada and BC:

- Arts in Education Council • Association of Canadian Choral Communities
- BC Music Educators' Association • Canadian Conference of the Arts
- Canadian Music Educators' Association • Canadian Society for Traditional Music
- Coalition for Music Education in Canada • Vancouver Folk Song Society



BRITISH COLUMBIA
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NEW MEMBERS OF THE BCCF

CHOIRS

Delta Sings!
EnChor (Vancouver)
Island Soul Choir (Nanaimo)
Kamloops Symphony Society
Move the Mountain Gospel Choir
Van. School Board District Youth Honour Choir
Victoria Broadway Chorus
Victoria Choral Academia

INDIVIDUALS

Andrea Ashton
Coraline Felix
Kimberley French
Kathryn Grant
Michelle Harlow
Deanna Illingworth
Nina Luistro
Angela Lundin
Alison Norris
Gail Olsen
Kate Polsky
Roya Ravanbakhsh
Jennifer Richardson
Jaclyn Riemer

Dear fellow choristers!

I am very pleased to report on a successful summer's worth of well-rounded programming from the **BC Choral Federation**. From a magnificent *Chorfest* in Powell River with another wonderful **BC Youth Choir**, to *Choral Stage* for the kids, and the *Choral Directorship Course*, the range of our programs is truly inspiring. Not to mention a number of focused workshops throughout the province! However, with the good of the summer came the bad news in late August that we had lost a major source of our operating funds, the Direct Access gaming grant. You can read further details in the Editor's message. I am greatly encouraged by the efforts of our members to speak out about these cuts. I have been copied on letters to Government written on behalf of the arts community greatly affected by these cuts. To those of you who have written, thank you. It is important to write and be heard. If you have not yet, I would encourage you to write also, and copy the BCCF if you feel it is appropriate. A full list of MLAs is on our website at: www.bcchoralfed.com.

While these cuts will not silence our voices, and we are taking measures to ensure that we carry on with the staple programs of the organization, please take a moment to browse through our website to read about the cuts and their effect on the arts community, and about how you might be able to support your provincial choral organization as we face this new challenge.

Warm regards, *Malcolm McDonald*

President, BC Choral Federation

President's Message



Dear Readers:

Times have changed swiftly, dramatically, and precipitously for the BCCF. Without notice or provision for appeal, this summer the provincial government suddenly denied our request for our regular community Direct Access gaming grant. Our request was \$36,000, money which has historically supported core BCCF services and programs (youth programs, communications services, chorfest annual conference, choral directorship course) and a portion of our associated overhead costs.

The reasons cited for the government's decision, as stated by Assistant Deputy Minister Derek Sturko, follow here: "Given global economic circumstances, the provincial government has had to establish priorities for community gaming grants... As with previous years, demand for community gaming grants exceeds the amount of funding available and the priorities for 2009/10 grants will be:

- * *Programs that support low income and disabled British Columbians;*
- * *Programs that provide food, shelter and support to at risk individuals;*
- * *Programs that support community health services;*
- * *Programs that fund nutritional and similar programs in schools for underprivileged children;*
- * *Public safety programs;*
- * *A limited number of arts and culture activities;*
- * *Community education programs, such as daycares and preschools;*
- * *Public community facilities like community halls and recreation facilities;*
- * *Youth and disabled sports; and*
- * *Non-sport youth groups, such as scouts and cadets.*

We regret that your organization's application for a regular community gaming grant can not be approved for 2009/10 and encourage you to apply again next year. Please note this decision is not subject to a reconsideration or review."

The past two months since the government's announcement have been devoted to in depth consultations with our volunteer Board of Directors and advisory Willan Council, and our contracted administrative team. The BC Arts Council has also been communicating with us, informing us of their initiatives in Victoria and recent progress. At the time of writing, however, there are more questions than answers. BCCF budgets are now being reforecast in light of this new financial uncertainty and, in response, we are trimming our sails as we navigate this storm.

In terms of 2009, by September's end many BCCF core programs were nearly complete, largely in advance of this funding cut. The BCCF benefits from a high percentage (more than 75%) of earned revenues derived from memberships, individual contributions, fundraising, and fees

associated with the BCCF's major programs. However, the final quarter of the year will quickly absorb any financial cushion we may have had, very likely resulting in an overall loss on operations for 2009. The further impact of the recent funding cuts will be felt in 2010 and beyond.

Although faced with financial uncertainty, we are working hard to ensure that services to members continue with minimal interruption, that our annual programs are delivered as planned in the coming year. We are looking forward to a jubilant "royal" Chorfest at the Chan Centre, where we will be joined by the BC Youth Choir, and a newly-formed choir of young adults, the BC Chamber Choir. We will again offer the popular Choral Directorship Course, with a focus on "Teaching Children To Sing", as well as our children's summer camp, Choral Stage. A selection of workshops for choral singers and administrators is being planned as well. Business almost as usual! Please visit our website for new developments www.bcchoralfed.com.

We are committed to publishing our Newsletter – an essential service to our members province-wide and to the broader community – but its production is being scrutinized. As you can see from the present electronic edition, we can expect to see changes in its delivery and format.

Finally, we are also scrutinizing our organizational overhead, looking for ways to make our administration leaner and our resources work smarter. Contract fees and hours are under review, responsibilities are being reexamined. Having a Board of Directors comprised of 27 individuals in all corners of this vast province is excellent for its breadth of representation. But convening such a widely-scattered board three times a year is expensive. As a contribution to a solution, the Board members have been very responsive, often underwriting their own direct board expenses and making cash donations back to the organization. Everyone is doing their share to help weather this storm.

That choirs in British Columbia continue to do their invaluable musical, educational, and social work under all manner of financial circumstance is a sure testament to the fundamental need we all have for choral expression in society. As you read through the pages of our Newsletter, time and again you will see examples of excellence, caring, and compassion – just some of the values encapsulated in our work. Let's keep it up!

With very best wishes for the coming choral season,

Willi Zwozdesky

Executive Director, BC Choral Federation

A new kid on the block? Not such a kid, actually – many of the faces among the new **BC Chamber Choir** singers will likely be familiar to BCCF audiences as former members of the **BC Youth Choir**. Certainly the impetus for the creation of the choir has come from that group. After years of not only singing in, but also doing all the administration of the BCYC, this intrepid bunch is, at the age of 25+, too old to continue with the youth choir, but still wanting the challenge of a smaller group with more demanding repertoire. They began by calling it the Alumni Choir, but realised quickly that they did not want to restrict it only to past BCYC members.

So the BC Chamber Choir will be convened for the first time at *Chorifest* in May, bringing together a group of experienced and talented singers who are looking for a challenge. And they will find it this year with the

BC Chamber Choir –

Creating A *New Project Choir* for Young Adults

premiere performance of the first of a series of three works commissioned by the BCCF to honour our dear **Joyce Maguire**, BCCF's Executive Director for many years, and beloved mentor to a generation of young Vancouver singers. For *Chorifest 2010 Imant Raminsh* is setting a poem by *Wendell Berry*, called "Let the Great Song Come" – a poem that, Imant says, will result in music that is "...not loudly triumphant but intimately joyful and positive..." The pianist will be **Jane Coop**, for whom Joyce was the agent, and the performance will be led by **Bruce Pullan**, with whom Joyce worked so closely in the **Vancouver Bach Choir** and **VBCC**.

The rest of the BC Chamber Choir's performance will be directed by **Kevin Zakresky**, a talented BCYC alumnus who is now living in Virginia. Details of the program will be posted on the BCCF website. The choir will join the main *Chorifest* choir in the concert finale at the Chan Shun Concert Hall on May 9, 2010. Interested singers (age 25 to however long you feel "young") should contact the BCCF office for audition arrangements and other information.

Hailed as one of North America's "rising star" conductors

by Vancouver Sun critic David Gordon Duke, **Kevin Zakresky** has expanded his career over the last few seasons to include conducting, masterclasses and workshops, as well as vocal and piano performances in the United States and Canada.



Kevin Zakresky

With degrees from Yale and the University of British Columbia, Zakresky is founder of the **Southern Virginia Baroque Orchestra** and founder and artistic director of the **Chatham Chamber Series**. He also serves as Choirmaster and Director of Music at **Chatham Hall School**.

Winner of Yale's *Cavanagh Prize for distinguished Intellectual Achievement*, Zakresky has published research

on Stravinsky and Ligeti. As a vocalist he has regularly performed as tenor soloist in oratorio and opera, and as a lieder recitalist; as a pianist he was soloist in Mozart's *K. 414 Piano Concerto* and is about to make his recording debut as pianist of the **Rainier Trio**.

The 2009/2010 season sees him working in both Canada and the United States as a conductor and music educator. In November, he will be working with Edmonton's **Kokopelli** choir and during the summer months of 2010 he will return to Vancouver to join the faculty of **UBC's Young Artist Experience** music program for exceptional performers. For more information, visit www.kevinzakresky.com.

Calling All Choirs!

BCCF ANNUAL RAFFLE

A Great Way to Raise Funds for Member Choirs and the BCCF.

Notices are now in the mail to BCCF member choirs for this popular annual fundraiser. **Responses must be received before December 11.** Contact the BCCF at www.bcchoralfed.com or call (604) 733-9687.

No. 001

Don't Be Left Out!

GRAND FORKS CHORAL SOCIETY

Joan Thompson, Conductor

The Grand Forks Choral Society (GFCS) began the season with their new conductor Joan Thompson, who brings a lot of experience to this position, having directed large high school and community choirs in Ontario and BC, and having served as a school music educator for thirty years. Since her move to the region in 2001, she has become well known either as music teacher at Perley Elementary, director of **The Sopranos & Co**, private voice teacher, or as the person at the keys at many a musical theatre production. Neither is she a stranger to the GFCS – she has appeared variously as guest conductor, accompanist, arranger, section leader and soloist since 1998.

“Singing and nurturing singers is my passion. I love the sound of voices unified in song and know it is incredibly uplifting to the human spirit. And there is more and more research out there that is uncovering a myriad of benefits of singing.” Joan points out. “It can contribute to an improved respiratory system, heightened immune system, improved brain function, better posture and balance, increased sense of well-being, energy and overall health.” To underscore her point, she offered fall boot camps for singers. “As singing is a muscular activity, these

Regional Feature

will strengthen the muscles involved in singing and address fundamentals like how to get a strong, fluid, expressive and well articulated tone. *Boot Camp II* will be designed for the solo and choral singer who wishes to develop their ear and reading skills.”

In preparation for their December 5 and 6 Christmas concerts, which feature beautiful sacred music and folk songs, spirited Christmas numbers and a Serena Ryder number (!), sectional recordings are made so that those who do not read music can learn their part by ear and repetition. The spring concert repertoire next year features fun and interesting arrangements of world music – African, Korean, Filipino, Canadian Maritime, Appalachian, Shaker, and Sephardic Jewish. The Grand Forks Choral Society looks forward to Joan’s knowledge, energy and direction as they begin their twenty-first year. Former conductor Tracey Garvin has retired to pursue music in other directions.

Nancy Gillmor, President, GFC



KOOTENAY REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by Marta Zeegers,
Regional Director

Creston’s **Blossom Valley Singers**, under the direction of Monte Anderson, launched their new season with rehearsals for the annual *Singing Christmas Tree*. Tentative dates for the production are December 11, 12 (evening), and an afternoon performance on December 13 at Trinity United Church, Creston. The music selection committee has come up with quite lot of music relating to the

true meaning of Christmas. The **Creston Children’s Choir**, under the direction of Anita Stushnoff, will again perform some of the numbers with us. It is hoped the **Creston Valley Brass** will also be part of the program. *Phyllis McDougall*

Brent Kennedy School Choir started again in October in order to be ready to perform at Christmas time. Their choir director, who also teaches grade one, needs time to get her little ones ready for the rigours of school life. *Linda Hoffmann*

The **Kimberley Community Choir** is joining forces with the Kimberley United Church Choir again this year for *A Carol Cantata* by David Ochterlony. A concert and two services (one in a remote community) ensure that the singers have ample opportunity to perform. *Marta Zeegers*

Nelson Choral Society will give performances of Handel’s *Messiah*, December 12 and 13. *Kathleen Neudorf*

The **Revelstoke Community Choir** became a registered non-profit society over the summer. They had their first rehearsal with forty keen singers of all abilities turning up. In October, they performed three songs at the Revelstoke Hospice Society’s benefit concert *Discovering Your Voice*. This is a truly apt title for our choir. They will

be sharing a Christmas Concert with the **Selkirk Singers**, December 13 and 14 in Revelstoke. *Robyn Abear*

Sun Valley Song began rehearsals in September, preparing for Christmas concerts on December 12 and 13, which will feature Christmas choruses from *Messiah*, arrangements of carols from other countries, and popular Christmas music. *Yme Woensdregt*

Valley Voices in Invermere are once again preparing for a December Christmas concert, complete with solos, a carol sing-a-long and who knows what else – all as part of looking forward to a great season with the choir! A number of singers formed a chamber ensemble and rehearsed together over the summer, so they will also likely be featured on the program. *Paul Carriere*

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NORTH-EASTERN REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Julia Whittaker,
Regional Director



The **Lakes District Community Choir**, directed by Martina Zechendorf, was very busy over the past season. We started the season in September with a performance at the *Terry Fox Run*, a big annual event in our area. Rehearsals then followed for the annual seasonal concerts. The highlight of our musical year was singing *Haydn's Creation* with the **Prince George Cantata Singers, Southside Chambermaids, and Prince George Symphony!** We closed the season by singing for the opening ceremonies of the *Relay for Life* and our local *Canada Day* celebrations. The Lakes District Community Choir of Burns Lake will have our big Christmas Concert on December 6; it will include quite a number of selections from the *Messiah*, since we are practicing the entire work in preparation for the concert with the Prince George Cantata Singers and PGSO in Prince George on December 12. We will also participate in the celebration at our new Spirit Square in Burns Lake, when the *Olympic Torch* will travel through Burns Lake on January 30.

The **Southside Choir** (Chambermaids) works on Christmas songs from other nationalities and songs from the broader jazz genre. We usually sing at the Christmas Concert at Wisteria Hall at Ootsa Lake, and participate in the Community Choirs events. We also hope that we get together at the Red Barn at Cheslatta Junction for a jam session with other local bands from The Southside.
Martina Zechendorf

The **Austin Road Choristers** had a very exciting choir retreat at Ness Lake Bible Camp in mid October. We will be attending *Singfest* and *Christmas Nights of Music* in Prince George. *Brenda Haughian*

The **Bel Canto Choirs** are comprised of the **Bel Canto Junior Choir** (ages 6 – 11), the **Bel Canto Youth Choir** (ages 12 to grade 12 graduation), and the **Northern Voices** adult choir. The choir organization, founded by Rose Loewen twenty-seven years ago and directed by Gerda Blok-Wilson for the last nineteen years, will now continue under the able directorship of Jaclyn Riemer, who has assisted Gerda for the last seven years. Jaclyn Riemer attended the *BCCF Choral Directorship Course* held in Vancouver in

August, and is extremely thankful to the Mirhady Family Fund through Vancouver Foundation and to the BCCF for this amazing week of choral education and musicianship. "The clinicians were among the best in the country, and gave exceptional hands-on guidance to the attendees. It was an ultimate choral learning experience." Bel Canto's Junior and Northern Voices choirs will join the Youth Choir for *Classic Christmas*, a massed Bel Canto Choirs production at the Prince George Playhouse on December 12 with performances at 2:30 and 7:30. This repertoire for this concert will consist of classical music and spirituals woven into the Christmas theme *Let There Be Peace On Earth*. Several of Bel Canto's Youth choristers graduated from high school in June 2009, with the result that the choir continuing into 2010 is younger and ready for a building and training year. The choir will present three main concerts this year, along with several local performances, and are exploring the options of a spring trip to locales in BC and Alberta. *Jaclyn Riemer*.

The **Borealis Chamber Choir**, an 18-voice ensemble in existence since the early 2000s, has had to disband due to arts funding cuts. Borealis existed under the umbrella of the **Prince George Conservatory of Music**, which did not receive its gaming grant for 2009/2010.

Foothills Choir started its season with thirty-five eager students from grades 4-7 enjoying rounds and African music. Gigs this term include singing *O Canada* at a hockey game, singing at a Remembrance Day ceremony and a school Christmas concert, singing at the school district's *Christmas Nights of Music* choral festival, and our Northern healthcare fundraiser, *Festival of Trees*. To kick off the season, students participated in a choir camp in mid-October, which included learning repertoire, playing games, getting uniforms organized and a popular pancake breakfast. *Heather Neumann*

Nove Voce Choral Ensemble, a women's choir, hosted a workshop with Stephen Hatfield on November 7, primarily for their choir and the **District 57 Tapestry Singers** but also open to members of other choirs. Together they will present *On the first day of Christmas*, December 5, 2:00 & 7:30 PM at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Nove Voce have put some of next year's plans on hold because they have also lost their gaming grant. *Robin Norman*

Prince George Cantata Singers and the **Lakes District Community Choir** of Burns Lake will perform the *Messiah* with the **Prince George Symphony Orchestra** Saturday, December 12th, 7:30 PM at Vanier Hall. Cantata will also present a *Sing-along Messiah* Sunday, December 13th, at 2:00 PM, location TBA. Cantata Singers is planning a season that will include a Jazz/Blues concert and a Pops concert in 2010. *Evelyn Lee*

Westwood Church will be presenting the annual *Christmas Dessert Concerts* featuring the **Westwood Church Choir** with orchestra on November 27, 28, and 29 at 7:30 PM. *Tim Huebert*

NORTH-WESTERN REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Tim Keenan,
Regional Director



Smithers Secondary School has two choirs: a **Concert Choir** with 34 members, and a **Swing Choir** with 59 members. There will be a fall concert in October, an all-school *Carolfest* with massed choir and orchestra, a Christmas concert, and an elementary school tour. The choirs will also be participating in the musical production *Anything Goes* and in the *Smithers Midsummer Music Festival*.

In Terrace, the **Caledonia Secondary School Choir and bands** presented their fall concert on October 28 at the R.E.M. Lee Theatre. Caledonia Performing Arts (including the choir) will present Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, 8:00 PM, December 10-12.

The **Northwest Singers**, under the direction of Michael Bruce in his sophomore season, will present a Christmas concert on December 6, at 7:30 PM at Knox United Church in Terrace. A committee of choir members has been struck to plan a regional workshop for the early spring, to be held in Terrace, and open to choristers from across the region, including high school students.

The first performance of the season for the **Prince Rupert Rotary Community Choir** took place at centre ice with the singing of *O Canada* at the opening game of the Rupert Rampage hockey team on October 3. A few weeks later, the choir recorded Phyllis Sinclair's *North Coast Fisher Wife's Prayer*. This song will be included in a compilation CD of songs about Prince Rupert that is being put together by **Garden Records** for the City's centennial in 2010. At that recording session, music theatre students from the Dance Academy of Prince Rupert recorded *The Ballad of Sergeant William Booth*. Our first full concert, *Wintersong*, will take place on November 22 at the United Church. This year the concert will feature favourite arrangements chosen from the choir's past sixty years of repertoire. In December, the choir will assist the Community Band at the

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Tree Lighting Ceremony at the start of Prince Rupert's *WinterFest Celebration*; and then, on December 19, we will perform traditional English carols and wassail songs from the mid-19th century to set the mood for a reading of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Peter Witberly

The **Gwaii Choir**, with members from Queen Charlotte, Tlell, Port Clements and Massett, had its first practice of the season on October 6 – all new members welcome. Gordon Horner is once again our director and inspiration.

