



Choral Notes...



News from the Toronto Children's Chorus

Fall 2011

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter for the 2011-2012 season!

It is our goal to share news and information among the TCC Training Choirs and the Main Choir, and to provide updates on current events to all the members of the extended TCC community, especially those who are new to the Chorus. We hope you enjoy.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas about what you might like to see in upcoming newsletters. Please feel free to contact Susan at 416-932-8666 ext. 223 or susan@torontochildrenschorus.com.



From the Artistic Director's Desk.....

2011-2012 promises to be an exciting season for the TCC! We have already had a great start, with the Main Choir holding its annual choir camp at Appleby College during the last week of August, Prep Choir and TCI having their Workshop on Oct. 1, and TCII and TCIII attending their camp at Geneva Park on Oct. 15th and 16th. These workshops and camps are essential to give choristers time for intensive work on their music, and to provide an opportunity, for new and returning choristers to get to know one another, along with other socials held during the year.

As I enter my fifth season as Artistic Director, I look forward to building on my vision of the TCC as one of the finest treble choirs in the world. My goals are for all the children to share unique musical and educational opportunities, to continue to perform contemporary and indigenous works of Canada, to perform repertoire of other countries and genres, and to develop a love of choral music and singing in choirs. I am extremely proud of our accomplishments to date, including our performances with the TSO, the TSYO, Melodia Festival, and especially our invitation to sing at the 9th World Symposium on Choral Music in August 2011.

In April 2012, the Tour Choir will be off to Sweden at the invitation of the Adolf Fredricks Music School, to spend a week at the school and participate in the Let the Future Sing Festival. In May 2012, the Chamber Choir will travel to Ottawa to take part in PODIUM 2012, the National Choral Conference hosted by the Association of Canadian Choral Communities and Choirs Ontario.

We hope you enjoy all that our 2011-2012 season has to offer and look forward to seeing you!
With best wishes,

Elise Bradley



The Toronto Children's Chorus as Guest Artist with the TSO, and Christopher Plummer

The 2011-2012 season got off to a wonderful start, with the 108 members of the entire Main Choir performing as Guest Artists of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. They were very proud to give the world première of Larysa Kuzmenko's *Behold the Night*, commissioned by the TSO for orchestra and children's choir for the opening concert of its 90th season. The Main Choir will reprise *Behold the Night* at the October 29 concert to be held at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. It is not to be missed!



The second half of the TSO concert featured the Main Choir's performance of William Walton's *Henry V*, with special Guest Artist Christopher Plummer as the Narrator. The choristers were thrilled to share the stage with Mr. Plummer, an Honorary Patron of the TCC, and even more delighted to have a photograph taken with him.

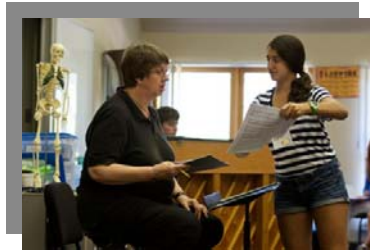
"Each time the TCC performs with the Toronto Symphony, I am struck by the maturity of their sound. The children are incredibly disciplined with a warmth and richness rarely heard in children's choirs."

Peter Oundjian, Conductor, Toronto Symphony Orchestra

News from the Main Choir



Appleby College, August 2011



The 2011-2012 season started with the Main Choir Camp held during the last week of August, at Appleby College in Oakville. Here the choristers first received their music for the September 22 opening night concert of the TSO's 90th Season, the world première of Larysa Kuzmenko's *Behold the Night*, and William Walton's *Henry V*, with Christopher Plummer. Even with just 4 weeks to rehearse, the choristers gave 2 stellar performances to critical acclaim!

"The Toronto Children's Chorus helps children discover the joys of music making, an experience they will treasure for the rest of their lives. Working with Elise Bradley and the TCC on my première with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra was both delightful and thrilling. This is music making of the highest order."

Larysa Kuzmenko



With Christopher Plummer, Roy Thomson Hall

"Thrust into the spotlight in this piece, the Toronto Children's Chorus rose to the occasion with a vibrant performance."

Colin Eatock, The Globe and Mail, September 23, 2011



News from the Training Choirs

The training choirs are all diligently rehearsing for their première performances of our season *Mystery and Mastery*, on October 29 at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church. The program includes some "mysterious" pieces appropriate for the Hallowe'en season including "The Wind", "Bessie the Black Cat", "Shadow March", and "Ride by Nights". As part of the new choir year, the Prep A and B and TCI choristers participated in a day long workshop on Saturday October 1. The day included combined and individual rehearsals, movement workshops, team building activities, and some time to run around and play games. And... some delicious cookies provided by volunteer Teresa van der Hoeven!

TCII and TCIII have just returned from their day and a half workshop at YMCA Geneva Park in Orillia. They participated in individual and joint rehearsals, movement workshops, and put on their own talent show. A special thank you goes to parent volunteers who attended, Laura Amodio who capably managed medical/medication issues, and Nadia Valenzano.





Sing Loo!

