

SOME GIRLS WERE
BORN TO SING!

IN THIS
ISSUE:

- Sopranos and Jr. Fall Recital pg. 2
- Fundraising Opportunities for 2011-12 pg. 3
- Bingo Revenues pg. 4
- Angel Voices pg. 4
- Ticket Prices pg. 5
- Upcoming events pg. 6
- Lost and found pg. 6

CALENDAR

Brava and Viva 3,4 will participate in the Carol Festival at Knox United

Sr. Festive Concert. Hark the Glad sound at Knox United Church 10

Brava performs with the Civic Symphony at the Jack Singer 18

Classes will resume Jan. 9th

Calgary Girls Choir

DECEMBER 2011

As 2011 comes to a close...

Believe it or not December is here and that means that we are reaching the half way point of our 2011/12 choir season! This makes it a great time to reflect on this past year and all that it brought along. For the Calgary Girls Choir, 2011 brought along some exciting changes. Our new website is a great example of this. The Calgary Girls Choir website gives you access to the most recent information regarding the choir. What is most exciting are all of the amazing resources we are now able to offer our members

through the site. For example, under "Music Downloads" choristers can now find recordings of the songs they sing in class. This is a



great tool for choristers as they practice and prepare for their performances. To find this and our many other great resources please visit

us at, www.calgarygirlschoir.com.

In September we welcomed many new choristers to all of our choir groups. They, along with their families, have been wonderful additions to the Calgary Girls Choir. If you are new to CGC this year we welcome you and thank you for what you have brought to the choir already.

One of the things that we have appreciated from new and returning families is the support they continually show. *Continued on page 2*

DECEMBER 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Viva in Carol Festival
4 Brava in Carol Festival	5	6	7	8	9	10 Hark the Glad Sound
	Last week of classes for all junior groups and Viva					
11	12 Brava rehearsal w/CS	13	14	15 Last class for Brava	16	17
18 Brava w/ Civic Symphony	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve.
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve.
		CGC Office Closed Dec. 23-Jan. 2				



Sopranos
CALGARY GIRLS CHOIR BENEFIT CONCERT

Saturday,
October 15, 2011
Christ Church
3602-8 Street SW
at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Guest Artist
Trisha Garnes
Soprano

Colin Redekop
Organist

Calgary Girls Choir
Viva & Brava
Elaine Quilichini, Conductor

Tickets: \$20 Info & Tickets: 403-686-7444
or www.calgarygirlschoir.com

ELAINE QUILICHINI | FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sopranos

The Viva and Brava choirs started the 2011/12 season off in fine style with the annual Sopranos concert at Christ Church. Everyone was amazed at the polish and musicality exhibited by the girls so early in the year. For ensemble work to be performed at such a high level so early in the season is a tribute to the girls' ability and Ms. Quilichini's instructions

The guest artists included Colin Redekop performing a wonderful organ piece to start off the concert. The wonderful trio of Asha Hollis on violin, Anju Hollis on celio and Karen Neary on piano were truly impressive as they welcomed the audience back after intermission.

Our special guest of the night was Trisha Garnes who traveled all the

way from Wichita Kansas to entertain, and entertain she did! Ms. Garnes riveted the audience with classical and spiritual solo selections that garnered both a standing ovation and call for an encore. Brava joined Ms. Garned for the final selection of the night, ending with a rousing version of Happy Birthday sung in honour of Ms, Quilichini's mother.



CALGARY GIRLS CHOIR

Junior Fall RECITAL

Featuring Prima, Bella and Dolce

Saturday
October 29

Bethany Chapel of Calgary
3333 Richardson Way SW
at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets Adults \$15, Kids \$10
Purchase at Choir Rehearsal, Choir Office,
or at the Door. Call the Calgary Girls Choir
at 403-686-7444 for tickets and information.

ELAINE QUILICHINI | FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ms. Q's Corner

One of the new and exciting features of our new website is Ms. Quilichini's blog. This blog entitled, "Ms. Q's Corner", is special because it allows Ms. Q, our Artistic Director, to share her thoughts and insights with you. The following comes from Ms. Q's Corner and was written about the Junior Fall recital, the first concert of the year for our junior choristers.

"...Speaking of beautiful head tones...the Junior Fall Concert on Sat was just wonderful. I was thrilled to

see and hear all the junior choirs and we were all so impressed by how much they have learned so early in the year. Congratulations to all the wonderful and talented teachers and vocal coaches, accompanist Colin Redekop, soloists Helena Arbuckle and Kiera Janzen, Edward Choi and Howard Janzen and to all who helped this run so smoothly and positively.

I would also like to make a special thanks to the many parents who were helping behind the scenes. Your support and help are so greatly appreciated! We truly

could not do this without you. Also thanks to everyone for attending and for bringing along grandmas, grandpas, aunties and friends etc. It is such a wonderful thing to see you there sharing in the accomplishments and pride of our little girls!

