



# InChoir

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January 2002

## Harmony in Blue



The Concert and Chamber Choirs singing with Police Choirs from Ottawa, Hamilton, and Peel Regions. Police from across the country gather in Ottawa every September to honour officers killed in the line of duty.

## Viva la Viva

The newly-formed Viva section of the Choir is now well into its first season, and has already participated in the Santa Claus parade.

In connection with this, CBC television videotaped a rehearsal and interviewed choir members. This was part of a program shown on CBC TV December 2nd at 11:30 am.

Parents and others have asked why the need for a third choir. The choir is a response to the lack of music in our elementary schools. Auditions show that many of the youngsters have little or no knowledge of rhythm, notation or other elements of music – although they have lovely singing voices. It is like being able to read without knowing how to spell! As well, some children were feeling lost or frustrated because the Concert choir was becoming too large.

The Viva group is made up of forty delightful, enthusiastic young choristers, all eager to sing and learn. We have time to talk about the music, to learn about note values, to discuss the texts and how to sing intelligently.

We take time to 'smell the roses': to develop the requisite skills at a more leisurely pace and to enjoy our choral music making.

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## Keep the Children Singing

**T**he ongoing existence of our choir is being challenged like never before.

Not long ago, most of our funding came from the Ottawa school board.

As school boards have been forced to cut back drastically on budgets, money for our choir has been drying up.

Next year the choir becomes entirely self sufficient for the first time in its 42 year history.

In order to keep the choir alive and strong, it is vital that all choristers and their parents and families get involved in fundraising.

We need each other to keep the children singing!



# Barbara J. Clark, Order of Canada

*The Order of Canada recognizes people who have made a difference to our country. All Canadians are eligible for the Order of Canada, our country's highest honour for lifetime achievement.*

**Barbara J Clark, C.M.  
Ottawa, Ont.  
Member of the Order of Canada**



**She instills the joy of music and singing in students, teachers and audiences. A valued member of the National Capital Region's choral community, she is Founding Director of the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir and conductor of the Ottawa-Carleton Central Children's Choir since 1965. Sought-after for her talent as a vocal clinician and music educator, she is a popular leader of workshops and music camps throughout Canada. As Artistic Director of the Niagara International Music Festival and UNISONG, a feature attraction of our annual Canada Day Celebrations, she continues to encourage the development of choral music across the country.**

**We affectionately salute Barbara Clark who has been associated with the Central Children's Choir for 37 years. Barbara's contribution to our community and especially her work with our children have earned her membership in the Order of Canada. Barbara is retiring from the Choir in July.**

## Moving on: Board and Management Changes

**D**r. Marianna McVey, formerly Vice-President, and Elaine Stephens, formerly Assistant Treasurer, have resigned as Board members, in order to take on new administrative responsibilities.

Dr. McVey becomes Resource Development Director.

She will assume many of the duties previously carried out by the General Manager, and brings to her new position all the financial expertise of her accountancy profession.

Dr. McVey will keep us up-to-date on grants and other resources which will help ensure the Choir's future financial stability.

They will receive honoraria.

Our Treasurer, David Kirkwood, has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board until the May 2002 annual general meeting.



## Remembrance Day

**"... at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them." November, 11, 2001 .**

# A Fond Farewell to Linda

By Shirley Cummings

Linda Griffiths has been involved in a 'hands-on' way with the Choir for over four years. The first two years were spent as volunteer; for the past two years she has been both the Choir General Manager and the Manager of Concert Choir. This was a heavy load, but Linda shouldered her responsibilities earnestly and cheerfully--and then assumed even more tasks!

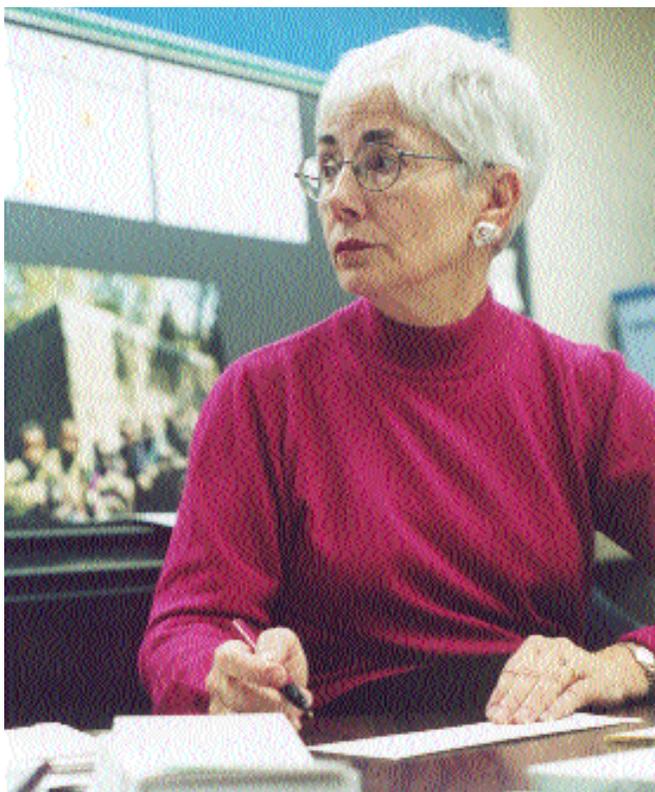
All were meticulously carried out, and she endeared herself to choristers, parents, choir conductors and members of the Board. Linda came to the Choir originally, not as the parent of a chorister, but as a former teacher with the Ottawa Board of Education. Many of the pupils in her enrichment classes were selected to sing in the Choir, and it was this, along with her love of music, which

piqued her interest. Linda has given of herself, her time and her energy, because she saw the value of keeping the children singing, and she wanted to help--she has helped so much and brought dedication and perfection to all her work.

