

Memories from Eurotrip 2004

by Lauren Morley, chorister

Editor's note: To mark the 45th Anniversary of the Ottawa Children's Choir, 29 members of the Chamber Choir and 7 adults travelled to Europe in July, to participate in the 33rd Vienna Youth and Music Festival. The choir visited Frankfurt, Salzburg, Vienna and Munich on their whirlwind 10-day tour which began on July 5th. We are fortunate to have the following account of their journey, written by Lauren Morley.



The Chamber Choir in Vienna, just after competing at the 33rd Youth and Music Festival.

Twelve noon, 5 July 2004, we were all packed into a school bus, chattering on and on like parakeets while we rumbled down Percy Street on our way to the airport. It was a hot day and we had thrown the windows open in an attempt to cool ourselves down. That proved to be a bad move when all of a sudden, a little after our usual “sing-along” had started, the skies just opened up and within a few seconds the entire street was drenched. Though we had closed all the windows, rain was still able to flow in through the escape exit in the roof. Thus our “Eurotrip” began; a total contradiction to the events that followed.

Two flights later we emerged bleary-eyed in the airport in Frankfurt at 7:00 a.m. their time, trying to sound out the astonishingly long German words on the signs above our heads and watching the pieces of plastic on the notice board flip over and over and over as we waited for the tour guide.

The tour guide, Anita, soon arrived and led us to a big, yellow-and-red “Wickenhauser” bus with brightly coloured seats. The driver, Siegfried, stowed our luggage underneath the bus and within the hour, we were off. We had barely any time to sleep because there was so much to do. First, it was off to Mainz to tour and get a feel for European life. The market there was beautiful, with its quaint little kiosks and tantalizing produce (the red currents they sold were wonderful), and there were pretzel stands here and there. Some of the buildings were painted with ornate designs and the cathedral we visited was magnificent. We stopped at a castle/youth hostel at the top of a hill that overlooked the vineyards for lunch. Then it was off to a monument where the Rhine and Mosel rivers met (great fun), and by five-thirty we were off to the houses of our home-stay families from the Juventus Vocalis Choir for a hearty meal and long-awaited sleep.



Choristers relax after lunch at a castle on the Rhine River.

The next day, we toured in Spier and Heidelberg. We gave an impromptu performance at the Singing Cathedral in Spier, which had fabulous acoustics, and then it was a hard, uphill climb to the Schloss in Heidelberg. Our touring endeavors did not prevent us choristers from indulging in a favourite pastime: shopping!

After a good long rehearsal, we performed our joint

concert with the Juventus Vocalis Choir at the Zentrum Alte Schule. There was quite a thunderstorm going on outside during the performance, but that didn't stop the show from going off with its own kind of bang – the audience loved it. All too soon, it was off to Salzburg and we said our goodbyes to our home-stay families and drove off to Austria.

The ride to Salzburg was long, and filled with lots of singing. I doubt there was ever a time when we weren't singing. As soon as we crossed the border, we simultaneously broke out in a chorus of "The Sound of Music," eventually singing just about the entire soundtrack. We arrived at the youth hostel in Salzburg in the late afternoon, leaving enough time for dinner and some touring of the old part of Salzburg, namely Mozart's birth house. Over the course of our visit to Salzburg, we gave many performances in churches in surrounding villages, all of which were diversely beautiful. One of the main highlights was sliding down the salt mines in our white mining suits.



The Chamber Choir had time to visit Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg.

After Salzburg was the main event of our Eurotrip: Vienna. We gave concerts in many more different churches in many more beautiful little villages. We toured the incomparable Schönbrunn Palace and gardens, went shopping after seeing the Vienna Opera House and ate foot-long wieners with cheese for lunch with (for those who still had room) gelato for dessert. We were welcomed to the Vienna music festival,

performed in the competition and attended the dances at the Discotek Volksgarten, meeting people from Australia, South Africa and Trinidad, to name a few. In the end, we walked away with 3rd prize in our category, winning a beautiful trophy that is now on display in the choir office.

Much too soon, we left for Munich, for a one night stay in an airport hotel that overlooked the farmlands of Germany. We ate a three-course dinner in an awesome restaurant that looked like a submarine, and slept comfortably that night in our huge hotel rooms.