Elizabeth Inkster

NORTH OKANAGAN REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Stephen Plant,
Regional Director

Aura Chamber Choir's

forty-two freshly auditioned singers are working with conductor/composer *Imant Raminsh* on an Italian-themed

Christmas program for November 28 and 29 in Vernon's All Saints Anglican Church. Aura will also perform at the annual *Rotary Carol Festival* on December 5 and 6 in the Performing Arts Centre. Next February Aura will be hosting a *Cabaret* night with wine and appies and, of course, the excellent music of this very experienced choir. The **Okanagan Symphony Gala** will cap aura's season in May in Penticton, Kelowna, and Vernon with the world premiere of Raminsh's new composition *Quaternity – A Cantata of Seasons*, commissioned for the Okanagan Symphony's 50th anniversary celebration.

Counterpoint's 40-voice choir with Coreen Smith is looking for a few more men to share classic choral, gospel and spiritual music. Their Christmas concert in Vernon's Knox Presbyterian Church is sure to be well attended and enjoyed by all. A joint concert with the **Richmond Chorus** is being planned for the spring.

Chorealis is a 12-voice, self-directed a cappella ensemble starting its second year with an expanded repertoire including just about everything from medieval music to popular contemporary songs. You will be able to hear them at the *Vernon Rotary Carol Festival* on December 6 or at impromptu giglets at Vernon Hospice House and local seniors' residences. A spring concert is being planned. Visit their website www.chorealis.ca to see and hear this choir.

Vernon Community Singers (140+ members), under the dynamic direction

of Molly Boyd, has another exciting year planned. This year's Christmas Concert is titled *Peace On Earth (Carols from Everywhere)* and will be at Trinity United on December 11 at 7:00 PM. and December 12 at 2:00 PM. You can also experience this incredible group on November 11 at the *Coldstream Memorial Service*, at the *Rotary Carol Festival* on December 6, and on Silver Star for Caroling on December 22.

Vernon Seniors' Choir with Lyn Taron is preparing an a cappella program entitled *The Vernon Seniors' Choir sings an A Cappella Christmas* for Sunday December 6 at 2:00 p.m. at the Halina Centre. In addition, they will be contributing to the *Rotary Carol Festival* on Dec. 5 & 6 and, beginning mid-November, they will be going to two different residential care facilities each week to sing for the residents (and rehearse for the concert). Lyn attended this summer's CDC course in Vancouver and is eager to put her new knowledge and skills to work with this growing group of happy singers.

Vernon Music Educators' Association is fortunate to have elementary school music specialist Coreen Smith working with other local school music teachers to begin preparing for the School District #22 *Annual Choral Showcase*. This will be another wonderful opportunity for elementary and high school choirs to perform in the Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre.

Monashee Chamber Choir's new conductor Lori Onsgorge is preparing the choir for performances next March 6 and 7 in Salmon Arm's Christian Reform Church. Last year's collaboration with a local orchestra for Mozart's *Requiem* was the springboard for this year's music featuring Handel's *Dixit Dominus* among other classical and contemporary pieces. An added interest is that Lori's daughters are both accomplished violinists and will be part of the orchestra.

North Okanagan-Shuswap Children's Honour Choir is back underway with another newly inspired *Choral Directorship Course* (CDC) graduate, Kate McKie. Watch for further news and developments.

Shuswap Men's Chorus Mary Landers is preparing for a new season with her "Merry Men". Mary also attended the CDC this past summer, and is very excited about the new possibilities for this incredibly strong, dynamic group. Program dates have not yet been confirmed but will probably include collaborations with other groups. The Chorus already has over forty men and expects that last year's successes will attract even more interest this year. The **Trail Male Chorus** has generously decided to loan their music collection to the Shuswap Men. Know anyone who can transport four filing cabinets of music from Trail to Salmon Arm?

Shuswap Singers conductor Kate McKie will be exploring new music and putting her newly acquired knowledge (CDC) to work with this very well established choir. Christmas Concert dates have been set for December 13 in Enderby, and December 19 & 20 in Salmon Arm. No doubt this community minded choir will be performing at other special events at Christmas.

Armstrong's **Chantant Youth Ensemble's** director Terry Logan is rebuilding her award-winning choir again. It is a fact of life that youth choirs lose memberships every year as girls graduate and move on to other musical and life challenges.

Northern Lights Chamber Choir is another newly formed mixed choir centered in the Salmon Arm area (must be something in the North Okanagan water). Steve Guidone will be conducting twelve auditioned singers in music from the Renaissance to the present. Jim Johnston is the principal accompanist. Watch for their first *Full Spectrum Concert* this coming January.

Thanks to everyone who is helping make the North Okanagan such a vibrant and exciting place to be for so many music lovers.

KAMLOOPS / CARIBOO REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Doreen McLean,
Regional Director

The Kamloops Choral scene has undergone some expansion of late. Wilf Epp has formed a male voice gospel choir. This complements the new-last-year women's choir **Bellissima**, which was formed by Evelyn Claudepierre. The **School District Children's Choir** organization survives in this time of fiscal turmoil. **Kamloops Choristers** continue to delight a loyal audience, and the seniors' choir, **Happy Choristers**, somewhat smaller now, are under the direction of Mary Jackson, who also directs **Folk of Note**, the United Church choir that has been a strong part of the community choral scene for many years. The **Kamloops Symphony Chorus** is women only for the Christmas performance of a Polish Christmas carol cycle by Lutoslawski. All the local choirs gather for *Christmas Rhapsody* (December 6). This is an event supported and promoted by the Kamloops City Recreation Department. We are mightily pleased to have this continued support

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for our local groups, which includes a German Choir and a young persons' choir, **Higher Ground**. You can see we have the choral scene covered from cradle to grave. *Kelvin Barlow*

Bellissima Women's Choir Our retreat in late October helped us get organized, following from two of our members attending the BCCF's choir management workshop last June, and also helped prepare for our Christmas concert. The program will be a presentation of lessons and carols, with readers from the community, which will take place on Monday, November 30. We will be sharing this concert with the **Cantabile Singers** and proceeds will go to a charity that has not yet been chosen. Our Christmas activities will also include performing at a seniors' home and at the LDS nativity presentation. Repertoire will include music by Ed Henderson, Matthew Larkin, Patrick Hadley, and Eleanor Daley. *Evelyn Claudepierre*

Cantabile Singers had an early October retreat with the aim of improving our choir management and also preparing for our Christmas concert, a presentation of lessons and carols that we will share with the **Bellissima Women's Choir**. This will be a benefit concert with readers from the community. As with the women's choir, our own Christmas activities will also include performances at a seniors' home and at the LDS nativity display. Repertoire for these performances will include music by Stephen Caracciolo, J.S. Bach, Hans Leo Hassler, John Tavener, Amy Stephen, James Fankhauser, and Arvo Pärt. *Evelyn Claudepierre*

Cariboo Men's Choir .We are really excited about the upcoming year – we will be starting with an entirely new list of pieces to work on! This year we will have the wonderful privilege of having two conductors. Carl Johnson has started his Master's program in Prince George, meaning that he will be absent for one weekend a month. Jesse Chapman has graciously consented to fill in during his absences. Besides a being a busy mother, Jesse is a professional singer and voice teacher. Also, Carl attended the *Choral Conductorship Course* in Vancouver in August and found it very worthwhile. We expect to be appearing at various events in the community. These will include Remembrance Day ceremonies, various Christmas activities and then in the New Year our *Parade of Choirs* and our local Music Festival. *Bill McDonald*

Eclectica Community Choir We have a wonderful opportunity to engage all facets of our 100 Mile House arts community! Our director, Dennis Tupman became

a statistic! – he was one of 1,500 British Columbians to succumb to a medical phenomenon known as a stroke. This was brought on by an angiogram, which is usually a simple procedure. Since the end of July, 2009, our director has come back almost 100% from a stroke and we (the choir Management Team) are encouraging him every step of the way! Playing no small part has been his wife Ruth Tupman, and we are so very grateful to her for shepherding Dennis through this ordeal. As a consequence, we (the Eclectica Team) have had to work with this situation to include Dennis as well as accommodate the entire choir. The start of our rehearsals had only been forwarded to Sept. 16 (from Sept. 9) as a result of everyone willing to pull together. We have asked – and the request has been accepted – that one of our number lead us for the time being so that Dennis can recuperate. We now have a leader in the person of Andrew Halladay, Rector of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, who joined our choir in January, 2009! We are confident that we can fulfill our commitments for the rest of 2009 – those being that we sing at the local Remembrance Day ceremony and that we perform at a *Benefit for 100 Mile Food Bank Christmas Concert*. We have been busy with our *Fall Fair*, and with being a presence to the larger 100 Mile House community under the umbrella of 100 Mile & District Arts Council, of which we are members and from whom our choir has received an annual grant. We will be sure to keep everyone informed of our progress as it involves so many of our larger community! *Jane Duncan*

High Country Singers of Kamloops (Dale Rasmussen, director) enjoyed a very successful first season, with four performances. Thanks in large part to the generosity of Hills Of Peace Lutheran Church, the choir raised more than \$3,000 for local charitable endeavours last season. One of the main beneficiaries of these funds was the AIDS Society of Kamloops Wellness Program's S.H.O.P. Program. This important program provides opportunities for people in the sex trade to leave the trade. A successful concert at Mt. Paul United church raised \$1,400 for the church's activities, including the day care, thrift store and soup kitchen. The response to this new choir from audience members has been very gratifying. Membership is now over 50 members, and they plan to perform more shows and raise more money for good causes throughout the 2009-10 season. Their next concert will be held on Monday, November 23, 7:30 pm at Hills Of Peace Lutheran Church in Kamloops. *Dale Rasmussen*


The **Hub City Singers** are looking forward to a very active year of performing. The group began the season with a retreat at the Sorrento Centre. The members attended workshops on ear training, musical notation,

stage presence, and the power of music; they also participated in a Feldenkreis session. During the retreat, the singers began working on their Christmas repertoire. The Hub City Singers have a busy fall performance schedule. The group sang at the Kamloops Senior Village on October 27. During the Christmas season, the Hub Singers will perform at Pine Grove, Bedford Manor, and Berwick on the Park. The group will put on a Christmas performance at Plural Hills United Church on December 5th, and they will participate in the *Kamloops Choral Festival* on December 6th at the Sagebrush Theatre. *Barbara Steinke*

Merritt Community Choir is without a director this season, and has elected to continue rehearsing on their own. They will sing at care facilities and wherever else they feel comfortable, and just enjoy singing together.

Serious Options is still going strong but, of course, still looking for those elusive tenors! We had a great retreat at the beginning of October, and sang with the *BC Living Arts* production which featured Canadian icons (Alan Corbishley and Dale Rasmussen are the driving forces here!) at the Kamloops Art Gallery in mid September. We will appear with the **Kamloops Bell Ringers** under the direction of June Routledge on December 6 and have our own Christmas concert on December 20.

Something new for me is a young women's choir. It is called **Ashira** and is jointly the brain child of Lori Jane Froese, Wendy Lloyd and me. We will have our first concert in the latter part of February. Lori, Jane, and I are also putting on *It's a Guy Sing* again in January which will hopefully lure lots of male singers from the community out to participate in an amazing weekend of song with clinician Brian Tate. That's about it for now! *Noralee Quast*



Chorfest 2010 –
A *Royal* Chorfest
May 7-9

Featuring guest conductor and clinician, **Bruce Pullan**, and the **BC Chamber Choir**. For more information please see article on p. 31 of this Newsletter.

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Regional Feature



Coastal Sound Choirs, Opening Ceremonies

Lower Mainland Feature



COASTAL SOUND INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2009

Submitted by Donna Otto, Artistic Director

The third *Coastal Sound International Choral Festival* was a resounding success! On June 29, ten choirs gathered at Simon Fraser University Convocation Mall for the *Opening Ceremonies*. More than three hundred fifty energetic young singers had arrived from the Czech Republic, the USA, and Canada – what an electric start to the five days of the festival! The choristers bonded quickly as they worked hard under the outstanding leadership of the brilliant guest conductors, **Francisco Núñez** of the Young People's Chorus of New York City, and **Dr. Adam Con**, our own BC master imported from his post in Georgia.

Throughout the week, the conductors of the ten participating choirs spent time sharing repertoire, chatted about similar choral challenges and highlights, and gained further professional development in their own choral conducting skills.

The festival concluded with the exciting *Music of the World* performance on July 4, with feature choirs, and then the week's challenging massed repertoire. The week resounded with rave reviews from conductors and singers alike!

Here are some of the many pleased reflections that followed from the 2009 Festival events. From guest conductor Francisco Núñez: "It was my complete pleasure and enjoyment to participate in your third international festival. It goes down in my book as a highlight in my conducting career. The children were marvelous, and your staff did everything to assure a great successful concert. And a great concert it was!!!! The musicality was impressive and I believe the children enjoyed being challenged, and impressed themselves." From guest conductor Adam Con: "It was a magical experience with so many special ingredients never to be repeated again. The organization and administration did a wonderful job of accommodating our needs. The singers were individually and as a whole a joy with which to work." And from Erica Phare – conductor of **McGill Conservatory Youth Choir**, "Thank you so much for such a wonderful event. It was truly a superb festival, and a joy to sit and hear the concert – the fruit of much labour. The kids had a wonderful time and I'm sure I'll hear many stories as the time passes. Thanks for your hard work – I'm sure you are well satisfied with the great results."

Liz Connelly, a singer in the **Spokane Area Children's Choir** writes: "Out of all the choir festivals I have taken part in, this one was the best musically and socially. Being given an opportunity to work with world renowned conductors is always a



Francisco Núñez and Adam Con

"....we are all so excited to perform with one another that I swear we could power a city with our energy..."

Eric Rodgers, youth singer

wonderful learning experience, but I have never gotten to work with two conductors who had so much energy and were so fully committed to the music that they were leading. Socially, the mix of choirs from different countries and regions gave us all a cultural lesson that we would never have experienced otherwise. I loved that there were at least four languages strongly represented at this festival, even though there were only three countries. Also, I loved how

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the festival gave us opportunities not only to see the other choirs perform but also to interact with them, making friendships that could continue on past the festival. For me, the most amazing part of the festival was when we were invited on to the stage to sing with the Czech choir during their concert set. This choir had a really

tough week. I imagine they were terribly jet-lagged, their luggage didn't arrive until the third day of the festival, and they spoke very little English. However, they appreciated us singing a song in their language so much that, during their own concert set, they ran off the stage, grabbed our hands, led us up onto the risers with them, and we got to sing

a song with them in their language. This experience was one of the most moving, and it was a good example of how amazing the festival was, as well. Everyone that I have talked to in my choir agrees that we want to go back to *Coastal Sound* as soon as possible; it was the highlight of the summer for most of us, and especially for me."

"... The problem with describing the *Coastal Sound International Choral Festival* is that there are no comparisons to be made, no similarities, and no shared, overall feelings that can be set in stone from one person to the next. To me it has always been a rollercoaster of emotion... One of my new friends from a visiting group called the **Crystal Young Men** put it into words that at some level connect with everyone who partook in this very special occasion: "It's always so weird – it seems like it takes forever to arrive, then everyone gets nervous and nobody wants to leave their choir, then everyone is mixed up and playing a huge game of soccer, and then suddenly it's all over, and everyone is sad to be leaving." When I had this conversation with my friend, who happened to be sitting in California on his computer, I had a realization

"...something much easier and simple to understand happens with just the slightest effort. We learn from each other."

of how many people I had met from all over the world in my three *Coastal Sound Festivals*. It is really amazing to be able to say that I now have friends on three different continents all thanks to these events... whether they are from Montreal, Washington, California, Prague, Copenhagen or Australia we all shared a week together that will never be forgotten.

And although the main purpose of these events is to share music from all over the world in an attempt to unify youth, something much easier and simple to understand happens with just the slightest effort. We learn from each other. Not just the music, although by the closing gala concert we are all so excited to perform with one another

that I swear we could power a city with our energy, but we learn about culture, education, language. We learn so much that by the end of it all it seems like there are no visiting choirs, it just seems like we have all been in Vancouver our entire lives. I will never forget the nights spent up at SFU, from the soccer games...to the concerts where you are either singing your heart out, or shouting yourself hoarse, and finally the emotional goodbyes that come every time we must part our separate ways. With all the improvement I have seen from 2005-2009 I am just one of many who will be holding my breath until 2011.

Sincerely,
Eric Rodgers

This year, choristers walked into the *CSMA 2009 International Choral Festival* with much excitement and anticipation, but very unaware of the unforgettable experience they were about to embark on. Many, like me, went in with an open heart, without expecting much and came out completely changed.... [An] experience we all shared and loved was our mass rehearsals. As we each learned from and were influenced by our directors Adam Con and Francisco Núñez, we became more aware of the different styles and feels of each choir present. Not only did we feel united with people from across the world, but connecting with other Canadians from across the country was something special for us as well. It opened my eyes to the diversity and uniqueness that this beautiful country holds.

This year's festival really opened me and taught me many things. I became

so much more aware of the power of music and the magic it brings to a group of people like the participants. I learned the effect and importance of being in the present, how truly beautiful and different it is to really feel where you are and the music you are creating. My eyes were opened to the brilliant cultures and talents that fill our world and the beautiful and special people out there. I came out of the incredible week with very special new friendships and a new appreciation for the things around me. My discoveries throughout the festival have made me so much more culturally aware, open to experiencing the world and wanting to further connect with my fellow singers, musicians and inhabitants of our amazing world.

The *2009 CSMA International Choral Festival* was undoubtedly one of the greatest experiences of my life, something I will never forget.

Sincerely,
Raagini Appardurai



Raagini Appardurai

Submitted by Fiona Blackburn

I had a conversation recently with a venerable choral conductor in our area about the fact that she cannot seem to get her choir to entertain any thought of touring. Both she and I, like many directors around the province, know that there is absolutely nothing better for a group than to take themselves out of their safe, predictable rehearsal rooms and performing venues. Even adults (I say "even" because these choirs seems to travel less than youth and children's choirs) can come back from a day's retreat or a weekend just down the road, with a renewed sense of joy and commitment to their project called choir. And singing with other choirs is an added bonus. So, as you read our short description of what three weeks of travel and performing did to give twenty-seven young ladies experiences that they will never forget, I hope that you will think about planning an excursion for your own group!

After months of preparation, the **BC Girls' Choir**, with singers aged 12 - 18, traveled for three weeks to Scotland, England and Germany, this past summer. The range of venues was as diverse as our audiences. We sang in the chapel at Stirling Castle, outside at a *Highlands Games* (with piping, dancing and caber throwing events in the background!), and in a town square in Germany. At Yorkminster Cathedral, a hush fell over the whole cathedral as the girls

started to sing *Eleanor Daley's* fabulous *Ubi Caritas*. In the Yorkshire Dales, the girls sang to a packed church in St. Mary's Arkengarthdale, with the bleating of sheep nearby in the hills and a thunderstorm adding some interesting percussive effects. At Oxford, we sang at Merton College, which had some of the finest acoustics of the whole trip. Nonmusical events included: being taught Scottish Country dancing by local church folk in the Highlands and visiting Alnwick Castle of Harry Potter fame, where the flying scenes were filmed. The whirlwind last few days in England were spent visiting Stratford-upon-Avon and, of course, London. It did not take long for the girls to become real pros at riding the Underground. There was an up-close changing of the guards at Buckingham palace, with the bands marching just feet away; shopping on Oxford Street (or course this was a must on the itinerary for a girls choir!) and

250 singers worked for over a week with American, John Jacobson to produce an incredible show for a huge audience of 1800 cheering and amazed Germans from the PfalzKreis region. It was a tour de force of dance, song, solos, and highlights from each of the participating choirs. Of course, there were some interesting excursions: an afternoon in the historic town of Heidelberg, visiting the palace of Wuerzburg and the medieval town of Roetenburg ob der Tauber. The girls also sang at the cathedral of Speyer, which is one of the oldest in Europe; its architecture is Romanesque, dating back to a time when even Gothic flying buttresses had not been invented. Our BC

The grin on the priest's face, as his formerly sedate congregation rose to their feet and clapped for the Hallelujahs, was a highlight for the singers!

seeing the musical *Wicked* ... with much cheering and tears at the curtain calls for a musical just right for teen-aged girls who knew most of the tunes!

