



InChoir

www.geocities.com/ottawachoir/

January 2001

Come to a Pie Party Plus

The Chamber Choir invites you to a wonderful social evening of dessert, coffee and entertainment.

Pie Party Plus takes place at Christ Church Cathedral, 420 Sparks Street, on Saturday, February 17th, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$15 each. And tables of eight may be reserved if you want to make a party of it. Proceeds from this event will help support the Chamber Choir's trip to Tuscany, Italy, in July 2001. Performers include Soprano Shawn Elizabeth, Mezzo Christine Finlay, Tenor Dr. Fraser Rubens, Baritone Garth Hampson, Pianist Luba Sluzar Pope, along with Master of Ceremonies Rob Clipperton. Contact Linda Griffiths to order tickets.



Happy New Year!

Exciting plans in store for 'real' millennium

By Barbara Clark
Director, Chamber Choir

When one reflects on the year that has passed, it is customary to be proud of one's accomplishments and learn from one's mistakes. Well, thinking only of the four months from September to December, I can only congratulate one and all on the accomplishments of that busy season.

It is amazing what the human being can do when given the opportunities to succeed!

It is now 2001 - the new millennium has REALLY begun - or was that last year? Along with our regular demands for the new season, the Chamber Choir has accepted an invitation to return to participate in the Tuscany International Children's Choir Festival in Italy from July 2 - 10, 2001. This will involve rehearsals and performances in Montecatini, Florence, San Gimignano, Pisa and Rome. The last 3 days in Rome include

singing en masse at a morning mass at St. Peter's - a tremendous experience for all. Having been a part of this festival in 1995, all agree that this was only one of the many highlights.

Our Spring Concert on May 10 is another reason for excitement as we celebrate the wonderful world of stories. All members of both choirs are invited to submit original poems, prose, haiku to the story box between now and April 1.

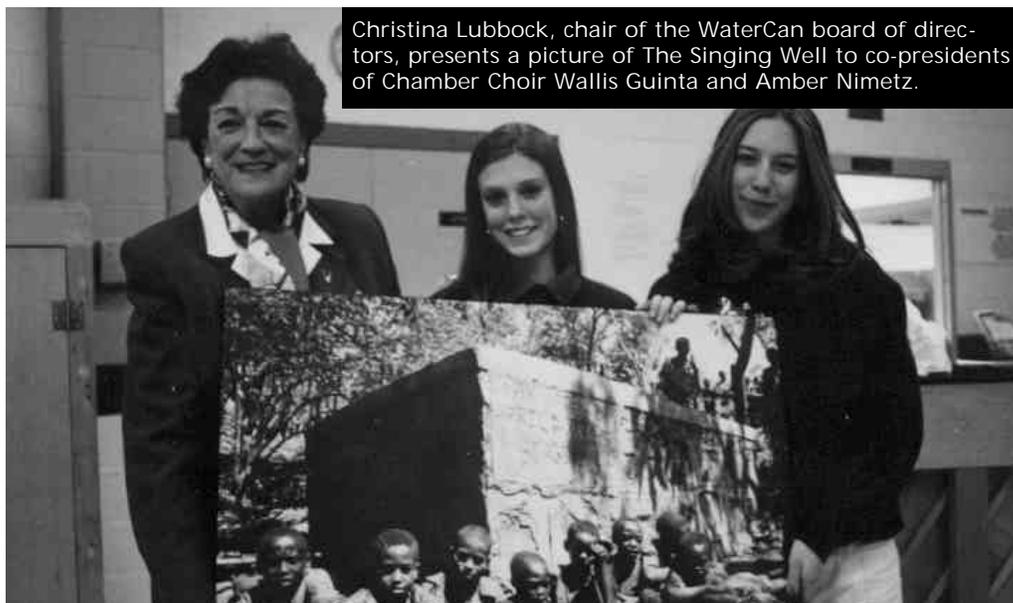
Please see **Year** on page 2

INSIDE

Alive and Well:
Choir raises funds to support WaterCan, page 2

Grocery certificates: An easy way to help the choir, page 2

Children's Voices:
Thoughts and memories, page 3



Christina Lubbock, chair of the WaterCan board of directors, presents a picture of The Singing Well to co-presidents of Chamber Choir Wallis Guinta and Amber Nimetz.

Year: Sharing talents

Continued from page 1

As well, we would like choir members of both choirs to write a brief Central Choir choral memory – something you remember happening or NOT happening at a concert or rehearsal or during a tour. They can be humorous or serious. Some of these will be selected to be read at the Spring Concert as part of the programme. So put on those thinking caps and share with us your memories and talents!

Our year in Chamber Choir is further enriched with performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in March and May.