We are so grateful to her and will miss her eagerness and thoroughness. We wish to convey our thanks to her family, for they have played a major role in sharing her with us: in giving up quality family time. They have given her true loyal support.

We wish Linda well in future endeavours, and ask her to accept our heartfelt thanks for all that she has done for the Central Children's Choir of Ottawa.

(N.B. Linda has graciously acceded to the Board's request that she remain as Concert Choir Manager until we find a replacement.)



We are so grateful to Linda Griffiths and we will miss her eagerness and thoroughness.

## Hanover Girls Choir Delightful

Singers shared our homes

By Anna-Lisa Kates,  
Parent of Chamber Choir member  
Lauren Morley

The Central Children's Choir hosted the MadchenChor from Hanover Germany October 7th to 10th.

The members of the choir stayed in our homes and shared our Thanksgiving customs.

We showed them the beauty of Gatineau Park in the peak of fall colours.

The highlight of their visit was a wonderful concert featuring the German Choir and the Chamber Choir. What a treat!

Hosting two girls from Germany was a memorable experience.

It was a sad day when our two new friends Nina and Franzi headed off. We wish them well.



Hanover Girl's Choir sing at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa. At right, Chamber Choir director Barbara Clark.

## InChoir is your newsletter

You and your families are invited to submit stories, articles, drawings, poems, concert reviews -anything that will make InChoir speak for you.

Here's How:

Hand in your stories to your choir manager. Brief hand-written submissions are acceptable. Disc is preferable.

To contact us:

Choir office: 233-4440.

By email:

escotton@sympatico.ca

(235-4055)

Our address:

McNabb Community Centre

180 Percy Street, Ottawa.

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Ottawa, Ontario

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# Chamber Choir Represents Canada in Italy

By Jola Miller  
and Allison Hockin

On July 1st, 2001, the Chamber Choir boarded a plane to Rome, Italy.

Despite leaving on Canada Day and missing the nation-wide festivities, we were able to keep our spirits high with our own celebrations. It's trips like this one, across the ocean to a country like Italy, that make you really proud to be Canadian.

We arrived tired but excited, and met our escort, Simona. As we watched out the bus windows on that first long trip from Rome to Montecatini, it hadn't sunk in that we were in Italy.

However, soon we were immersed in the Italian culture that was to surround us for the next ten days.

The first difference we encountered was the change in currency. With approximately 1500 Lira to a Canadian dollar, many choristers were reluctant to make many purchases, because everything seemed so expensive. Eventually, we became more accustomed to the extra zeros, but still longed for the simplicity of our dollar.

Probably one of the biggest contrasts was the change of scenery: the picturesque cobblestone streets, the gothic buildings, the magnificent fountains. Our surroundings alternated from downtown office buildings and fast-food chains to Roman-aged museums and small Italian ristorantes.

The atmosphere change was dramatic because of the narrow Italian streets filled with motorbikes and cars. All the cars in Italy were



**The Leaning Choir of Ottawa? : Members of Chamber Choir enjoyed an exciting 10 days in Italy this summer!**

much smaller than our North American styles, making the motorbikes predominant on the streets.

The biggest adjustment we had to make was to the food. The simple lunch we were used to (a sand-

wich, drink and fruit) was replaced by a four to-five course meal with salad, pasta, meat, potatoes and dessert. Also accompanying every meal was bread... But instead of the soft, almost chewy bread we commonly have in Canada, the

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bread was hard, and used to soak up the olive oil left from many of the dishes.

In Italy, more time was taken to prepare and cook the food. With no neon golden arches, pasta was the Italian fast food, and Baskin & Robbins was replaced by little gelato shops.

However, in the midst of all these changes, there were still plenty of reminders that we were Canadian. For instance, a couple of choristers were window shopping in a classy store called Barney's. When the manager heard our nationality, he told us in heavily accented English that anything we wanted was 20% off — proof of the high esteem Canadians enjoy abroad.

As we returned home on July 10, 2001, everyone's minds were full of Italian memories. Some choristers were glad to be returning home and many others wished they could have stayed a while longer. The result of months upon months of planning and practice was all packed into ten hectic, yet fun days in Italy.

Then, as we all stepped off the plane, everyone was happy to be home and proud to be a *Canadese*.

## Three choirs are in full swing!

This has been a busy year for all three choirs. The Viva choir took part in Ottawa's Santa Claus Parade November 25th. The Concert choir and the Chamber choir both sang at the Governor General's Awards for the Performing Arts November 3rd at the National Arts

Centre. The stirring performance was broadcast on national television on December 30.

All Choirs performed brilliantly at their annual Christmas Concerts.

Thanks to all parents who helped pull it off.