An early morning flight from Heathrow to Frankfurt and the choir was all set for the second half of the tour. The girls met singers from Holland, Germany and the Czech Republic at the *Touch the Future Festival*, which is organized by Canadian ex-pat Judith Janzen. The

girls woke up the Sunday morning congregation at the cathedral with a raucous and energetic rendition of *Singabahambayo Thina* replete with drumming on djembes and hand drums. The grin on the priest's face, as his formerly sedate congregation rose to their feet and clapped for the Hallelujahs, was a highlight for the singers! Copious tears flowed as the girls hugged their German families for a final farewell. And then it was time to head back to Vancouver with suitcases full of souvenirs, cameras full of an amazing array of sights, and musical memories of over thirty pieces of music that they had performed: sacred and classical; *Bach* and *Vivaldi*; Canadian folk songs, Scottish ayres and Elizabethan poems; show tunes, salsa and hip-hop.

And now the new season is well under way with a whole new crop of singers who will, in the next few years, experience the joys of traveling with their music. We hope that you have a chance to take your music on the road, too!



BC Girls' Choir
at Stirling Castle,
Central Scotland

Photo courtesy LVZ Music Resources

GREATER VANCOUVER – WHISTLER REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by Liana Savard, Doreen Wong, and Roseanna Chu, Regional Directors



Amabilis Singers Join us for a Christmas concert that will warm hearts and calm busy lives, with beautiful music by Carillo, J. Handl, Britten and Parker/Shaw, favourite carols and even a few rousing sing-alongs. Special guests will be **Burnaby Central Secondary School Chamber Choir**, a nationally acclaimed ensemble under the talented direction of Carrie Taylor. Performances are December 12 at 8:00 PM, New Westminster Reformed Church, Burnaby; December 13 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Westminster. Ticket reservations: (604) 433-6538. *Joyce Jackson*

Chor Leoni Men's Choir began their season with a sold out show of *At Home* with Chor Leoni on September 24. In November, they will be offering their annual *Remembrance Day* series, *Stolen Voices* (November 8 and 11) with readings from diaries written by children and mothers dating from WWI through to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Chor Leoni is pleased to welcome members of **PROMYS** (PROgram for Mentoring Young Singers), the choir's mentoring program for high school-aged young men. These men have attended rehearsals with the choir, studied and worked on the music with the support of their school music teachers, and will perform selected works with Chor Leoni as part of *Stolen Voices*. On November 21, the glorious tradition of Estonian choral singing will resound as Chor Leoni welcomes renowned conductor, Hirvo Surva, and the **Revalia Male Chamber Choir** for *Bridge of Song*. Revalia was formed in 1998 and in a very short time has become recognized as one of the world's foremost male choirs, winning festivals across Europe, including first place and Grand Prix at the *First British International Male Voice Choral Festival* in Cornwall, United Kingdom. In December, Chor Leoni will be heard on the *Early Edition*, singing in support of the *CBC Food Bank Day*, as they have been many times before. Over more than twenty years, *CBC's Food Bank Day* has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars annually for the food banks of BC. This yearly event has become one of the most important fund raising initiatives for those worthy organizations. The lions will

be up bright and early to sing on December 4 for the *Early Edition*, so come on down, join in the fun, and make a donation. The choir's annual holiday concerts will be given on December 18 & 19. This year, *Yuletide Fires* is a West Coast-inspired programme featuring ancient Haida chant and newly-composed carols and arrangements by BC composers Jonathan Quick, Stephen Smith, Larry Nickel and Don Macdonald.

The **Coquitlam Chorale** invites everyone to come and enjoy a lively evening or afternoon of Christmas music that will please all family members. There will be familiar traditional Christmas music and some newer fun numbers for the young-at-heart. Come and take part in our sing-along feature and maybe take home a poinsettia plant for your holiday table. December 5/6, Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam, BC. Tickets available from any Chorale member, Evergreen box office 604-927-6555, or Bob at 604-936-3809.

The **Delta Choral Society** is excited to announce the appointment of Danielle Hamilton to the position of Musical Director. Danielle will add fresh perspective and leadership to both the **Delta Community Choir** (30+) and **Tapestry** (18-29). Danielle Hamilton comes to the Delta Choral Society with an award-winning track record of festival and community performances. An accomplished pianist and vocal coach, she has a degree in jazz studies in both voice and piano from Capilano College, along with her Bachelor of Education from UBC. Danielle has sung in many choral ensembles, including the award winning **Phoenix Chamber Choir**, with whom she has traveled internationally. She has been the choral and guitar director at South Delta Secondary in Tsawwassen for nine years. For more information on the Delta Choral Society, contact Laurine Dane laurinedane@hotmail.com or visit www.deltacommunitychoir.ca. Auditions are not required, just a commitment of your time, energy and willingness to learn!

Elektra Women's Choir started their choral season with Morna Edmundson as conductor. Their first concert was a benefit for the University Women's Club. *Chez Nous: Christmas with Elektra* follows next on November 21, as the choir celebrates the approaching holidays, featuring the work of Welsh composer *William Mathias* – a lyrical setting of *Salvator Mundi*, a Christmas carol sequence based on seven carols from the 15th - 17th centuries. Elektra is pleased to welcome **Zing! Children's Choir**, directed by Lisa Reimer, to join with them in these performances.

Ensemble Etoile will be presenting four performances 2009-2010. Their first is set on November 22 at Hycroft Manor. Ensemble Etoile, together with the **Vancouver Chinese Choir**, the **Svitanok**

Choir (Ukrainian), the **Vancouver Swiss Choir** and **Vancouver Gaelic Choir** will be presenting *Cultural Harmony* on January 23, Fraserview Mennonite Church, Richmond, a concert under the sponsorship of BCCF.

In addition to their regular services, **Gilmore Park United Church Choir** will be performing *The Mystery and the Majesty*, a cantata by *Joseph M. Martin* on December 13. The second half of the cantata is truly powerful Christmas material that will be sung later in December with brass and choir. Everyone is welcome, and singers are welcome to join, even if only for the Christmas season.

The **Harrison Hot Springs Multicultural Choir** presented three concerts with a Canadian theme for local audiences in mid-June and on July 1st. The members enjoyed preparing a variety of songs – from solos, to small groups, to full choir – that showcased each region's gems. The program's songs told stories from coast to coast, and highlighted our country's many talented choral composers and arrangers. Accompanist Beccie Bokenfohr was joined on some folk songs by choir members with guitars and mandolins, while others were embellished by local violinists and a cellist. After several years of mulling over official choir uniform ideas, a decision was made, a seamstress was hired, and buttons were ordered – coming from as far afield as Florida, New York, and Kansas. Our new jade-green tops made their debut on July 1st. The choir is now back to rehearsing after the summer break, and held its *Oktoberfest* fundraiser at the Harrison Hot Springs Memorial Hall in early October. The Multicultural Choir joins others choirs in the community for annual *Agassiz-Harrison Carol Festival* in mid-December, and has their main concert on Sunday, December 13th, at 2:30 PM. *Brenda Di Rezze*

The **Grand Ensemble** has discovered that the River Rock Show Theatre is a viable alternative concert venue. It seats around 1,000 people, has ample parking, and convenient public transport. Their spring concert will be held there on April 25.

The **High Spirits Choir**, under the direction of Ieva Wool, will be doing a *Christmas Sing-along* benefit concert for Atira Women's Shelter on December 16.

Kent Street Choristers from White Rock and South Surrey will present *Christmas is Coming* on December 4 at 7:30 PM, First United Church in White Rock. This concert includes a mixture of secular and sacred seasonal music conducted by Gale Lindenthaler with Heather Sabourin as

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accompanist; the mixed voice, 77-member senior choir will inspire and entertain their audience. The Choristers will be joined by the **Kent Street Choristers Bell Ringers** for an enjoyable start to the Christmas season. Tickets are available at the door or from members of the choir; coffee, tea and goodies served after the concert.

Lytic Singers is a women's chamber choir of about 28 singers under the direction of Nancy Rahn. They rehearse in the Surrey area and will be presenting *Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass* with **Canada West Chamber Orchestra** on November 13, 2009, in Abbotsford.

North Shore Chorus completed a busy year in 2008/09, and we are now looking forward to next year's activities. We are a community mixed choir with about sixty members of all ages and denominations, drawn mostly from North and West Vancouver. This May, we undertook Bernstein's challenging *Chichester Psalms*, and performed it to an appreciative crowd at Mt. Seymour United Church, our home rehearsal location in North Vancouver. We spent the weekend leading up to this concert busy with two events, the first being a fundraiser with two other local choirs organized for the 20th anniversary of Mt. Seymour United. Brian Tate put together an amazing evening of gospel and other lively music well enjoyed by all ages. The next morning we were off by ferry to Victoria, to be hosted by the **Linden Singers** of Victoria. We performed a joint concert, combining all of our voices for the *Chichester Psalms*, and sang a few pieces each on our own. We had a fun weekend, felt it to be a social and musical success, and look forward to many more joint choir activities.

Our new season started after Labour Day, rehearsing every Wednesday at Mt. Seymour United Church. As we do every year, we held our annual fundraising Garage Sale at St. David's Church in West Vancouver in September, and had our annual choral retreat in late October, spending a musically exciting day and social evening at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver. Our Winter concerts this year will incorporate the 2010 *Winter Olympic* theme with *Ice and Snow*, featuring a little-known piece by John Rutter, *When Icicles Hang*. Laurie Martz

West Vancouver's women's ensemble **Pandora's Vox** appears at the Richmond Gateway Theatre on November 13. Visit www.richmondconcertassociation.ca for information. Then, in early December they team up with their fellow SATB ensemble **Espiritu** in *Singing For A Claus* at the Kay Meek Centre in West Vancouver, December 5 & 6. For tickets go to www.kaymeekcentre.com; website: www.pandorasvox.ca

Phoenix Chamber Choir With artistic director Ramona Luengen being on an autumn sabbatical tour to Germany and England, the opening of Phoenix Chamber Choir's season begins on December 20 with *A Phoenix Christmas*. Together with organist Roy Campbell, Phoenix presents an evening of traditional carols and heart-warming music, both new and old, in the reflective ambiance that makes this concert one of Vancouver's favourites. *On The Threshold of Heaven* is the search for paradise, perhaps one of the most elusive and yet poetically beautiful of human expressions. On Saturday, May 8, 2010, Phoenix will be excited to introduce the astonishingly spiritually- and emotionally-charged music of Pawel Lukaszewski, as well as works by Vilette, Barber and O'Regan. Blimey! On June 5, Phoenix presents the opportunity to experience British music in all its glory! *Britain Exposed!* kicks off with Medieval composers, followed by Tallis, Elgar, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Richard Rodney Bennett and Jonathan Dove ... a touch of Liverpool's Fab Four, a soupçon of Gilbert and Sullivan, and a quick rousing romp through that quintessential British musical tradition, *The Proms*. Phoenix is proud to continue its very successful initiative for developing young musicians, *The Young Choral Composers Development Programme*. Begun in 2004, this biennial event is designed for composition students studying at the secondary school, college and university levels and consists of a choral demonstration workshop and an in-depth reading session. Four to six student compositions will be chosen for performance during the 2010-2011 season. All concerts take place at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, where Phoenix serves as Ensemble-in-Residence. Interested and curious choral lovers are invited to attend open rehearsals prior to each concert. Check our website for more information: www.phoenixchamberchoir.bc.ca

Ramona Luengen
Richmond Singers With their first CD, *Savoury and Sage*, released in time for their May concert, the Richmond Singers finished their year with a trip to *Festival 500* in St. John's, NL in July. It was a music-packed week of rehearsals with internationally acclaimed conductor Owain Hughes, workshops with gifted clinicians like soprano Wendy Nielsen, and concerts by guest artists like the innovative a cappella Finnish group, **Club For Five**. Most inspiring was the workshop and concert shared with two youth choirs under the direction of master teacher Ysaye Barnwell, who gave insights into traditional African-American culture in song. The festival culmination was a two hour, 24-choir performance, accompanied by the **NL Symphony Orchestra**, of parts of Verdi's *Requiem* and Glick's *The Hour Has Come*, along with a commissioned piece by Imant Raminsh and, of course, *The Ode*

To Newfoundland. The Richmond Singers are now looking forward to their annual family *Christmas concert* on December 6. Edith Turner

The **Vancouver Bach Choir** has announced the details of **Bruce Pullan's** farewell season as Music Director of the choir. On Saturday December 5 at 3:00 PM the choir presents the first concert of its Orpheum series, *Christmas with the Bach Choir*. The concert includes all the choirs in the Bach Choir organization singing separately and together. Bruce Pullan's arrangement of *O Holy Night* is the climax, with 400 voices, organ and brass. On Sunday, December 13, at 2:30 PM, the *Sing Along Messiah* receives its 29th annual rendition! The choir, audience and **Vancouver Symphony**, with Bruce Pullan conducting, will join in the choruses of Handel's beloved oratorio.

Bruce Pullan has chosen a performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's supremely powerful St. John Passion as his penultimate concert with the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Vancouver Symphony. The concert is on Saturday 27 March at 8:00 PM. His very last concert with the VBC is the *Last Night of the Proms* on May 14 at 8:00 PM. Always a popular concert, the evening will be filled with nostalgia and, maybe, a few tears. *Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory, the Sea Songs*, etc. and much audience participation, will set the tone of this historic event.

A major highlight of the season is a concert for the Vancouver Symphony, Mahler's *Symphony Nr. 8, the Symphony of a Thousand*, which is part of the 2010 *Cultural Olympiad*. The **Toronto Mendelssohn Choir** will join the Bach Choir and the **Vancouver Bach Children's Chorus** in this monumental work on January 30 and February 1 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre at 8:00 PM. On February 3, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir in its West Coast debut gives a performance of the *Fauré* and *Durufle Requiems* at 8:00 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. For further details of the season go to vancouverbachchoir.com

Vancouver Chinese Choir Association After a very successful *Silver Jubilee Concert* held at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts on July 4, where twenty-eight folk, art and popular songs from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong were performed (all from memory) under the baton of its artistic advisor Frank Huang, conductor Ling Lu and assistant conductor Veronica Lee, the Vancouver Chinese Choir Association had an equally successful 25th anniversary banquet and dance on September 26. Song-related

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games, superb fusion Japanese-Chinese food, lucky draws totalling over eighty prizes, performances and dancing filled the evening and the nine founding and still active members were presented with 25-year souvenirs. It was not until the wee hours of the morning that the party broke up and the revellers reluctantly went home. The last leg of the celebrations was the much-awaited and planned-for China Tour, which took place from November 3-14. Surprisingly, only one-third of the members showed interest in participating; however, it is still a go, and the hope is that the swine flu will not rain on our parade! Performances were given with local choirs in Shanghai and Guangzhou on November 8 and 11 respectively. In 2010, VCCA will perform at BCCF's *Cultural Harmonies* concert on January 23 with five other local ethnic choirs at Fraserview MB Church, and its Annual Concert will be held on June 26 at Broadway Church, hopefully with the **Winnipeg Chinese Choir** as its special guest.

The **Vancouver Men's Chorus** started this season on September 20 dressed in red and serenading participants in Stanley Park at Third Beach singing in support of the *AIDS Walk for Life*. December 1 finds the chorus at Christ Church Cathedral, performing alongside a wide range of Lower Mainland talents as part of *Voices of Hope*, a national *World AIDS Day* benefit performance. The VMC's annual *Making Spirits Bright* series takes Flame as its theme, saluting the season's currents, the city's subtler undertones, and the world's winter Olympic spirit with a program of hearthside and ringside songs that warm the soul and brighten the spirit with laughter. The rich, euphonious singing of the men's voices is underscored by the fanfares of a brass ensemble and the cool grooves of a rhythm section made up of the Lower Mainland's finest instrumentalists. www.vancouvermenschorus.ca

The **Vancouver Orpheus Male Voice Choir** offered their annual *Remembrance Day Concerts* on November 7 and 11 with stories from the singers about their own personal experiences living through war torn times. Their director, Liana Savard, will be on maternity leave during the month of November, and they are thrilled to have their past director, Alison Nixon return to conduct the *Remembrance Day* concerts. www.vancouverorpheus.org

Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad
The 120 voices of four of Vancouver's top choral ensembles (**Chor Leoni Men's Choir**, **Elektra Women's Choir**, **musica intima vocal ensemble**, and **Vancouver Chamber Choir**) join forces to welcome

all nations and peoples, presented with *Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad*. The distinctive voices of these choirs will resound as they celebrate the ability of song to bridge cultures while highlighting the uniqueness of the world's many tongues. Planned as a choral showcase and a linguist's delight, *Welcome the World: A Choral Gala* will feature each ensemble singing in a multitude of languages while celebrating the universal power of music to make us one. Performances February 9, 7:30 PM, St. Andrew's Wesley United Church, Vancouver. Tickets through Ticketmaster.

The **Vancouver Swiss Choir** (Dubravko Pajalic, conductor) joined with the **Vancouver Italian Folk Chorus** (Fortuna Konarsky, conductor) for an end of season concert at the Vancouver Alpenclub. The Swiss choir sang songs in all four of Switzerland's official languages, and the Italians filled out the program with popular Italian selections. The performance closed with the combined voices singing music from Verdi's *Nabucco* and Besig's *Say it with a Song*. The event also included an appearance by the **Alphornblowers**, and featured a big Tombola table and dance music by **Trio Al Pichler**. On December 5, the Vancouver Swiss Choir will be singing Christmas songs for the Swiss Community at the Holiday Inn in North Vancouver, and will also perform in Vancouver for the *Festival of Lights* at the Van Dusen Botanical Garden. Visit www.swiss-society.ca for performance details. *Erna Schaefer*

The **Vancouver Thunderbirds** open their season at the Evergreen District Fall Convention. For the first time, this convention will be held in Whistler, BC hosted by the **Gentlemen of Fortune**.

The **Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir** began their season with a performance in Chilliwack on September 27. Their fall schedule finds them in Sidney, Nanaimo, Tsawwassen and Vancouver, and then they will perform Christmas concerts across the Lower Mainland. www.vwmc.ca

Vivaldi Chamber Choir presents two performances of their Christmas concert, entitled *In Those Twelve Days*; December 11 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, North Vancouver, and December 12 at Trinity-St. Mark's Church in Vancouver. Performances start at 8:00 PM.

The **Willan Choir** is hard at work preparing the Britten *Choral Sequence* for performance at Christmas and later the Verdi *Requiem* in the spring.

POWELL RIVER REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Alison Barbour,
Regional Director

The **Powell River Academy of Music**, (www.powellriveracademy.org), a leader in arts education since 1981, provides excellent training in music, dance, theatre and visual arts to all age groups. An increasing number of adults take part for their own enjoyment and recreation. Such is the range of programs that some Powell River families can boast that three generations are taking part in various musical activities. The Choral program includes 160 singers in seven choirs ranging in age from five though adult: **Apprentice Choir** (Caroline Hoekstra & Roy Carson, conductors) **Powell River Boys' Choir and Academy Singers** (Walter Martella, conductor), **Powell River Girls' Choir** (Ildiko Kelly, conductor), **Powell River Youth Choir** (Paul Cummings, conductor), **Academy Chamber Choir and Chor Musica Men's Choir** (Don James, conductor). Joining the vocal team is soprano Megan Skidmore, (M.Mus voice, McGill), who teaches voice and assists in the choral program. Concerts the Academy will present this term include Megan Skidmore, soprano, and the Academy Chamber Choir under the direction of Don James on November 7, three performances of *Carols by Candlelight* on December 11/12 in historic Dwight Hall, featuring all Academy Choirs; and the Chor Musica Men's Choir concert *Make we joy now in this fest* on December 19. The Powell River Academy of Music also presents 60 concerts annually for the enjoyment and enrichment of Powell River citizens.

