



# InChoir

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February 2002

## Registration fees to rise next year

Major grant pulled, choir board faced with "little choice"

Faced with a serious decline in grant revenue, the Board of Directors of the Central Children's Choir approved significant increases in the fee structure of the three choirs at its January meeting.

Registration fees for next year (2002-2003) will increase to \$525 for Chamber choristers and to \$375 for members of the Viva and Concert choirs.

The Board had little choice but to increase the fees. Until recently, the Choir had received an annual operating grant from the Ottawa Board of Education (now called the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board). This

money represented a significant proportion of the Choir's budget. But the School Board, facing drastic cuts imposed by the provincial government, has been forced to eliminate this type of expenditure.

The reduction of the grant from the School Board has been implemented gradually. This year the Choir received \$5,000. As of September 2002, the Choir will no longer receive any funding from the OCDSB.

Much discussion took place at the board meeting on the need to ensure that children whose families can not afford the registration fees will not be prevented from joining the choir. A Bursary Fund is to be established to provide financial assistance to as many choristers as possible.

### Bursary Fund Established

With registration fees set to increase by as much as 85 per cent next year, the Board of Directors of the Choir is moving quickly to ensure that children are not excluded from the Choir because their families cannot afford to pay the fees.

At the January meeting of the Board, the establishment of a Bursary Fund was approved. The inspiration for the fund came from Lauren Kronick. A couple of years ago, Lauren donated \$350 from her Bat

Mitzvah money to assist other choristers having difficulty meeting the costs of choir membership.

A Bursary Committee will be established to review applications for the fund. Grants will be awarded to choristers on the basis of merit and the balance of money in the fund.

Parents are encouraged to solicit contributions for the Bursary Fund from individuals and companies. Individual contributions are eligible to receive a charitable tax receipt.

## Choir fundraising efforts miss the targets

Only 41 per cent of budget achieved; parents urged to help

As presented at the Parents' meeting last fall, the fundraising budget was \$34,000, based on a contribution of \$200 per chorister.

Further, for those families not wishing to fundraise, it was noted that a donation of \$200 was acceptable.

Families were reminded of this in a letter sent home before Christmas.

By the end of last year, the overall response to meeting our goal has been extremely disappointing – both chorister participation and funds raised. The following table summarizes the results for each of

Event	Target	Achieved	Participation
Mary Kay	\$2,000	\$528	23%
Santa's Little Helpers	\$7,000	\$3,512	57%
Raffle	\$10,000	\$6,637	88%
Loblaws	\$4,000	\$395	22%
Donations		\$3,045	16%
<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	<b>\$14,117</b>	

the events held to date.

We have only achieved 41.5% of our \$34,000 budget!

With only half the choristers participating in Santa's Little Helper, this sale of seasonal gifts, candies and wrapping paper raised \$3,500, about 50 per cent short of its target of \$7,000.

The Mary Kay Product promotion raised \$525, well short of the \$2,000 target, while the revenue

from Loblaws money programme has declined precipitously to only \$395.

This amounts to less than 10 per cent of the money required to meet the \$4,000 target.

From a chorister perspective, the participation rate in each event is not only low, but the individual contribution within the event is also small.

Thanks to the efforts of a few

dedicated families, the results look a lot better than they really are. The majority of chorister families are clearly falling far short of meeting their \$200 goal -- and the budget is in jeopardy.

So where do we go from here? Two more fundraising events are planned – the popular berries (next month) and flowers (in the spring). The Loblaws gift certificates are available on a weekly basis.

Donations in lieu of fundraising should be forwarded to the office as soon as possible.

How close to the \$200 is your family? If you don't know, please call the office.

A 100% effort is needed now – let's do it!



## One Drop an "Awesome" Performance

The Chamber Choir played a central role in a benefit concert for WaterCan and the Cantata Singers of Ottawa on Saturday, January 26, 2002 at Christ Church Cathedral. Hosted by Rob Clipperton, the concert was enriched by guest artists Irena Welhasch-Baerg, Stéphanie Lemelin, Joanna G'froerer and Chipso Shambare.

The highlight was a wonderful piece by Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield entitled "One Drop," in which the Chamber Choir and the Cantata Singers (and the audience, too, at one point) joined forces to evoke the magic and mystery of water – the essence of life. It was a tour de force, a complex and detailed piece of music that pushed the Chamber Choir to its very best; an "awesome" performance, as one of the choristers described it afterwards.

To The Central Choir Members and Parents:

On Saturday, January 26, 2002 the Chamber Choir of the Central Children's Choir was a proud performer in the 2nd Annual Fundraising Concert for WaterCan.

The choir members played a very important part in the evening's programme – not the least of which was a cheque for five hundred dollars (\$500.) to WaterCan in support of our Singing Well in Ethiopia. This was the result of donations to

our blue watercan made by the children in each of the three choirs at rehearsals over the past two years. We set our goal of \$500. for January 25 and we made it! Thanks to one and all for your generous contributions to this very important cause. May we all remember it is an ongoing commitment to those less fortunate than ourselves. You ARE making a difference.

Barbara Clark,  
Director



### Committee searches for new Chamber Conductor

The Board of Directors, at its January meeting, set up a special committee to search for and recommend a replacement for Barbara Clark, who will resign as conductor of the Chamber Choir July 31. Named to the committee: Eileen Scotton (Chair, Board of Directors, former Chair, Ottawa Board of Education); Arnold Earl (member, Board of Directors, former conductor, Central Children's Choir); Wendy Old (member, Board of Directors, former Music Specialist, Carleton Board of Education). A representative (yet to be named) from the Ottawa choral music community will also serve on the committee.

**This edition of *In Choir* was produced by: Cathy Campbell, Philip Cheetham, David R. Miller, Michael Ostroff and Eileen Scotton.**

**The Communications Committee would like to make *In Choir* a monthly publication. To do so we need more volunteers. If you can write, edit, do layout or take pictures, please let us know. E-mail: [m.ostroff@sympatico.ca](mailto:m.ostroff@sympatico.ca)**



Yvonne Navratil, director of the Concert and Viva Choirs, acknowledges the warm response of the audience at the annual Christmas Concert. "The concert," she said, "was well attended and well received."