



The September 4, 2009  
**CHOIR ADMIN ISSUE**  
of the **GHC Choir Community Newsletter**



For a PDF Version of this and past newsletter issues go to:  
<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletters.html>



## **SPECIAL NOTES!!**

### 1. [Here We Go Again!](#)

Information about our new singer intake over the next two weeks and our registration procedures for veterans can be found in the "New Season Info" section below.

### 2. [Newsletter Schedule Changes](#)

If you missed this information in the last Summer Special please be sure to check out the "Newsletter Info" section below.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

### **SHIVON & DENIS**

We are looking forward to seeing you all again, hope you had a great summer! We are also looking forward to meeting the new members who will be coming to see what the choir is like. It's always an exciting time, full of promise and beginning.

We are both still buzzing from how well the concerts with Valdy went. We saw him at a workshop a couple of days ago and he said that he is constantly running into choir members who greet him warmly and tell him how much they enjoyed singing with him. He said that he feels like he made 300 new friends!

We are also excited to tell you that our guest artist for the coming concerts will be Shari Ulrich! Shari, as many of you know, has been a very visible and influential singing, songwriter, and general musical presence in this area as well as across Canada for many years, and is the recipient of 2 Juno awards. She became well known to Canadian audiences in the early 1970's as a member of Valdy's backup group the Hometown Band, when Valdy would always bring her out to do a solo or two. She went on to develop her songwriting and singing, garnering 2 Juno awards along the way. Shari has also made some wonderful recordings with Roy Forbes and Bill Henderson as UHF, as well as performing with Rick Scott and Joe Mock as Pied Pumpkin, beloved of many adults and children over the years.

Shari's web site is here so you can read all about her: <http://www.shariulrich.com/> We can't wait to start working with her!

See you on the week of Sept.14!

Shivon and Denis

## ADMIN TEAM NOTES

### GLORIA

See you all in a couple of weeks - in the meantime.

A few things from me:

1. I'm still looking for 4 - 5 hosts for the up-coming CCLT participants. If you think you might have an extra room and would love to help us out - have a look at the particulars in the CCLT section below. Starts Sept 20th.
2. Check out the Su Hart workshop in the Admin Team Special Announcements section below - October 10 - recommended by Shivon and Denis
3. Join me for the last of 6 wonderful weeks of singing with you at Two Toonie for Tunes on Tuesday.  
see the GHC News & Business section below for details.

~ Gloria

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### BILL

Here we go again, making the voices glow again, taking a chance in song!

This season is a particularly momentous one for me as the 4th of October will mark my 10th anniversary as a member of the choir. On top of that I will officially become an old man in the eyes of our government when I turn 65 on Oct. 2nd. I guess the government hasn't yet caught on to the fact that singing keeps us young. Whatever you do don't tell them, I don't want them to stop payment on my nice pension cheque!

~ Bill

## 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.

### CALLING ALL MEN!

I am excited about offering a short and fun workshop for men, both GHC veterans as well as those who have not been in the GHC or any choir before but who think they might be interested in singing. It will be held **Saturday Sept.19** at the Church of Truth at **10:00 - 12:00**.

This workshop will be an opportunity for men to explore their singing voices in a safe and supportive setting. For those that think they might like to try singing but have not done much of it in their adult lives, this might open them up to a new way to connect with their voices as well as with others. For those that have been in the GHC before, we will have fun exploring some different repertoire, suitable to our wonderful and distinct vocal qualities.

So, if you know of any men who you think might enjoy such an opportunity, ***please let them know about this!*** Please notify me by email ([denis@denisdonnelly.ca](mailto:denis@denisdonnelly.ca)) if you or someone you know is coming so that I will have a chance to prepare for the number of men who will be showing up. The cost of the workshop is \$10, payable on the day.

No music-reading abilities are necessary, nor any previous experience singing in a group setting. However, if you have sung in a choir before but not the GHC, come and see something of what we do! In any case, all that is required is a desire to experience something joyful.

Please spread the word! Who do you know who might enjoy this? GHC veterans - come and sing some new men-only music!

Denis

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### **SINGING WORKSHOPS with SU HART...of...BAKA BEYOND**

Su Hart, Baka Beyond singer and founder, will be giving workshops in Victoria.

Saturday October 10  
Church of Truth - 111 Superior St, Victoria

First session: 10 - 1 pm

~ and ~

Second session: 2 - 5 pm

Although these sessions will be connected they are not the same  
- in others words participants can choose to do one or both.

Registration fee is \$30 for one session or \$50 for both

Su Hart is an amazing singer, musician, teacher and workshop presenter who will be in Canada in October of 2009. She has been with *Baka Beyond* since it's beginning and brought to it the songs and vocal techniques of the Baka Pygmies that she learned on her travels.

When not touring or recording she teaches about the life and music of the Baka.