The **Powell River Chorus**, a community choir of about 80 voices, was founded in 1955. Being a non-auditioned choir, it attracts a great many people who simply sing for the pleasure of it. The annual Christmas concert will be held on December 2nd and will be a tribute to Susan Hoekstra, a member of the Chorus and a music educator for many years, who passed away from cancer in July. The concert will feature the solos she sang when the choir presented *Messiah* in 2007, as well as some of the choral pieces sung by the Chorus at that concert. The concert will also include works from *Bach to Rodgers and Hammerstein* as well as some traditional crowd-pleasing Christmas music.



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The **Spirit Choir**, conducted by John Tyler, is an integrated choir of people who are labelled as having special needs and the rest of the community who as John said, "are not yet labelled". About 40 singers meet every Thursday at the Academy of Music to sing for the joy of it. It is free to all who wish to sing, and new members, especially men, are warmly welcomed. The choir will perform in December at the annual *Festival of Trees* put on by the Powell River Association for Community Living.

Advance Notice: *The XIV International Choral Kathaumixw* will take place July 6-10, 2010. Kathaumixw is a global gathering of choirs and conductors, featuring international concerts, 7 choral and 3 vocal solo competitions, common song singing, conductors round tables, social events, workshops, seminars and concert tours (July 12-16) for visiting choirs. It takes place every two years in the friendly town of Powell River. Choirs and individuals are invited to take part in the 2010 festival. For more information check the festival web page at <http://kathaumixw.org/main/main.htm>

LOWER SUNSHINE COAST REGION CHOIR REPORTS
Submitted by **Sue Milne, Regional Director**



Members of Sunshine Coast's fourteen community choirs have been busy learning new repertoire for their concerts! The **Mellow Tones**, directed by Nikki Weber, performed with pianist Miles Black and vocalist Daniel Neff at the Sunshine Coast Golf Club Friday October 23. Lynne and Reg Dickson's **Music Makers Adult Choir** sang at Sechelt Seniors Centre Saturday, November 7.

The Christmas choral season begins the last weekend of November when Joy McLeod's two groups, **Pender Harbour Choir** and **SunCoast Singers**, blend 70 voices in *Sing for Joy!* concerts in Madeira Park, Friday evening November 27, and Sunday afternoon November 29 in Sechelt. **Coast Phoenix Singers**, a Gibsons community choir formed two years ago by Bill Bourns, celebrate *St. Nicholas Day*, Sunday afternoon December 6. Last summer, Bill was a busy Musical Director for the successful local production of *Quilters* with **Driftwood Players** theatre group. This partnership continues with December performances of Menotti's one-act opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Coast choirs will participate in two community functions the first weekend in December. Friday and Saturday December 5-6 several choirs perform in the Elves Club *Telethon Fundraiser*, an annual event broadcast by Coast Cable to provide assistance to families at Christmas. Sunday, December 6, local choirs perform outdoors in the *Light the Lights* ceremony at Rockwood Centre in Sechelt, as well as *Ecole Polytechnique Memorial Candlelight Vigils* on the Coast.

Janice Brunson's groups, **A Cappella Strait** and **Choralations Children's Choir**, perform in two joint concerts Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 – one evening in Sechelt and one in Gibsons. Audiences appreciate having concerts presented in different locations, since choir and audience members come from everywhere along the 90 km Sunshine Coast!

Coast audiences are looking forward to **Vocal Intent** performances Saturday, December 19 and Wednesday, January 6, Twelfth Night. This self-directed group of seven talented musicians, including School District 46 music teachers, delighted audiences in their spring debut concerts.

This fall the Coast welcomes two new choral groups. The **Gibsons United Community Gospel Choir** sings weekly with J.J. Wagler, a gifted young jazz pianist. Joy McLeod is embarking on a project to establish a children's choir in Pender Harbour. Edmund Arceo, talented tenor in **SunCoast Singers** and **Pender Harbour Choir**, performed in a solo recital accompanied by Joy on piano Sunday afternoon October 18 at Pender Harbour Music School. Edmund generously contributed concert proceeds to the new **Pender Harbour Children's Choir**. The presence of community children's choirs is particularly important now because of the recent erosion of elementary school music programs in School District 46. Until two years ago, music education began in the primary grades in SD46 schools. Students in primary, junior and intermediate classes all participated in a vibrant choral program. In the past, school choirs came together in an annual *SD46 Choral Festival* that required two evenings to include all choirs! SD46 also provided the opportunity for gifted students to sing in **Choralations Children's** and **Teens' Choirs**. Over the years, these award-winning choirs performed nationally and internationally with Director Janice Brunson. Since Janice's retirement from teaching last year, Choralations is no longer a SD46 program and became a community choir. School choirs were key participants in our annual local *Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts* since its inception in 1973. Until two years ago, at least a dozen elementary school choirs as well as both Choralations Choirs participated in this Festival. In many schools, every student came to Festival and performed

with one or more choirs. Two years ago Festival participation suddenly decreased dramatically to Choralations and the one school with a choral program. Davis Bay Elementary School primary, junior and intermediate students continued to participate enthusiastically in the three choirs directed by Sara Douglas, talented vocalist with **Vocal Intent** and **Coast Phoenix Singers**. This year SD46 introduced band programs and provided instruments for Grade 6 level students, with music specialists teaching band classes part-time in all ten elementary school. This is certainly a laudable initiative in the current economic situation. However, to be effective the new band program requires the solid foundation of a vibrant music program in the lower grades. Without the educational benefits arising from strong music programs in our local schools, current and future Sunshine Coast students will not all have the same opportunity to develop fundamental skills to enhance their appreciation of music and enrich their lives. Without the stimulation by gifted school music teachers in the early formative years, how will we have the next generation of singers and instrumentalists? Especially now with unemployment levels increasing, it is impossible for many families to afford private music education for their children. To assist promising young students who would benefit from supplementary music education but cannot afford private teachers or membership in local choral and instrumental groups, the **Coast Cultural Alliance** is administering a new *Music for Youth Endowment Grant* from the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation. CCA Board member Linda Williams, energetic community volunteer who directs **Sokole and Knotty Daughters Choirs**, requests Coast music teachers and organizations to contact her to suggest potential recipients in strict confidence. Can BCCF members share examples of successful initiatives to reverse the erosion of music education in our schools? If we work together, can we emphasize the importance and lifelong impact of music and the arts to increase funding on a local, provincial, and national level?

On a positive note, **Elphinstone Secondary School** students will have the opportunity this year to sing in a mixed choir under the direction of music teacher Tom Kellough. Tom already has a great band program at Elphi. He is a talented pianist and organist who directs **St. Hilda's Anglican Church Choir**, as well as singing with **A Cappella Strait** and **Vocal Intent Choirs**. On the Sunshine Coast we are very fortunate to have so

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many dedicated and talented musicians directing our choirs and providing musical leadership to singers of all ages!

NORTH ISLAND REGIONAL CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Paolo Tancon,
Regional Director

Campbell River Children's Choir.

The Campbell River Children's Choir began their fall season after a busy summer. Thirty two members of the senior choir attended the *Pacific Rim Children's Chorus Festival* in July, and had a wonderful time filled with singing and learning about Polynesian cultures. This festival is an extremely well-organized event and we would highly recommend it for other children's choirs. The end of the summer also marked the departure of our wonderful assistant director Jennifer Abbott, who will be continuing her education at VIU. We have been lucky to find a new assistant, Linda Cannon, who has recently relocated to our area from the Lower Mainland, and who has taught for many years in Washington State. We are thrilled that Linda will be helping us this fall. The fall season started with our annual senior choir retreat on Quadra Island which gives the singers a start on their new music and also a time to visit with old friends and to meet our newest members. In October, the choir enjoyed a workshop with British singer and artist Su Hart, who is involved with the Baka People of Cameroon. The Baka are a singing culture, and we hope to have a chance to learn about them and their distinctive music. Later in the year the choir will also have the opportunity to work with Vancouver singer and choral director Hussein Janmohamed. The choir will present its annual Christmas concert on December 13 and 14. *Barbara Promise*

The **Campbell River Singers** started their fall session in September, welcoming John Montgomery back as our musical director and Helen Moats as our accompanist. This season we are performing the choral numbers from Handel's *Messiah*. We have approached a professional soprano soloist to be our guest but as yet it is not confirmed. She grew up in Campbell River so we would be very excited to have her join us. Also joining us for the *Messiah* excerpts is a small orchestra. Since the **Quadra Singers** are also performing the same numbers under John's direction, they will join us at our concert on December 12



and we will join the Quadra Singers at their concert on December 19 on Quadra Island. For the second half of the concert John has chosen some contemporary and traditional Christmas music to perform. Every three years we join with Quadra to perform this concert and we always enjoy each other's company. It is very powerful to have 100-plus singers from a small community on stage to perform these works by Handel. *Diana Eckford*

Comox Valley Children's Choir / Nova Voce Choral Society

After thirteen years, founder and director of the Nova Voce Choral Society Carol Anne Parkinson has stepped down as Musical Director. The musical baton for the children's choir passes to Wendy Dyck, a Courtenay musician who studied music education and piano at Brandon University and teaches private piano, as well as accompanying and playing in local churches. Pianist Sarah Hagen will continue to accompany the choir – hooray! The Choir's first winter term will celebrate the magic and madness of Mozart, and it is rumoured that the maestro himself will be making a guest appearance at their concert! Christmas repertoire will round out the program and make for a delightful musical presentation for both children and adults. Information about the Comox Valley Children's Choir continues to be updated at cvcchoir.shawwebspace.ca. *Wendy Dyck*

Island Voices Chamber Choir has returned from our annual weekend choral retreat on Quadra Island. This year guest clinician Hussein Janmohamed worked on vocal technique, inspired our singing and touched us spiritually. By the time we boarded the ferry (or launched kayaks) for the trip home we felt both wrung out and renewed. As one participant said, "I left feeling touched. I left feeling inspired. I left feeling grateful." Thank you, Hussein! On November 11, Island Voices will present Remembrance Day concerts in both Courtenay and Campbell River. Our Christmas concert will feature **Quintessence Brass Quintet** and take place at the Campbell River United Church on December 4. Happy singing to all. *Jean Valikoski*

The **North Island Choral Society**, located in the Comox Valley, performed their spring concerts in late April. The spring concert featured Schubert's *Mass in G*, followed in the second half of the program by a lively selection of Broadway tunes. Quite the contrast, but our members thrive on the musical variety found within these diverse selections. Musical director Paul Colthorpe has been planning ahead to our spring 2010 concert, at which we will be performing Mozart's *Requiem*. In preparation for this demanding concert, the choir has also begun rehearsing parts of this work. *Nathalie Jones*

Tsusquana Singers will be opening for **The Nylons** on November 29 at the Civic Hall in Port Hardy. We will be singing under the direction of Betty Lou Ramchuk this term. She has sung with our choir for several years as a baritone, and before joining us she sang as well as competed with her quartet in Sweet Adeline's competitions. We are excited to have her improve our a cappella vocals. *Cora Nelson*

VANCOUVER ISLAND MID-ISLAND REGION CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Christine Dandy,
Regional Director

A Cappella Plus. After a successful retreat at Errington Hall on September 12, A Cappella Plus is getting ready for the fall and spring seasons. First on the agenda was a late September workshop sponsored by the choir for the mid-island community given by director Rosemary Lindsay, and former alto Kelly Townsend. On October 15, A Cappella Plus took to the stage at Nanaimo's Port Theatre to perform in one of its *Random Acts* evenings. Christmas usually brings requests to sing here and there, and then it is on to 2010, when on February 13 and 14 in Parksville and Nanaimo they sing a love-themed concert, *The Nature of Love*. As A Cappella Plus turns thirty this year, it is celebrating with a concert at the Port Theatre on May 29 entitled *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*. Our guests will be our friends, **The Sinclair Singers** and the **Nanaimo Youth Choir**. More info www.acappellaplus.ca

Camerata Singers is well into their fall rehearsal schedule, happy to be singing once again after the summer months of vacation. December 2 will be the *Community Carol Festival* at St. Andrew's United Church and Camerata along with many other Nanaimo Choirs will join with the audience to sing carols and enjoy each other's individual selections, too. At 7:00 PM on December 18, the choir will sing alongside the **Nanaimo Youth Choirs** to share the joy of the Christmas Season. *I Wish You Christmas* promises to be a happy family evening of celebration, which will include some carols for everyone to enjoy. Hallowe'en night will be at the Maffeo Sutton Park anticipating the Olympics while singing as part of the *Choral Torch Relay*.



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Concetti Singers of the Cowichan Valley, director Sheila Johnson, are planning for another busy season, their 27th! Both the **Mixed** and **Ladies' Choirs** will be taking part in a fundraising performance for the Cowichan Caregivers' Association on October 24 at Duncan United Church. They are also preparing for two Christmas performances, the first in Duncan on December 6, to be followed by one in Chemainus on December 13.

The **Cowichan Valley Youth Choir** has started its seventh season with several former **Junior Choir** members moving into **Concert Choir**, and a similar number of new registrants joining the Junior Choir. Their enthusiasm is infectious and their ability to learn new material quickly never ceases to amaze their director, Sheila Johnson! The Concert Choir includes a small number of baritones, and the search continues for more young men to join this extra-keen group!

Duncan Choral Society started the new season on Sept 14. Several new members registered including some students, which was wonderful! Basses were strong but tenors were thin on the ground. We have a concert planned for January 22 at the Duncan Christian Reformed Church. Sue Doughty, our new conductor, has selected a nice variety of interesting music, which we hope will appeal to all ages and tastes. Our plans for the spring concert are coming together. The **Vancouver Orpheus Male Choir** will be our guest (May 15, Cowichan Theatre). The concert theme will be nautical, as it is the centennial of the Canadian Navy. We performed at the Torch Ceremony as the Olympic Torch went through Duncan on October 31.

Encore! Women's Choir, directed by Christine Dandy has begun a new season with an interesting selection of music from classical to modern. The choir, which began one and a half years ago, has now grown to almost twenty members; auditions are still being requested. The choir has proven itself to be a collection of fine musicians and, because of this, the difficulty of their repertoire will continue to be maintained at an advanced level. Encore! will hold its Christmas concert at Duncan United Church on December 12 at 7:30 PM.

The **Island Bel Canto Singers**, an all women's choir in Nanaimo directed by Lionel Tanod, are looking forward to this fall even more than usual. On November 27, we will be the opening act for **The Nylons** at the Port Theatre! As you can imagine, this is a big thrill for us and we are working hard on our repertoire. It's a Christmas concert, so we will be able to

use songs from our own Christmas concert program – a real bonus to an already busy schedule. We are also going to join them for the encore – how exciting is that! Our Christmas concert is on December 6, 7:30 PM, at the Trinity Ecumenical Centre in Nanaimo. Lionel's music choices reflect the themes from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Earlier that week we'll also be participating in Nanaimo's annual *Community Carol* event, where many local choirs sing two or three songs and participate in the audience sing-along – a great start to the season. And spring will be along before we know it, with our concert on May 2. It will have an international theme, in keeping with the Winter Olympics.

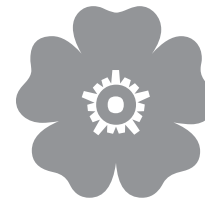
Island Soul Choir. In 2007, Parksville United Church music director Ron Klusmeier had a vision for a massed gospel choir that welcomed one and all. He convinced his good friend and colleague Brian Tate (formerly director of the **Universal Gospel Choir**), to come over from Vancouver to direct a choir that would meet once a month – five rehearsals – before putting on a performance. Brian said it would never work. Here we are, three years later, over 120 voices strong, preparing for our fall concerts, expecting yet another full house. Brian is delighted he was wrong. The Island Soul Choir (formerly Vancouver Island Gospel World Music Choir) sings a variety of gospel, spiritual and world music, much of it arranged or composed by Brian Tate himself. All the music is sung from memory – you can't clap holding a choir folder! The concerts have included a variety of guest artists singing different styles; Brian himself did a jazz vocal set at the 2009 spring concert that was very well received. Concerts are held at the Knox United Church in Parksville. Our fall concert is called *Soul from the Rock*, and will be on November 28 at 7:30 PM, followed by a matinee performance on November 29 at 2:30 PM. The spring 2010 concerts will be on May 29 and 30, same times, same place. Guest artists to be announced.

Malaspina Choir. Rehearsals for our 2009-2010 season are underway for another fun and performance-filled year. We had our first workshop on October 4 followed by dinner together. We focused our work on our first concert, **La Diva & Le Choir** with our special guest artist, Nathalie Choquette, "...a soprano like no other. Her magnificent voice brilliantly blends opera and humour...an afternoon of great singing, wonderful costumes and non-stop laughter." The performance is November 15, 2 PM at the Port Theatre. On December 15 at the Port Theatre, we will be singing a seasonal tradition, Handel's *Messiah*. The Vancouver Island Symphony will accompany the performance, with soloists to be announced. Malaspina Choir is planning a Dinner/Fundraiser with a Valentine's theme

on February 13. More information on this event will come in the new year. Our final season concert, Mozart's *Requiem*, will be performed at the Port Theatre on April 25. The programme will also include Salieri's *Mass in D*. Purchases of season tickets or tickets to individual concerts can be made at the Port Theatre Box Office (250-754-8550 or www.porttheatre.com)

The **Nanaimo Youth Concert Choir** began their 2009-2010 season with an annual Choir Camp on Thetis Island at Camp Capernwray. It was a lot of singing and visiting and swimming, playing moon ball and generally having a good time renewing friendships and forming new ones. The **Junior Choir** is also underway. We will all be singing during the Christmas season in and around our community. Our Christmas Concert is on December 18 at St. Andrew's United Church, and we will once again perform with the **Camerata Singers**. Sharing the stage at Woodgrove Mall with the Jolly Old Man himself is on our list again this year – it is one of our very favourite things to do!

Timbre! is looking forward to another season of song, musical challenges and camaraderie as we renew old friendships and make some new ones. We are enthusiastic about the repertoire chosen by our director Patricia Miller, and look forward to our first concert on November 8, 2009 at 2:30 PM at the ADSS auditorium in Port Alberni entitled *Curtain Call – Sounds from New York & Hollywood*. New repertoire for this program includes Broadway and film classics, such as *The Joint is Jumpin'* in a sizzling arrangement of nonstop, jazzy singing, and *Electricity* from the new musical *Billy Elliot*. The music is truly beautiful, powerful and dramatic. Timbre! will be accompanied by Barry Miller and his trio of piano, bass and drums. Our Christmas concert *'Tis the Season* will take place December 13, at 2:30 PM at the ADSS Auditorium in Port Alberni, and we are thrilled to have confirmed Danielle Marcinek as our accompanist. Timbre! was very excited to have been selected to perform when the 2010 Olympic Torch makes its stop in Port Alberni along the Official Relay route on November 1.