I can't wait to hear everyone at Christmas. Please be sure to spend lots of time with your music files on our web site so you are ready well ahead!

Love
Ms. Quilichini "

Find Ms. Q's Corner under "resources" in our members area

Continued from page 1

Whether at performances, rehearsals, workshops, camps, participating in fundraisers etc. The support CGC families have shown has been tremendous

and we thank you for all that you do. we will share together in the new year!

As we head into the Christmas season we wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and all of the best for 2012. We look forward to the experiences

CGC Office

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES 2011 - 2012

The Calgary Girls Choir wants to make it easier to reach your General Fundraising targets so have introduced some new fundraising ideas plus have stuck to the tried and true. Our first fundraiser of the year was new to CGC being **Lamontagne Collections, Chocoos and Gourmet Cookies**. If you have any comments you wish to share concerning this fundraiser please direct them to the Choir office. All fundraisers are voluntary, you participate in the one(s) that appeal to you.

We were pleased to offer **Spolumbo Sausages** once again this fall. Christine Dooley took over the organization of this fundraiser and we would like to thank her for her work which was terrific! This fundraiser was a great success and it will be returning in the Spring! With this fundraiser you receive 17% of your total sales towards your General Fundraising target.

The Calgary Girls Choir annual **Poinsettia** fundraiser kicked off on October 17th. These lovely poinsettias come in varying colours and pot sizes from a reputable greenhouse. You receive 25% of your total sales towards your General Fundraising target. Delivery/pick up will be **December 6th**. (Hopefully not the coldest day of the winter this year!!)

New this fall for fundraising we have introduced **Lamontagne Bon Appétit Cheeses**. They provide a wonderful selection of cheeses, just in time for entertaining or gift giving. They are sold individually or in Gift Boxes. You receive 30% of your total sales towards your General Fundraising target.

Don't forget CGC's ongoing fundraisers. **FundScrip** is Canadian gift cards for a variety of retailers and are just like cash. You redeem the gift card at the store of your choice for the value of your purchase, the same as a gift certificate. Use them to pay for groceries, gas, travel, clothes or give them as presents. Cards are delivered to your Choir location. The holiday season is coming, get signed up and order soon!!! Great for teacher gifts. Contact the CGC office for access to the correct online forms and information to get started.

We have **Co-op** gift cards in the office as they are not offered through FundScrip. Plus for a **limited** time we have **Safeway** gift cards in the office as well. Put your order in at your Choir location and your cards

are there the next week for pick up.

Fundraising Basics

Targets:

Prima \$50 Viva \$100
Bella \$50 Brava \$200
Dolce \$75

The money raised is distributed as follows:

1. The Choir receives the target amount
2. The chorister's account receives any additional credits earned up to an amount equal to the target.
3. Additional funds are split 50/50 between the Choir and the chorister's account

Coming Spring 2012: Lamontagne Belgian Chocolates and Cereal Bars, Kicking Horse Coffee and our annual Spring Plant Sale.



Bingo Revenues



Bingo Revenues are an integral part of the Choir funds. The shifts that you do at the Bingo Barn and Grey Eagle contribute approximately \$80,000 to our operating budget. The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission has strict limitations on the use of bingo funds. We use the proceeds to offset rental costs, and are normally able to pay 80% of our rental fees through bingo revenues.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who work these shifts, and especially to our Bingo Coordinator Theresa Hiltz, and Captains Sheila Wharry and Mavis McKenzie who organize it all!

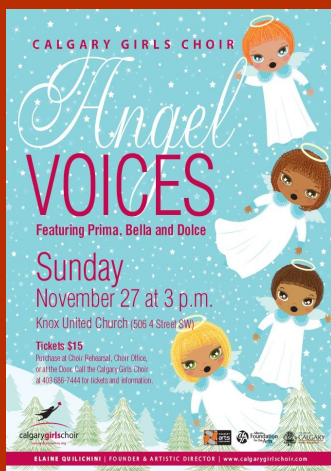
Right now United Way campaigns are active all over the city. Your workplace may be collecting donations too. Did you know that you can ensure your dollars go to the programs that are important to you? Participate in the United Way's Donor's Choice program and designate your donation for the Calgary Girls Choir. We sincerely appreciate your support.

All I want for Christmas is a DVD!

On November 27th our Junior choristers had a wonderful Festive Concert at Knox United Church. Strong winds may have been blowing outside yet inside there was a calm as a full house watched a lovely performance to celebrate the season. Thank you to all who attended, we know that the weather did not make it easy to come out. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all of our Volunteers. They played a large role in making sure the show went on smoothly. This was definitely a concert we will not soon forget!