As we waited to leave the next morning in the airport, many of us were scrambling to spend our last Euros on our last Fantas, much like we had done in the Ottawa Airport at Tim Horton's, trying to get our last Canadian Maple doughnuts. It was a long flight back to Canada. As I sat there, I thought of how lucky I was to have had such a great experience. I want to thank the parents for letting us go on this trip, the choir committee for organizing it, M. Filion for being our director and showing us around Vienna, Anita and Siegfried for being a fantastic tour guide and bus driver and our six wonderful chaperones, who all took great care of us. It was such a great trip that sometimes I wish I was still there. Innumerable exciting things happened. I had the time of my life.



Ottawa
Children's Choir

AUDITIONS

Children aged 9 to 11 with no previous training can audition for the Viva Choir on January 6.

Children aged 11 to 15 who can read music can audition for the Chamber Choir on January 5.

**To arrange an audition call
233-4440**



Photo: David Urban Shipley

A Remembrance Day to Remember: A Report of the Cenotaph Ceremony from a Chorister's View

by Sophia Ross

One year ago I dreamed about being at the Cenotaph and singing for my country on November 11th. This year I have fulfilled that dream. I suppose that's one of the reasons I am a part of the choir this year.

The Cenotaph was a lot of things—sad, mad and exciting. We had fun, but we were serious. We all knew this was a serious time and that we were not there to gape at the wonderful settings and at all the veterans who were a part of this ceremony. We were there to sing.

I felt good because I knew that I was representing the youth of Canada. Each member of the choir represented about 10,000 people. That's a lot!

Going to the Cenotaph was pleasant. The Concert Choir and the Chamber Choir went on separate buses. Since we arrived before the streets were closed, we drove right up to the Cenotaph. I personally was relieved that we didn't have far to walk. It was cold, damp, and snowing a little. Plus I had gotten up earlier than usual so I was tired.

There we had a sound check and got into our places. We waited patiently and sang two songs for the sound check. After a lot of waiting and jumping up and down to keep warm, we were told by M. Filion and Mrs. Navratil that we could go to the Conference Centre for hot chocolate and doughnuts.

We got warm and talked to each other for about an hour and then we got into lines. The police escorted us to the risers where we found our places and watched the master of ceremonies speaking. We were very still, not making a sound. The air was filled with gloom. It made me feel better when we sang "O Canada!"

We waited for our turn to sing again. M. Filion explained that the first gun would come out of nowhere. He told us not to clench up so we wouldn't be all tight. Unfortunately, I got all tight on the inside when the gun sounded, and I'm not sure if I jumped or not. It didn't really matter, for the crowd was watching the smoke from the gunfire.

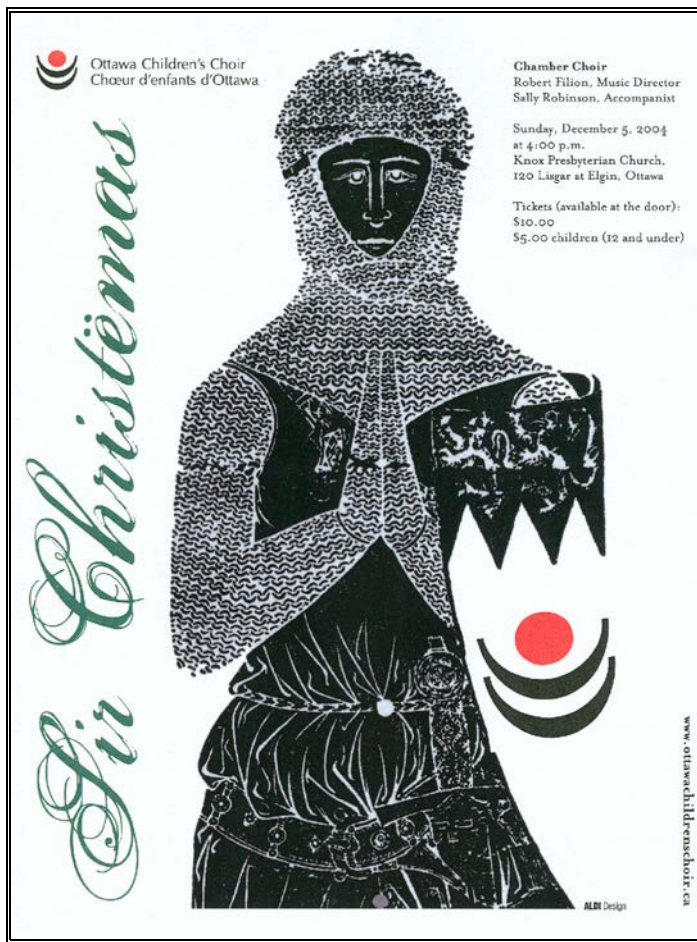
At the placing of the wreaths we really got to sing our hearts out. M. Filion and Mrs. Navratil told us what piece to sing. During "In Flanders Fields," the guns kept firing so it was harder to concentrate. The air was filled with smoke and the smell filled our noses.