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Vancouver Island Feature

VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

For eight years, the **Victoria Children's Choir** has been pursuing the highest standards of training and performance. Established in 2001 by Madeleine Humer, the Victoria Children's Choir accepts children, from ages 8 to 15, who like to sing. The Choir promises an experience of the world of music created through the ages, in a range of languages and styles from Gregorian chant through *Gershwin* and into gospel and contemporary. In its short history, the Victoria Children's Choir has performed regularly with the **Victoria Symphony, Sooke Philharmonic, Pacific Baroque Orchestra** and **Pacific Opera Victoria**, as well as at major international conferences and festivals. It has also been honoured with the opportunity to perform for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The choir participated in Powell River's renowned *International Choral Kathaumixn*, and was featured as one of the guest choirs giving a concert for *Choropodium*, the *Canadian National Choral Symposium* in Victoria in May, 2006.

Regional Feature

Through the three choir levels within the Victoria Children's Choir organization young singers develop their vocal skills in a positive and nurturing environment. The **Recital Choir - Junior Singers** – children ages 8 up, works under their own choir director and perform a repertoire specific to young singers. They are given the opportunity to learn the basics of focus, tuning, good vocal tone and musical phrasing geared to improving their skill level. The **Recital Choir - Senior Singers** - generally from ages 10 up, the children are introduced to music that challenges and improves upon the basic skills they have already mastered. Their choir director is responsible for enabling the choristers to sing with confidence in two to three parts, as well as giving them the opportunity to experience and learn from different performance settings.

The **Concert Choir** - generally ages 12 to 15, takes young musicians who have confidence in their vocal skills, including tone, tuning and basic sight reading. They are introduced to the next level where they will perform with professional orchestras and musicians; experience world choral festivals; learn music of an international standard; and be challenged by singing in up to seven and eight part harmonies.

With over 70 young musicians in our choirs this year, and two choir camps behind us already, the Victoria Children's Choir is off to a great start! We feel very fortunate to have Teodora Georgieva join us as the Director of our Recital Choir. Teodora has moved to Victoria from Bulgaria via Toronto,

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VICTORIA (CAPITAL REGION) CHOIR REPORTS

Submitted by
Judith Hirczy,
Regional Director

Despite funding cut-backs, it appears that the Victoria choirs are continuing to offer choral instruction and enjoyment to people of all ages, from all walks of life and for all musical tastes. Although many of our SATB choirs are struggling for male voices (there are several male voice choirs in town), they still manage to gather a fair balance within their groups to sing in traditional four-part harmony. Practically all styles of music are covered, from classical to vocal jazz, gospel, and folk music. September was registration month, when a healthy competition breaks out to attract new singers. Now that most choirs are settled in, preparations are under way for a number of Remembrance Day concerts and a multitude of Christmas concerts.



Sharing music had to become the rule, since reduced budgets will not allow too many new purchases. Here our **Virtual Library** has helped out substantially, as has lending/borrowing scores between choirs. Thanks to our BCCF INFO service, updates on choir activities are provided weekly, and librarians brought in contact with each other. We are heading into an exciting season in 2009-10, and I for one consider it a pleasure and an honour to be part of the BCCF family.

The **Allegra Singers** is a non auditioned community choir who sing an eclectic variety of music - folk, gospel, popular, jazz, musical theatre, and modern to name a few. Our goals, as individuals and as a choir, are to enjoy our music, to entertain and touch our audiences, to improve our skills, and to have fun in the process. Under the inspiring direction of Jennifer Parlee we are able to do just that. We hold two concert series a year at the Garth Homer Center. Our winter concert series is December 4 at 8:00 PM and December 5 at 2:00 PM. Our spring concert series is May 1 at 8:00 PM, and May 2 at 2:00 PM. *Debbie Lohr*

CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble. Performances in our 20th anniversary season begin at 2:00 PM on November 11 with *Remembering*. This

concert includes traditional Remembrance Day observances, and presents music spanning the centuries. Of special interest is the *Mass of the Ages* – movements taken from masses by Palestrina, Byrd, Haydn, Martin, Lauridsen, Daley and more, fully four centuries of music. On December 23 at 7:30 PM we present *The Night Before the Night Before*. Once again, we are joined by **Beacon Hill Brass** (always fun!) for a concert of carols and seasonal music that will have you smiling (maybe even tapping your feet) and fill you with the joys of the Christmas season.

Encore! is our 20th anniversary bash! Join us for this concert of favourites from twenty years of performances and some fresh new music. See if you can guess the year we last performed the pieces! We complete the season with *Masterworks*, going back to our "roots" in older music, specializing in works from the Renaissance and Baroque eras. In its twenty years, CapriCCio has performed works by many of the greatest composers who ever lived. There is such a wealth of great music from those 200+ years. We hope you enjoy our performance (with orchestra).

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All performances held at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria <http://www.cappiccio.ca/index.htm>

The **Crystal Singers**, under the expert guidance of director Laurie Walker, are preparing for another productive and fun-filled year. Choir rehearsals are at St. Peter's Church Hall on Tuesday evenings. If you love to sing, read music and think you might enjoy joining this chorus of approximately forty female voices, we invite you to come out. Call (250) 479-4886 if you wish more information. Up-coming events will include our annual fundraiser held at St. Peter's Hall on November 6, 7:00-9:00. Once again The Crystal Singers host their *Group Party*, an evening out that's meant to provide you and your friends with a unique shopping and sampling experience compliments of representatives from such quality home-product lines as Party Lite, Epicure, Tupperware, Jockey for Her, Silpata Jewelry and more. Think of this as your one stop pre-Christmas shopping for holiday items either for your home or as gifts for others. Refreshments provided by the Crystals. Inquiries: Bonnie Thomson at blthomson123@shaw.ca

Ensemble Laude, directed by Elizabeth MacIsaac is a women's community choir dedicated to singing multi-cultural choral repertoire and Early Music (pre-1600). Formerly based at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, we welcome members of the public enthusiastic to pursue a passion for choral and chamber singing, as well as students at VCM and UVic. The Ensemble performs several concerts in the lower island area each year. Ensemble Laude offered a benefit performance from last season's repertoire on September 11 at St. Saviour's Church, as an introduction to its first *Social Justice Awareness Conference* focused on homelessness. This was an opportunity to hear the choir's repertoire as well as supporting the work of the Rainbow Kitchen. Members receive instruction in various choral styles, including early voice performance practices. Singers will need good intonation and vocal independence but are not required to have music reading skills. Experienced vocalists are offered solo and small group opportunities within the concert context. If you are interested in being a part of this unique choral experience and would like more information on joining Ensemble Laude and/or arranging an audition, please contact music director Elizabeth MacIsaac (250) 360-2434; <http://www.elizabethmacisaac.com>. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at St. Matthias Church, Victoria.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society. The **Civic Orchestra** and the G&S Society are presenting three concert performances of *The Mikado in Concert*, directed by George Corwin. November 7 at Victoria High School; November 14 in Duncan at the Duncan Christian Reformed Church, and on the next day, November 15, in Sidney at the Mary Winspear Centre. All performances are at 2:00 PM. www.gilbertandsullivanvictoria.ca. *Joy Broomfield*

The **Harmony Choir** is affiliated with the Edelweiss Club in Victoria. It has been in existence for 49 years, and explores mainly German repertoire under the direction of Dr. Angelika Arend. The aim is three concerts annually: A spring concert, a fall concert and a Christmas concert. With our Christmas concert last year, we were all snowed in, so for this year we hope for good weather. Harmony Choir concerts are always accompanied by coffee and delicious cakes, homemade by the ladies of the choir – an extra bonus for concert goers! Our Christmas concert is December 13, at 2:00 PM. *Ursula Willmann*

Inspirata is a non-auditioned women's choir that meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday nights in Fairfield. Inspirata was founded by local musician, Connie Lebeau, and is dedicated to providing a quality singing experience to women interested in performing with a choir. Inspirata is now directed by conductor Signi Murgatroyd. Signi has a Masters of Music (Vocal Performance) from the University of Victoria and is on the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music. The repertoire is an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, pop, folk, World Music and classical and is guaranteed to lift your heart and exercise your brain. The choir season runs from September to May and culminates in a May weekend performance. For more information see the website: www.lebeau-petersen.com/inspirata.html *Marilyn Henigman*

Newcombe Sings to a New Beat. For any choir, a new conductor and a new season bring new challenges. **Newcombe Singers** eagerly anticipated their first rehearsals under the baton of Peter Dent (M.Ed. UBC). Peter's career in music includes that of conductor, singer, choral arranger and jazz pianist. www.peterdent.com. When asked about plans for the choir, Dent said, "It's to create a positive and nurturing climate where singers can experience the sense of achievement and enjoyment that only group singing can provide." Peter is currently working on an SATB arrangement of his previously published melody set to John Magee's WW2 sonnet, *High Flight*. This work fit well with Newcombe's November 10 performance at a *Service of Remembrance* in the upper rotunda at the BC Legislative Building. In selecting the music for Christmas, Dent has stayed with the Newcombe concert format of *Bach*

to the Beatles. The featured item in the first half is Buxtehude's *Das Neugeborne Kindelein* with baroque strings and continuo. The second half will take the audience on a trip for a *Caribbean Christmas*. New singers are always welcome. There is no audition, the annual fee is low, the ability to sing in the shower or in a karaoke bar is a definite asset. For more information about the choir, visit www.members.shaw.ca/newcombesinger/. Newcombe Singers rehearse Tuesday evenings at St. Mary's Anglican Church, Victoria. *Jean Howell*

The **Prima Youth Choir** is presenting two choral concerts that involve the **Victoria Chamber Orchestra** and **Prima Youth Choir and Soloists**, Wade Noble and Yariv Aloni, conductors. *A Handel Celebration* includes *Ode to St. Cecilia's Day*, *Coronation Anthems*, and music from the oratorio *Solomon*. Friday, November 20, 8:00 PM, St. Elizabeth's Church, Sidney; Saturday, November 21, 8:00 PM First Metropolitan United Church, Victoria. *Don Kissinger*

Sooke Philharmonic Chorus with the **Sooke Philharmonic Chamber Players** conducted by Wade Noble present *Bach: Christmas Oratorio* and *Cantatas IV, V*. In partnership with the Sooke Christmas Bureau, a portion from every ticket sold at the Sooke concert will go toward their Christmas fundraising activities. December 5, 7:30 PM, Sooke Community Theatre, Sooke; December 6 2:30 PM, New St. Mary's Church, Metchosin Information (250) 642-2849 or www.sookephil.ca/calendar/tickets.html

Soundings, directed by Denis Donnelly, sings *Songs For A Winter's Night*, a cappella seasonal music from the folk traditions of Canada, Ireland, England, Wales, and other places. Unusual repertoire mostly, with a sprinkling of some more familiar seasonal songs dressed up in new clothes. December 6, 2:30 PM, St. Mary's Anglican Church, Saanichton; December 11, 8:00 PM, Hatley Castle, Royal Roads University, Victoria; and December 13, 7:30 PM, St. Aidan's United Church, Victoria

Spirit Rising Choir. On December 6, Spirit Rising Choir and pianist Michael Drislane will present a joint concert at 2:30 PM in the Alix Goolden Hall at VCM. The choir will sing new and old repertoire of uplifting songs. Michael, known best as a classical pianist and superb accompanist, will showcase his amazing ability to generate piano solos on the spot. In a program segment called *Whose Style Is It, Anyway?*, he will create music in the style of various composers suggested by the audience. This dynamic and growing community mixed choir welcomes male singers who enjoy a relaxed, yet focused approach to an eclectic repertoire. Songs

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include standard choral selections, gospel, older pops, etc. Rehearsals for the new season start Monday, Sept 14, at St. John the Divine, at 7:00 PM. To join or attend a free session please call 778-430-4078 or email musicnotes@shaw.ca.

Super Soul Sister, Victoria's only Rhythm and Blues choir, has launched into its third season with a workshop. In fact, this season it will continue on a workshop basis, rather than a week-to-week commitment. The repertoire is mainly derived from the hit factory in Detroit, where Motown and R&B were born and raised, covering artists such as Mary Wells, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, Martha and the Vandellas etc. The choir learns simple choreography and harmonies and everyone has a chance to try singing lead vocals. A full band is usually employed for final performances. Guaranteed to lift one's spirits, this is a women's choir that packs a punch. Connie Lebeau, founder of Super Soul Sister, has been involved as teacher and arranger of vocals for the Victoria High Rhythm and Blues Band for the past 16 years, alongside director Eric Emde, though of late, has passed the torch to her daughter, Danielle Lebeau-Petersen. Together they will hold three workshops this season, in September, January and April. For more information, please contact Connie Lebeau at Inspirata@shaw.ca

The University of Victoria Chorus and Orchestra will perform at the university's Farquhar Auditorium on December 5 at 8 PM. The program will feature the Canadian premiere of Luis Bacalov's *Misa Tango* featuring soprano Susan Young, tenor Benjamin Butterfield and Jonathan Goldman on bandoneon. This work was composed in 1997 by Bacalov, an Argentinian living in Rome, and is sung in Spanish. Conductor Janos Sandor will lead the performance, while Susan Young is Chorus Director. Also on the program is an early mass of Franz Schubert, *Mass in G Major*. Tickets through the University Box Office (250)721-8408. *John Sterk*

Via Choralis. Under the baton of Artistic Director Nicholas Fairbank, Via Choralis, an adult community choir in the Saanich peninsula, is in rehearsal for its ninth season. Founded in 2000 by Elizabeth Shannon, the choir has grown to forty members and has developed a reputation in the peninsula for eclectic and audience-friendly programming. Repertoire over the past years has varied from the popular Remembrance Day concerts of songs and anthems on the theme of peace to full-scale productions of major works with orchestra such as Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The 2009-2010 season is no exception. Three concerts are planned,

with the first being a November 11 program highlighting Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. Via Choralis' second concert will be held February 7. Together with a **Citadel Gospel Jazz Band**, the choir will perform a varied program, which will include pieces by West Coast composers Wade Hemsworth and Larry Nickel, and others. On March 28, the final concert will feature music of Mozart: *Laudate Dominum* from the *Solemn Vespers* with soprano Rachel Mitten, and a full performance of his *Requiem* with orchestra and soloists. Director Fairbank is busy in the Victoria choral scene these days having taken over the leadership of the **Viva Youth Choirs** from Connie Foss. More this summer, and singing as a member of the vocal sextet **Hexaphone** which performs widely on the southern Island. Via Choralis welcomes new singers; auditions are held by appointment throughout the year. More information about the choir can be obtained at www.viachoralis.ca.

Victoria Choral Academia has continued with its sight-singing workshops, which have been specifically tailored for choral singers with an emphasis on vocal tuning, understanding of harmony and choral techniques for achieving higher musicianship. Two levels of the workshops allowed both experienced singers and those who are new to singing to learn new skills for the new choral season. An exciting new workshop was offered by VCA through Continuing Studies at the University of Victoria: *Music of the Balkans/the Mystery of Bulgarian Voices*. The music of the Balkan region (Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria) is among the most renowned in the world for its unusual rhythms and powerful, often shockingly bright vocal style. The program explored the strength, depth and determination of our own 'nomadic' voices using the examples of Bulgarian songs. The concept of harmony was examined and expanded beyond Western European-derived music; as well, the mystery of Balkan music was explored not only with the voices and intellect, but with the whole body, moving to the invigorating rhythms of folk dances. Current offerings include workshop sessions on *Slavic Choral Music: Folk And Beyond* (to December 4). VCA invites singers with previous choral experience to join in a celebration of Slavic music from Eastern Europe. No knowledge of Slavic languages is required. Explore choral music from Bulgaria, Ukraine and Russia, along with Slavic culture through the unique and captivating vocal styles of various regions of Eastern Europe. To register, call (250) 472-4747 or register online at www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/courses (and click on 'The Arts'). For more information on VCA visit: www.victoriachoralacademia.net *Teodora Georgieva-Gilberg*

The **Victoria Choral Society** turns 75 in December this year! Under the baton of

our Artistic Director Giuseppe Pietraroia, we are looking forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary with another wonderful year of singing! It all began in 1934 when a group of 200 singers, primarily from Victoria area churches, joined with instrumentalists, soloists and conductor Stanley Bulley to perform *Messiah*. Singers from that concert created the Victoria Choral Society (then named the Victoria Choral Union), and the instrumentalists formed the **Victoria Symphony** soon thereafter. We are delighted to honour our past by joining with the Victoria Symphony this season to re-live that moment. Our women's voices sang in the Victoria Symphony performances of Holst's *The Planets* on November 1 and 2. In addition, we have begun rehearsing Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and are looking forward to participating in **Ballet Victoria's** fully choreographed performances on March 28-30 (Victoria) and April 7 (Duncan). We have also begun rehearsals for Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, which we will be performing with full orchestra and soloists at UVic on May 20th, 2010. What a wonderful wrap-up this will be for our 75th anniversary season! In advance of our anniversary performance of *Messiah*, the Victoria Choral Society is holding a *Hallelujah Homecoming* celebration on November 28. Our current membership of 120 choristers is inviting former members of VCS to join us for a fun-filled evening including a media retrospective, messages from former Music Directors, a rousing rendition of the *Hallelujah Chorus* by all in attendance, and the chance to connect or re-connect with singers past and present who have woven the Victoria Choral Society into the musical fabric of Victoria by delighting members and audiences alike with music performed for the joy of it. We welcome former members to re-connect during our 75th Anniversary season by calling Stephen Lee at 250 380 9921, or by e-mailing victoriachoralsociety@gmail.com. For further details about our choir and our program for this season, please visit our new website at <http://www.island.net/~vcs/>. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at Holy Cross Church, Victoria. To arrange an audition, please phone (250) 391-0540. We are warm, welcoming, and worth the audition! *Mary Chu*

Victoria Good News Choir Do you like to sing? If you do, we invite you to join our non-auditioned community choir. We are the Victoria Good News Choir, directed by Louise Rose. We rehearse Tuesday evenings at Cordova Bay United Church, Victoria. We have an exciting season planned. Please check out our website at www.victoriagoodnewschoir.com or call 250-658-1946 for more

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information. This year's Christmas concert *Simple Gifts – Old Fashioned Carol Sing* will be held December 15 at Cordova Bay United Church. For more details email: info@victoriagoodnewschoir.com.

The **Victoria Male Voice Choir**, Yanik Giroux, conductor, is an amateur choir that offers participation and training in the vocal arts. The choir believes that you should sing "for the fun of it". We hold rehearsals once a week, on Tuesday night, and our repertoire embraces a wide range of musical styles, including spiritual, classic, Broadway, folk and modern. The membership varies from year to year in the range of 20 to 30 members. One does not need special musical training to be part of our group, just a desire to sing, to learn and to be an asset to the group! Performing is an integral part of our schedule. The choir performs eight to ten concerts a year in churches, seniors' centres and service clubs. It has performed at the McPherson Theatre, the Empress Hotel, the Victoria Conference Centre and many other locations. Rehearsals continue through the fall, with maybe one or two performances at seniors' homes, but no major Christmas concert. We are affected by the grants cuts, and so the fall will be a bit slower; new music purchase was

kept to a minimum and some rehearsals have been cancelled to accommodate our budget. Our season starts in September at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Victoria, with rehearsals every Tuesday night until the first week of June. We do not have auditions. Choir contacts are John McWilliams, President (250) 589-8339 /email farmulator@shaw.ca and Jim Johnson, Vice-President (250) 727-9904/email jimmysj@shaw.ca. Contact Yanik Giroux at yanou@hotmail.com.

