

It's making a huge difference that so many of you have taken the time to learn the words, and to come to extra rehearsals. And hasn't it been amazing having Deborah work her magic with us! We can't wait to share our songs with the rest of our choir community! So, if you're not singing in the concert, we look forward to seeing you in the audience! Be sure to get your tickets early!

Here are the words for the song we sang last night regarding the heartbreaking disaster in Haiti:

Breathe in the pain, breathe on out the love
Let my heart be a place where this world is changed forever.

The chant is written by Michael Stillwater, based on a Buddhist meditation practice called *Tonglen*.

~ Shivon

DENIS

So everyone, this is the time when we draw a deep breath and get ready to share with our community what we have been rehearsing. It's interesting to note that the concept of "performance" is something probably pretty recent in human history. Music was shared over most of our presence here on Earth in intimate settings of family and clan, and it was no big deal, simply an expression in the moment of joy, grief, story-telling, to accompany work, or whatever. That is how I love to think about our performances. They are a communication of something important, of something real and which we want to share. If not, why do it at all?

So as we move towards the concerts, whether you are going to be on stage or not, please think about what it is that you are wanting to share in each of the songs. Each one has an underlying resonance that we can tap into and communicate, whether it be to a small circle of loved ones, or a hall full of eager eyes and ears.

Speaking of which, this is going to be a great concert - spread the word! Let's sell those tickets!

~ Denis

ADMIN TEAM NOTES

GLORIA

I'm looking forward to two great concerts and to sharing the joy we always experience when we get our repertoire polished up and we add our guest artist(s) into the mix. Work shopping our guest the week before the concert and the night of the rehearsal always adds an element of additional excitement. We get to finally hear what Denis has been imagining with his arrangements and Shivon has promised all along...that we'll sound great and that our audience will once again be surrounded by delicious harmonies and meaningful lyrics to feed their souls.

For me one of the concert highlights is that moment when we walk on stage and see the hundreds of expectant faces waiting to hear our songs...and we deliver every time.

~ Gloria

BILL

Here Come the Concerts

A singing we will go, a singing we will go, hi ho a-larry-o a singing we will go! (or something like that)

An Important Request

I am having problems with some emails sent to my bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca address refusing to download to my email program. They just lock everything up and I have to go to my account on the server that provides my internet access to unblock everything. This is a time frustrating process that takes time I can't afford right now. **Please replace that address in your email programs with billh@crucible.ca**

If/when I can resolve the problem with the other address I will let you know. Until then please don't use it.

Passing it on

A number of our community members at choir last night (Jan 14), and in emails that I received today, have expressed a desire that the word be passed on about the "prorogue" demonstration on the 23rd of January at 1:00 p.m. in front of the legislature. Consider it passed...and if you want a bit more information about the subject here is a link to an Economist article sent in by Ron Samborski, GHC Bass.

http://www.economist.com/opinion/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15213212

Can You Help A Lady In Distress?

Mary Lynch, long time GHC Monday Soprano and dedicated Guatemalen scarf lady forwarded an email to us in the hope that we could bring it to the attention of our community. In it she describes Galen who is in a desperate personal housing crisis and needs to find a suitable place very quickly. You can read the email message by clicking on:

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/pdftemp/2010/0115/mary-galen.pdf>

If you can help please respond to Mary at the email address given at the end of the message. She will pass your offer or suggestion on to Galen.

Practice CDs

I still have a few Soprano, Alto & Tenor practice CDs on a while they last basis. Come and ask me for one at choir this coming week or contact me at 250-920-4160 (8 to 8, Mon to Fri) or bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca to arrange a mutually convenient time to pick one up at my place (Gorge Rd. West near Tillicum).

~ Bill

Gettin' Higher Choir Info

GHC NEWS & BUSINESS

SINGERS CENSUS

I will have the Singers Census Sign-Up Sheets at choir Monday, Tuesday & Thursday this coming week (Jan. 18, 19 & 21)

If you are not going to be there, or if you would rather not have to deal with it at choir, you are welcome to let me know your intentions by reply to this email. If you choose this latter option please save me from having to search my records by including your:

Full Name
Section
Concert intentions (Singing Yes or No?)
Friday Jan. 29th
Sunday Jan 31st

If you are still unsure of whether or not you will be singing please fill in whatever you currently think is most likely. You are welcome to contact me right up to concert time if you change your mind. It's not a problem, just let me know as soon as you can.

CONCERT POSTER DISTRIBUTION (Reminder)

Please help us make our "Every Road Leads Home" concerts a success by thinking of high profile places to put up our beautiful poster which was designed by Sophie Moore at Ladybird Communications - Thursday night soprano.

CONCERT TICKETS (Reminder)

Tickets are \$20 regular and \$15 for seniors, students and the un-waged. Please make it easy on the ticket sellers by working out in advance which concerts you want tickets for, how many of each type you need and their total cost. Please make cheques payable to The **Power Of Hope** (<http://www.powerofhope.org>).