The Veterans' Parade changed the mood entirely. I heard crowds of people cheering, and the marching music was happy. I might have been cold on the outside, but inside I was warm with happiness!

As long as I'm in the choir I will be glad to be a part of the Remembrance Day ceremonies. But even when I'm no longer in the choir, I will always try to be there to honour those who fought and died for our country.



Photo: David Urban Shipley



The raffle is simple, provides an excellent rate of return and the prize draw, which takes place at the Concert and Viva Choirs' December 7th concert at Brookfield High School, adds considerable excitement to the evening.

The frozen berry sale begins in January (watch for information brought home by choristers!) when orders are taken for frozen blueberries and cranberries from Nova Scotia. The fruit is delivered on a Saturday morning in late February/early March. As Choir Executive Director Elaine Stephens puts it, "what could be healthier and more welcome at this time of year!"

The plant sale is held on the Saturday before Mother's Day. A truckload of annuals (and a limited selection of perennials) is delivered by a local nursery to the balcony of the McNabb Community Centre. Bring family and friends, and enjoy the barbeque too! If you would like to take on this activity, the Choir is looking for two families to organize the sale, and then a few more to assist on the actual sale date. Please contact Elaine Stephens at 233-4440.

As a new fundraising activity, the choir is considering holding a *Home and Gift* catalogue sale, featuring decorative household items at very reasonable prices.

Fundraising Vital to Choir's Survival by Lynn Wilson

Remember that \$100 cheque you wrote for the choir in September? It was your fundraising deposit and, depending on how you choose to participate in the choir's fundraising activities during the year, you may get all or some of it refunded to you next June. This is how the deposit works.

The choir has three major fundraisers each year: a fall raffle, a frozen berry sale in the winter, and a spring plant sale. The choir keeps track of how many tickets you sell, how many fruit orders you take and how much you spend at the plant sale. At the end of the year this is all tallied up and your fundraising contribution is calculated on the *profit* you have contributed to the choir. For example, the raffle has a profit margin of 90%, so if you sell \$100 worth of tickets, \$90 will be credited against your deposit. The profit margin for the fruit sale is 25%, and 28% for the plant sale. Refund cheques, up to a maximum of \$100, are issued in May. If you choose, you can return your refund to the choir as a donation, and receive a tax receipt.

Fundraising is a significant component of the choir's budget. Last year, fundraising accounted for almost 12% of the choir's revenue – that's \$16,422 out of a total revenue of \$137,433. The choir's Board of Directors introduced the fundraising deposit three years ago to spread the responsibility for fundraising fairly among all of the choir's families. (This year the Ottawa Children's Choir has 242 choristers: 144 among the Viva, Concert, and Chamber choirs, 40 in Viva West, 40 in Viva East, and 18 in the newly formed Gingerbread Choir.) The money raised through these fundraising activities is used to help pay for new uniforms, trips, or other opportunities for which funds might not otherwise be available. Participating in fundraising is a great way to show support for the choir. If you'd like to get involved more, or would like more information, please contact the choir office at 233-4440.