The **Victoria Philharmonic Choir** with new music director Peter Butterfield are looking forward to their fifth season. Concerts include *The Romantics – Brahms, Rheinberger, Schumann*, 7:30 PM, Alix Goolden Hall, Victoria, November

13; *Christmas Carol Family Sing-along*, 7:00 PM, Church of St. John the Divine, Victoria, December 22; and Bach: *St. Matthew Passion*, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria, March 27 with **Vancouver Voices**. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at St. Michael's University School. For more information contact David Wooldridge: beaberry@telus.net

The **Victoria Broadway Chorus** is entering its eighth year of performing the music of Broadway and Hollywood. Led by producer/music director/pianist Bob LeBlanc, the 60-voice non-auditioned chorus presents concerts that are unlike any others now available in BC. They are different because they are not simply a choral group presenting choral renditions. Their two-hour concerts are full of variety – some comedy, clever medleys, and fine soloists and instrumentalists. Kathleen West is the choral director. She has performed on numerous occasions at the Chemainus Theatre and has headlined many Gilbert & Sullivan productions. She recently starred in the Kamloops production of *My Fair Lady*. The Chorus welcomes anyone wishing to join the chorus. Spring performances March 19/20, Victoria; March 27/28, Sidney. All necessary information can be found on their website www.victoriabroadwaychorus.com.

SALT SPRING/ SOUTH ISLANDS REGIONAL REPORT
Submitted by
Anke Smeele,
Regional Director



There is much activity to report from the Salt Spring choral scene. First and foremost on the agenda of the choirs, as with many other arts organisations, are the adjustments that have to be made to plans and programs due to the sudden announcements of loss of Gaming Funds this fall. It is still too early to report in concrete terms on the effects of this loss of funding on any particular choir; suffice it to say that fundraising is a much talked about subject during Executive meetings already.

Salt Spring Singers started rehearsals under Mitch Howard's direction. A Christmas program with Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, *Spanish Carols* and excerpts from Conrad Susa's *Christmas in the Southwest*, is planned for December 5 and 6 concerts at Artspring Theatre.

Under the direction of conductor Deb Toole, **Viva Voce!**, a new offspring of the **Tuned Air Choral Society**, has started work on a winter theme concert planned for the December 12/13 weekend at All Saints Anglican Church.

Bach on the Rock Choir and Orchestra are rehearsing to present Concerts highlighting the Bach *Cantata 140*, Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* and Barber's *Agnus Dei* at All Saints in early November.

Shirley Bunyan's **Lost Chords Choir** has resumed regular rehearsals at the Senior Centre. Shirley also directs the very active **Ganges United Church Choir**.

The **Sacred Sound Choir** was disbanded this summer with the move out east of its founding director Alain Besson, but many of its members have found a place to sing in the above-mentioned choirs.

Counting the **All Saints Church Choir**, the Gospel Church and others, there are an estimated 200+ choral practitioners active on our island of approximately 10,000 inhabitants.

I am in the still very, very early stages of discussions on plans to organise a choral showcase as a BCCF event around St. Cecilia Day of November, 2010. I have also started to investigate the possibility of hosting the three or four elementary school choirs again this year during the week of **Salt Spring Singers'** concert preparations, as we did with the cooperation of the Salt Spring Singers, the Artspring Theatre, and the BCCF in December of 2004 and 2005.

BCCF Youth Council News

By Charlotte Herst

The BCCF-YC is pleased to announce the election of this year's council!

Charlotte Herst – Chair
Vanessa Johnson – Vice-Chair
Emily Pearce – BCYC Manager
Cara Wong – BCYC Assistant Manager
Emily Giang – Secretary
Melissa Tsang – BCCC Committee Coordinator
Kyle McLaughlin, Lindsay Suddaby – BCCC Committee Members
Anders Lau, Jake Ackeral – Promotions
Elizabeth Kreiter, Alvin Lau, Gordon Ross – Members-at-Large

Last year's **BC Youth Choir** in Powell River was fun-filled and full of challenging music. We enjoyed working with Heather Johnson and her hilariously sarcastic wit. Her lovely daughter Sophie had a great time too, crawling between our feet and playing with our fascinating water bottles. Our singers loved the tremendous gourmet vittles at the Saturday banquet, as well as Powell River's breathtaking landscape.



BC Youth Choir singing at their Dress Rehearsal in Powell River, Chorifest 2009.

Our annual BC Youth Choir BBQ took place at the beginning of July, and was a total hit when over 30 alumni squeezed into a tiny Vancouver apartment. We brought out a lot of old BCYC repertoire and sang together between mouthfuls of burgers and salad. The neighbours were very appreciative!

In addition, a substantial number of us continued the tradition of attending Rajaton's concert at Van Dusen in August. It was a buzzing occasion, with a great turnout! Around 25 of us shared three blankets for the duration of the performance. We left feeling elated, inspired, albeit with legs made of jelly and pins and needles.



Jake Ackeral at the BCYC BBQ, sporting a BCYC 2009 T-shirt and tons of enthusiasm.

Now the Youth Council is turning its attention towards the upcoming year.

We're excited to announce that this year's BC Youth Choir clinician is **Dr. Debra Cairns**. A native of London, Ontario, Dr. Cairns is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a Professor in the Department of Music at the University of Alberta, where she co-ordinates and co-supervises the graduate program in choral conducting, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, choral literature, diction for singers, and directs the U of A Concert Choir. She is also the director of i Coristi Chamber Choir, an ensemble which she formed in 1994. Both choirs have been heard on regional and national broadcasts of the CBC and have been regular national semi-finalists in the CBC Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs, winning second prize in 2006 in the competitive Chamber Choir Category. She is a recipient of the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Prize in Conducting, is an active clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor across Canada, and is currently the President of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities (ACCC).



Please check out our new website at
bcyc.ca

to virtually meet the council, and keep up to date with what the Youth Council is up to this year!



Announcing the

BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAMBER CHOIR

The **BCCF Youth Council** is thrilled to announce the launch of a new project – the **BC Chamber Choir (BCCC)**. This choir was conceived in conjunction with the BCCF Board, and will be comprised of a small group of singers age twenty-five and older under the directorship of **Kevin Zakresky**.

The debut performance of the BC Chamber Choir will be at the Chan Centre as part of *Chorfest 2010*. They will premiere a newly-commissioned work, *Let the Great Song Come* (words by *Wendell Berry*, music by *Imant Raminsh*), which is the first of three such commissions being written in memory of **Joyce Maguire**. Two of Joyce's long-time colleagues appear with the BCCC for this premiere – **Bruce Pullan**, conductor, and **Jane Coop**, pianist. For more information about this year's conductor, Kevin Zakresky, please see the article on page 5 of this newsletter.



Diane Loomer, C.M.
Artistic Director

featuring

Revalia Male Chamber Choir (from Estonia)

Hirvo Surva, director

Saturday, November 21, 2009

7:30 pm

Shaughnessy Heights United Church
1550 W 33rd Ave, Vancouver BC

Adults \$25 | Students/Seniors \$20

ticketmaster.ca **604.280.3311**

Information 604.263.7061

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WORLD YOUTH CHOIR 2009

Submitted by Nathan McDonald

BC Youth Choir alumnus Nathan McDonald has gone on to represent British Columbia in Canada's National Youth Choir. This year, Nathan joined the ranks of the World Youth Choir.

World Youth Choir was amazing. I count myself truly fortunate to have been a part of it. To see and experience the power of choral music on an international stage - to feel the connection that defies all borders, differences, and prejudices - this is the World Youth Choir. It is a project that forges close friendships between an impressively diverse group of 80 young people. It is a superior music-making machine. It was recognized by **UNESCO** in 1996 with the title *Artist For Peace*. The World Youth Choir is a project that deserves attention, and I continue to be inspired by my experience with it. The 2009 World Youth Choir was made up of almost 80 singers from over 30 countries and 5 continents. We sang two distinct repertoires under two different conductors, Johan Duijck of

Belgium and Ana Maria Raga of Venezuela. We rehearsed together for two weeks in Belgium before touring for two weeks through Belgium, Holland, France, and Germany. We ate, laughed, learned, and sang together for a solid month, and I now feel as though I have close friends all over the world.

I hope more Canadians will continue to audition for and participate in the World Youth Choir, and join its incredible global network. To say the World Youth Choir is a life-altering experience is adequate, but still fails to do it justice. Suffice to say, I hope to re-audition!

Below is a photo of the 2009 World Youth Choir taken in Namur, Belgium where participants are all wearing a uniform representing their national or ethnic heritage. Additional information can be obtained on the new WYC website, www.worldyouthchoir.org



2009 World Youth Choir taken in Namur, Belgium

CHORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY KATE POLSKY
(BMus., ARCT, member of Elektra Women's Choir)

Scores suitable for ceremonies and concerts are available in a variety of styles and voicings

www.katepolsky.com

WILLAN AWARD

The **Willan Award** for outstanding service to the BC Choral Federation is presented annually following a vote of the Board of Directors. Award winners become life members of the BCCF, and join the ranks of the **Willan Council**, a BCCF advisory board and think tank.

JIM SPARKS is director of vocal music at the **Langley Fine Arts School** in Fort Langley, where he directs choirs, vocal ensembles, and co-teaches the music major program. With a Bachelor of Music degree from U.B.C. and Masters of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from

the University of Arizona, Jim has spent 26 years teaching young singers in BC as a choral director, vocal coach as well as sessional faculty instructor at the University of British Columbia. In 2005, Jim helped establish **Project Kenya Sister Schools**, a cultural exchange program that puts Kenyan children in schools. In January 2008, Jim traveled to the PKSS project in Nairobi, Kenya where he was with the **Kenyan National Boys Choir** and the **Mungano National Choir**.

An outstanding educator and choral musician, Jim's services to the BCCF have included instructing at the *Choral*

Directorship Course over several years. Many singers will also know him from his leadership of the adult *Chorifest* choir at the Chan Centre in 2008, and more recently, for his workshop presentation with Morna Edmundson in Smithers this past March.



Choral Calendar

November 2009 — April 2010

BC INTERIOR, NORTHEAST, NORTHWEST

Sunday, November 22
**PRINCE RUPERT ROTARY
COMMUNITY CHOIR**
Wintersong
(time TBA), United Church,
Prince Rupert

Monday, November 23
HIGH COUNTRY SINGERS OF KAMLOOPS
In Concert
7:30 PM, Hills of Peace Lutheran Church,
Kamloops

November 27-29
**WESTWOOD CHURCH CHOIR
WITH ORCHESTRA**
Christmas Desserts Concert
7:30 PM, Westwood Church, Prince George

Saturday, November 28
OKANAGAN FESTIVAL SINGERS
Handel: Messiah
7:30 PM, First Lutheran Church, Kelowna

November 28/29
AURA CHAMBER CHOIR
Christmas Concert
(time TBA), All Saints Anglican Church
Vernon

November 30
**BELLISSIMA WOMEN'S CHOIR
WITH CANTABILE SINGERS**
Lessons and Carols
(time/venue TBA), Kamloops

Saturday, December 5
GRAND FORKS CHORAL SOCIETY
Christmas Concert
(venue TBA), 7:30 PM, Grand Forks

Saturday, December 5
**MT BAKER HS GIRLS' CHOIR
WITH SYMPHONY OF THE KOOTENAYS**
*Christmas in the Kootenays,
Lutoslawski Polish Carols*
7:30 PM, Key City Theatre, Cranbrook

Saturday, December 5
HUB CITY SINGERS
Christmas Concert
(time TBA), Plural Hills United Church
Kamloops

Saturday, December 5
**NOVE VOCE CHORAL ENSEMBLE
WITH DISTRICT 57 TAPESTRY SINGERS**
On the First Day of Christmas
2:00 and 7:30 PM
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Prince George

Sunday, December 6
GRAND FORKS CHORAL SOCIETY
Christmas Concert
(venue TBA), 2:00 PM, Grand Forks

Sunday, December 6
KAMLOOPS CHORAL FESTIVAL
Christmas Rhapsody
(time TBA), Sagebrush Theatre, Kamloops

Sunday, December 6
**LAKES DISTRICT COMMUNITY
CHOIR OF BURNS LAKE**
Christmas Concert, Messiah excerpts
(time/venue TBA), Burns Lake

Sunday, December 6
**MT BAKER HS GIRLS' CHOIR
WITH SYMPHONY OF THE KOOTENAYS**
*Christmas in the Kootenays,
Lutoslawski Polish Carols*
2:00 PM, Key City Theatre, Cranbrook

Sunday, December 6
NORTHWEST SINGERS
Christmas Concert
7:30 PM, Knox United Church, Terrace

Sunday, December 6
VERNON SENIORS' CHOIR
A Cappella Christmas
2:00 PM, Halina Centre, Vernon.

Friday, December 11
VERNON COMMUNITY SINGERS
Peace on Earth – Carols from Everywhere
7:00 PM, Trinity United Church, Vernon

Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12
**BLOSSOM VALLEY SINGERS
WITH CRESTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Singing Christmas Tree
Trinity United Church
(evening time TBA), Creston

December 11 & 12
CELEBRATION SINGERS
Miss Muffet's Christmas Party
7:30 PM, Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna

Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13
NELSON CHORAL SOCIETY
Handel's Messiah
(time/venue TBA), Nelson

Saturday, December 12
BEL CANTO CHOIRS
Classic Christmas
2:30 & 7:30 PM, Prince George Playhouse
Prince George

Saturday, December 12
**PRINCE GEORGE CANTATA SINGERS
WITH LAKES DISTRICT COMMUNITY CHOIR
& THE PG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Handel's Messiah
7:30 PM, Vanier Hall, Prince George

Saturday, December 12
VERNON COMMUNITY SINGERS
Peace on Earth – Carols from Everywhere
2:00 PM, Trinity United Church, Vernon

Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13
SUN VALLEY SONG
Christmas Concert
(time/venue TBA), Cranbrook

Sunday, December 13
**BLOSSOM VALLEY SINGERS
WITH CRESTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Singing Christmas Tree
Trinity United Church
(afternoon time TBA), Creston

Sunday, December 13
PRINCE GEORGE CANTATA SINGERS
Messiah Sing-along
2:00 PM, venue (TBA), Prince George

Sunday, December 13
SHUSWAP SINGERS
Christmas Concert
2:30 PM, (venue TBA), Enderby

Sunday & Monday, December 13 & 14
**REVELSTOKE COMMUNITY CHOIR
WITH SELKIRK SINGERS**
Christmas Concert
(time/venue TBA), Revelstoke

Saturday, December 19,
**PRINCE RUPERT ROTARY
COMMUNITY CHOIR**
*Christmas Concert with
Dickens' A Christmas Carol*
(time/venue TBA), Prince Rupert

December 19 & 20
SHUSWAP SINGERS
Christmas Concert
2:30 PM, (venue TBA), Salmon Arm

Sunday, December 20
SERIOUS OPTIONS
Christmas Concert
(time, venue TBA), Kamloops

Saturday, January 31
COUNTERPOINT
In Concert
(time TBA), Knox Presbyterian Church, Vernon

Saturday, March 6
OKANAGAN CHORAL SOCIETY
Cascade of Song (four choirs and soloists)
7:30 PM, St. Michael's Anglican Cathedral
Kelowna

March 6 & 7
MONASHEE CHAMBER CHOIR
Handel: Dixit Dominus
(time TBA), Christian Reform Church
Salmon Arm

VANCOUVER ISLAND – GULF ISLANDS – VICTORIA

Sunday, November 1
**VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY
WITH VICTORIA SYMPHONY**
Holst: The Planets
2:30 PM, Royal Theatre, Victoria

Monday, November 2
**VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY
WITH VICTORIA SYMPHONY**
Holst: The Planets
8:00 PM, Royal Theatre, Victoria

Saturday, November 7
EKOOS VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Memories of Canada
Holy Trinity Church, Sooke

Saturday, November 7
**GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
WITH CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF VICTORIA**
The Mikado in Concert
2:00 PM, Victoria High School, Victoria

Sunday, November 8,
TIMBRE!
*Curtain Call – Sounds from
New York & Hollywood*
2:30 PM, ADSS Auditorium, Port Alberni

Tuesday, November 10
NEWCOMBE SINGERS
*Remembrance Day Ceremonies
at the Legislature*
10:00 AM, Rotunda, BC Legislature, Victoria

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Wednesday, November 11
CAPRICCIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Remembering
 2:00 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria
 (Complimentary for veterans)

Wednesday, November 11
ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR
Remembrance Day Concert
 2:00 PM, Christ the King Catholic Church
 Courtenay

Wednesday, November 11
ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR
Remembrance Day Concert
 7:00 PM, St. Patrick's Catholic Church
 Campbell River

Wednesday, November 11
VIA CHORALIS
Bernstein: Chichester Psalms
 2:30 PM, St. Elizabeth's RC Church, Sidney

Wednesday, November 11
VIVA WEST SHORE CHOIR
Remembrance Day Ceremony participation
 time/venue TBA

Friday, November 13
VICTORIA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
*The Romantics – Brahms,
 Rheinberger, Schumann*
 7:30 PM, Alix Goolden Hall, Victoria

November 14 & 15
**BACH ON THE ROCK CHOIR
 AND ORCHESTRA**
In Concert
 (time TBA), All Saints Church
 Salt Spring Island

Saturday, November 14
**GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
 WITH CIVIC ORCHESTRA**
The Mikado in Concert
 2:00 PM, Duncan Christian Reformed Church
 Duncan

Sunday, November 15
**GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY
 WITH CIVIC ORCHESTRA**
The Mikado in Concert
 2:00 PM, Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney

Sunday, November 15
**MALASPINA CHOIR WITH
 SOPRANO NATHALIE CHOQUETTE**
La Diva & Le Choir
 2:00 PM, Port Theatre, Nanaimo

Friday, November 20
**PRIMA YOUTH CHOIR
 WITH VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**
Handel Celebration
 8:00 PM, St. Elizabeth's Church, Sidney

Saturday, November 21
**PRIMA YOUTH CHOIR
 WITH VICTORIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**
Handel Celebration
 8:00 PM, First Metropolitan United Church
 Victoria

Saturday, November 21
**VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
 WITH GREATER VICTORIA YOUTH
 ORCHESTRA**
Strauss Concert and Unicef Song
 (time/venue TBA)

Saturday, November 21
VIVA CHOIR MEMBERS
Santa Parade
 Evening, downtown Victoria

Saturday, November 28
ISLAND SOUL CHOIR
Soul from the Rock
 7:30 PM, Knox United Church, Parksville

Sunday, November 29
COUNTERPOINT
Christmas Concert
 (time TBA), Knox Presbyterian, Vernon

Sunday, November 29
ISLAND SOUL CHOIR
Soul from the Rock
 2:30 PM, Knox United Church, Parksville

Sunday, November 29
**VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
 WITH GREATER VICTORIA YOUTH
 ORCHESTRA**
Strauss Concert and Unicef Song
 (time/venue TBA)

Wednesday, December 2
**CAMERATA SINGERS
 AND NANAIMO CHOIRS**
Community Carol Festival
 (time TBA), St. Andrew's United Church
 Nanaimo

Friday, December 4
ALLEGRA SINGERS
Winter Concert
 8:00 PM, Garth Homer Centre, Victoria

Friday, December 4
PENINSULA SINGERS
Christmas Favourites
 7:30 PM, Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney

Friday, December 4
**ISLAND VOICES WITH
 QUINTESSANCE BRASS QUINTET**
Christmas concert
 (time TBA), Campbell River United Church
 Campbell River

Friday, December 4
PENDER ISLAND CHORAL SOCIETY
Christmas Concert
 7:30 PM, Pender Island Community Hall
 Pender Island

Saturday, December 5
ALLEGRA SINGERS
Winter Concert
 2:00 PM, Garth Homer Centre, Victoria

Saturday, December 5
LINDEN SINGERS
Awake the Harp
 7:30 PM, First Metropolitan United Church
 Victoria

Saturday, December 5
MUSICA INTIMA
A Baroque Christmas
 8:00 PM, Alix Goolden Hall
 Victoria

Saturday, December 5
PENDER ISLAND CHORAL SOCIETY
Christmas Concert
 7:30 PM, Pender Island Community Hall Pender
 Island