For additional information and to register please check out:

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/pdftemp/20090904/su-hart.pdf>

Submitted by Gloria and highly recommended by Shivon and Denis

## **Gettin' Higher Choir Info**

# **GHC NEWS & BUSINESS**

## **SUMMER DROP-IN SESSION NOTES**

Final week for our “Two Toonies For Tunes On Tuesdays” sessions.

Come and sing - we've been having a lot of fun.

Tuesday, September 8 - Church of Truth - 7:30 - 9:30 everybody welcome.

Gloria

## **NEWSLETTER INFO**

### **PLEASE NOTE THESE NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE CHANGES!**

In order to keep you informed with less reading each week we are making some changes to our newsletter schedule.

Starting with this first issue of the Fall season what were formerly Parts 1 and 2 of our newsletter will be issued separately on alternate weeks as follows:

#### **Choir Admin Issue (Part 1)**

Director's & Admin Notes plus GHC, HNC, Soundings & CCLT News & Business and other submissions from the choir administration only.

#### **Choir Member's Issue (Part 2)**

Submissions from past and present GHC, HNC, Soundings & CCLT members

Submission Deadline.....Wednesday midnight of each week that this section goes out.

Please submit your Choir Community Section items to [bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca](mailto:bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca)

Distribution...each section will be sent out on its respective Friday as soon as possible after noon.

The first Choir Member's Issue will go out next on Friday, Sept. 11th.

The submission deadline is midnight Wednesday, Sept. 9th.

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### **A REQUEST RE: SUBMISSIONS TO THE CHOIR MEMBER'S ISSUE**

Please make sure that any item you send conforms to the newsletter standards specified on our site's "Using Our Newsletter" page. If you haven't visited that page lately please review it before you send your next submission by clicking on:

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletterinfo.html>

I prefer not to edit submissions because each item should reflect what the submitter intended to say not what I think was intended. Also, since editing items for submitters (or sending them back for editing) takes extra time, getting submissions that conform to the standard formats and word limits is truly a gift.

Sing in joy.

~ Bill

## NEW SEASON INFO

### NEW SINGERS INTAKE

Between now and Thursday, September 24th we will be taking in new singers for this season. If you know anyone who would enjoy a Gettin' Higher singing experience bring, or send, them to check us out.

As always there will be a half hour New Singer Orientation starting at 7:00 pm before the actual choir sessions (7:30 - 9:30) on each of the following evenings:

**Mondays** (September 14 & 21)

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 West Saanich Rd.

**Tuesdays** (September 15 & 22) & **Thursdays** (September 17 & 24)

The Church of Truth, 111 Superior St. (James Bay)

New singers can also check us out in advance by visiting <http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca>

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### REGISTRATION

The registration deadline is the end of choir on Thursday, September 24th

#### New Singers

Fill out the form provided at choir.

#### Returnees paying their fees at choir prior to the registration deadline

Just put your payment cheque(s) or cash envelope (clearly identified as yours) in my collection bag at choir and you will automatically be registered.

Please don't put your payment in an envelope unless it is cash. Cheques and notes (changes, queries, etc.) that are paper clipped (or even folded) together are much faster and easier to deal with than sealed envelopes.

#### Returnees who will be paying after the registration deadline

Be sure to register by a note in my collection bag before the deadline and specify what/how/when you will be making your payment. If you are not going to be at choir in the first two weeks you can register by phone or email as specified below.

If your contact information, night or section is changed from the last session you attended please include that information with your registration.

The fees for the 18 week season are \$175 regular with a sliding scale down to \$130 for seniors, students and the un-waged.

As always you are welcome to set your own payment plans. While we prefer that you do so with a series of post-dated cheques providing me with a list of cash payment dates is also OK. In either case the last payment is due by December 31.

For more information or to request any level of scholarship support please contact me.

In addition to dropping a note in my collection bag at choir I can be contacted by phone (250-920-4160 - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.), by email to ([bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca](mailto:bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca))

~ Bill

## Other Info About Our Community Of Choirs

### **HNC NEWS & BUSINESS**

#### **HIGH NOON CHOIR SINGERS - PAST AND PRESENT**

Just a friendly and inviting reminder that the Spring Session of High Noon starts:

TUESDAY, September 29, 12 to 1:30 (11:30 new singers orientation)  
Church of Truth - 111 Superior Ave.

If you have attended in the past - we'd love to see you again.  
If you cannot come this time, you may know of someone who might like to try us out.  
In any case, could you please pass this along.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, September 29

Shivon and Gloria

### **CCLT UPDATES**

**Community Choir Leadership Trainings ~ A three week workshop facilitated annually by Denis & Shivon**

#### **NEW CCLT GROUP ARRIVING SOON!**

For those who are hazy about what Shivon & Denis' "Community Choir Leadership Trainings" workshop (CCLT) is all about I offer the following overview.

The CCLT program was started in 2004 for the purpose of teaching prospective choir leaders how to organize, run and direct a community choir based on the Gettin' Higher Choir model.

