

SOME GIRLS WERE  
BORN TO SING!

# Calgary Girls Choir

JULY 2011

## CGC's Spring General Meeting

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On the evening of June 27 the choirs' society held its Spring General Meeting. Many thanks to members that took the time out to join the meeting; we appreciate your interest and participation. The Spring General Meeting is held each year to give members the opportunity to get an update on the work of the society, and to hold elections for Board positions when those positions become available.

In September, the Fall General Meeting is held to pass the Society's financial reports. All members are invited to come to these meetings and participate in the governance of your choir.

**CGC General Meetings are held twice a year and we invite everyone to attend. Attending gives you the opportunity to be a part of the important business of the Choir.**

**The Annual General Meeting, in September, will be our next meeting. Exact date and time to be announced closer to the day.**

This month's Calgary Girl's Choir Newsletter is a special edition dedicated to sharing with our families the items that were discussed at our Spring General Meeting. Excerpts from the meeting will be found throughout the pages of the newsletter (beginning with "Question From the Floor" found below) and we invite you to review them so that you can stay informed on what has been occurring and what will be occurring at the Calgary Girls Choir.



## Question From the Floor

### Question:

Theresa Hiltz asked what the names of the choirs mean:

### Answer:

**Prima** – first  
**Bella** – beautiful  
**Dolce** – sweet  
**Viva** - life  
**Allegra** – happy and relaxed  
**Ragazze** – girls  
**Brava** – female version of bravo



## CHOIR ACTIVITY REPORT: Elaine Quilichini

The 2010-2011 choral season has been a busy but wonderful one. CGC continues to see growth in numbers and perhaps more importantly in depth and musical achievement. The choirs improve every year, which is a testament to the lasting effect of the instruction and experience gained in previous years. Ms. Quilichini continues to be excited about the work, new plans, and the future.

We all have cause to celebrate after our tour to Italy last summer, one of the most successful tours CGC has ever undertaken. Our year began with three highly successful camps held in the fall for Viva, Allegra and Ragazze. Ms. Quilichini feels strongly that camps provide the best of the choir experiences; tremendous learning takes place in a very short time and the girls make lasting friendships. Parents who are lucky enough to attend these camps get an inside view into the magic that takes place in rehearsal and always become even stronger supporters of the choir after the experience. Annual Fall concerts, presented by the senior and junior programs, were enjoyed by capacity audiences. The annual Festive Concert, Hark the Glad Sound, was outstanding and the size and enthusiasm of the audience was impressive. Theme driven Spring Showcases were also suc-

cessful and allowed parents an opportunity to hear their child's choir in a more intimate setting and with plenty of time on stage to share their extensive repertoire. The themes chosen provided a great springboard for new ideas and activities and also helped create excitement in the silent auction portion of the evening. The Junior Spring Concert and the senior level Celebrate concert provided impressive culminations to a productive year of musical and artistic growth. The beauty of the singing, the polish and confidence displayed by the girls at these concerts is evidence of all they have learned during the year. The CGC season came to a brilliant conclusion by Allegra/Ragazze, who performed as part of the High River Concert Series. The audience was tremendously thankful and overwhelmed by the quality of the choir and the girls.

Ms. Quilichini was able to devote more of her time to the junior choirs, particularly Dolce, this past year. This worked well and was appreciated by the junior program teachers so will continue next season.

Plenty of auditions have been undertaken and next year Allegra-Ragazze will be combined into a single choir called Brava. A large group of our most experienced singers have graduated and the combined

group will make for a balanced and efficient choir. Our Brava choir intends to tour Germany next July, and this arrangement will also help facilitate tour rehearsals. Viva hopes to travel to the west coast in March 2012.

**We are excited to introduce a new program starting in the fall. This lively preschool program will enhance the bonds parents share with their child for a lifetime. Songs, stories and dramatic play will nurture the child's creativity, cognitive, language, and musical skills. The program will not be performance based. Anima (Spirit) will be held once weekly for 3 year olds and a parent. An excellent teacher has joined our staff and we are looking forward to offering the benefits of a Kodaly based music program for our wee ones and their parents.**

**Please note: This program will be open to boys and girls!!**

Ms. Quilichini thanked the Board members and staff for all of their help and support. She very much appreciates it.