Saturday, December 5
PENINSULA SINGERS
Christmas Favourites
 7:30 PM, Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney

Saturday, December 5
SALT SPRING SINGERS
Ceremony of Carols
 8:00 PM, Artspring Theatre, Salt Spring Island

Saturday, December 5
**SOOKE PHILHARMONIC CHORUS
 AND SOOKE PHILHARMONIC
 CHAMBER PLAYERS**
Bach: Christmas Oratorio, Cantatas IV, V
 7:30 PM, Sooke Community Theatre, Sooke

Saturday, December 5
UVIC CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA
Bacalov: Misa Tango
 8:00 PM, Farquhar Auditorium, Victoria

Sunday, December 6
ARION MALE VOICE CHOIR
Church Inauguration Concert
 2:30 PM, Holy Trinity Church, Sooke

Sunday, December 6
**CONCENTI SINGERS OF
 THE COWICHAN VALLEY**
Christmas Concert
 (time/venue TBA), Duncan

Sunday, December 6
ISLAND BEL CANTO SINGERS
A Dickensian Christmas
 7:30 PM, Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre,
 Nanaimo

Sunday, December 6
PENDER ISLAND CHORAL SOCIETY
Christmas Concert
 2:00 PM, Pender Island Community Hall,
 Pender Island

Sunday, December 6
SALT SPRING SINGERS
Ceremony of Carols
 2:30 PM, Artspring Theatre, Salt Spring Island

Sunday, December 6
**SOOKE PHILHARMONIC CHORUS
 AND SOOKE PHILHARMONIC
 CHAMBER PLAYERS**
Bach: Christmas Oratorio, Cantatas IV, V
 2:30 PM, New St. Mary's Church, Metchosin

Sunday, December 6
SOUNDINGS
Songs for a Winter's Night
 2:30 PM, St. Mary's Anglican Church
 Saanichton

Sunday, December 6
**SPIRIT RISING CHOIR
 AND PIANIST MICHAEL DRISLANE**
Whose Style Is It, Anyway?
 2:30 PM, Alix Goolden Hall, Victoria
 Conservatory of Music

Sunday, December 6
**VANCOUVER MEN'S CHORUS
 WITH AVIVA WOMEN'S CHOIR**
Making Spirits Bright
 2:30 PM, Brechin United Church, Nanaimo

Friday, December 11
**ARION MALE VOICE CHOIR
 WITH SD61 YOUTH CHOIR**
The Road To Bethlehem
 7:00 PM, Centennial United, Victoria



Friday, December 11
SOUNDINGS
Songs for a Winter's Night
 8:00 PM, Hatley Castle, Royal Roads University, Victoria

Friday, December 11
VIVA VOCE!
Winter Concert
 (time TBA), All Saints Church Salt Spring Island

Saturday, December 12
CAMPBELL RIVER SINGERS WITH QUADRA SINGERS
Christmas and Messiah excerpts
 (time/venue TBA), Campbell River

Saturday, December 12
ENCORE! WOMEN'S CHOIR
Christmas concert
 7:30 PM, Duncan United Church, Duncan

Saturday, December 12
VIVA CHOIRS
Harmonies for the Holidays
 7:00 PM, St. Aidan's United Church, Victoria

Saturday, December 12
VIVA VOCE!
Winter Concert
 (time TBA), All Saints Church Salt Spring Island

Sunday, December 13
CAMPBELL RIVER CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Christmas concert
 (time/venue TBA)

Sunday, December 13
CONCENTI SINGERS OF THE COWICHAN VALLEY
Christmas Concert
 (time/venue TBA), Chemainus

Sunday, December 13
ENCORE! WOMEN'S CHOIR
Christmas concert
 2:30 PM, Bethel Baptist Church, Duncan

Sunday, December 13
HARMONY CHOIR
Christmas Concert
 2:00 PM, Edelweiss Club, Victoria

Sunday, December 13
NEWCOMBE SINGERS
Buxtehude: Das Neugebome Kindelein, Caribbean Christmas
 2:30 PM, St. Mary the Virgin Oak Bay, Victoria

Sunday, December 13,
SOUNDINGS
Songs for a Winter's Night
 7:30 PM, St. Aidan's United Church, Victoria

Sunday, December 13
ST. MARY'S CHOIRS
Christmas Concert
 2:30 PM, St. Mary's Anglican Church Oak Bay, Victoria

Sunday, December 13
TIMBRE!
'Tis the Season
 2:30PM, ADSS Auditorium, Port Alberni

Sunday, December 13
VIVA VOCE!
Debut Concert
 (time TBA), Artspring Theatre Salt Spring Island

Monday, December 14
CAMPBELL RIVER CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Christmas concert
 (time/venue TBA)

Monday, December 14
VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Classical Christmas Concert
 (time TBA), Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria

Tuesday, December 15
MALASPINA CHOIR WITH VANCOUVER ISLAND SYMPHONY
Handel's Messiah
 7:30 PM, Port Theatre, Nanaimo

Tuesday, December 15
VICTORIA GOOD NEWS CHOIR
Simple Gifts – Old Fashioned Carol Sing
 7:00 PM, Cordova Bay United Church, Victoria

Friday, December 18
CAMERATA SINGERS WITH NANAIMO YOUTH CHOIRS
I Wish You Christmas
 7:00 PM, St. Andrew's United Church, Nanaimo

Friday, December 18
VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY WITH VICTORIA SYMPHONY
Handel: Messiah
 8:00 PM, University Centre Farquhar Auditorium (UVic), Victoria

Saturday, December 19
CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF VICTORIA
Sing Along Messiah
 2:00 PM, Alix Goolden Performance Hall, Victoria

Saturday, December 19
QUADRA SINGERS WITH CAMPBELL RIVER SINGERS
Christmas and Messiah excerpts
 (time/venue TBA), Quadra Island

Sunday, December 20
ENSEMBLE LAUDE
SOLstice
 3:00 PM, The Quarter Deck Royal Roads University, Colwood

Sunday, December 20
VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY WITH VICTORIA SYMPHONY
Handel: Messiah
 2:30 PM, University Centre Farquhar Auditorium (UVic), Victoria

Tuesday, December 22
VICTORIA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
Christmas Carol Family Sing-Along
 (time TBA), St. John the Divine, Victoria

Wednesday, December 23
CAPRICCIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE WITH BEACON HILL BRASS
The Night Before the Night Before
 7:30 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria

Wednesday, December 30
HEXAPHONE
Christmas to New Year
 8:00 PM, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria

Friday, January 22
DUNCAN CHORAL SOCIETY
In Concert
 7:30 PM, Duncan Christian Reformed Church Duncan

Saturday, February 6
VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Bach and Telemann
 (time/venue TBA), Victoria

Sunday, February 7
VIA CHORALIS WITH CITADEL GOSPEL JAZZ BAND
And All That Jazz
 2:30 PM, St. Elizabeth's RC Church, Sidney

February 13
A CAPPELLA PLUS
The Nature of Love
 (time/venue TBA), Parksville

February 14
A CAPPELLA PLUS
The Nature of Love
 (time/venue TBA), Nanaimo

Sunday, February 28
ARION MALE VOICE CHOIR
Prairie Night Celebration
 Centennial United Church, Victoria

Friday, March 5
CAPRICCIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Encore!
 7:30 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria

March 13 & 14
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
The Sorcerer
 (details TBA)

Saturday, March 13
HEXAPHONE
Spring Concert
 8:00 PM, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria

Saturday, March 13
LINDEN SINGERS
To Cuba With Love
 (time TBA), First Metropolitan United Church Victoria

Friday, March 19
VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS
Legends of Broadway
 7:30 PM, Central Baptist Auditorium, Victoria

March 20 & 21
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
The Sorcerer
 (details TBA)

Saturday, March 20
VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS
Legends of Broadway
 2:00 PM, Central Baptist Auditorium, Victoria

Saturday, March 21
ENSEMBLE LAUDE
Equinox
 7:30 PM, St. Mathias Church, Victoria

Saturday, March 21
VICTORIA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR WITH VANCOUVER VOICES
Bach: St. Matthew Passion
 (time TBA), St. Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria

March 27 & 28
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY
The Sorcerer
 (details TBA)

Saturday, March 27
VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS
Legends of Broadway
 7:30 PM, Charlie White Theatre, Sidney

Sunday, March 28
VICTORIA BROADWAY CHORUS
Legends of Broadway
 2:00 PM, Charlie White Theatre, Sidney

Sunday, March 28
VIA CHORALIS
Mozart: Requiem
 2:30 PM, St. Elizabeth's RC Church, Sidney

Saturday, April 17
VIVA CHOIRS
Spring Concert
 7:00 PM, St. Aidan's Church, Victoria

April 22-24
VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR
African Jigsaw
 (details to follow)

Sunday, April 25
MALASPINA CHOIR
Mozart: Requiem, Salieri: Mass in D
 2:00 PM, Port Theatre, Nanaimo

LOWER MAINLAND

Saturday, November 6
VANCOUVER ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR
Remembrance Concert
 7:30 PM, Christian Reformed Church
 Maple Ridge

Sunday, November 8
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Stolen Voices
 3:00 PM, Church of the Good Shepherd,
 Surrey

Wednesday, November 11
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Stolen Voices
 1:00 PM, West Vancouver United Church
 West Vancouver

Wednesday, November 11
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Stolen Voices
 7:30 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Wednesday, November 11
**JUBILATE! CHAMBER CHOIR WITH THE
 VANCOUVER PHILHARMONIC
 ORCHESTRA
 & DOUGLAS COLLEGE COMMUNITY
 CHOIR**
Verdi Requiem
 11:00 AM, Canadian Memorial Centre for
 Peace Vancouver

Wednesday, November 11
VANCOUVER ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR
Remembrance Concert
 2:00 PM, St Nicholas Catholic Church,
 Langley

Friday, November 12
PANDORA'S VOX
In Concert
 8:00 PM, Gateway Theatre, Richmond

Friday, November 13
LYRIC SINGERS
Music for Remembrance
 (time TBA), South Abbotsford Church
 Abbotsford

Friday, November 20
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
Sing Out! A Choral Festivity
 8:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Saturday, November 21
**CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR WITH REVALIA
 MALE CHAMBER CHOIR (ESTONIA)**
Bridge of Song
 7:30 PM, Shaughnessy Heights
 United Church, Vancouver

Saturday, November 21
**ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
 WITH ZING! CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Chez Nous: Christmas with Elektra
 2:00 PM, New Westminster Christian Reformed
 Church, Burnaby

Saturday, November 21
**ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
 WITH ZING! CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Chez Nous: Christmas with Elektra
 7:30 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Thursday, November 26
VANCOUVER ORPHEUS MALE CHOIR
For the Joy of Singing
 7:30 PM, Langley Music School, Langley

Saturday, November 28
**CHILLIWACK SYMPHONY
 ORCHESTRA & CHORUS**
10th Anniversary Concert
 venue/time TBA, Chilliwack

Saturday, November 28
ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
Chez Nous: Christmas with Elektra
 2:00 PM, New Westminster Christian Reformed
 Church, Burnaby

Saturday, November 28
ELEKTRA WOMEN'S CHOIR
Chez Nous: Christmas with Elektra
 7:30 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Saturday, November 28
LYRIC SINGERS
Boar's Head Madrigal Dinner
 7:00 PM, Bethany-Newton United Church,
 Surrey

Sunday, November 29
**VANCOUVER ORATORIO SOCIETY
 WITH ORCHESTRA,
 EMMANUEL CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Martin: Promise of a King
 7:30 PM Fraserview MB Church
 Richmond, BC

November 29
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sounds of Christmas - Vancouver I
 8:00 PM, First Baptist Church, Vancouver

Tuesday, December 1
COASTAL SOUND YOUTH CHOIR
with The Nylons
 7:30 PM, ACT Theatre, Maple Ridge

Friday, December 4
NORTH SHORE CHORUS
Ice and Snow
 7:30 PM, St Stephen's Anglican Church, West
 Vancouver

Friday, December 4
PANDORA'S VOX AND ESPIRITU
Singing for a Claus
 8:00 PM, Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver

Friday, December 4
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
Baroque Christmas: Bach, Vivaldi and more
 8:00 PM, Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver

Friday, December 4
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sounds of Christmas - White Rock
 7:30 PM, White Rock Baptist Church, Surrey

Friday, December 4
KENT STREET CHORISTERS
Christmas is Coming
 7:30 PM, First United Church, White Rock

Saturday, December 5
CAPILANO UNIVERSITY CHOIRS,
Choirs, Brass & Organ
 8:00 PM, Capilano Performing Arts Theatre,
 North Vancouver

Saturday, December 5
NORTH SHORE CHORUS
Ice and Snow
 2:30 PM, Mount Seymour United Church,
 North Vancouver

Saturday, December 5
COQUITLAM CHORALE
Annual Christmas Concert
 7:30 PM, Evergreen Cultural Centre
 Coquitlam

Saturday, December 5
LANGLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS
Our Holiday Favourites
 7:30 PM, Willoughby Christian
 Reformed Church, Langley

Saturday, December 5
PANDORA'S VOX AND ESPIRITU
Singing for a Claus
 2:00 & 8:00 PM, Kay Meek Centre
 West Vancouver

Saturday, December 5
VANCOUVER BACH CHOIRS
Christmas with the Bach Choir
 3:00 PM, Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver

Saturday, December 5
VANCOUVER SWISS CHOIR
Christmas Songs for the Swiss Community
 (time TBA), Holiday Inn, North Vancouver

Saturday, December 5
ZING! CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Zing! Noel
 2:30 PM, Shaughnessy Heights
 United Church, Vancouver

Sunday, December 6
CAPILANO UNIVERSITY CHOIRS
Choirs, Brass & Organ
 3:00 PM, Capilano Performing Arts Theatre
 North Vancouver

Sunday, December 6
COQUITLAM CHORALE
Annual Christmas Concert
 2:00 PM, Evergreen Cultural Centre,
 Coquitlam

Sunday, December 6
FAT CHANTS & SING CITY W/ GUESTS
Winter Cheer Concert
 7:00 PM, St. Paul's Anglican Church
 Vancouver

Sunday, December 6
THE RICHMOND SINGERS
Family Christmas concert
 2:00 PM, Fraserview MB Church, Richmond

Sunday, December 6
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sounds of Christmas (with Winter Harp)
 2:30 PM, Massey Theatre, New Westminster



Sunday, December 6
PANDORA'S VOX AND ESPIRITU
Singing for a Claus
 8:00 PM, Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver

Tuesday, December 8
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sounds of Christmas
 Surrey, 8:00 PM, Surrey Arts Centre, Surrey

Thursday, December 10
VANCOUVER MEN'S CHORUS
Making Spirits Bright
 8:00 PM, St. Paul's Anglican Church
 Vancouver

Friday, December 11
VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR
In Those Twelve Days
 8:00 PM, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
 North Vancouver

Friday, December 11
UNIVERSAL GOSPEL CHOIR
Yule '09 Concert
 8:00 PM, Norman Rothstein Theatre,
 Vancouver

Saturday, December 12
**AMABILIS SINGERS WITH
 BURNABY CENTRAL SS CHAMBER CHOIR**
How Far Is It To Bethlehem
 8:00 PM, New Westminster Christian
 Reformed Church, Burnaby

Saturday, December 12
HANDEL SOCIETY OF MUSIC
Handel: Messiah
 7:30 PM, Good Shepherd Church, Surrey

Saturday, December 12
LAUDATE SINGERS
Christmas Classics
 8:00 PM, St Andrew's United Church
 North Vancouver

Saturday, December 12
LYRIC SINGERS BOAR'S HEAD
Madrigal Dinner
 5:00 PM, Bakerview Church, Abbotsford, BC

Saturday, December 12
UNIVERSAL GOSPEL CHOIR
Yule '09 Concert
 8:00PM, Capilano University Performing Arts
 Theatre, North Vancouver

Saturday, December 12
VANCOUVER MEN'S CHORUS
Making Spirits Bright
 8:00 PM, St. Paul's Anglican Church,
 Vancouver

Saturday, December 12
VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR
In Those Twelve Days
 8:00 PM, Trinity-St. Mark's Church, Vancouver

Sunday, December 13
**AMABILIS SINGERS WITH
 BURNABY CENTRAL SS CHAMBER CHOIR**
How Far Is It To Bethlehem
 3:00 PM, Holy Trinity Cathedral
 New Westminster

Sunday, December 13
RICHMOND CHORUS
A Gift of Carols
 (time tba), Richmond Pentecostal Church,
 Richmond

Sunday, December 13
**VANCOUVER BACH CHOIR
 WITH VANCOUVER SYMPHONY**
Sing-Along Messiah
 2.30 PM, Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver

Sunday, December 13
VANCOUVER CANTATA SINGERS
A Christmas Reprise
 3:00 PM, Bell Centre, Surrey

Sunday, December 13
GILMORE PARK UNITED CHURCH
The Mystery and the Majesty
 10:30 AM, Gilmore Park United Church,
 Richmond

Sunday, December 13
**HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
 MULTICULTURAL CHOIR**
Christmas Concert
 2:30 PM, venue TBA, Harrison Hot Springs

Sunday, December 13
VANCOUVER MEN'S CHORUS
Making Spirits Bright
 3:00 & 8:00 PM, St. Paul's Anglican Church
 Vancouver

Monday, December 14
VANCOUVER MEN'S CHORUS
Making Spirits Bright
 8:00 PM, St. Paul's Anglican Church Vancouver

Wednesday, December 16
HIGH SPIRITS CHOIR
*Christmas Sing-along Benefit Concert
 for Atira Women's Shelter*
 (time/venue TBA)

Wednesday, December 16
COASTAL SOUND YOUTH CHOIR
Christmas Concert
 7:00 PM, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Coquitlam

Friday, December 18
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Yuletide Fires
 7:30 PM, St. Andrews-Wesley United Church
 Vancouver

Friday, December 18
COASTAL SOUND YOUTH CHOIR
Christmas Concert
 7:00 PM, Ruth Morton Memorial Baptist Church
 Vancouver

Friday, December 18
LAUDATE SINGERS
Christmas Classics
 8:00 PM, St David's United Church
 West Vancouver

Friday, December 18
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
A Dylan Thomas Christmas
 8:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Saturday, December 19
**CHILLIWACK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
 & CHORUS**
Handel's Messiah
 venue/time TBA, Chilliwack

Saturday, December 19
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Yuletide Fires
 1:00 PM, West Vancouver United Church
 West Vancouver

Saturday, December 19
VANCOUVER CANTATA SINGERS

A Christmas Reprise
 2:00 PM, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver

Saturday, December 19
CHOR LEONI MEN'S CHOIR
Yuletide Fires
 7:00 PM, (venue TBA), Squamish

Saturday, December 19
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sounds of Christmas - Vancouver II
 8:00 PM, Shaughnessy Heights United Church
 Vancouver

Sunday, December 20
GALLERY SINGERS
A Gallery Singers' Christmas
 2:00 PM, Canadian Memorial United Church
 Vancouver

Sunday, December 20
PHOENIX CHAMBER CHOIR
A Phoenix Christmas
 8:00 PM, Shaughnessy Heights United Church
 Vancouver

Sunday, December 20
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
A Dylan Thomas Christmas
 3:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

January 30 & February 1
**VANCOUVER BACH CHOIR
 WITH VANCOUVER SYMPHONY,
 TORONTO MENDELSSOHN CHOIR
 VANCOUVER BACH CHILDREN'S CHORUS**
Mahler: Symphony Nr 8
 8:00 PM, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver

Saturday January 23
CAPILANO UNIVERSITY SINGERS
 Welcomes all interested singers
Cap Choral Intensive
 9:00 AM-9:00 PM
 Capilano Performing Arts Theatre
 North Vancouver

