

Dear Choristers and Friends of Coro Vivo Ottawa,

Welcome to our 2015 – 2016 music season. We're pleased to bring you our 31st year of concert performance and song. Every year CVO takes on the challenge of preparing demanding works and presenting refined concerts alongside some of Ottawa's best musicians. The coming season is no exception and we're eager to share some of our plans with you.

September marks the official beginning of our concert season when weekly rehearsals commence. Every time we meet, along with the pleasure of singing, there is the added challenge of mastering repertoire and improving it. Coro Vivo singers were in the rehearsal hall for over 140 hours last year for the preparation of two wonderful performances. We kicked off last year's season with a celebratory performance to mark Coro Vivo's thirty years of existence. **Coro Vivo Celebrates Thirty Christmases** was a concert filled with celebration and seasonal spirit. Highlight was the world premiere of *Gold and Glory*, a work commissioned by CVO to celebrate the momentous anniversary occasion. The program included some superb works by modern composers such as Morten Lauridsen and Mark G. Sirett, and arrangements of well-loved seasonal songs by Bob Chilcott, Randol Alan Bass and others. Choristers rose to the challenge of performing this difficult repertoire, culminating in a well attended, outstanding performance. We finished our season with the performance of **Lux Aeterna: Songs of Light** a program that centered its attention on the depiction of light in musical settings. The program featured composers such as Antonio Lauro, Lili Boulanger and Johannes Brahms. Centrepiece of this performance was Morten Lauridsen's masterpiece, *Lux Aeterna*, a work for choir and orchestra described as "intimate and of quiet serenity". This uplifting program was well received by our audience members, as well as the singers and musicians who participated.

As I enter this new season, I am constantly thinking and conceptualizing the two performances that lie ahead. In December 2015, Coro Vivo will present a performance of **Handel's Messiah**. The program promises to be a treat for our audience, focusing on well-loved selections of the work, presented with orchestra and soloists. This masterfully written oratorio is one of Handel's better known works. Synonymous with the Christmas season, inspired audiences throughout North America and the United Kingdom rush to concert halls to attend annual performances. It is our great pleasure to share the joy of Messiah with you and we hope that you will be able to attend. To close our 2015 – 2016 season, we offer a concert with a different flavour. **A World of Song** is a program focusing on one of the most genuine forms of artistic expression from any culture: folk music. Join us for this lively concert of world music that will showcase songs from several countries of the world. In this commented performance, audience members will have the opportunity to glean insight into musical expression from other cultures as we explore music from around the globe. The concert proposes to be an exciting world tour and we certainly hope you will join us.

Assuming my seventh year with Coro Vivo, I personally invite you to take part in these two unique concerts. Whether you are in the audience or on stage, this season promises to be an unforgettable experience.

See you at the concerts!

Antonio Llaca
Coro Vivo Ottawa - Artistic Director
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