- March 21 and 22: Carmina Burana by Carl Orff
 - May 30 and 31: Midsummer Night's Dream by Mendelssohn
- Please note: TICKETS FOR THESE CONCERTS MUST BE PURCHASED AT THE NAC BOX OFFICE OR TICKETMASTER. They are also subscription concerts and therefore are already 80% sold. Do not wait - act now if you are hoping to attend!
- Have YOU set YOUR goals and objectives for the new year?

Water, water everywhere – and not a drop to drink!

In 1998-99, the year of the choir's 40th anniversary, we took on the challenge of raising one thousand dollars to contribute to the opening of a well in Africa under the auspices of WaterCan.

If you happen to have the December issue of *Reader's Digest* in your home, you will have read the story of Ryan's Well. Ryan came to visit us when we first discussed our project. This December, Christina Lubbock, Chair of the WaterCan Board of Directors, came to update us on the state of our well.

Christina Lubbock is the mother of Shelagh Rogers of CBC fame and a former member of the Central Choir. What an exciting event to have this circle of life as part of our legacy for years to come!

In our office now is a wonderful picture taken by Christina Lubbock at the site of THE SINGING WELL in Ethiopia. She had the photo enlarged and mounted beautifully for us for presentation on December 20.

The support and maintenance of this project is ongoing and therefore you will see a blue watercan on the table at each rehearsal through the year. You are encouraged to drop in a dime or a quarter or a loonie as you pass by. Each time we treat ourselves to a pop and

chips or similar, perhaps we might think of what we have done for someone else that day or week.

As we proceed to our 45th anniversary in 2003 (not that far away!) one of the fruits of the 40th in 1998 will be one of the most important initiatives in our history – and maybe YOU will

visit that very site as an adult in the years to come!

New members and old, let us remember the needs of those so far away, helping to provide them with one of life's most precious resources – CLEAN WATER.

In our office now is a wonderful picture taken by Christina Lubbock at the site of THE SINGING WELL in Ethiopia.

A REVISION

The Central Children's Choir has once again been honoured by having an original piece of music written for it. *If I Were the Moon*, written by James Wright, a parent of a Concert Choir chorister, will be performed by both choirs at our Spring Concert on May 10th.

In the past the Central Children's Choir has had music written especially for it. Havelock Nelson from Ireland wrote a piece for Central Choir in the sixties after adjudicating them here at the Music Festival. The version of *In Flanders Fields* that the Choir sang this year at the Remembrance Day ceremony was arranged for the

Central Choir. In 1971 Julian Leigh wrote *Puer Natus Est* for Central Choir. Nancy Telfer composed *Evolutions* to honour the Choir's 40th Anniversary. This is heard on the latest CD that the Choir made, titled *Evolutions* and available for purchase from Cynthia Greer or Linda Griffiths.

Grocery certificates benefit choir

The choir receives up to five per cent of whatever you spend on groceries each week, thanks to an effortless fundraising program. Certificates are redeemable at any Loblaw's or Independent Grocers. 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 the store will give you the change in cash. Please make cheques payable to Central Children's Choir.

Christmas With Strings Attached

By Amanda Weinstock

Perhaps the greatest gift a child can give is the honest expression of his or her own talent. The best thing an adult can do is to encourage and appreciate.

The December 14 Concert Choir Christmas Concert was just such a gift.

The audience was treated to a delightful selection of seasonal favorites from the 101-member choir. In addition, the 31 member Lisgar Collegiate String Ensemble performed the Bach Double Concerto, and joined the choir in a number of pieces. Of special note was a "Garland of Carols" which was the outstanding climax of the evening.

"It was a very busy month made even more tense by the weather," admitted Linda Griffiths, Choir Manager. It had snowed steadily that day, adding to the heavy snow fall of the previous week. Linda estimates there were about 400 people in the audience. Advance ticket sales were strong.

All the parents attended, but perhaps some friends or other relatives couldn't make it. "The children did a super job," notes Linda. "The overall impression was 'wow!' This is a very young group with so many new members."

"I'm very pleased; I feel they've come a long way," comments Yvonne Navratil, choir director. "They are a lovely group of children, very hard working." Most years Yvonne has a core of 35 or 40 children who have returned from the previous year. When the



Concert choir director Yvonne Navratil at Christmas with Strings Attached.

mini choir of about 25 children sang Carol of the Angels and Santa's Sleigh, it was amazing to see the size of the new group who are learning to perform as members of a well disciplined choir. In

September she began directing a very young group who had very little technical knowledge. "They have nice voices, but little musical background," she

explains. Not all schools are able to provide the musical training they once did.

