



i n choir

<http://www.geocities.com/ottawachoir/>

Issue number 1



The choir begins a new decade and new challenges for the future. For up-to-date information, including practice schedules, check out the Central Children's Choir website at <http://www.geocities.com/ottawachoir/>

'Let's make a difference'

Role in community
broader than music

By Barbara Clark
Director, Chamber Choir

A new season! A new year! A new millennium! What opportunities lie ahead!

Welcome to all new families of the Central Choir programme and special greetings to those who have shared with us in past years.

Last year we celebrated our 40th anniversary and did it in grand style! Money was raised for the purpose of building a well in a developing country

through WaterCan and for the children of Sierra Leone. Choir members planted trees to beautify Ottawa and took part in the Terry Fox Run. With this year we begin a new decade and new challenges for the future.

You are part of that future.

Every year brings with it new experiences and new possibilities. This year certainly began with great excitement in our invitation to participate in the investiture of Adrienne Clarkson as Canada's new Governor-General.

This was in addition to a wedding appearance and the launching of National Arts

Centre Orchestra Appreciation Week at the RMOC Building. The members of this choir have earned an enviable reputation in this city and abroad for dependability and responsibility in their chosen art – choral music. We will continue to uphold that reputation proudly and with respect and care.

It is my hope that you will enjoy your contribution to the choir's history and that you will make a conscious effort to take part in all phases of our activities. Our role in the community is much broader than music alone.

Let's make a difference.

Excellence is our aim

By Yvonne Navratil
Director, Concert Choir

It is difficult to believe that Remembrance Day is now behind us, and that Christmas is rapidly approaching! I'm sure that the Remembrance Day ceremonies will remain as a special event in the lives of the children who took part. I hope that they now know the pride and pleasure that is felt by singing so well. It is worth all the rehearsals and memory work involved. Excellence is what we strive to achieve and is always worth that extra effort!

We are now hard at work on the Christmas music and preparing for forthcoming events. These include the United Way concert on November 17th, the School visits on the mornings of November 24th and 25th. Our Christmas concert is on December 9th at Brookfield High School, and finally, the carol concert at 240 Sparks Street on December 15th (small group only).

Thank you to all the parent volunteers and choral assistants who help in the smooth-running of the choir. We couldn't do it without you and your efforts are much appreciated by Linda and myself. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, happy year 2000.

Choir takes 'trip of a lifetime'

By Lauren Kronick
Member, Chamber Choir

It was the trip of a lifetime. On July 3, 1999, 47 members of the Central Children's Chamber Choir of Ottawa-Carleton boarded the plane at the Macdonald-Cartier International Airport which flew us to London.

One of the first things we noticed when we came outside the airport was that the cars were driving on the wrong side of the road! Then we had to remind ourselves that, yes, we were in Great Britain, and this is how their transit system works.

Our choir came to perform at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod. It had competed there many years ago, and it was great to be invited back on our 40th anniversary. Llangollen is a small town in Wales, but during the festival, there are about 150,000 people visiting. We were all still suffering from jet lag, but we managed to pull ourselves together for competition. Our results were quite impressive: we placed 15th out of 26 choirs.

After four days of endless shopping in the festival kiosks, listening to other choirs and staying at a wonderful all-girls boarding school, it was time to move on. Our next stop was Stratford-on-Avon, where we toured around the Shakespeare houses (his birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage). Then, we came to the most highly-anticipated stop in London! We visited all the tourist attractions, like St. Paul's Cathedral, beautiful Buckingham Palace, the mys-



In July, 47 members of the Central Children's Chamber Choir of Ottawa-Carleton, including Lauren Kronick, right, visited Great Britain.

terious Tower of London. From London, we traveled to Southend-on-Sea where we performed with the Southend Girls Choir at a very interesting concert hall – an old movie theatre that had been transformed into an auditorium! One of the most memorable, exciting parts of our trip was set in Southend. We spent part of the day at an amusement park called Peter Pan's Adventure Island! The amusement park has the world's longest pier that you are able to walk or take a train down. So we did the 2 1/2-mile walk, and performed at a little café right across the sea from

France.