The following is a listing of the Ottawa Children's Choir 2004/2005 Board of Directors

Chamber Choir Representatives

Sandy Bulchak
Martie Moolman
Henry Schultz (President)

Concert Choir Representatives

Andrew Konecny
Julie Laghi (Secretary)

Viva Choir Representatives

Stephen Millington

Community Representatives

Linda Griffiths (Vice President)
Michael Hicks
Marianne Mastebroek
Joy Mayer
Wendy Old
Leslie Scott (Treasurer)
Janet Townshend

If you have any questions, comments, ideas or concerns about the choir, you can contact any of the above representatives by letter or phone call to the choir office, 233-4440 or admin@ottawachildrenchoir.ca

New Chamber Choir Manager
by Jo-Anne Stead

The new Chamber Choir manager, Susan Giles, wanted to be the choir manager since it would allow her to share her joy of music with others. Ms. Giles said that when she saw the position posted, she decided to apply, since she knew they would have the same goal as she does, "to foster a love of music."

Although this is Ms. Giles' first year with the Ottawa Children's Choir, she has been involved with music all of her life. She has been playing the clarinet since she was 9, and has had a lifelong love of singing. She is on leave this year from her position as an elementary school teacher, so it has given her the time required to do all of the activities involved with the position.

When asked to describe her duties as the choir manager, she said that it involved "doing everything." She is responsible for all of the information out and in for the choir, the ticket sales, preparing the children for the rehearsals, and the concerts, and on top of everything else, providing some levity to the choir. She said she loves the job so far, and that this position allows her to use two of her strengths, her sense of humour, and her organizational skills.

The Chamber Choir can be very intense and demanding, said Ms. Giles. "I like to lighten things up, and be a kind of den mother to the children in the choir," she said. "My job is to try to communicate with the kids, and to make them as comfortable as possible."

Ms. Giles has a lot of experience being a mother, since she has three children of her own, ages 9, 13 and 15. Although none of them are in the choir this year, she said they have a lot of music in their family.

She also sees her job as going out to local schools, to promote the choir. The choir should have a representation from a wide spectrum of the population, and she would like to make more students aware of the choir. The Chamber Choir currently has 33 members, but they will be holding auditions again in January, hoping to add another 10 members, said Ms. Giles.

One of the things she enjoys the most in her position, said Ms. Giles, is working with the other people in the choir. "I really enjoy working with such a dedicated and talented group of people," she added.

Included in that group are the other people who are helping with the Chamber Choir. They include: Martie Moolman as the Librarian and Choir Mother; and Karin Tomosky, Rosalind Harris and Gerry Burns as Choir Mothers. Ms. Giles added that everybody helps out with everything.

"I really love it," said Ms. Giles. "Music has always been an important part of my life, and it is a joy to share it with others."





Canada's Choirs: United in Song

by Catherine Armstrong

When the spring concert rolls to a finish, all the uniforms are handed back in and re-auditions have taken place, I know what time it is – it's UNISONG time!

What is UNISONG, you're asking? Well, UNISONG is an optional concert after the Concert and Viva choir year has ended. The Chamber Choir participates, and so do any other Concert choristers who want to. On July 1st, Canada Day, those choristers sing three free concerts to packed houses at the National Arts Centre. But, they are not alone. Singing with them are other choirs (for kids and adults) from all across Canada. For someone in say, Nova Scotia, singing at the NAC, or even just coming to Ottawa for Canada Day, is the experience of a lifetime. This year, 12 choirs representing 9 provinces joined in the concert.

This year (and all the other years I've been with the choir), I took part in UNISONG. It was great! It was a lot of work, because you have to go to a few extra Chamber Choir practices, and massed choir rehearsals, but I got to meet people from all across Canada. Plus, rehearsing and singing with the National Arts Centre orchestra was fun!



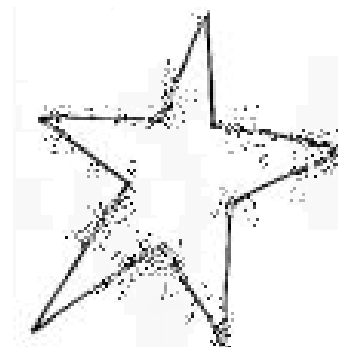
The UNISONG choir's final rehearsal at the NAC on June 30th Photo: Fred Armstrong

Every year, a guest conductor is invited to conduct the massed choir. This year, the conductor was Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff, from Calgary. He attended massed choir practices with us at Dominion Chalmers United Church. It was always hot outside during the rehearsals, but it was never hot inside the air-conditioned church. Dr. Ratzlaff was a very good conductor and I learned a lot. He helped us perfect songs such as *United in Song* (written for UNISONG), by Paul Halley, who used to belong to the Ottawa Children's Choir. Another song we sang was *Canada Forever Free*, by Joanna Estelle. Our performance on Canada Day was the world premiere of this composition!