From September on, Yvonne gives the children training in all aspects of choral singing. The music selection reflects the degree of difficulty the group is capable of handling. "I go by what I hear." Songs like *Chatter With the Angels* are catchy, fun and not too difficult. The format of the December concert has remained constant over the years. At Yvonne's suggestion, there is no intermission, with the performance running just over 1 hour.

Master of Ceremonies, Eileen Scotton, Chair of the Choir Board of Directors, bravely lead the spec-

tators through a number of well known Christmas carols during breaks in the performance.

For the first year of the Concert Choir, the young group sang with the Chamber Choir at Knox

Church downtown. The audience was too large, with guests sitting in the aisles. Due to fire regulation, the two events had to be divided.

Traditionally another musical group is invited to perform. Trudy Bradley, director of

the Lisgar String Ensemble, must be thanked for bringing along her fine young protégés. It was wonderful for this parent to recognize young, accomplished adults she had last seen as 5 and 10 year olds in elementary school.

Cally Chornenky co-ordinated the team of concert volunteers. Although retired as a parent from the choir she continues her involvement. She made the phone calls organizing the ticket sellers, stage hands and designers. She suggested a budget of \$30 for the stage, and the team arranged for helium filled balloons, tinsel and brightly coloured notes.

Please see *Strings* on page 4

CHILDREN'S VOICES

'What does the holiday season mean to you?'

"It's the spirit of giving."
Brett Jeacle

"It's being nice to your friends."
Kirstin Jeacle

"It's a wonderful spiritual time of year – giving to other people – and friendship."
Nicholas Kharas

"It's giving and receiving the warmth of family and friends."
Lana Lodge

"It's a time when people get together and families get together."
Sarah Oddy

"It's about giving and sharing."
Vivienne Gaudry

"I really like being with my family and all the Christmas carols."
Erin Condran

"It means giving presents – giving means more than getting."
David Boileau

"A time of festivity and joy."
Tobi Weinstock

"It's about sharing and caring."
Jennifer Xu

-compiled by Maggie Lodge



Manager Linda Griffiths gives last-minute instruction.

Christmas with Brass / please see page 4

Calendar of Events / please see page 4

Christmas with Brass – a Class Act!

Capital BrassWorks
joins Chamber Choir
for 'remarkable' concert

By Monica Dvorzak-Boileau
and Terry Binnersley

Potted poinsettias, brilliantly red, brightened the altar of Knox Presbyterian Church on the afternoon of Sunday, December 10, 2000. The air was hushed and expectant. At precisely 4:00 p.m., the solemn quiet was dispelled by a joyful burst from the organ that heralded the Processional Carol. Choristers in their red dress uniforms filed ceremoniously up the aisle, while their voices invited the audience's participation in the spirit of *O Come All Ye Faithful*. So began Christmas With Brass, the musical Christmas offering of the Central Children's Chamber Choir of Ottawa, accompanied by Wesley Warren with guests the Capital BrassWorks Quartet.

The programme that afternoon was varied; time flew during the hour-long concert. A packed audience was treated to selections that were familiar as well as new, serious as well as light. The choir displayed mastery of such classical selections as *Let the Bright Seraphim* by Handel and *Laudate Dominum* by Mozart, the result of many hours of diligent practice. In contrast, the mood of the *Yodel Carol* arranged by Andrew Carter was bouncy and distinctly alpine.



Several of the pieces featured talented soloists. Evan Champion's clarion trumpet enlivened the selection by Handel, while Wallis Giunta's Mozart solo showed exceptional presence and virtuosity and Amber Nimetz and Emily Scott held the spotlight in *On ne craint plus dans l'univers*.

The lovely French carol *Noel Nouvelet* featured the cello skills of Steven Hawley, and Emily Tyson added a plaintive violin to the

haunting Jewish folk song *Eliyahu Hanavi*.

Capital BrassWorks, the National Capital region's newest brass ensemble, played two selections that showed their skill, sensitivity and versatility. Members of the audience listened appreciatively to *In Dulci Jubilo* by Michael Praetorius and then tapped their feet to the catchy rhythms of *Christmas Jazz Favourites* arranged by Lennie Niehaus.

The final portion of the concert included *Yuletide Fantasy*, featuring soloists Katie Binnersley and Alexander Wenzowski in a medley of several carols arranged by Cyril Hampshire, followed by a glorious rendition of *Psalm 150*, by David Wilcocks. The words of the psalm resonated clearly through the church, while trumpet and trombone added thrilling emphasis to capture the wonder of the season: "O praise God in his holiness...praise him in the sound of the trumpet...the loud cymbals, the loud cymbals, the loud cymbals!"

The fact that the choir and Capital BrassWorks had only practised together once before the concert is remarkable, given the effectiveness with which they delivered such a difficult piece.

