

In many cultures this is the season of transition from darkness back to light, and is celebrated in North America mainly in terms of Christian symbolism, however cultures throughout the world recognize this season as a time rebirth and hope, and have different traditions that honour that very elemental desire. So, however you celebrate this season, my sincere wish for you that it is happy, healthy and safe for yourself and for those you love. May we all gather again to sing our hearts out in January!

~ Denis

ADMIN TEAM NOTES

BILL

Mea Culpa!

On Tuesday night at announcement time I got a taste of how difficult it can be to communicate information to the group while numerous small conversations are going on all around the room. While each such conversation is brief, quiet and individually unobtrusive they are collectively noisy and disruptive when more than a few of us are indulging simultaneously. As someone who is frequently guilty of such indulgence in brief comments to, and conversations with, others the experience was an ear-opener.

In future I will do my best to emulate one of our veteran Basses who has made a conscious choice to avoid such chatter himself and who does not respond to those try to include him in it. He saves his conversation for break and after choir and in the process provides an example well worth following.

My apologies to Shivon and Denis, and any of you whose efforts have been hindered by my past contributions to such disruptive moments.

~ Bill

Gettin' Higher Choir Info

GHC SECTIONAL SCHEDULE & INFO

If you are so solid in your parts that you don't need to come to a sectional please come anyway, others in your section could use your support.

Jan. 2 - Soprano's @ Helen's

Date: Saturday, Jan 2/10
Place: 102 – 1145 Hilda St, Cook St. Village
Time: 2 – 4 p.m.
Phone:250-383-8613
Piano available

Thanks

Submitted by Helen Durie Tues/Thurs Soprano

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A HOME SECTIONAL?

*** During our holiday break or in January? ***

Home sectionals are a very sociable way to learn our parts and to get to know each other better. To enhance the sociability aspect you can include a social hour or a pot-luck.

All it takes to host a Home Sectional is enough space for a group, however big or small, to gather. As host you can limit your invitation to the section member's on your home night or extend to those from all three nights. Usually hosts extend an open invitation and 1/2 dozen to a couple of dozen singers will participate.

A keyboard is helpful (or other means of giving starting notes supplied by anyone in the group). Your group could also sing along to the appropriate parts files from our web site played on a computer, CD player or MP3 player.

Just pick a date and time that works for you, let me know and I will:

1. add your sectional to the "Home Sectional Invitations" list in the appropriate issues of the newsletter
2. email a special advance announcement to everyone in your section (just your night or all nights)
3. email you a call list of names and phone numbers for members of your section who are not on email

Our last choir night before the holiday break is Thursday Dec. 17th and we start up again Jan. 4th

If you want to host a home sectional either during our break or in January please call me (Bill) at 920-4160 or email me at bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca

GHC NEWS & BUSINESS

MAXIMIZING JOY! (Reminder)

Getting ourselves "off book" by memorizing our lyrics well before our end of session concerts will enable us to get into the heart of the songs and maximize our joy in singing them at our performances and the joy of our audiences on hearing them!

GREAT GIFT MARKET PLACE AT CHOIR CONTINUES (Updated)

If you are looking forward to the Gifting Season but always trying to find the perfect gift, here are a few of great ideas that will continue to be available at choir in the coming week with all proceeds going to wonderful charitable projects.

1. [GHC Concert Tickets](#), for our January 29 and 31 concerts, "Every Road Leads Home". Cost: \$20 & \$15
All proceeds go The Power of Hope:

<http://www.powerofhope.org>

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/honoring2004poh.htm>

Now is the time to start checking with your family, friends and co-workers to see who would like to come to hear you sing with a couple of hundred plus back-up singers.

Tickets are \$20 regular and \$15 for seniors, students and the unwaged. Please make it easy on the ticket sellers by working out in advance which concerts you want tickets for (Fri. or Sun.), how many of each price you need and their total cost. Please make cheques payable to **The Power Of Hope**.

Tickets will be available to the public starting in January. Watch the newsletter and web site for ticket outlet locations.

2. [Gift cards for Kuwangisana](#), one of our Kapasseni related projects in Mozambique. These \$10 cards make great gift and are easy to send (or give in person) to anyone on your Christmas list - or for other occasions throughout the year. You'll want to keep some on hand.