# FINANCIAL REPORT – Carol Sadler

## Financial results to May 31, 2011

The fiscal 2011 financial statements to date show a surplus over the break-even budget. While revenues/receipts were close to budget, expenses were less as staff positions remained unfilled for part of the year and the computer network and website upgrade work that was budgeted was not completed during the fiscal year. The surplus will carry over to the 2011/2012 budget when the upgrades will be completed. The current year budget included potential revenues from a gala event; while the gala did not occur, other fundraising programs provided net revenues in excess of those planned:

**Chocolate almond sales**  
(unbudgeted)

\$ 7,800 (all values rounded)

**Coffee (unbudgeted)**  
\$1,500

**Spolumbo Sausages**  
(extra sale)  
\$10,000

**Spring plant sales**  
(earned over budget)  
\$ 3,300

The Choir's cash position is currently sufficient to cover expenses over the summer months to registration in September and provide a surplus for the next year budget as noted above.

## Budget 2011/2012

The Society has just completed the budget for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. This budget is realistic and conservative in forecasting revenues and uses the surplus from 2010/2011 particularly to continue the computer network and website upgrade work that was budgeted but not completed in 2010/2011. The Society continues to follow the prior years' Budget policy of not allowing a deficit.

The Choir's budget process, as developed over the past couple years, has been successful in allowing the Choir to manage cash and in providing information for the Choir's decision

making. Our thanks go to the Executive Director and our bookkeeper for their hard work in this regard – for instance, they have saved the Choir a few thousand dollars this year in modifying phone usage. They are also timely and complete in filing the Choir's charity returns with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Our annual return is on public record and can be viewed from the CRA website. This is a requirement of all registered charities.

## Other matters

Chorister fees cover less than half of the operating costs of the Choir; grants and donations currently add another 15%, so that only 60% of operations are funded by these sources. The remaining 40% comes from other fundraising. The Choir is looking at additional fund raising efforts with respect to donation and grant programs, for instance, as we need a more stable revenue base to grow into the future.

## Introducing Anima

**The Calgary Girls Choir is pleased to announce the arrival of Anima. An exciting new program for 3 year old girls and boys and their parents.**

**Starting in the fall, Anima will take place one morning a week and will offer Kodaly instruction for our participants.**

**If you are interested, please contact our office at  
(403) 686-7444 or email us at [info@calgarygirlschoir.com](mailto:info@calgarygirlschoir.com)**



## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

### – Nancy Morton

Nancy reported that the Board has become more active in supporting the actions of the choir. A compensation package review was undertaken for all staff, and a roles definition project is also currently underway. New bylaws were passed in September that clarified and simplified some issues and brought the Society in line with current legislation.

Strategic planning

continues to be a major activity of the board. The Choir is putting emphasis on a more consistent and exciting tour and performance schedule. We are planning an annual, North American tour schedule for Viva, and a bi-annual major tour for senior choirs.

We are very excited about the new member management software project, which is being led by a board member and will be

completed in the Fall of this year. The software will allow members to manage their own registration, increase access to important information, reduce errors and reduce work effort in the office.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

### - Janice Schaalje

Janice reviewed some activities in the office. Human Resources continues to be an ongoing focus. Over the summer we will be recruiting a new Artistic Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. Maegan Hudson will be missed as Artistic Coordinator, and we wish her well in her new teaching position at Webber Academy. Maegan will return to teach classes in the South West, and to act as office liaison for all of the Junior teachers. We thank Kathy McMillan for the great start she gave us in the

new Volunteer Coordinator position, and are sorry that family commitments will keep her from continuing.

The focus of the office staff is of course to support the choristers and Ms. Quilichini's vision for the choral programs. Judy, who is at the front desk, does a wonderful job assisting parents with their questions; Myrna and Kathleen Fairley keep us all on track with the accounting and bookkeeping. Kathleen Colmant is our new program co-ordinator. She is

bringing a new energy to the basic operational side of program delivery and is also doing amazing work raising the profile of the choir in Calgary

Our major summer projects include inventory and organization of the storage room; writing of a policies and procedures manual for both the office and the volunteers; and the implementation of the member management software.

## BRAVA 2012 TOUR

**There is a great excitement surrounding the 2012 Germany Tour for next season's Brava Choristers. Registrations for this tour must be in by July 10th therefore if you have not registered yet please be sure to do so!**



Please be aware that **FundScrip** cards will not be available through the Calgary Girls Choir, during the summer months.

A limited number of **Safeway Grocery Vouchers** are still available at the CGC Office. These vouchers are available in denominations of \$100 and \$200. You can place an order by emailing or calling the CGC office.