The date for the TCC's annual chorister-driven fundraiser **Sing Loo!** is fast approaching!

On November 27th, the extended Toronto Children's Chorus family, including all choirs, members of the alumni, guest artists and special hosts, will present a four hour long concert in the festively decorated grand lobby of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The concert is open to the entire community. We are inviting supporters of the Chorus and all Torontonians to join us for a few minutes... or a few hours of exceptional choral music. Come out and meet your TCC Board of Directors and Administrative Staff!

Each chorister is asked to collect pledges from families and friends and will have a pledge minimum. This fundraising campaign is 100% donation based, and is a major source of operating funds for the choir, in addition to tuition fees, concert ticket sales and support from government, foundations and corporate sponsorships.

The **Sing Loo!** concert is always lots of fun, and is a great way to start off the holiday season. The choristers have already received their fundraising packages with all the information you need to start your campaign!



The TCC Community

ALUMNI

When you graduate from the TCC, you never really leave the Chorus, and the Chorus never really leaves you. TCC alumni, who now number over 1,000, represent not only past success but also the future of the TCC as they move into the roles of supporters and even parents of new TCC choristers.

This season we have the children of alumnus Susan Astington, Rebecca and Cameron Devitt, performing in TC III. Susan is one of the earliest members of the TCC, from 1980 to 1988, and was Head Chorister in 1987/88. She performed with the choir on their very first tour in 1982, to England and Wales, and when the TCC won first place in two prestigious competitions, the Llangollen Eisteddfod Internationes and the CBC National Radio Competition.

Don't miss the spectacular Alumni Choir at our Chorus Christmas concert "Mysteries of the Season" on Saturday December 17 at Roy Thomson Hall!

Alumni wanting to reconnect and update their information should please contact: alumni@torontochildrenschorus.com

Can you help? The TCC office is in need of a large board room table, and filing cabinet. Please contact Stephanie at 416-932-8666

VOLUNTEERS

As you know, the success of the TCC is entirely dependent on the involvement of parent and community volunteers. Over the years, the TCC has developed a vibrant volunteer community - in this way, choristers and their families truly become part of the TCC community. Many have developed life-long friendships just like choristers, and they remain active volunteers with the TCC long after their own children have graduated.

We are overwhelmed by the amount of offers to volunteer this season, and are deeply grateful. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Judi Cragg, is working with the coordinators of all the volunteer groups, and by now, you should have been contacted. If not, please contact:

Judi Cragg at: judi@torontochildrenschorus.com for Main Choir
Theresa Kim at theresa@torontochildrenschorus.com for the Training Choirs. Thank you for your generous offers!

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"This music is the last frontier; after that is faith."



This emotional comment came from a gentleman who attended the TCC tour choir's final performance at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, August 7, 2011. It does not begin to describe the audience appreciation for the brilliant performances by the choristers in Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Puerto Madryn.

After many months of rehearsals and preparations, this group of young people commanded the attention of musicians from around the world at the Symposium. People stopped choir members on the streets of Puerto Madryn to express their awe and appreciation. Word spread quickly among the attendees at the Symposium that the TCC was not to be missed. One of only two children's choir invited to the World Symposium, the TCC brought Toronto and Canada to the forefront, making a significant impact on people from all corners of the globe. Words cannot fully express the amazing performances and the level of professionalism demonstrated by these young people. They received numerous accolades and were even asked for their autographs!



At the Festival Melodia in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, the TCC met and performed with the Young People's Chorus of New York City and the Youth Singers of Calgary. Francisco Nunez, the conductor of YPC NY and the Guest Conductor at the Festival, describes the TCC as "one of the finest choirs in the world." The YPC of New York has the following to say about the TCC:

"The Toronto Children's Chorus takes us to an entirely different realm of choral music. Their sound is refined, piercing and reminiscent of a bell choir. The repertoire that their Director, Elise Bradley, has chosen for their performances here suits their sound perfectly, with music full of sweeping chords that bring out some of the most beautiful harmonies a children's chorus can produce. The TCC has exposed us to a different side of the choral world, one that combines straight-tone singing with incredible musicianship to produce a truly impressive sound."



Francisco Nunez, Guest Conductor at Melodia Festival with TCC, YPC NY, Youth Singers of Calgary, and Camarata Exaudi Orchestra

And, in the words of a chorister...

"Going on tour this past summer is something I will never forget. It was an international tour but also my first tour ever, which was really exciting. One of the best parts of going on tour was that I was travelling with my closest friends and also my family—the TCC. I also made some great new friends and performed with the Youth Singers of Calgary choir and the Young People's Chorus of New York City. The charisma on stage with all of us was incredible and I never felt happier to be up on stage singing my heart out.

The one event on tour that truly made the experience something to remember was being a part of the ninth World Choral Symposium. I can still feel the excitement from being up on the Symposium stage, and it was one of the best performances we had. I also loved hearing the other choirs in the Symposium because I felt like the Symposium was an incredible gathering of people that are so involved in the art of music. The days we spent performing for the Symposium were absolutely incredible. I could not ask for a better tour."