To ensure you do not forget the night, you can now order this concert on DVD! You can purchase a copy for yourself as well as for family and friends. Angel Voices on DVD will be here before Christmas making it a great gift idea

Hark the Glad Sound, our Senior festive concert, will also be available on DVD and will make a great gift as well as it too will be here before Christmas. To order either DVD (or both). Please be sure to fill out an order form (found on our website and rehearsal locations) or contact the office at, office@calgarygirlschoir.com.



Wondering about Ticket Prices?

I recently received an e-mail from a parent asking about the ticket prices for our concerts, and where the revenue goes to. It struck me that other families may be wondering the same thing, so I thought that the answer should be included in this newsletter for everyone to read.

For the most part, ticket prices have gone up modestly in the past few years, reflecting the rising cost of venues.

The Festive Concert is a bit of a special case, as we have less control over the prices at the Epcor Centre. In response to last year's rise in costs at the Epcor, we chose to have a tiered pricing structure based upon the quality of the seats. Here are the concert prices for the past few seasons; the Festive Concert price shown is an average of the three prices:

Event	2008/09	2009/10	2010/12	2011/12
Fall Senior	10	15	20	20
Fall Junior	10	10	10	15
- Children's	-	8	-	10
Festive	18.55	18.20	31.60	
Prima, Bella Showcase	12	12	12	
- Children's	2	2	5	
Dolce, Viva Showcase	-	15	25	
Brava Showcase	-	25	25	
Jr Spring	10	10	10	
- Children's	8	8	10	
Sr. Spring	15	15	20	

All of the funds that we collect from any of our activities go straight into our operating fund. The fund is made up of moneys from fees, fundraising and bingo, grants and donations, and performances. The contributions of each are as follows:

Fees	45%
Fundraising and Bingos	25%
Grants and Donations	20%
Performances	10%



Tours are all funded entirely by the families of the choristers who are touring.

You will notice that at present those percentages are heavily weighted to parent and extended family contributions. The Board and I are well aware of this and are currently working very hard on a number of fronts to decrease this dependence.

First of all, we are currently working on a corporate sponsorship program that we expect will significantly increase the contribution from the Grants and Donations category. Secondly, the senior choirs are doing more corporate performances this year than ever before. Thirdly, we are raising the profile of the choir in general through a wider advertising campaign and our new website. We hope to attract a wider audience to our performances, and increase our sphere of support.

As these efforts draw more funds into the organization, we will be able to offer our members benefits such as a discounted ticket price structure and more financial assistance opportunities.

I want to thank this parent again for the question, and would encourage anyone with a question or concern to contact me by phone at 403-686-7444 or by e-mail at janice.schaalje@calgarygirlschoir.com

Janice Schaalje
Executive Director

This month don't miss...

Hark the Glad Sound

December 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
Knox United Church (506 4 Street SW)

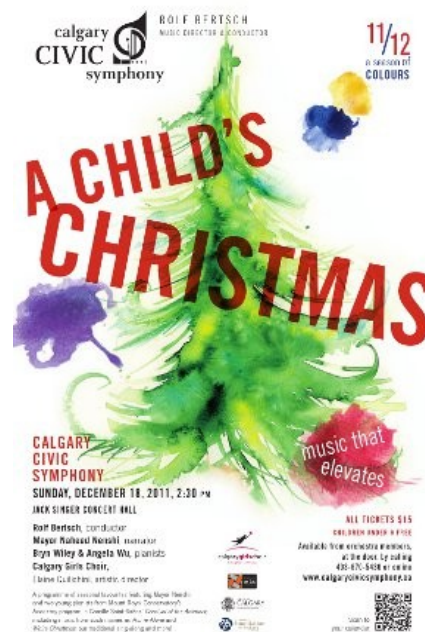
Come join us for our senior girls Festive Concert, Hark the Glad Sound! It is sure to be a wonderful event and one you won't want to miss.

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

December 18, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.
Jack Singer Concert Hall

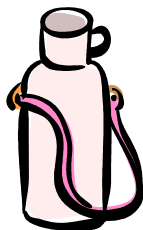
Brava will be performing with the Civic Symphony on December 18th. This will be a wonderful way to spend an afternoon that will get you into the Christmas spirit

Tickets for both of these events are available at the CGC office. Hark the Glad Sound tickets can also be purchase at the door.



Lost and Found

- Blue Gap jean jacket size M
- Purple fleece hoodie size XS
- Purple fleece hoodie size M
- Gray hoodie size L
- Brown sunglasses
- White and blue socks
- 2 pairs of black gloves
- 1 pair of red gloves
- 1 black and red mitt
- Black laptop cover
- Tinkerbell pencil case
- Blue pencil case with Australian flag and koala bear on it
- Pink rubber boots
- Brown stripped slippers
- 2 silver thermoses
- If your chorister is missing a water bottle, chances are we have it! We currently have 17 bottles which we would like to return to their owners.



Any items left unclaimed by January 16 will be donated!

Calgary Girls Choir

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