

Coro Vivo Ottawa is pleased to share with you, through this letter, a summary of our history and recent accomplishments, and information on the exciting new directions we have set for ourselves for the 2009/10 season. As the ongoing recruitment of new members is an important source of Coro Vivo Ottawa's vitality, we would encourage you to share this information, in particular the details of our upcoming audition process, with vocalists of your acquaintance whom you believe may share similar musical interests and commitment.

Coro Vivo Ottawa is a seventy voice, community-based mixed choir currently celebrating its 25th anniversary. We perform two to three concerts per season, usually with two performances of each, as well as choral presentations for sponsors, banquets, conferences, and sing-outs at seniors' residences and hospitals within the National Capital Region. Coro Vivo Ottawa has a strong commitment to the community; over the last three years, for example, we have raised more than \$15,000 for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

We enjoy singing a wide variety of music. Classical works such as Brahms' Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Mozart Vesperae de Dominica, Handel's Messiah, Haydn Nelson Mass, the Rutter Gloria, the Rutter Magnificat and the Raminsch Magnificat have been performed in recent years. We have also performed programs of opera choruses, highlights from oratorios, music from Broadway shows such as Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, spirituals, pop music through the years and folk music from around the world. Many of these programs have been performed in their original languages of composition. Our Christmas concerts are a community tradition, where we perform familiar Christmas carols with audience participation, and also introduce our audiences to less well-known works from Canada and around the world.

The choir holds an annual weekend workshop at CAMMAC's Lake MacDonald music camp with an invited guest director. In the recent past, our instructors have included Michael Zaugg, Laurence Ewashko, Isabel Bernaus, Robert Filion, Iwan Edwards, Barbara Clark and Mark Sirrett.

We generally contract professional musicians and soloists to accompany our performances. Last Spring we retained a 28- piece orchestra and two professional soloists for our Ottawa performance of the Brahms' Requiem with the Jubilate Singers of Toronto, which was attended by 1200 people. We then traveled to Toronto to join them for two of their home performances of the same concert.

Our 2009-2010 season will introduce our new director, Antonio Llaca. The Cuban born and multilingual Antonio obtained his Bachelor of Music in Musicology at the University of Ottawa where he studied choral conducting and classical guitar. He previously studied at the Instituto Universitario de Estudios Musicales in Caracas, Venezuela. While at the University of Ottawa, Antonio was Assistant Conductor to Laurence Ewashko for the Choral Ensemble, and at present holds the position of choral Assistant to the Ottawa Festival Chorus at the National Arts Centre. He has acted as choral conductor to Our Lady of Fatima Parish's choral ensemble, Parroquia Sagrada Familia coral ensemble and

Camerata Voce Mista, and has also worked artistically with Choeur Classique de l'Outaouais, the University of Ottawa ensembles, and the Ottawa Choral Society. Last year he was Co-Chair of the Inter Varsity Choral Festival. He is an accomplished classical guitarist, performing for many private recitals and festivals, and will be performing with the National Arts Center Orchestra for its Spring 2009 presentation of Romeo and Juliet.

Our accompanist since 1990, Louise Leveille, is an important and appreciated talent in our choir. She is an accomplished musician, holding Bachelor of Music and Master of Education degrees from the University of Ottawa. She has taught at the Suzuki Music Camp in Orford, Quebec, and for ten years was an ear-training teacher at the University of Ottawa, under the tutelage of renowned conductor Agnes Grosman. She has studied piano with Jean-Paul Sevilla and Jacinthe Couture in Montreal and has studied accompanying with Evelyn Greenberg. Ms. Leveille has served as accompanist for the University of Ottawa Choir, Le Theatre Lyrique de Hull, as well as for various singers on recordings for the CBC.

The concert season of 2009-2010 will be an exciting mix of both traditional carols and Spanish pieces by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramirez for the Christmas concert, and the May concert will include Vivaldi's Gloria in D.

Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. and one Saturday morning per month at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd., Orleans. Membership fees are currently \$175 per season (September to May).

Coro Vivo Ottawa welcomes new members. The next general auditions for all sections will be held in September. For more information or to request an audition, please contact Kim Phillips @ 613-526-1326 or Linda Brydon @ 613-744-5830.

In closing, Coro Vivo Ottawa thanks you for your continuing support of the musical community in the National Capital Region, and for sharing the above information with vocal artists who may want to participate in our upcoming auditions. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming concert series too!

Sincerely,
Kim Phillips