



Ottawa Children's Choir  
Chœur d'enfants d'Ottawa

# InChoir

## *The **POWER** of Music*

By **JESSICA MCPHAIL**, Chorister

On Sunday March 4, our choir sang at the "Power of Music" Free the Children fundraiser. It was my favourite performance this year. Singing with the Ottawa Catholic School Board Choir was really fun, because it is a large group and you can do a lot more stuff singing together in a larger group than with our regular choir. It sounds a lot better – more full and rich and powerful. The song that showed that most was 'United in Song'. The rehearsal with that choir was really fun because we played games, sang songs and ate pizza. We got to know members from the other choir by playing the jelly bean game where when you got a certain colour of jelly bean you had to say your name and give a fact about yourself. After you said your name you got to eat the jelly bean. They are a really fun bunch.



The performance itself was amazing, especially getting to hear the Catholic choir sing their own songs and to hear the Baobob Tree Youth Performers. My favourite drumming song was called 'Bell Forest'. They did all the sounds of the rainforest just with percussion instruments. I play drums in the band at school, and I have a rain stick, bongos and a percussion "ribbet" frog at home, but I still can't figure out how they made those amazing cricket sounds! It was great to see another form of percussion (I am learning paradiddles, flams, shuffles and rolls). I'd like to find out more about that group.



I am glad we did that performance. I feel upset that there is so much child poverty in developing countries. We think our world is completed, but there are tons of things that we have to work on. I feel really good about helping to change it. It leaves a good feeling because you know you are doing something you love for a good cause.

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# The 2006 Christmas Concert is Now Available on DVD

BY JOHN OWENS



Several weeks before the “Season of Joy!” Christmas concert, I heard that one set of Grandparents were unable to attend. They were deeply disappointed that they were going to miss Jennifer’s first concert with the Ottawa Children’s Choir. Kicking the problem around with a friend, he told me how he, and two other parents, film their daughter’s theatrical performances and produce a DVD that is made available to the families for a keepsake, and for family members that cannot attend!

To make a long story short, with about a week to go before the concert, we bought tapes, checked out the cameras, visited Dominion Chalmers, convinced Andi that we would need more light (and even sweet talked her into picking them up!) and we were set to go.

Three cameras were used to tape the concert. One was set up on tripod in the balcony with the other two moving around the church. This allowed us to capture close-ups of just about every chorister (Mrs. Prowse you are right, you CAN see when a chorister glances away from the Director!) along with a variety of different angles.

The end result is a wonderful DVD. Thanks to my friend who did all the editing and menu production. The grandparents that missed the show are delighted and Jennifer is thrilled (aside from being on TV, she loves to see her name in the credits). Not bad for a couple of rank amateurs with a week’s notice!

Planning has already started for the 2007 concert, including a few improvements such as better microphones (we just used the ones on our Sony cameras), a microphone for the MC, and more light. If you’d like to help out with the next concert please let me know, the pay is lousy but the rewards are priceless!

***For \$15 you can get your own copy of the DVD from Andi Murphy (613-233-4440).***

# Web Site Getting New Look!

Coming this April, the Ottawa Children's Choir Web Site will have a whole new look. We have been working very hard to make our web site fun, informative and easy to use!



[ottawachildrenschoir.ca](http://ottawachildrenschoir.ca)



## Otello

Sixteen choristers from our Chamber choir will take part in the upcoming production of Opera Lyra Ottawa's *Otello* at the NAC on March 31, April 2, April 4 and April 7.

Here is a picture of Kira Moolman trying on her costume, put together and made by Pat Nuell from Peak Sportswear, 1339 Wellington St, Ottawa.

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## Fun with Fundraising!

BY LAURA PAQUETTE



### Coffee Break

This year, just before Christmas, the choir decided to try a new fundraising idea of selling gourmet coffee. Thanks to Maureen Monsebraaten, the fundraiser was a huge success. The coffee was fresh, easy to store and made great gifts for the holidays. The choir was able to earn a profit of approximately **\$5000**. Thank you to all the wonderful parent volunteers and consumers for making this

### A Berry good time

This year's berry fundraiser was a ray of sunshine compared to last year. Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who came out to help on that beautiful warm day. It was a challenging day between sorting out customers for the other choir who were also selling berries that day and keeping the berries frozen. A successful fundraiser just the same, and the choir was able to earn a profit of approximately **\$3800**. Thanks to everyone for their continued support.