<http://www.kapasseni.org/health.html>

3. [Bill's Christmas And Yuletide Music Samplers](#)

Bill Huot will again be selling his popular Christmas and Yuletide music samplers at the GHC practices during the last two weeks before the break: Dec. 7 – 18.

These 78 minute compilation CDs are available for a suggested donation of \$15, or \$5 for people on low income. All of the proceeds go to Power of Hope (<http://www.powerofhope.org>).

This year's new sampler has very restful, relaxing music featuring Nativity story lullabies. There are eleven different samplers – each very different from the others. They are not like the typical collections of “holiday favourites”. You can read more about them at:

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/pdftemp/2009/1127/bills-cd.pdf>

Submitted by Bill Huot, chronologically unstable GHC bass

~ Shivon & Gloria

NEW GHC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE SOON!

I am ordering a new batch of Gettin' Higher t-shirts, and will be taking orders from anyone who is interested, next week, and the first week of January.

(The order must be in by January 8 to be ready in time for the concert.)

They are silk screened on 100% cotton in bright vibrant colours that are perfect for wearing in our concerts. The design is appealing and cunningly provides you with a cheat sheet for our original song Siyahamba, provided you can read Zulu upside down!

They come in sizes extra small to 3 extra large, and long sleeves are available in Black, Red and Royal. Short sleeves are available in Red, Royal, Black, Purple and a variation on Turquoise. The prices are: \$27 for short sleeves, \$29 for Long sleeves and \$30 for XX and XXX large. These prices include tax.

I will bring some samples to choir over the next week or two, and they also can be seen at my home. If you are interested, please e-mail me at heatherfox@telus.net, or call 250 592 5838.

Submitted by Heather Fox, Thursday Soprano and Choir Veteran

GHC SWAT SCHEDULE

Sing **W**hen **A**sksed **T**o

AN UNUSUAL SWAT REQUEST - THIS MONDAY, 2-2:45 OPEN TO ALL...

We have been invited again this year to attend the Our Place Holiday open House, and support the Open Doors choir (led by Louise Rose) with our "voices, energy, and precious attention." We have been told that our presence there last year meant a huge amount to the singers, and they're hoping we come back.

Please come to the Our Place Holiday Open House at First Met United Church and join Reverend Al, up to 800 from the homeless community, an army of volunteers and the Open Doors choir led by Louise Rose in singing a selection of music to celebrate the season. Please invite anybody you know who would like to support the music at the party:

Our Place Holiday Open House
First Met United Church, Fellowship Hall
Corner of Balmoral and Quadra

Monday, Dec. 14th

Open Doors choir takes the stage at 2pm and sings for 45 minutes or so.

~ Shivon

CHRISTMAS DAY SWAT!

Many of us participated in the SWAT on Christmas Day last year in support of the annual Christmas Spirit Dinner at Glad Tidings Church on Quadra St. The organizers (from Royal Roads U and other organizations) like us very much and have asked us to sing again. This year there are two sittings, as last year:

First sitting: arrive to warm up at 11:00; we sing 11:30 - 12:00 and 12:15 - 1:00 approximately

Second sitting: arrive to warm up at 1:30; we sing 2:00 - 2:30 and 2:45 - 3:30 approximately

We'll sing a combination of GHC standards (Siyahamba, If The People, Human Am I, various rounds, etc) and well-known Christmas songs and carols for which I will have song sheets available. It's very (cheerfully) noisy and informal and we are mostly background so don't be put off by thinking that you don't know everything.

If you are willing and available for either or both of the sittings, please EMAIL ME AND TELL ME YOUR NAME, SECTION, AND WHICH (OR BOTH) SITTING YOU WILL BE ATTENDING. My email is denis@denisdonnelly.ca

That way I can let you all know about further instructions, changes, etc. If you have an email buddy who is interested have them call me at 250 544-4393.

This dinner is very important in Victoria as it provides some hearty Christmas fare for the those who might not be able to afford anything extra. Last year over 800 families were accommodated. I am proud to support it. I will be leading both the sessions.

~ Denis

Other Info About Our Community Of Choirs

HNC NEWS & BUSINESS

YOU ARE ALL INVITED...

...To join the HIGH NOON CHOIR SINGERS...