From Southend, we went to Canterbury where we performed at the enchanting Canterbury Cathedral, and afterwards had a tour of the crypt. Soon, we were on our way back to London to visit two palaces: Hampton Court Palace and Windsor Castle. That was the last day of our trip, and before we knew it, on July 19th, we were on a plane heading back to Ottawa!

The choir did a fantastic job at the festival and with all our concerts in Great Britain, and I am sure that this trip will be in our memories for a very long time.

Grocery certificates benefit choir

The Choir receives up to 5% of whatever you spend on groceries each week, thanks to an effortless fundraising program. Certificates are redeemable at any Loblaws or Independent Grocers. It really is 'money for nothing'. Certificates are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at regular Choir practices and can be purchased in \$50, \$25 or \$20 denominations.

There are no expiration dates and if the total amount of the coupon is not spent, the store will give you the 'change' in cash.

Please make cheques payable to Central Children's Choir. For information, call Lisa Hamer at 526-1988.

How to Submit an Article to IN CHOIR

IN CHOIR is a publication of the Central Children's Choir of Ottawa-Carleton. Choristers, this is your newsletter - you and your family are invited to submit stories, articles, drawings, photos, poems, concert reviews -- almost anything that will make *IN CHOIR* speak for you .

Here's how:

Hand in on disc to Linda Griffiths or e-mail Maggie Lodge at maggie_lodge@carleton.ca.

Brief hard copy or hand-written submissions are acceptable.

Choir brings 'a note of hope' to Remembrance Day ceremonies

Mother, chorister share memories of day on Hill

By Susan Gurofsky
Choir parent

This year Remembrance Day dawned brilliantly sunny and very cold. Simon and I bundled up well for our first choir performance and arrived on Parliament Hill half an hour early. We went looking for hot chocolate, and returned just in time for Simon to take his place with the others on the steps.

T.V. crews were everywhere. While the children rehearsed with the band, cameras swung back and forth on long booms or were carried on shoulders, and from time to time, loud-speakers screeched. Despite the distractions, the children sang beautifully.

After rehearsal the children were marched off to the West Block, to

warm up with hot chocolate and Timbits. Then K-ways, headbands and poppies transformed them from a random assortment of youngsters into a choir. Outside, the other participants and spectators were assembling. The silvery notes of the carillon floated down on all of us waiting to begin.

The ceremony was simple, but moving. The choir began



Choir members enjoyed watching the ceremonial guard on Parliament Hill.

it with O Canada.

After two minutes of silence, antique planes flew overhead; many people laid wreaths; and several speakers paid tribute to the assembled veterans, their families, and so many absent.

Their clear young voices sounded a note of hope that we will maintain the peace won for us at great cost by so many Canadians.

During this time the choir sang In Flanders Fields and two other songs and ended with God Save the Queen. The ceremony concluded with

the veterans' parade.

The smooth organization of so many children into a performing unit and the mature quality of their singing are testimony to the hard work of parent helpers, choir managers, conductors and the children themselves. Their contribution to the Remembrance Day ceremony was very special. Their clear

young voices sounded a note of hope that we will maintain the peace won for us at great cost by so many Canadians.

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By Simon Gurofsky
Chorister

As I walked up the main steps on Parliament Hill, I felt incredibly nervous. And who wouldn't be? I looked at the crowd and the cameras and very nearly forgot my lines!

But as the choir started singing, I regained my confidence and remembered every word.

Suddenly I noticed a camera focussing on me.

I was terrified of forgetting everything! But I managed to get through it and I was filled with pride that I would be broadcast across the nation.

The ceremony was very nice, and I especially enjoyed the planes flying overhead.

'A wonderful experience'

By Gerri Lutaaya
Grade Six, St. Margaret Mary's School

As the guard played the Last Post on the trumpet, the Canadian and Ontario flags were being lowered in memory of those who had died for us during the Second World War.

