



InChoir

www.ottawachildrenschoir.org

March 2002

With this InChoir, we start what we hope will be a regular choristers' column - their opportunity to tell us a little about themselves.

Our first features Julia King. Julia sings in the alto section of the Concert Choir. This is her second year in the choir. We asked Julia how she came to join the Concert Choir.

"I auditioned for the Choir two years ago after hearing about it from my mom and sister, who had previously been in the choir. I joined because I love to sing and I wanted a musical experience. I also enjoy singing in the school choir and taking piano and recorder lessons."

Among the events that Julia has most enjoyed are the Choir's annual Christmas and Spring concerts. As well, Julia was one of the Concert Choristers asked to join the Chamber Choir for its performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", with Christopher Plummer and the National Arts Centre Orchestra - a favourite event she is sure not to forget. Julia says she enjoys singing very much and is looking forward to participating in the Beethoven Student Matinées this month at the National Arts Centre, under the direction of Boris Brott.

The Joy of Singing



Concert chorister Julia King (right), seen here performing at "The Light up the Tree" concert, is the second member of her family to sing in the Central Choir.

The Joy of Singing is to be a regular InChoir column.

All choristers are welcome to contribute an article. Tell us why you joined the Choir, your musical background, what you have enjoyed to date, what you are looking forward to—anything about the Choir and singing that you'd like to share with other choristers. It doesn't have to be long; 100 to 150 words is fine

Hand in your article at a Choir practice or e-mail it to:
m.ostroff@sympatico.ca

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Cynthia Greer, Chamber Choir manager for the past twelve years, will retire at the end of this season. Mrs. Greer, asked by the Board of Directors if her decision was final, said that she felt this was "an appropriate time to make changes ... frequently a complete change is best"

Cynthia Greer was a choir mother prior to becoming Manager: her association with the Choir goes back to 1984, when her eldest daughter became a member. Eventually, four of her five children were choristers with the Central Choir. "I shall greatly miss the choristers," Cynthia wrote, "and have been privileged to work with Barbara and Yvonne."

Salute to Cynthia: April InChoir



Concert Choristers at the Sunday service at Kingsway United Church, February 24, 2002

Concerts at Kingsway

These annual visits began several years ago, when Darinka Morelli, then Chair of the Choir Parents' Committee and a member of the Kingsway United congregation, suggested that the Concert Choir participate in a Sunday morning service. Mrs. Morelli's three children were Concert choristers and also sang in the Kingsway church choir. Over the years, other Concert choristers have belonged to both choirs and thus a bond and a tradition have been established. The Concert Choir's visit is eagerly anticipated and the Kingsway United congregation always offers a warm welcome.

Search Committee

The search committee to find a replacement for Barbara Clark, Conductor of the Chamber Choir, is pleased with the response to the initial inquiries among potential conductors. Wendy Old, Chair of the committee, expects to have a short list of candidates to interview in a few weeks.

In addition to Board members Wendy Old, Eileen Scotton, and Arnold Earl, the search committee is drawing on the expertise of Laurence Ewashko, Director of the Cantata Singers, and Yvonne Navratil, Conductor of the Viva and Concert Choirs to assist in the selection of the fourth Choir Conductor in the history of the Choir.

Choir's future depends on fundraising

The recent announcement of a sharp increase in registration fees for next year has focused attention on the budget of the Children's Choir.

While information about the budget is made available to parents at the autumn meeting and at the Annual General Meeting (this year on May 30), InChoir decided to provide a summary of next year's budget.

Operating an organization of the calibre of the Central Children's Choir requires a dedicated and talented staff, so it should come as no surprise that the largest expenditure, 60% (\$70,000), is the honoraria paid to conductors, accompanists, choir managers and office staff. Operating expenses such as supplies, equipment, insurance

and telephone make up about 6% (\$7,600). The cost of organizing and publicizing performances accounts for 14% (\$17,500). Music purchases and uniforms add another 4% (\$4,800). The remainder of the budget is allocated to a contingency fund (\$12,000) and a \$5,000 fund to assist those who cannot afford to pay the full cost of registration or travel.