The CCLT web site challenges these prospective choir leaders to:

**“Imagine ...** a world where every city, town, and neighborhood had a community choir, one where the music of many cultures and faiths was celebrated. *Imagine ...* a non-auditioned choir in your community where all were welcome. *Imagine ...* that this choir could support and engage in powerful community-based activities. *Now imagine ...* that you, as director, could enjoy a rich and fulfilling livelihood by leading this choir.”

Part 1 of each CCLT program runs during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of the GHC session and Part 2 runs during the GHC’s concert week. The participants attend a series of daytime workshops and come to choir sessions to observe and, in some cases, to lead us in song.

This gives the benefit of observing and experiencing the choir both at the beginning of the season when we are just settling in and absorbing new singers and at the end of the season when we come harmoniously together in concert.

CCLT grads then take what they have learned and expand the community choir crescendo that is helping to “re-enCHANT the world!”

~ Bill

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#### **4 - 5 HOSTS STILL NEEDED FOR CCLT PARTICIPANTS**

It's that time again when I am looking for friendly homes for our 2009-2010 CCLT participants while they are here in Victoria.

If you feel you might have the space and the inclination to host one (or perhaps two) people we (Shivon, Denis and I) would be most appreciative.

As you may know we now have around 35 choirs across North America who are doing the work of building community through singing. If you've already hosted, then you have been an integral part of the success of this work. We love that you have been so generous. This year we again have people coming from many places including, Saskatchewan, Louisiana, Washington, Ontario, Nevada, and BC.

The dates for this session (and the commitment at this time is only for the first session) - the second session will be your choice.

Session One: Sunday, September 20 through Saturday, October 3, 2009.

Session Two: Sunday, January 24 through Sunday, January 31, 2010

Please get back to me by email to [gloriabhansen@hotmail.com](mailto:gloriabhansen@hotmail.com) or phone at 250-995-8731. I can discuss the details and answer any questions you may have.

We then make the appropriate assignment based on such details as allergies, ground transportation, etc. and have the individual(s) contact you directly to complete the process.

Here's some additional information on hosting CCLT participants:

The criteria to be a host includes:

- ◆ Providing a spare room.
- ◆ Providing kitchen access - this could mean sharing your meals or having your guest do their own cooking in your kitchen- the participant(s) will cover their own food costs either way.
- ◆ Providing bathroom access.
- ◆ Living somewhere near the Church of Truth in James Bay, or within 20 - 30 minutes driving time.

The benefits are:

- ◆ Getting to meet and know someone from another place in North America - who has started, or wants to start, a choir based on the Gettin' Higher Choir model.
- ◆ Participating in a few social events - pot-lucks, parties with lots of singing, etc. with the participants and other hosts.
- ◆ Helping to spread the joy of singing in community.

Much thanks in advance

Gloria B.N.Hansen, Registrar, CCLT

## PRIMARY CHOIR COMMUNITY WEB SITE LINKS

The Getting' Higher Choir	<a href="http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca">http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca</a>
Community Choir Leadership	<a href="http://www.communitychoirleadership.com">http://www.communitychoirleadership.com</a>
Ubuntu Choirs	<a href="http://www.ubuntuchoirs.net">http://www.ubuntuchoirs.net</a>
Shivon Robinsong:	<a href="http://www.shivon.com">http://www.shivon.com</a>
Denis Donnelly:	<a href="http://www.denisdonnelly.ca">http://www.denisdonnelly.ca</a>
	<a href="http://www.choralsongs.com">http://www.choralsongs.com</a>
	<a href="http://www.soundingsmusic.com">http://www.soundingsmusic.com</a>
Accessing our Newsletters	<a href="http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletters.html">http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletters.html</a>
Using Our Newsletter:	<a href="http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletterinfo.html">http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/newsletterinfo.html</a>
Choir Schedule:	<a href="http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/index.html">http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/index.html</a>

The above list doesn't appear in all issues of the newsletter

Suggestion: If you haven't previously done so copy it to a Word or other text document for storage on your computer, or to print out, for future reference.

### \*\*\*\*\* QUOTABLES \*\*\*\*\*

Why do we care about singers? Wherein lies the power of songs? Maybe it derives from the sheer strangeness of there being singing in the world. The note, the scale, the chord; melodies, harmonies, arrangements, symphonies, ragas, Chinese operas, jazz, the blues: that such things should exist, that we should have discovered the magical intervals and distances that yield the poor cluster of notes, all within the span of a human hand, from which we can build our cathedrals of sound, is as alchemical a mystery as mathematics, or wine, or love. Maybe the birds taught us. Maybe not. Maybe we are just creatures in search of exaltation. We don't have much of it. Our lives are not what we deserve; they are, let us agree, in many painful ways deficient. Song turns them into something else."

Salman Rushdie's (From "Vina Divina")

Submitted by Betsy Sansby CCLT 4 - 2007/8

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===== 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](mailto: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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