...For a GINGER TEA, FINGER FOODS AND SINGING PARTY

When: Tuesday, December 15, 12 noon – 1:30

Where: Church of Truth, 111 Superior Street (James Bay)

This is the High Noon Choir's closing week for this session. We would love to celebrate our weeks of singing in community with you. We'll sing together for an hour and then share some ginger tea and finger foods.

Just bring yourself and anyone else you think might enjoy this time together.

**Next HNC Session starts Tuesday, January 5, 2010 -
Orientation for new singers is 11:30
Singing 12 :00 to 1:30**

SOUNDINGS NEWS & BUSINESS

SOUNDINGS CONCERTS

Many thanks to all of you who came out to see the Soundings concert last Sunday, and who will be showing up at our last concert of the Season this Sunday (Dec.13). We have really appreciated the support of the GHC community as we build our audience!

~ Denis

Editor's Note

The venue for this last concert in the series is St. Aidan's Church at 3703 St. Aidan's St., Saanich (near Cedar Hill X & Richmond). Go...you'll be glad you did!

General Info

KAPASSENI UPDATE

I am sending you the Kapasseni benefit concert poster to share with friends and family in the Victoria area.

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/pdftemp/2009/1211/kapasseni-poster.pdf>

If you are from out of town, thanks for your support over the years and have a wonderful Christmas. We really need to raise funds to support Joseph Alfazema's mission work in Mozambique for 2010. We are between funding grants and we need to raise funds to keep this work going. The concert will include a photostory of pictures from the field and then you will be entertained by Eric Dozier and the One Human Family Gospel Choir. For tickets please call or email me (info on the poster) in December and tickets will also be available for purchase at Westside Instaprint in January. Tickets will be available at the door if not sold out but publicity will go out in January and we plan to sell out!

This will be a lot of fun and African cloth and crafts and cds will be available for purchase as well. To view our latest newsletter or for more info on the project go to <http://www.kapasseni.org>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Peace and joy to you all this season.

Submitted by Carol Kerr – Kapasseni Project

COMMUNITY CARPOOLING REQUESTS & OFFERS

RIDES NEEDED - 1 TO & 1 FROM TUESDAY GHC

I would like to car pool with someone on Tuesday nights from UVic to the Church of Truth

~ and then after choir, ~

another someone from the church either to Tillicum Mall area (Gorge and Washington) or even to downtown where I can catch the bus!

If you can help in either direction please contact me at bke_39@hotmail.com

Submitted by: Brooke English GHC Tuesday Soprano/Alto

ADMIN TEAM SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From time to time Shivon, Denis, Gloria or Bill will use this section to announce activities and events that they are involved in, or support, outside of their normal work for the choirs and the CCLT.

TO ALL CHOIR MEMBERS, PAST AND PRESENT...

The Power of Hope has just launched a new grassroots fundraising project, *the Monthly Donor Program*. In an effort to tap into a more inclusive kind of funding we are asking for small monthly commitments from our supporters, volunteers, youth, parents. (\$10, \$20, \$30 a month) We hope that anyone who appreciates that our local youth (BC - today) can make a global (the world tomorrow) difference will make a commitment. We truly believe that our youth are our future.

Please take a minute to read about this new fundraising program and contact me if you have any questions.

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/pdftemp/2009/1127/poh.pdf>

Gloria Hansen, Chair of Canadian Board, Power of Hope; GHC Director's Assistant and HNC Registrar & Relief Director.

NEWSLETTER INFO

CURRENT SEASON SCHEDULE (Updated)

With the Admin and Community issues going out on alternate weeks you may need to plan your submissions in advance. To assist you in this here is the schedule for the balance of this season. Copying it and saving it on your hard drive or on a print out for future reference might prove helpful.

<u>Admin Issue</u>	<u>Community Issue</u>
Jan. 1	Dec. 18
Jan. 15	Jan. 8
	Jan. 22
<u>Combined Season Wrap-Up Issue</u>	
Feb 2 or 3rd	

Community Event Items can now be submitted for up to 3 Community Issues in advance of the events start date.

***** **QUOTABLES** *****

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Submitted by Patricia Houston GHC Alto

===== **THAT'S NOT ALL FOLKS** =====

Our Choir Member's Issue (Part 2) follows next Friday with lots of interesting submissions from other choir community members plus some "Quotables" and the Just For Fun section! If you have items for it please submit them by midnight next Wednesday to bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca

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You can always find links to the current, and past, issues at:
<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletters.html>

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