As the two minutes of silence continued, the bullets were beginning to be shot somewhere behind the Parliament Building. The choir members then sang as the wreaths were being laid.

After a few more songs had been sang and many words had been said, the choir members who were seated in the front row went to watch the parade, which was in honour of the veterans, soldiers, peacekeepers, etc.

It was such a wonderful experience for me at my first performance with both the Concert and Chamber Choir. I will always have sweet memories.

New CD available early December

The new CD is titled *Evolutions* and will cost \$18, including taxes.

An order form will be sent home with each choir member next week.

Upcoming events

Chamber Choir

Friday, November 19, 9 a.m.
Ontario Music Educators'
Provincial Crowne Plaza Hotel
Conference

Sunday, December 12,
2:30 p.m.
Christmas Reflections
Knox Church
"A Child's Christmas in Wales"

Friday, December 17, 7 p.m.
Community Carol Sing
St. Barnabas Church

Saturday, January 29, 2 p.m.
Youth Concert, NAC

Concert Choir

Thursday, December 9, 7 p.m.
Christmas Concert
Brookfield H.S.
"Rejoice and Be Merry"

Wednesday, December 15
12 noon
Caroling at 240 Sparks St.

A parent's perspective

Each Tuesday when I arrive to pick up my daughter from choir practice, I am amazed at what the children have accomplished and am overwhelmed at how harmonious and angelic they sound. Their voices personify the beauty and creativity around us.

The choir, to me, solidifies the hope to a brighter future for all young lives.

Maggie Lodge
(mother of Lana Lodge)

'A huge honour for us'

Choir performs
at installation
of Governor-General

By Karen Hamer

Membership in the Central Children's Choir has provided many enriching highlights, which form lasting memories in one's life. One such event was being a part of the installation ceremonies of the 26th Governor General of Canada, which took place on October 7, 1999.

Chamber Choir had a few short weeks in which to prepare the material for this significant event, therefore it was a very busy time for each of the members. However, everything finally came together for the big day, and our choir was the first artistic group to welcome Mme Adrienne Clarkson into the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings, prior to her ceremony in the Senate chamber.

The song we performed was, I believe, very appropriate for such an event with the words "Come celebrate this triumphant day!"

I am sure each and every one of us felt proud to be a part of this historic moment, as Mme Clarkson, her husband, and the Prime Minister and his wife stood directly in front of our choir, listening to the entire song.

At the end of the singing,



Every chorister felt proud to be part of history as Adrienne Clarkson became Governor-General.

Mme Clarkson approached the choir and shook hands with several members, showing her interest in people as well as her appreciation for the choral music.

She was also delighted to learn that some choir members are students at Lisgar Collegiate, which was the high school she attended while growing up in Ottawa.

This opportunity to sing and be present at what was obviously a very special day for Mme Clarkson, was a huge honour for us.

To top it all off, coverage of the entire event on national television added to the excitement and provided friends and relatives across Canada a chance to share this special moment in time with all of us.

The magic of Unisong

Chance to meet friends,
feel pride in Canada

By Wallis Giunta
Member, Chamber Choir

Unisong – A time to celebrate the triumphs and glories of our country through music. On Canada Day, one choir from every province joins in Ottawa to sing together. We look forward to this as a time to learn, have fun and meet new friends, but most of all, to sing for Canada.

Last year, we held our rehearsals at Christ Church Cathedral and anyone who was there remembers how hot it was crowding approximately 1,000 people into that hall. But the important part for me was the feeling I got when we all sang together. The pride on everyone's face was just magical.

My sister, Marley, made one of her best friends during Unisong '99. She was from Manitoba, and they are still penpals. I think that a lot of people had similar experiences, and it's amazing how music can bring us together like that!

I would like to express my appreciation to our director, Mrs. Clark, for preparing us for this event and for all her hard work in organizing it. I would also like to thank the Unisong director Bruce Pullan. He was responsible for teaching us how to make the music come alive. When we gathered in Ottawa, we were a group of singers, but he made us into a choir, and I think most people will agree with me when I say that the result was outstanding.