



The Viva Voice October 1, 2009

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Viva's 22nd year!



From the Artistic Director

Welcome back to another exciting year! I am glad to report that registrations are up this fall – almost 20 more than at this time a year ago, with most increases at the intermediate level. Our newest group, the West Shore Foundation Choir, is off and running, and the Girls Choir is almost full. We will still be welcoming newcomers for another couple of weeks; after that potential singers will have to wait until January before signing up.

We have several events to look forward to this term, beginning with the **Olympic Torch Ceremony** in the Inner Harbour on Friday, October 30th. As you probably know by now, Viva Choirs, along with the Victoria Children's Choir, have been invited to perform the premiere of the official Olympic torch anthem "There's a Light / Cette Flamme" at the Legislature that evening. There are only a few places left, so sign up as soon as you can to be part of this event. We will be performing in front of thousands, not to mention all the people watching on national TV... See the website, your revised schedule or your yellow Olympic information sheet for details on extra rehearsals. We'll also keep you posted by email.

Would **parents** who'd like to sing with the choirs in the final massed number in the December concert please let us know (viva@vivachoirs.ca)? You'll need to attend the **Saturday, Oct. 17 rehearsal** at St. Aidan's, and part of the Dec. 11 & 12 dress rehearsal and pre-concert warm-up. Oct 17 schedule: Olympic torch singers at 1:30 -2:15, all choirs (not FNU, FNW) plus parents at 2:15- 2:45, singers only 2:45-4:00.

The **Santa Parade** will be on Nov. 21, and already a number of choristers have signed up to be part of this. Conductor Marnie-Setka Mooney will be leading this group, and will be sending home the songs to be learned. [Please see p. 2.]

The West Shore Choir will be singing at the Colwood cenotaph for **Remembrance Day** ceremonies on Nov. 11th. Conductor Arlene Overman will be leading the choir in the singing of "Dona nobis pacem" and one other piece.

All Intermediate and Senior singers have been invited to sing at the McPherson Theatre the evening of Dec. 5 and/or afternoon of Dec. 6 in **Kaleidoscope Theatre's** "Best Christmas Pageant Ever". Details tba, watch email. By the way, at least 2 past Viva singers will be acting in "BCPE."

The Chorale and Young Men's Ensemble have been asked to provide entertainment at the **Colwood Golf Club** on Sunday, December 13th. Meet at 10 :45, pick up at 2:15 There are 2 half hour shows with brunch provided in between [Please reply to email of Sept 28, 11:50 AM]

In the interest of continuing to build connections with the wider musical community in Victoria, I have recently had conversations with the Victoria Conservatory of Music, the Victoria Broadway Chorus and Via Choralis regarding mutual promotion. There is also talk of an invitation to a possible Olympic-related event at the VCM next February.

Please remember my 3 points in the last newsletter:

Recruitment, Stability and Audience Development. We are off to a good start on two of these, with rising numbers and a busy season of concerts in the wider Victoria area. Only time will tell how we are meeting the challenge of keeping our singers right through to age 18 and on to Prima Youth Choir and other musical activities.

This promises to be altogether a busy fall term. Keep practicing, and I'll see you at rehearsal.
Nicholas Fairbank, Artistic Director.

Tues Nov 24, 6:30 PM Annual General Meeting VIVA Youth Choirs Society of Victoria

Room A166, MacLaurin Building,
University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

6:30-7:00 PM Annual General Meeting, including election of Board of Directors

7:00-7:15 VIVA Boys and Girls Choirs "Informance mini rehearsal/performance!

7:15-7:30 Meeting of the new Board of Directors

The VIVA Youth Choirs Society of Victoria is a registered not-for-profit charitable organization and can issue receipts for charitable donations for tax purposes. A parent/ guardian of each VIVA singer is automatically a member of the Society and is encouraged to attend the AGM. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Board; job descriptions are available for perusal upon request.

Several important documents ..