Tickets are available at choir every night and at:

Munro's Books - 1108 Government
Ivy's Books - 2188 Oak Bay Avenue
James Bay Coffee and Books - 143 Menzies
Larson Music - 1833 Cook St
Dig This - Broadmead Village

DONATED TICKET FUND (Reminder)

As we have for past concerts we will be accepting donations toward a "Donated Ticket" fund. For each set of our concerts for a number of seasons now this fund has provided tickets for people who would love to hear us in concert but can't afford to buy a ticket themselves.

If you like the idea and wish donate the price of a ticket or two or a few (or even part of one) please see whoever is selling tickets during the break.

If you know of someone needing a "donated ticket" you can request it from the ticket sellers. They will be given out in the order requested as donations make them available.

~ Bill

THE CHOIR HONOURING FUND (Reminder)

Between now and the concerts we will be collecting money for the choir member's Honouring Fund as we do every concert. For some background information about what and why please visit:

<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/honoring-fund.htm>

The funds raised will be donated to the Power Of Hope, in honour of our directors and guest performers, to provide Scholarships for youth to attend the Power of Hope summer camps. These Scholarships make a huge difference in the lives of youth who otherwise could not afford to attend. The Power of Hope Camps provide a way to empower youth to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of the communities where they live.

The Power Of Hope
<http://www.powerofhope.org/>

Power to the Kids ~ A Photo Essay
<http://www.gettinhigherchoir.ca/community-info/honoring2004poh.htm>

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.

HOME SECTIONALS

Jan. 17 - Altos @ Patricia Houston's

I will be having a sectional for the Altos at my home,
691 Richmond Ave. corner of Gonzales on Sunday
January 17th. from 3 - 5 P.M. followed by our now legendary pot luck dinner.
All Alto's welcome, stay a little or stay long.

Submitted by Patricia Houston GHC Thursday Alto

Jan. 17 - Tenors @ Penny's

I will be holding a Tenor Sectional at my home at 1340 Bond St.

Sunday January 17, 2010 from 12:00noon to 2:00pm

It's close to the corner of Moss St. and May St. in Fairfield. Bond is parallel to May St., one block North (away from the water). We are at the top of one block Bond, on the left coming up the street.

No plans for a meal, but I'm planning for coffee/ tea and snacks if people would like to stay after 2:00.

I can be contacted at 250-382-9190

Submitted by Penny Pattison Tuesday Tenor

Jan. 17 - Basses @ Dennis'

You are invited to my Bass home sectional on Sunday January 17 from 2:30 to 4:00 at 905 Burdette (at Quadra).
Buzz 10.

Bring your own choice of beverage to keep your voice hydrated.

If you are coming please RSVP to 250-995-1770 and if you can bring an instrument or a pitch pipe to help us with starting notes or a Bass Practice CD for us to sing along with please let me know.

Submitted by Dennis Murphy Thursday Bass

Jan 24 Sopranos @ Laureen's

I will hold a sectional @ my house on Sunday January 24th at 2:00 p.m. , the address is 1840 crescent road (in gonzales bay) on the corner of crescent road and irving road. My phone number is 250 598 2261.....hope to see lots of sopranos here.

Submitted by Laureen Belland Tuesday Soprano

GHC CAR POOLING WANTED & OFFERED

To arrange car pools you can announce your request/offer at break time at choir (GHC or HNC). You can also email me at bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca with your name, contact information, where you start from, whether you need a ride or are offering one and which choir you are in. I will put a listing under the appropriate Car Pool heading for you in the next newsletter. Dont be shy about repeating your request in subsequent weeks at choir or in the newsletter if you dont connect the first time.

JANET AND THE CONCERTS

We need volunteers to get Janet Hawksley, senior member, to and from the Alix Goolden Hall for our big rehearsal and both concerts. She may not come to all three but we need people on standby so that we are ready in case she is up to it.

She lives at Amica House at 50 Douglas (at Niagara).

On the Friday the volunteer needs to be someone who isn't going to the after party or who doesn't mind arriving at it late since Janet will be very tired by that time and will need to go home.

If you are interested in helping out please contact me at bill@gettinhigherchoir.ca or 250-920-4160 (8 to 8, Mon to Fri)

~ Bill

Other Info About Our Community Of Choirs

HNC NEWS & BUSINESS

Come join us for Winter Session of High Noon Choir - All are welcome.

If you are returning, please think about bringing a friend or two. We have lots of fun and make great music together in a very supportive environment.

Session runs until March 23, every Tuesday
12 :00 to 1:30

Location: Church of Truth - 111 Superior at St. Lawrence, in James Bay

Shivon and Gloria

SOUNDINGS NEWS & BUSINESS

SOUNDINGS IS LOOKING FOR TWO ALTOS.

I will be auditioning during the first week in January. Here is what I am looking for:

Secure singing pitch, good vocal tone, and good level of musicianship;

Ability to learn quickly from sheet music and/or digital sources (i.e. computer music files, midi or mp3 files);

Ability to memorize repertoire as all performance is off-book;

Ability to rehearse Sunday mornings;

Commitment to attendance at most of the rehearsals and all the concerts.