# Lasting Memories

The Calgary Girls Choir 2010/11 season was a great season that included some amazing experiences that have created lasting memories, not only for the choristers but also for family and friends and anybody who was involved in various capacities. For one CGC Grandmother, lasting memories were created as she prepared, and got the opportunity to experience, being a guest conductor for the Celebrate Concert, held at the end of April. Lil Collins-Dooley did a wonderful job as she con-

ducted one of the songs performed by Viva at this event. The following is an article, written by Lil, which describes her experience. As she shares with us her thoughts and feelings one cannot help but look forward to the lasting memories that will be created next season as well as reflect on those created this past season. Please Enjoy!

## My heart started thumping.....

How does a 77-year young grandmother of two VIVA Choristers become a guest conductor? First, you attend a “fundraiser concert”. When invited to go have cookies and tea after the concert, you suddenly hear someone call out that “the bidding starts NOW for a guest conductor spot at the next choral concert”.

That’s what happened on March 5, 2011, at the Sugar Plums and Elephants Showcase Concert and Fundraiser. Although I had never bid on anything in my whole life, I energetically started throwing my right hand way up in the air at \$25.00, whilst telling myself that I would soon drop out of this race, given the bidding frenzy that erupted, especially among the ranks of young Daddies whose daughters or wives were egging them on. Being on a fixed income, I began to tell myself that this bidding could get out of hand, and that I ought to set a limit to my enthusiasm. The competition tapered down to two Dads and me. To this day, I am convinced that they

graciously withdrew from the race, so that this little ole gal could get her wish.

I went from a state of disbelief when the auctioneer closed the bidding at my last call, to a crescendo of excitement and joy. How could this be happening to me? What would my two grandies, Grace and Emma, think of me conducting a song at their next concert? That night, friends and family had to peel me off the ceiling, such was my excitement.

Ms Quilichini invited me to attend a rehearsal the following week, where we would select a number for me to rehearse with the VIVAs, and subsequently conduct at the April 30<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATE Concert. Ms. Q., as she is affectionately called by her choristers, suggested I do HAND ME DOWN MY SILVER TRUMPET, a traditional, dynamic spiritual. Having heard it before, I thought that was a great selection. Little did I realize that this number was to be sung at ALLEGRO tempo....which means “fast & lively”.... by 52 young ladies between the ages

of 8-10. Do you remember me mentioning that I am a senior, and thus memory and retention are sometimes in the “key of off”, and my mobility is at slow tempo?

Although nervous at first, Ms. Q’s assistance and encouragement, combined with the choristers’ expertise and total, undivided attention all contributed to settle me down into a zone of comfort. I soon realized that no matter what kind of conducting I was doing, the girls knew exactly what to do....so not much could go wrong.

No words can express the fun I had at rehearsals and at the concert, when listening and/or conducting these professional young ladies into song. It was a particular honour, to have been entrusted with a section of Ms. Quilichine’s prestigious choral group, THE CALGARY GIRLS CHOIR. Rest assured that you will remain in my “musical heart and soul” forever!

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\*

*Lil Collins-Dooley, Grandmother to Grace & Emma Dooley (Viva Choristers)*





**calgarygirlschoir**

Some girls are born to sing

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**The Calgary Girls Choir is currently recruiting for the positions of, Artistic Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in either of these positions please contact the CGC Office.**

## **News from the Vice President Finance**

The Canada Revenue Agency has recently announced a new non-refundable tax credit for 2011 and subsequent years. The Children's Art Tax Credit will let you claim eligible expenses of up to \$500 per year for each of your children who are under 16 years of age at the beginning of the year in which the expenses are paid. Eligible activities and programs are those that contribute to the development of creative skills or expertise in artistic or cultural activities.

The Calgary Girls Choir program qualifies for this tax credit. Parents of choristers under 16 at the beginning of 2011 may claim this credit on their tax returns for the year. The Choir's receipt is your

proof to the Canada Revenue Agency that the choir fees qualify. Note that you must retain the receipt in case you are asked to verify the claim, but you do not have to send the receipt with your tax return.

The Choir is pleased that the tax authorities have recognized with a tax credit the value of artistic activities for children.

*Carol Sadler, Vice President Finance*

## **IN YOUR WORDS**

**Here is your chance to put into words what the Choir has meant to you. We would like to extend the invitation to all of our members and friends to share with us some words about your experience and thoughts about the Calgary Girls Choir. Your words may be posted on our new website, coming this fall, and they will be valuable as they will give others, unfamiliar with the Choir, a better understanding of the Calgary Girls Choir and the way it positively affects those who become involved. If you would like to be a part of this, please email CGC's office. Your time, help and thoughts are very much appreciated.**