The concert concluded with the audience joining the Chamber Choir as they sang the Recessional Carol, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

Many thanks to the members of the choir and especially to gifted director Barbara Clark.

Because of your talents and dedication, interpretive skills and musical sensitivity, I spent an afternoon totally enchanted by the glorious strains of melodious voices, soaring high into the rafters of the vaulted ceiling of the church.

It certainly put me in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas with Brass was a class act.

Strings: Thank you

Continued from page 3

Most of the poinsettias on stage were sold at the end of the night. The simple display set the stage for the real stars of the evening, the children. Cally is also liaison with the school and works from a checklist that includes such jobs as moving the choir's grand piano from McNabb to Brookfield, and having it tuned for the evening. It's hard to say who worked harder for the outstanding production. The children had given up their Saturday afternoons as well as evening rehearsals and practised on their own. The volunteers and parents braved the

winter weather, provided support and chauffeuring services and gave unpaid time toward the production. Yvonne Navratil, the director is the guiding force for the young group. Allison Prowse inspires all as the accompanist. Linda Griffiths provides compassionate and capable support as choir manager. The list goes on. One has to read the beautifully illustrated programme for the names of vocal assistants, choir mothers, and all children. It is a wonderful, generous team effort worthy of universal praise. Thank you ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys. It was a great show.

Submit an article
to INCHOIR

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

Here's how:

Hand in your stories on disk to Linda Griffiths or email them to Cathy Campbell at cathycam@sympatico.ca. Brief hard copy or hand-written submissions are acceptable.

A Chorister Well Rewarded

New chorister to Chamber Choir reflects on challenges, opportunities

By Jenny Cheetham and Family

The Christmas season is a busy time for everyone bringing with it shopping, over-eating, Santa Claus, parties, and for us, the making of wonderful music.

The Chamber choir has had many exciting performances this Christmas and as a first year Chamber choir chorister, it has been FUN.

The demands and challenges of being a member of this choir have been well rewarded.

The choir performed in a variety of venues ranging from the elegant Hunt Club for the International Club of Ottawa luncheon, the beautiful St. Barnabas church for a carol sing, and the NAC for the inauguration of the Mayor and Council of the new City of Ottawa.

The highlight of the season was at Knox Presbyterian church for our annual Christmas concert.

The beautiful setting with its fine acoustics, afforded each of the almost 400 concert-goers the opportunity to see and hear the choir at its finest.

The programme included new works, old favourites and several inspiring solos.

The inclusion of the Capital Brass Works Quartet rounded out the afternoon of wonderful music.

It was very exciting to be part of these performances, both as a chorister and a family in the audience.

We are mindful of the team effort it takes to produce such quality performances and we are grateful to the many who have contributed to its success.

The choir provides exposure to many varied opportunities, not the least of which is the upcoming July trip to Italy.

It is with great anticipation and excitement that we look forward to the rest of the year.



The choir performed at the elegant Hunt Club for the International Club of Ottawa luncheon.



The highlight of the holiday season was the Christmas concert at Knox Presbyterian, seen here in rehearsal.

Meet the choir's Board of Directors

At the Annual General Meeting on November 30th, 2000, the following people were elected to the Board of Directors of the Central Children's Choir.

President:

Eileen Scotton

Vice-President:-

Marianna McVey

Treasurer: David

Kirkwood

Co-Treasurer: Elaine

Stephens

Members-at-large:

Arnold Earl

Shirley Cummings

Wendy Old

Moe Beere

Philip Cheetham

Terry Marcotte

Leslie Scott

Barbara Clark

Yvonne Navratil

Linda Griffiths

Cut out this
Souvenir Bookmark

Central Children's Choir of Ot tawa
presents
"Sing Out Your Stories"
Thursday, May 10, 2001 7:30 PM
Brookfield High School



Musical Moments

Calendar of Events

Chamber Choir:

March 3 - Canadian Brier

March 21, 22 - Carmina

Burana NAC

April - Kiwanis Music

Festival

May 8, 9 - Student

Concerts McArthur High

School

May 10 - Spring Concert

Brookfield High School :

SING OUT YOUR STORIES

May 23 - Memorial Service

for Agnes Simpson Ongley, St.

John's Anglican Church

May 30, 31 - Midsummer

Night's Dream NAC

June 28-July 1 -

UNISONG

July 1 - 10: Italy

Concert Choir:

February - Kingsway

United Church

April - School Visits

April - Kiwanis Music

Festival

May 8, 9 - Student

Concerts McArthur High

School

May 10 - Spring Concert

Brookfield High School, SING

OUT YOUR STORIES

June 28 - July 1 -

UNISONG