Guest conductor, Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff, with the UNISONG choir Photo: Sandra Lahey

Last year was the 8th Annual UNISONG, and this year coming up will be the 9th. It has always been held in Ottawa. What better way to celebrate Canada Day than to have people from all over the country singing together in the nation's capital? I'm sure UNISONG will be held for many years to come and I know that each time, people from all across Canada will be united in song!



Concert Choir News

by Terry Marcotte

The Ottawa Children's Choir thrives because of the work of dozens of volunteers who help keep the children singing. In the Concert Choir, behind-the-scenes leadership comes from our new choir manager, Sue Dacey, and her assistant Kraig-Paul Proulx. They co-ordinate choir activities and ensure that Choir Director Yvonne Navratil and accompanist Allison Prowse can focus on the music. As well, choir mother Patti Stevens is at every practice making sure the choristers will look as good as they sound. Patti is helped by Mary Jane Brennan and Kathy Cho. A small army of others help the choristers prepare their music. Monika Boileau, Margaret Schatzky, Mary Jane Johnson, Luann Cunliffe and Marlie Giunta are the choral assistants. Some of them have been with the choir for years. Marlie, for example, is a high school student who was a member of the choir not that long ago. This is her way of giving something back to the choir. Karen Love, Cindy Germain and Jennie McCloskey are the choir librarians. They all play prominent roles in the Concert Choir. They all deserve our appreciation.

There is still the need for more help. No one has yet come forward to operate the tuck shop and parents are needed to help set up chairs before rehearsals. If you are available for either of these duties, please contact the choir manager.

The Choir is preparing for a flurry of activity at the beginning of December. On December 2nd, some choristers will join the Chamber Choir at the lighting of the Christmas lights on Parliament Hill. The much-anticipated Christmas concert, 'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,' will be on Tuesday, December 7th at Brookfield High School. The evening will feature the Viva East, Viva West, Viva and Concert choirs, with special guest performers, Opus 4. On December 14th, at Lisgar Collegiate, the Concert Choir will perform a programme of seasonal music, 'Christmas. . . with Strings Attached,' with the Lisgar String Ensemble. 2004 wraps up with a performance by part of the choir at Mayor Bob Chiarelli's Christmas party on December 18th at City Hall. After a well-deserved break, the first rehearsal of the new year will be on January 11th. Performances for 2005 are still being planned.

It has been a busy and rewarding year for the 81 children who make up the Concert Choir. On behalf of them and to all the volunteers, a big thank you.

Ottawa Children's Choir
Chœur d'enfants d'Ottawa

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

Viva East and Viva West Choirs
Directed by Greg MacIntosh

Guest Performers
Opus 4

THE MOST
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE YEAR

Tickets (available at the door):
\$10.00, \$5 children (12 and under)

Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.
Brookfield High School, 824 Brookfield

ALBN Design

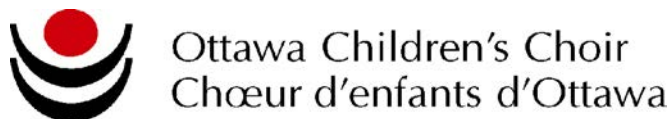
www.ottawachildrenchoir.com

My Thoughts on Joining the Chamber Choir

by Brittany Clayton

I really like being in the Chamber Choir because it is a good challenge for me. Although I really enjoyed being in the Concert Choir, I find the songs more challenging to learn than the ones we did when I was in the Concert Choir. Our conductor, M. Filion, does not have us go over the words of a new song before we start to learn it, because we are all expected to be able to sight-read music by the time we join the Chamber Choir. When we start to learn a new song, I am at a disadvantage in relation to the other choristers because I can't read the words or see the notes on the sheet music we are given. I get the words transcribed into braille as soon as possible after we get the new music. I don't bother getting the actual notes transcribed into braille because, although I am learning how to "sight-read" braille music, I am usually able to learn the part that I am to sing very quickly. I am fortunate in that I have a very good ear. There is obviously a lot more memory work required of us than was the case in