The audition process is two-step. I will want to have a phone conversation with you and then, depending on how that goes, we will meet in person for an audition. At the audition (which is quite informal) we'll talk some more about what you are looking for and what I am looking for, I will take you through some exercises, have you sing a song of your own for me, and work with some music so that I can see how you learn parts.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of Soundings and have lots of fun singing a distinctive and unusual repertoire, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can start the audition process. More info about Soundings here: <http://www.soundingsmusic.com>

I can be contacted at denis@denisdonnelly.ca or 250 544-4393.

Many thanks!

Denis Donnelly

General Info

KAPASSENI UPDATE

Kapasseni Project
"SHARE THE LOVE"
Benefit Concert

Our friends at the Kapasseni project are between funding grants and need to raise funds to support Joseph Alfazema's mission work in Mozambique for 2010 and they are holding a Benefit concert to do so on Jan. 24th at the Isabelle Reader Theatre (1028 Goldstream in Langford).

The concert will include:
a photostory of Joseph's work in the field
entertainment by Eric Dozier and the One Human Family Gospel Choir.
An African cloth, crafts and CD market

For tickets please call or email Carol Kerr (info on the poster)

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

Tickets are also available for purchase at Westside Instaprint and at the door if not sold out but Carol says they plan to sell out!

To view the Kapasseni Projects latest newsletter or for more info on the project go to <http://www.kapasseni.org>

ADMIN TEAM SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

From time to time Shivan, 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.

**NEEDED:
VOLUNTEER CHARTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
...PLUS A VOLUNTEER BOOKKEEPER FOR THE CAIA CONNECTION**

The Caia Connection is looking for a CPA to do our Year End Financial Report to Revenue Canada. I have been keeping the financial records since the organization moved it's base from Kelowna to Victoria in March of 2009.

I am also looking for a volunteer to handle the bookkeeping for 2010 - this involves banking, receipting, and record keeping (approximately 1 -2 hrs/week).

The Caia Connection is a grassroots organization based in Victoria, which fundraises and provides support to health, education, and development projects in the Caia district of Mozambique. Our focus is on the The Ray of Hope project in the town of Caia, and the Kuwangisana home-based care project in the town of Sena. Please have a look at the website for more details.

<http://www.caiacconnection.com>

Please contact me if you are interested, or if you know someone who might take this on.

Gloria Hansen, Treasurer, The Caia Connection Board

HELPING HAITI

At Thursday's choir session (Jan. 14) a number of people expressed concern about what is happening in Haiti and queried what we can do about it as individuals. Other people began calling out suggestions. I then requested those who had suggestions to send them to me for the newsletter so that they were all in one place and so we could each think about them and act on those that best fit our perceptions of how we would like to help.

Lists Of Organizations & Agencies

CANADAHELPS.ORG

Here is link to a list of charities raising funds to assist with relief efforts following the recent earthquake in Haiti. Click the charity's name to donate. Include "Haiti Earthquake" in the message to charity to make sure your donations contribute to relief efforts.

<http://www.canadahelps.org/News/NewsDetails.aspx?id=42>

The Government of Canada will match donations by individual Canadians for assistance in Haiti.

Submitted by Nori Nishigaya GHC Tenor

Editor's Note

Information about CIDA's donation matching program can be found at:

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-114115719-MVV>

+++++

CBC COVERAGE AND LIST

A list of organizations accepting donations can be found scrolling down the page to the "Support" heading on the left side:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/01/13/f-emergency-contacts-haiti-relief-aid.html>

Submitted by Ernie Sketchley GHC Bass

+++++

THE PEACE ALLIANCE

A U.S. based organization that offers a list of donation accepting organizations active in Haiti relief, some of which seem to have Canadian and other non-US affiliates.

Submitted by Sharon Alder GHC Soprano

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS & AGENCIES

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

Marvin and I feel the Red Cross are a good choice as they are already on the ground in the midst of the rescue efforts and have a lot of experience.

<http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=33898&tid=001>

Recommended by Chistie Eng GHC Tenor

+++++

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

I just went online to make a donation to Doctors without Borders. I chose them because I trust that very close to 100% of the money will go to relief efforts.

The website is having some technical difficulties, (probably overcome with response), so in the end, I just phoned 1-800-982-7903 or 1 - 416-964-0619, and donated over the phone.

Recommended by Shivon Robinsong GHC Co-Director

Editor's Note

Denis mentioned that he had donated to this organization.

+++++

COMPASSIONATE RESOURCEWAREHOUSE, VICTORIA, BC, CANADA

Here's a local group that sends containers to disaster-hit countries. Sounds good to me...they were interviewed on As It Happens, CBC tonite.

they are looking for everything/anything to help survivors to begin life anew.

<http://www.crwarehouse.ca>

Recommended by Susan Clough GHC Alto

+++++

AAVEZ.ORG

Here is information on a organization that is working to help Haiti that was recently circulated at the university. Cheers,

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/stand_with_haiti

Recommended by Bev Smith GHC Monday Tenor

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

You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.

Buddha

Editor's Collection

===== **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

=====

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

=====