

Dear Choristers and Friends of Coro Vivo:

The beginning of our 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 season promises to be an exceptional one. We look forward to making you a part of this exciting experience.

As we leave the 2016-2017 season behind, I feel very proud of our accomplishments. In December 2016, we began our 33rd season with **Feel the Spirit**, a program of infectious spirituals and seasonal favourites featuring Moses Hogan's "Ride On, King Jesus" and John Rutter's "Feel the Spirit"; cycles of spirituals gracefully arranged for choir, piano and soloist. We were energized to present this lively concert, vivaciously received by our audience.

We entered 2017 with a new challenge as the ensemble prepared for collaboration with the Orchestre Symphonique de Gatineau (OSG) to present Carl Orff's blockbuster **Carmina Burana**. We were pleased about this opportunity to perform once more with the OSG under the baton of maestro Yves Léveillé, and to explore and learn this masterpiece.

In May, we closed our 2016-2017 season with an intimate recital featuring Canadian composers. **A Choral Celebration** showcased the choir's musicianship, capable of sustaining and thriving in an *a cappella* setting. Preparation for the concert initiated our tour of St. John's Newfoundland, in the spring of 2017, commemorating Canada's 150 years of Confederation.

This season, 2017-2018, will be equally challenging and rewarding for the choir and audience. Every year CVO takes on the challenge of preparing demanding works and presenting refined concerts alongside some of Ottawa's best musicians. This coming season is no exception and we're eager to share some of our exciting plans with you.

We begin our 34th concert season in collaboration with Orchestre symphonique de Gatineau (OSG) in a presentation of Händel's masterpiece, **Messiah**. We're pleased to join with OSG under the baton of maestro Léveillé. I personally look forward to collaborating with the orchestra and massed choir to bring this beautiful piece to life, and I am proud that we have been invited once more to collaborate with these ensembles. It truly is a testament to the work we do in rehearsals and the musicianship that has been attained by CVO.

During the winter season, I look forward to rehearsing and performing a program of 20th and 21st century choral music. **Sure on This Shining Night** will be a challenging program of musicianship featuring works by Lauridsen, Whitacre, Gjeilo and other prominent composers in contemporary classical tradition. This intimate and reflective program, filled with rich harmonies and outstanding composition, is sure to be an audience favourite and I look forward to sharing this beautiful repertoire with you and our audience.

Lastly, in the spring of 2018, I am excited to present several arrangements of songs by the popular British band **The Beatles in SATB** format. This is a program that I'm certain will be a lot fun, generating energy and interest with our audience. I have selected a collection of riveting and skillfully written arrangements that will bring to life this famous band's music in an intimate setting of four voices.

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

Antonio Llaca, M.M
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