Concert Choir. Again, I am lucky in that I have a very good memory, so that I am able to learn the words quite quickly. M. Filion knows exactly what he wants us to do, but sometimes it takes us quite a number of attempts before we get it just the way he thinks we should. I enjoy hearing him imitate how we sound when we don't sing part of a song correctly. He sometimes makes me laugh so hard I have trouble singing when he gets us back to work. There are often songs that have solos in them and we get to audition for these parts. It is good practice for us. We all work very hard at the two rehearsals we have each week. All in all, I am really happy that I moved up to the Chamber Choir. There are a lot of beautiful voices in our choir and, even though there are only thirty-three members at the moment, I think we sound very good as a group. I just turned thirteen in November and was surprised to find that I am one of the *oldest* choristers in the choir. I am *very* proud to be a member of such a fine group!



Conductor required for the Viva and Concert Choirs

120 young choristers ages 9 to 12 seek a new Conductor. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a well established and award winning children's choir. The successful candidate will join the artistic staff of the Ottawa Children's Choir commencing September 2005 and will conduct the Viva and Concert Training Choirs.

**Application deadline:
January 15, 2005**

**For an application and information
package call**

Elaine Stephens at

613-233-4440

Ottawa Children's Choir – Much to Celebrate!



Celebration 45 at Brookfield High School on June 4th brought together the Viva East and West, Central Viva, Concert and Chamber choirs for a spring concert to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Ottawa Children's Choir. The delighted

audience was treated to a varied programme which displayed the hard work and talent of the choristers of The Ottawa Children's Choir. This concert featured the world premiere performance of *Carillon*, a composition by Stephen Hatfield that was commissioned to mark the anniversary. Special guests Kathy Armstrong and the Baobab Youth Performers joined in the festivities.



One of the evening's highlights was the presentation of four scholarships to deserving choristers for their hard work and dedication to the choir. Julia King, a returning member of the Chamber Choir, was awarded the Barbara Clark Scholarship; Hayden Smith, of the Concert Choir, received the Arnold Earl Scholarship; and Brittany Clayton, a Concert chorister who has now moved into the Chamber Choir, was granted the John Sutherland Scholarship. All of these awards are given based on the chorister's vocal quality, dedication to the choir and its activities, helpfulness with others and attendance. In addition, sight reading ability is a consideration in choosing the recipient of the John Sutherland Scholarship. Each scholarship has a value of \$150. The Agnes Simpson Gold Medal (a \$50 value) was given to Chamber chorister Kaley Duff, as the Choir member most likely to develop evident musical talent and sincere helpfulness.



Request for Contributions

InChoir is **your** newsletter. All choristers and their families are welcome to contribute items (articles, photos, artwork, poems) about singing or the choir.

Do you have any questions about the choir? Chances are, you're not the only one wondering. We'd be happy to help track down the answer and report in the next issue of the newsletter.

Contributions to InChoir can be handed in at practice, or e-mail us at admin@ottawachildrenschoir.ca

If you need more information, call **233-4440**



Gingerbread Choir a Hit

by Roxane Morin

"I like Goyo's choir because he has fun songs and games!"

Dominique Lin, 7 .

'Goyo's choir' is actually called The Gingerbread Choir and is conducted by Greg MacIntosh, better known as ¡Goyo!, in the education community.. This newly formed choir for youngsters aged 7 to 9, was in response to a growing demand for singing opportunities for children younger than The Ottawa Children's Choir's choristers. Seeing the great interest from the younger voices, Goyo agreed to combine his voice training expertise with his sensitivity towards our little ones.

The Gingerbread Choir offers an enjoyable hour, once a week, where the children are taught proper breathing techniques, enunciation and solfège, and are encouraged to develop rhythmic interpretations by the use of a variety of percussion instruments. Since children of this age group have a limited attention span, Greg incorporates mimicry and games to make each song entertaining and comical.

As a teacher, Greg's classes certainly are not boring or gruelling sessions. His teaching experience with the children means he focuses for short periods on each song. These songs are full of imagery and are brought to life by the use of gestures and expression. The choristers are then able to understand the nature of the song.