Saturday, January 23
**CULTURAL HARMONY CONCERT
 FEATURING ENSEMBLE ETOLIE,
 VANCOUVER CHINESE CHOIR, SVITANOK
 UKRAINIAN CHOIR, VANCOUVER SWISS
 CHOIR, VANCOUVER GAELIC CHOIR**
 (time TBA), Fraserview Mennonite Church
 Richmond

Wednesday, February 3
TORONTO MENDELSSOHN CHOIR
Fauré and Durufié Requiems
 8:00 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Friday, January 29
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
Songs Of The People European Traditions
 8:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Tuesday, February 9
VANCOUVER 2010 CULTURAL OLYMPIAD
Welcome the World: A Choral Gala
 7:30 PM, St. Andrew's Wesley United Church
 Vancouver

March 13
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Spring Concert
 8:00 PM, Gateway Theatre, Richmond

Friday, March 19
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
*Home Again: A Chamber Choir
 Homecoming Concert*
 8:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Sunday, March 21
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
*Home Again: A Chamber
Choir Homecoming Concert*
3:00 PM, Ryerson United Church, Vancouver

Friday, April 2
VANCOUVER CHAMBER CHOIR
*The Love That Moves The Universe:
Mozart, Schubert, Schafer and... Dante*
8:00 PM, Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver

April 17
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sunshine Coast Tour
7:30 PM, Municipal Hall, Pender Harbour

April 18
VANCOUVER WELSH MEN'S CHOIR
Sunshine Coast Tour
2:00 PM, Seniors' Centre, Sechelt

SUNSHINE COAST

Saturday, November 7
**POWELL RIVER ACADEMY
CHAMBER CHOIR**
with Megan Skidmore
8:00 PM, Academy Hall, Powell River

Friday, November 27
**PENDER HARBOUR CHOIR
& SUNCOAST SINGERS**
Sing for Joy!
(time/venue TBA), Sechelt

Sunday, November 29
**PENDER HARBOUR CHOIR
& SUNCOAST SINGERS**
Sing for Joy!
(time/venue TBA), Sechelt

Wednesday, December 2
POWELL RIVER CHORUS
Christmas Concert
(time/venue TBA), Powell River

Sunday, December 6
COAST PHOENIX SINGERS
St. Nicholas Day
(time/venue TBA)

Friday, December 11
**A CAPPELLA STRAIT &
CHORALATIONS CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Christmas Concert
(time/venue TBA), Sechelt

Friday, December 11
**POWELL RIVER ACADEMY
OF MUSIC CHOIRS**
Carols by Candlelight
7:30 PM, Dwight Hall, Powell River

Saturday, December 12
**A CAPPELLA STRAIT &
CHORALATIONS CHILDREN'S CHOIR**
Christmas Concert
(time/venue TBA), Gibsons

Saturday, December 12
**POWELL RIVER ACADEMY
OF MUSIC CHOIRS**
Carols by Candlelight
1:30 & 7:30 PM, Dwight Hall, Powell River

Saturday, December 19
CHOR MUSICA MEN'S CHOIR
Make We Joy Now In This Fest
8:00 PM, Academy of Music Hall, Powell River

Chorifest 2010 – A *Royal* Chorifest May 7-9

Chorifest 2010 is all about a weekend of choral singing – it's about some royal fun – and it's also about remembering our beloved **Joyce Maguire**.



Newcomers to BCCF may not realize what an enormous role Joyce played in bringing the choral federation to where it is today. Joyce was in on the beginning of the organization, she was its first Executive Director, before laying her mantle on the shoulders of **Willi Zwozdesky**, who she'd been eyeing as a potential successor. The BCCF office ran out of Joyce's kitchen, where, functioning on less sleep than anyone I know, you could find her working at 3:00 AM.

When I persuaded **Richmond Chorus** to take on the organization of *Chorifest 2010*, it was very much with the success of our *Chorifesta 2004* in mind, and I was thinking of Latino-themed plans – perhaps *Chorifesta Navidad*, with Christmas music in May. But Joyce's death, and the need to commemorate her at a provincial BCCF event, rather than just a local Vancouver one, led us to recall Joyce's strong English roots, her passion for Victorian baby-clothes, her delight in such traditions as the *Last Night of the Proms* – and we knew we had the makings of a theme. As attendees at the Chorifest in Powell River will recall, the Richmond Chorus delegation serenaded the dinner guests with a Chorifest welcome song to the tune of *Land of Hope and Glory*. Tiaras and flags were the order of the day, and the invitations to our **ROYAL CHORIFEST** were passed out.

Since then, matters have moved apace. Bruce Pullan has consented to be our clinician – though we will share him with the **BC Chamber Choir**. The repertoire for the weekend will be:

Handel: *Coronation Anthem No.2 – The King Will Rejoice**
Tavener: *Song for Athene* (sung for Princess Diana's funeral)
Vaughan Williams: *Let All the World* (the last of the *Five Mystical Songs*; sung at the Queen's Jubilee concert)
Gilbert & Sullivan: *A Regular Royal Queen* (from *The Gondoliers*)*
Rutter: *God Be In My Head* (sung for the Queen Mother's funeral)
Parry: *Coronation anthem: I Was Glad*

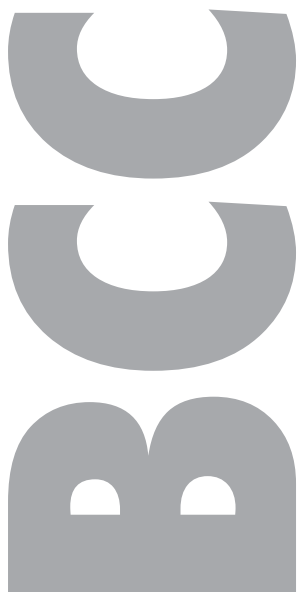
As in recent years, all the Chorifest music will be put onto rehearsal CDs, so that participants may arrive with the repertoire already learned, and we can focus on making music. Asterisked titles (*) denote public domain and BCCF editions available only through registration.

The Chorifest rehearsal venue will be the **Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel** in Richmond, on Cessna Drive, where we have arranged a good room rate; the Saturday evening banquet will take place there too. On Sunday we will move to UBC's Chan Shun Concert Hall for the final rehearsals and the afternoon concert. Because this is a Lower Mainland Chorifest, it is on a NON long-weekend; unfortunately the only date we could get the Chan was on Mothers' Day – so we hope all the Lower Mainlanders will consider bringing their Moms to the concert and out to dinner afterwards! The brochure is currently being designed and will be out immediately after Christmas; please keep an eye on the Chorifest page on the BCCF website for updates as and when they occur.

We look forward to welcoming friends old and new to Chorifest 2010.

Submitted by Brigid Coult, Conductor, Richmond Chorus

AWARDS 2009



The HERBERT KENT AWARD

The Herbert Kent Award is given for long-term participation in choirs and choral singing, to an individual who displays outstanding commitment and responsibility to choral music.

This award is for long term service to regional choirs and includes but is not limited to singers, accompanists, publicists, choir historians, etc.

Herbert Kent was a founder and early director of the Arion Male Voice Choir in Victoria, as well as one of its committed singers. His involvement spanned more than 60 years, during which time he also served as choir historian. The choir, established in 1893, is the longest continuously running choir on the west coast of North America.

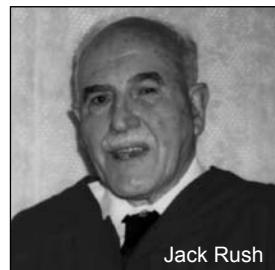
NOMINEES:

JACK T RUSH

Jack Rush joined St. Philip's Anglican Church Choir at age 17 and continued to sing with them until just short of his 90th birthday. Jack was active in sports, enjoyed improvising at the piano, and was active in many church activities. He still had time for other interests such as gardening, wine making and spending time at his Saturna Island Cabin. Jack Rush was born in Liverpool, England in 1918, the youngest of five children whose

father was a sea captain. The family emigrated to Vancouver in 1924. He obtained B.A and M.A. at UBC and later studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. During World War II he was a meteorology instructor in the RCAF. He taught French, Latin and German at Lord Byng High for 21 years and was vice-Principal in three Vancouver Secondary schools until retirement in 1984.

Nominated by members of the St. Philip's Anglican Church Choir. Certificate issued November 2008



Jack Rush

JOE MORRISON

This letter from Gloria Brooks is a succinct and appropriate citation for Joe Morrison:

“As the BCCF Rep for the Central and South Okanagan, I wish to nominate Joe Morrison for the Herbert Kent Lifetime Achievement Award for choral music. It has been a pleasure to know Joe since my childhood and I was delighted to meet him again upon moving back to the Okanagan. I have always been impressed with Joe's love of choral music, his beautiful and distinctive tenor voice and his love of life! I remember singing with him in the Penticton United Church choir as a teenager – he brought such a warm and light-hearted spirit to the group! Joe has been a member of that same choir since 1952, a member of the Naramata Community Choir since 1972 and joined the Penticton Tuneagers in 1984. Collectively, over 100 years of choral singing!

Joe is very frail of body these days, but he wouldn't miss the opportunity to do what he loves so much! I would be honoured to present the Herbert Kent award to Joe Morrison at the Dec. 11th, 2008 Christmas Concert, featuring the Penticton United Church Sanctuary Choir and the Sage Valley Voices of Oliver.”

Nominated by Gloria Brooks and Carol McGibney on behalf of the Naramata Community Choir.

Certificate issued December 2008

The AMY FERGUSON AWARD

The Amy Ferguson Award is given to an outstanding choral director who is also an excellent vocal teacher fostering superior vocal practice. Dr. Amy Ferguson was the founder and conductor of the renowned Nelson Boys' Choir. From 1931 until her death in 1972, she was mentor and guide to hundreds of young people in the Nelson area as a voice and piano teacher and choral conductor. Many of Mrs. Ferguson's students went on to distinguished careers as vocal soloists and teachers.

NOMINEES:

GILLIAN HUNT

With a flair for the theatrical, a perfectionist approach to technique and unusual programming, Gillian has enabled Pandora's Vox and Espiritu to become widely applauded players in the Vancouver music scene.

Founder/Director Gillian Hunt is a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and has developed a unique approach to choral conducting that fully engages and amuses her singers. Gillian has worked both as a classical soloist and a jazz performer and brings a thorough knowledge of vocal technique to all her endeavours.



Gillian Hunt

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cont. from previous page

Nominated by Pandora's Vox Vocal Ensemble Society.

Certificate issued December 2008.

DR. GARRY FROESE

Garry Froese received his musical education in Canada and the United States. His interests have led him to earn degrees in a variety of areas including voice performance, music education, arts administration, and choral conducting. He has studied with a number of well-known conductors including Lloyd Pfautsch, Elmer Thomas, and Helmut Rilling. He has taught in Winnipeg and San Diego CA. Since coming to Victoria he has served as Head of Fine Arts and Choral music at Glen Lyon Norfolk School, as well as instructing voice majors and conducting the Victoria Conservatory of Music Chorale. He has been conductor of the Linden Singers since 2008 where his gentle manner and highly effective techniques have been enthusiastically recognized.

Nominated by Dr. Bruce Howe, Joanne Hounsell, Peter Scales and the Linden Singers.

The JOYCE O. MAGUIRE AWARD

For outstanding, long-term service as a choral accompanist. Joyce Maguire had been pianist for the Vancouver Bach Choir since 1964 to 2004, and manager of its Children's and Youth projects since their inception. She was elected as Associate of the Royal Academy for achieving distinction in the profession, and also served as Executive Director of the BCCF from 1983 until 2004.

NOMINEES:

RYKIE AVENANT

Don James says: "Rykie Avenant is an accompanist extraordinaire - not only for technique and musicality but for "ears" - being able to assist the ensemble with "part support" where needed while rehearsing- a special gift experienced with only the best accompanists. In addition, her complete knowledge of languages and pronunciation, mastered while working as an opera répétiteur in South Africa, is of great assistance to



Rykie Avenant

any choir. Ms. Avenant is knowledgeable in repertoire, performance styles and has skill in tasteful programming. Rykie is pleasant to work with, animated and has class."

Nominated by Peter Yelland, Don James, Arlene McIntyre, Christine Dandy.

URSULA P. THOMAS

In Vancouver, Ursula was soloist and accompanist for many CBC Radio broadcasts and for fifteen years pianist for the CBC School Broadcasts. She was also a teacher of piano, voice, and organ at the Provincial School for the Blind where she trained the only blind children's choir in Canada. She served as Organist at Dunbar Heights and Chown Memorial United Churches and was an adjudicator for Music Festivals across BC, rehearsal accompanist for Theatre Under the Stars, and accompanist



Ursula P. Thomas

for the Vancouver Kiwanis Male Choir. After moving to Victoria, Ursula was organist at First United and subsequently Metropolitan United and accompanist for the Crystal Singers. In 2008 Ursula entered her 24th year as accompanist for the Arion Male Voice Choir. She is also Music Director at McCall Brothers Funeral Chapels.

Nominated by Susan Woods & the Crystal Singers, David Buckman & Arion Male Voice Choir, with citations from Richard Margison, Laurie Walker, Mary Kyle, and Harry Woznom.

ERIC HOMINICK

Nova Scotia-born Eric Hominick studied piano at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, received a BA in Voice from Dalhousie University

and a certificate from the Joseph Shore Voice Studio. He has been accompanist for the VCC School of Music choral program for twenty-six years as well as the classical program since 1990. He has played in the voice studio of several prominent teachers in the Vancouver area and his career as a baritone includes international touring and recording with the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Mr. Hominick has worked with such notable conductors as Jon Washburn, Wayne Ridell, Rupert Lang, Nancy Telfer, Diane Loomer, Iwan Edwards, Barbara Clarke and Bruce Pullan, and has accompanied many of Vancouver's pre-eminent choral ensembles including Elektra, Vancouver Children's Choir, and Chor Leoni. Erick is a regular accompanist and clinician for BC Choral Federation events, and in high demand as a vocal coach, collaborator, teacher, and soloist.



Eric Hominick

NOTICE TO CHOIRS

Did your choir sing in support of the Olympic Torch Relay? Will you be singing at a 2010 Vancouver Olympiad event? Please drop us a line at bccf@bcchoralfed.com and tell us about it. A province-wide summary will follow in the next edition.

Fall greetings from the President of the ACCC

I am delighted to share with you an exciting new project of ACCC—the **National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs!** This past June, CBC announced that it was stepping down from administering the popular biennial CBC National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs. Alarmed at this announcement, recognizing its profound value for the Canadian choral community, and wanting to ensure that there be a continuance of a national competition to serve, promote and honour our choral musicians, I am pleased to announce that ACCC has taken it over and is working in collaboration with and support of the Canada Council for the Arts/Conseil des Arts du Canada and CBC/Radio-Canada to present the 2010 competition, newly-named as the National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs. The application guidelines and procedures, competition categories, adjudication levels remain fundamentally the same. Minor adjustments to prizes and some aspects of running the competition have been made in order to accommodate financial considerations resulting from taking on such a significant project more than half way through its normal organizational and financial cycle. The deadline for submission of applications is **midnight February 12, 2010.** I



encourage you to be an important part of the continuance of this outstanding choral tradition! Please visit our website (www.choralcanada.org) for further information and to download the application forms. I look forward to hearing your choir in the competition!

Did you know that there are an estimated 38,000 choristers, conductors, composers and choral industry people who are members of their provincial and national choral organizations? No doubt there are several more choral practitioners who are not yet members of their provincial and national choral organizations, thus making the overall number of people involved in choral music making in Canada impressively large. Over the next five years, your Association of Canadian Choral Communities (ACCC) will be conducting a choral census in order to determine more precisely the number of people involved in the choral art in Canada.

Our national biennial conference, *Podium 2010 – Experience the Harmony*, is being held May 20-23, 2010 in Saskatoon. It promises a broad array of interest sessions and concerts by outstanding

national and international choral practitioners and ensembles. I look forward to seeing you there! Please consider submitting nominations for the national awards for outstanding contributions to the Canadian choral community (choral publication, choral work, choral recording, innovative sponsorship, choral event, distinguished service, student essay (new) to be awarded at Podium 2010. Further information about guidelines and deadlines can be found on our website www.choralcanada.org.

Consider serving on the Board of ACCC by allowing your name to stand or nominating someone else for the position of President Elect. Let your voice be heard! For further information please visit our website www.choralcanada.org.

We hope you are enjoying our monthly e-newsletter, *Choral Bytes*. Through it we are working towards connecting the vast Canadian choral community by providing national and international news and events, links and information which may be of interest to and helpful for you.

In collaboration with your provincial choral organization, we are your voice for celebrating, serving and promoting choral music in Canada!

Best wishes for rewarding music making in the months ahead!

Sincerely,

Debra Cairns

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federations in Canada and gratefully receives funding through the Canada Council for the Arts. It is a member of the Canadian Conference of the Arts, the Canadian Arts Coalition, the Canadian Music Educators' Association, and the International Federation for Choral Music. For more information, please contact:

Christina Murray
Executive Director

Association of Canadian Choral
Communities (902) 442.7054
acc@choralcanada.org
www.choralcanada.org

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For eight years, the **Victoria Children's Choir** has been pursuing the highest standards of training and performance. Established in 2001 by Madeleine Humer, the Victoria Children's Choir accepts children, from ages 8 to 15, who like to sing. The Choir promises an experience of the world of music created through the ages, in a range of languages and styles from Gregorian chant through *Gershwin* and into gospel and contemporary. In its short history, the Victoria Children's Choir has performed regularly with the **Victoria Symphony, Sooke Philharmonic, Pacific Baroque Orchestra** and **Pacific Opera Victoria**, as well as at major international conferences and festivals. It has also been honoured

with the opportunity to perform for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The choir participated in Powell River's renowned *International Choral Kathaunmixv*, and was featured as one of the guest choirs giving a concert for *Choropodium*, the *Canadian National Choral Symposium* in Victoria in May, 2006.

Through the three choir levels within the Victoria Children's Choir organization young singers develop their vocal skills in a positive and nurturing environment. The **Recital Choir - Junior Singers** – children ages 8 up, works under their own choir director and perform a repertoire specific to young singers.

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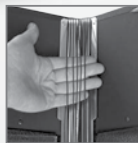
Some binder rings can misalign.

But not ours – thanks to a positive interlock.

Single tab on new RingBinder opens rings, while detachable bottom strap lets it open flat (left) when needed. Available in standard 3-ring, or European 4-ring or 2-ring versions.



CHORAL CLASSICS CHORALEX™ Compact (above left) opens to approximately 17 inches (43 cm) wide in concert (V) configuration. The Black Folder (above right) is highly customizable with such options as removable rings, extra cords to double capacity and a clear program pocket. ECBF-CP version shown.



Secure hand strap on all our choral folders adds to your singing confidence.

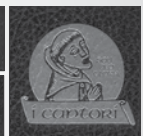
SING BRILLIANTLY! It's hard to sight-read when it's too dark to see your score. Both the XtraFlex single and twin-head DUET lights use ultra-efficient LED bulbs that last a lifetime and run many hours – up to 40 in the XtraFlex, and 20 in the DUET – on one set of AAA batteries.



STAMP OUT ANONYMITY

Permanent foil stamp adds an elegant touch and easy identification

to any folder. Imprint your name or choir logo in gold or any of several other colours.



DON'T BLOW IT

PocketTones™ electronic pitch pipe is more accurate and sanitary than mouth-blown and small enough for a key chain. With handy on/off switch and volume control.



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MUSICFOLDER.com Gig Bag totes music, folders, daytimer, water bottle, pitch pipe, lunch – even a change of clothes. It's an indispensable musical vehicle when you're carrying more than just tunes.



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