

The Gettin' Higher Choir: Singing to Help the World

by Tomos Jackson, GHC Monday Tenor

I am proud to be a member of a large and inspiring choir based in the Saanich Peninsula and Victoria. I also happen to be the youngest choir member (I'm 13; everyone else is older, a lot older!) and that makes participating extra fun for me. The Gettin' Higher Choir is a non-audition community choir with over 300 members. All voices are welcome, whether you have sung before or not. Since so many people love to sing in this choir, practices are held on three different nights each week, and you can choose which night suits you best. My home branch meets on Monday nights at the Brentwood Bay Unitarian Church on West Saanich Road from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

What makes the Gettin' Higher Choir so much fun? First, the songs are energizing and inspiring. Many of them are about working together to make the world a better place. Some have African words and rhythms and all the songs are beautiful.

Second, I am learning to read music and to sing my tenor part in a four-part choir; when sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses harmonize together, the sound is awesome! Conductors Shivon Robinsong (who started the choir) and Denis Donnelly make rehearsing fun: everyone is included and we laugh a lot. I am learning to play saxophone in the Bayside Middle School band and bass guitar in our school rock band, and performing in the Gettin' Higher Choir helps me gain confidence on stage and grow musically.

Lastly, singing in the choir lets me use my voice to make a positive difference in the world. Money raised at January concerts is donated to the Power of Hope, a Victoria-based art-centred program for teen (www.powerofhope.org) and funds raised at June concerts is donated to The Kapasseni Project to help a village in Mozambique. This year's concert (Kinobe takes place June 10th and 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Alix Goolden Performance Hall in Victoria. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students.

If you'd like to try singing your part in an exciting choir, and have a great time helping others, the Gettin' Higher Choir will welcome you and help you become the singer you've always wanted to be, however old you are. Be brave and check us out - you'll be happy you did! For more information visit www.gettinhigherchoir.ca.

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