Where will the money come from to meet next year's expenditures? Primarily from registration fees (\$70,000), concert ticket sales and performance fees (\$17,000), and grants from the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Arts Council (\$10,000). These grants require an enormous amount of staff time to prepare and are never guaranteed from year to

year. A significant proportion of the budget (\$28,000) must now come from donations, fundraising and corporate support. The actual amount raised, of course, will depend on the dedication and persistence of parents, staff and choristers. In the past the Choir could count on substantial financial support from the Ottawa Board of Education, but next year this support will disappear, a victim of cuts imposed by the provincial government. The Choir's future must now rely on fundraising. Corporate sponsorship would be an excellent way to raise money but the Choir needs help exploring this option. If you have corporate contacts or fundraising experience please contact the office at 233-4440.



Teaching the fundamentals of music is an important aspect of the weekly Viva choir rehearsals.



The Viva choir - now in its 6th month at one of its regular Thursday afternoon rehearsals with Yvonne Navratil

The Board of Directors is preparing amendments to the constitution of our Corporation (By-Law No. 1, as revised in November, 2000.) These are necessary to accommodate a number of new developments such as the establishment of the Viva Choir and the appointments of the Executive Director and Human Resource Director. In addition, the Board has recognized the need to address issues affecting the management of the Choir, including the establishment of an Executive Committee. In accordance with the constitution, the proposed changes will be made available to the membership by the end of April, so that they may be discussed and approved at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for May 30, 2002.

OTTAWA
CENTRAL CHILDREN'S
CHOIR

Chamber Choir
Barbara Clark, C.M.
Wesley Warren, Accompanist

Concert Choir & Viva Choir
Yvonne Navratil, Director
Allison Prowse, Accompanist

To Music

and to **BARBARA CLARK**
in appreciation of her dedication

with guests
CANTERBURY STRINGS
ENSEMBLE
John Pohran, Director

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2002
7:30 P.M.
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
OTTAWA

TICKETS: \$10
available from
choir members
or at the door

Call 233-4440
for further
information

InChoir in Colour

The Choir has a new web site address. We can now be reached at

www.ottawachildrenschoir.org

Log-on to the web page to read InChoir, with full colour pictures; or visit The Gallery to see photos of past concerts. With this new address the Choir will be exploring opportunities to further increase the use of the internet to keep choristers, parents and friends of the choir informed of programmes, developments and fund-raising affecting the Choir.

*“Growing together
is a beginning.”*

*“Keeping together is
progress.”*

*“Working together
is success.”*

In 1958 when John Sutherland and his fellow music supervisors started the Central Choir, their beginning offered the opportunity for several enrichment students in the Ottawa Board schools to grow in the area of music - specifically choral music. Under this inspired leadership, a fine choir grew and set standards for all of us teaching in the classrooms of Ottawa Board schools. The fact that they kept together, after those initial years, speaks of the progress those leaders made for choral music and its importance in the lives of its young singers. There were very few children's choirs of that calibre in Canada at that time - the children's choir movement had not yet begun.

It was twenty years later that Jean Ashworth Bartle began the Toronto Children's Chorus and set out to make it "the best children's choir in the world". She approached the Toronto Board of Education with the idea of duplicating what the Ottawa Board of Education had - a choir of students from various schools to perform choral music at the very highest of standards. They turned her down. Jean went on to form the Toronto Children's Chorus on her own with support from many in the Toronto community. And yes, they are



We have grown together; we have kept together...; we must continue to work together: Barbara Clark

now considered, if not the best, one of "the best children's choirs in the world".

It is the honour of the Central Children's Chamber Choir to be guests of the Toronto Children's Chorus April 18 - 21, 2002 for their International Conductors' Symposium. During this period several inspiring conductors travel to Toronto to train with Jean, her children's choirs and her guest clinician, Sir David Willcocks of England. Sir David is well known internationally for his work at King's College, Cambridge and the Royal College of Music in London. We are thrilled with this unique opportunity to sing under his direction.

We have grown together; we have kept together under very trying conditions over the years; we must continue to work together, as singers and as parents, to achieve success. In these days of budget cuts and financial restraint, if we are to stay together, we will all have to work together to that end. How important is this experience in the life of your child?

- Barbara Clark, Director

InChoir

InChoir was produced this month with the help of the following volunteers:

Kathryn Addie
Philip Cheetham
Jamie Hockin
Maggie Lodge
Michael Ostroff and
Eileen Scotton.

The Communications Committee needs help. If you can write, edit, do layout or take pictures, please let us know. Send e-mail to: m.ostroff@sympatico.ca or call Eileen at 235-4055.

The Central Children's Choir gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa, and the Ontario Arts Council.



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