Goyo's great interest in other cultures is revealed in his repertoire of songs where children are learning French, Spanish, Italian and Japanese, alongside English songs. The themes of these songs deal with the notion that music is universal and for us all to enjoy.

Thank you Goyo...the Master!

Chamber Choir News

by Laurence Clayton

The Chamber Choir currently consists of thirty-three choristers in Grades 6-9. Susan Giles has ably taken on the position of choir manager this year. The choir also has a new accompanist, Sally Robinson.

The choir got off to a quick start this year and have already done three performances. They sang at a breakfast meeting of the Canadian Tire Corporation Convention at the Westin Hotel. They were guests and the only children's choir to perform at the "Harmony In Blue" Concert put on by the Ottawa Police Chorus and several other police choruses at the Adult High School as part of the National Police Memorial Week Celebrations. They also performed at the Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on November 11th.

The choir is looking forward to a busy and varied season. Upcoming events confirmed to date are:

Saturday, November 27th – Recording session for the Lighting of the Lights Ceremony at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, December 2nd – Lighting of the Lights Ceremony on Parliament Hill.

Saturday, December 4th – Christmas Concert rehearsal at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Sunday, December 5th – Christmas Concert at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Thursday, December 16th – Ottawa Women's Canadian Club Luncheon at the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

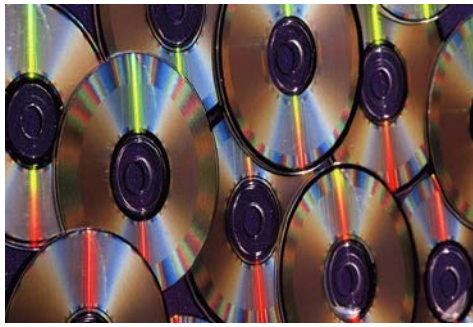
Friday, December 17th – Community Carol Sing at St. Barnabas Church.

January 27-29, 2005 – "Carmina Burana" with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the NAC Orchestra, and the Cantata Singers of Ottawa at the National Arts Centre. (Rehearsal on Wednesday, January 26th)

April, 2005 – Kiwanis Music Festival – details to follow

May 20, 2005 – Spring Concert – details to follow

July 1, 2005 – Canada Day UNISONG at National Arts Centre – details to follow.



New CD Marks 45th Anniversary

by Ken Ross and Suzanne Nussey

With the sounds of Remembrance Day still fresh in our memories, choir members and parents alike will be pleased to know that, among many other selections, the numbers the children sang to commemorate the sacrifices made by our war veterans will soon be available on CD.

The arrival of the Ottawa Children's Choir CD, anticipated by the Chamber Christmas concert on December 5, will mark the culmination of much hard work by each of the three choirs and their directors, Robert Filion and Yvonne Navratil.

The CD, which comes out as the Choir celebrates its 45th anniversary, contains 25 selections in all, making for a total playing time of almost a full hour.

Sound the Trumpet by Henry Purcell, *the Psalm Trilogy* with music by Toronto composer Srul Irving Glick, and *La petite fille sage* by Francis Poulenc highlight the offerings of the Chamber Choir.

The Concert Choir performs, among other selections, Haydn's *Gloria*, Micheal Neaum's *A la Rurro Nino*, and R. Vaughan Williams' arrangement of *John Barleycorn*.

The three choirs are heard performing together as well, singing the CD's title cut: Stephen Hatfield's *Carillon*, commissioned especially to commemorate the choir's 45th anniversary. This remarkable piece not only brings the voices of all the children together, it also features an engaging performance by Kathy Armstrong on the talking drum.

As well, the Chamber and Concert choirs join together for the Remembrance Day selections, including *In Flanders Fields*, *O Valiant Hearts* and more. So pleased is the Royal Canadian Legion with this last offering, that it will be selling copies of the CD to its members.

Not to be outdone, the Viva Choir performs *We Can Make a Difference* by Clifford Crawley, *Three Unlucky Men* by W.H. Parry, and *Cat Tales* by Ed Harris.

It has been quite a project from start to finish, requiring a great deal of organizing as well as patience—it isn't easy having to restart a perfect take because an OC Transpo bus chose an inopportune time to rattle past. But the effort was well spent, as you will discover when you have an opportunity to hear *Carillon* with your own ears.