.. were distributed at parent meetings last week. If you didn't receive or find these in your singer's folder, please get them at your next rehearsal or ask for them to be emailed: an updated Sept 21st schedule, a medical/ waivers form, "Dear Blank" letters to give to teachers, coaches, etc., and, for eligible singers, Olympic torch forms. Also issued was the 2009-10 Viva Handbook, which has contact numbers on the back; please add to managers: for GC, Julie Lanuza at 508-7882 and for WS, Kelly Wilson at 391-4699. (Margaret's cell number is 896-9337, although it's usually turned off.) Look for your singer's code: FNU, FNW, WS, BC, GC, etc., or ALL, and tell us right away about any conflicts. Check your email regularly for details relevant to your own choir.

Fundraising

Thrifty Foods has begun a loyalty program called Club Thrifty Foods. Our Smile Cards (available at rehearsals) will continue to earn the choir 5% when you load them; Club points can be awarded as the amount is spent.

Piano Lessons

Kevin Ngo, accompanist for Young Men's Ensemble, Chorale and Concert Choir again this year, is accepting piano students this fall. For further details and any question feel free to contact him at: kevin.a.ngo@gmail.com or phone (250) 857-5646. Kevin looks forward to hearing from some young, enthusiastic budding pianists.

Please see next page for Santa Parade details.



Santa Parade - Sat., Nov. 21, 2009

1. All interested older members will carol on foot behind the trolley; no change of passengers is permitted during the parade and anyone on foot must be at least 6 years old. All participants must carry some sort of a small light, so **bring a flashlight with fresh batteries** (check beforehand), and we'll wrap red or green tissue paper on the ends. It may be helpful to bring an extra one, and spare batteries.

2. The first 18 singers under age 10 or with a disability have a trolley seat. Any of them may choose to walk if their parents allow it (let us know right away). Subsequent younger singers will be waitlisted for a seat, but they may choose to walk the entire route with the older singers, if parents allow it. Please let us know if you choose this option, OR if you wish to be removed from the waitlist.

3. Already signed-up as of Oct 1:
On the trolley (5 seats left):
 BC: Cian;
 FNU: Nadia, Avalon, Erica;
 FNW: Anastasia;
 GC: Meredith, Rose Mae, Tayler, Lilly, Madelaine; Rosemary;
 WS: Patricia; Courtney
 Adults: Marnie, Arlene;
Walking:
 BC: Erin,
 GC: Bronwyn, Genevieve;
 WS: Anthea, Steve
Trolley waitlist: nil so far;
Adults walking: Jamie, Mickie

Important Details

A. Parade MUSIC will be distributed to signed-up singers, and all music must be MEMORIZED at home before the Parade. Do not leave your singer at the parade warm-up location unless you know the music is secure: all verses of "Jingle Bells", verse one of "Here We Come a-Wassailing", and all of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." If you want a rehearsal CD, bring a labeled recordable disk to the next rehearsal of your choir.

- B. Assemble the following OUTDOOR UNIFORM ahead of time:
- the usual comfortable black shoes, black socks & black pants.
 - large black sweater or sweatshirt (turn inside out to hide logos, etc.), under which the singer will wear layers of clothing suitable to the day's weather.
 - an unsnapped VIVA vest on top [FN singers will be given vests which they'll return at end of parade]
 - singers can provide a royal blue scarf; the choir also has a few to lend.
 - everyone add a hat (Santa style is OK) and any colour gloves or mitts, plus umbrella if appropriate.
 - bring a flashlight with fresh batteries, covered in red or green tissue paper if desired.

Adult walkers may also wear black, with a brightly coloured scarf and gloves.

C. Signed-up singers will **gather between 5:00 & 5:15 PM** near the corner of Government and Superior for an outdoor warm-up. The parade is from about 5:45 to about 7 PM or so, and singers are to be picked up in front of the Capital Iron store at 1900 Store Street. Please tell Marnie when you take your child away!

D. Parents, please allow extra time for getting there, parking & walking to meeting point (and home bathrooming...) - thousands of people are involved in this event!

Santa Parade Sign-Up
Please return this portion by
Thursday, Oct. 15th in order to participate.

Singer: _____

Choir ____ Age ____

Phone # _____

Willing to walk (Y or N) _____

Parent/Guardian signature/permission:

Name of any adult willing to walk along:

Has a blue scarf? (see B) _____
 Ho Ho Ho!