

August 2016

Dear Choristers and Friends of Coro Vivo:

The beginning of our 2016-2017 season is just around the corner and I am pleased to share some exciting plans with you. Every September the singers of Coro Vivo Ottawa resume rehearsals after a summer hiatus. The beginning of each season is always received with a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm by choir members and artistic staff as we look forward to the challenges ahead. Our 2016-2017 season promises to be an exceptional one. This year, our ensemble will keep a busy schedule of rehearsals, performances and tour planning. We look forward to making you a part of this exciting experience.

As we leave the 2015-2016 season behind, I feel very proud of our accomplishments. In December 2015, we were honored to perform **Handel's Messiah** for a sold-out audience at the Shenkman Arts Centre. We were accompanied by a wonderful orchestra and outstanding soloists for a performance that brought the audience to its feet. The magic of Messiah has been synonymous with the Christmas season for centuries. Our ensemble's hard work paid off, successfully navigating the intricate baroque counterpoint with the orchestra to achieve a truly strong performance of this masterwork.

We entered 2016 with a new challenge as the ensemble prepared for a substantially different concert. **A World of Song** was a concert of folkloric music from several countries from around the globe. Besides learning complex world music for this concert, the choir had the additional challenge of singing in several different languages such as Finnish, Russian, Spanish, Hebrew and others. This commented concert was exceptionally well attended. I personally want to thank our audience last season for their strong support of our ensemble.

This season will be equally challenging and rewarding for the choir and audience, and we certainly hope to see you on stage or at our concerts. In December 2016, we begin our 33<sup>rd</sup> season with **Feel the Spirit**. This program will revolve around seasonal favourites while featuring John Rutter's 'Feel the Spirit', a suite of spirituals gracefully arranged for choir, piano and soloist. We are excited to present this lively concert, which surely will kick-start your holiday season.

In March 2017, our ensemble will join forces with the Orchestre Symphonique de Gatineau (OSG) to present Carl Orff's famous **Carmina Burana**. We are excited about this opportunity to perform once more with the OSG under the baton of Yves Léveill e, and to explore and learn this outstanding piece of music.

In May, we close our 2016-2017 season with an intimate recital featuring Canadian composers. **A Choral Celebration** will be a concert that celebrates decades of choral singing for our ensemble. This concert will initiate our tour of Canada in the spring/summer of 2017, commemorating Canada's 150 years of Confederation.

I am very honoured to assume my eighth year as Coro Vivo's conductor, and want to personally invite you to be a part of our concerts this season. See you at the concerts!

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