The Lisgar String Ensemble,
Trudi Bradley – conductor
And
The Ottawa Children's Concert Choir
Yvonne Navratil – conductor, Allison Prowse – accompanist
Present

CHRISTMAS.....
WITH STRINGS ATTACHED
a programme of seasonal music

Tuesday, December 14th, 2004
Lisgar Collegiate, Lisgar Street† 7:30p.m.
Tickets, \$5.00 children, \$3.00



News from the Viva East, Viva West and Gingerbread Choirs by Greg MacIntosh

The Viva East Choir at Robert E. Wilson Public School and the Viva West Choir at Bayshore Public School together have a total of 70 choristers this year. This number changes almost weekly, which is simply a fact of life at a Beacon school, with such a transient population. The children are very excited about the concert on December 7th at Brookfield High School with the other central choirs.

There are many children anxious to be a part of the Viva choir in the future and we may hold additional auditions in January. Both choirs were made possible by a grant from the Trillium Foundation, which provided the funds to start and run them for a period of two years. I am very hopeful that this programme will continue. The children have such an appreciation for this opportunity that it would definitely be a shame if it was to end after only two years.

We are fortunate to have the services of some wonderful choir assistants: Carol Morissette and Julie Anderson assist the Viva East Choir, while Sophie Frenkel and Lisa Richards help out with the Viva West Choir.

The Gingerbread Choir is busy preparing for our Tour at the beginning of 2005. We will be singing three concerts at three different senior's residences around Ottawa, ending with a concert at the Perley Hospital on February 11th, 2005, to celebrate Valentine's Day weekend.

There are 18 children in the choir at this time and children are welcome to join at any time during the year. We are preparing songs in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Japanese, with lots of props, costumes, instruments and choreography. It has been a pleasure working with these young people – they are so enthusiastic and energetic. They also have a **wonderful** sound and their love of the music is very contagious. I look forward to our time together exploring the wonderful world of music. The hour just flies by every Thursday. It's one of the highlights of my week.



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS

AND
HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**



Viva Choir Calendar

The Viva Choir will be busy this season with the following performances:

Wednesday, December 1, 7 p.m. – Concert at Glebe Retirement Centre. Casual uniform.

Thursday, December 2, 4:15 p.m. – Last regular rehearsal.

Monday, December 6, 6:30–8:30 p.m. – Technical rehearsal at Brookfield High School.

Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m. – Christmas concert, “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” at Brookfield High School. Dress uniform.

Thursday, December 9, 7 p.m. – Concert at Sterling Place Retirement Home. Casual uniform.

Saturday, December 18, evening – Mayor's Christmas party at City Hall. Casual uniform.

Thursday, January 13, 2005, 4:15 p.m. – First regular rehearsal of the new year.

Thanks are due to our wonderful Viva Choir Manager, Barbara MacIntosh, and the volunteers who help keep Viva singing – choir mothers Deborah Caddingham, Susan Hicks and Laura Holmes, tuck shop operator Annamary Simmonds, librarians Krista Norton and Karen Skelly, e-mail list administrator Catherine Elliott and our choral assistant, Kay Baggley.





Did you know . . .

Rehearsals and performances of the Ottawa Children's Choir are occasionally held

during school hours. The Ottawa Carleton District School Board recognizes the value of the Choir by allowing this time as 'grant' time, rather than marking it as an absence from school. You should speak with the principal of your school to arrange this.

During the holidays



. . . keep singing!

List of Contributors

This issue of InChoir was produced by the following volunteers:

Sandra Lahey (editor/layout)

Jo-Anne Stead

David Urban Shipley

Barbara MacIntosh

Fred Armstrong

Terry Marcotte

Greg MacIntosh

Robert Filion

Suzanne Nussey

Susan Giles

Roxane Morin

Elaine Stephens

Lynn Wilson

Anna-Lisa Kates

Ken Ross

Laurence Clayton

We are particularly pleased to have the contributions of the following choristers:

Lauren Morley, Chamber

Sophia Ross, Concert

Brittany Clayton, Chamber

Catherine Armstrong, Concert

The Ottawa Children's Choir gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