### Raffle Time

Once again it is raffle season. The choir holds a draw every year at the spring concert (May 24) to award wonderful prizes to all those who purchase tickets. These prizes are solicited from community businesses as well as from choir families. Families are an important part of this effort. Your donations for raffle prizes, and your efforts to sell tickets, are much appreciated. A large percentage of your particular ticket sales will also be counted towards reducing your initial \$100 fundraising fee that was charged at the beginning of the year. Our raffle fundraiser **begins today** with you and many other volunteers soliciting or donating raffle prizes. These prizes can range from gift certificates to stores, shopping centers, restaurants, a golf day, a spa day, tickets to various events, or certificates for services, such as lawn cutting, or house cleaning. The final date for soliciting and donating prizes is **March 31, 2006**. We thank you very much for partnering with us in making this year's raffle a great success.

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## Cranberries - Yum!

BY LAURA PAQUETTE



Wondering what to do with all your wonderful cranberries? Adding them to your favourite muffin mix is one idea, or for the more inspired, here is a suggestion from Ottawa's own Margaret Dickenson, host of *Margaret's Sense of Occasion*.

### Cranberry Nut Clusters - (A "No Time/No Talent" Recipe)

Makes

18

*This Cranberry Nut Clusters recipe is taken from Margaret Dickenson's new international award winning cookbook, Margaret's Table - Easy Cooking & Inspiring Entertaining (Best Cookbook in the World on Entertaining 2006 - Gourmand World Cookbook Awards)*

Could this be one of the greatest chocolate recipes you will ever taste? If you are a fan of cranberries and/or white chocolate, it might be! The combination of flavours, textures and colours are original and exciting. Every ingredient plays its unique and special role in contributing to all those qualities; omitting one will make a difference! You must try this quick and easy chocolate recipe for yourself! With the dried cranberries, I proudly claim it as my "Canadian" chocolate.

FLASH: This recipe won "Recipe of the Year - Published" in the Cordon d'Or Cuisine - Gold Ribbon International Annual Cookbook and Culinary Arts' Awards (2005). - So you see, I was not exaggerating!

3 1/2 oz (100 g) white chocolate, chopped

1/2 cup (125 mL) dried cranberries

1/3 cup (80 mL) broken pieces (or coarsely chopped\*) roasted pecans

2 tbsp (30 mL) desiccated coconut

1. Line a baking sheet with wax paper.
2. Partially melt chocolate over barely simmering water in a double boiler (or soften in a microwave oven at medium-low heat\*\*). Remove from heat; stir until chocolate is very smooth. (Note: White chocolate may not always appear to have completely melted.)
3. Add all other remaining ingredients and combine.
4. Drop clusters of chocolate mixture (about 2 tsp or 10 mL portions) onto wax paper lined tray.
5. Refrigerate until firm.
6. Transfer chocolates to an airtight plastic container and store refrigerated for up to several months.

\* Avoid using the pecan "dust" from the chopping process.

\*\* My technique: Put chocolate in a heavy earthenware soup bowl (microwave proof); place in a microwave oven at medium-low heat until softened but not melted (about 2 1/2 to 3 minutes).

Note: The bowl should never become hot.

TIP (for Step 1): Secure the wax paper to the baking sheet with a couple of dabs of soft butter or margarine.

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# Chorister's Corner

## The Viva Choir - What an Experience!

BY MELINA KOKKINOS

The Viva Choir has been the best experience in my life! Mrs. Prowse is a really nice director, and I have learned a lot from her. We get to sing so many fun songs, and sing at concerts, and we also wear uniforms. I have learned to exercise my voice before I start singing. I encourage others to audition for the Viva Choir.

## The Christmas Concert

BY JESSICA GARBETT

I think the Christmas concert was a lot of fun! Santa came and the choir sang to a large crowd. After the concert, my voice hurt from singing, though it was fun. I love the choir and always will.

## Dear Parents and choristers...

You, your family, and friends, are invited to attend the Annual Church Service and Concert Choir Performance in support of **The Men's Mission**.

The Church Service will take place on Sunday, March 25th, 2007 at Kingsway United Church (on Island Park Drive on the south side of the Queensway overpass). Time 10h30.

Brunch will be served at the church after the service, for everyone. Freewill offering - all proceeds go to **The Men's Mission**.

## The Choir would like to thank...

A big thanks to John Owens (Jennifer's Dad) for building and donating a new podium for Robert and Allison to stand on. Allison will be testing it out at our March 4th concert. It's sure to be with the choir for many, many years. Thanks John!

## The Choir Connection

BY FLETCH SHAW

I'm one of the singers, alto, in the choir. I think the selection of songs is unique in a good way. My personal favourite is 'Let It Shine'. It makes you feel happy and you can really get into the groove of it. The exercise where we just danced or clapped, snapped, whatever you liked to get into the song was a riot. Zak's dance number was staged in front of the choir, what a hoot!

Saturday is not my favourite time to go to choir practice, but it shows you how little time you get on Tuesdays. I'm glad that people have taken time from their busy schedules to meet on Saturday, just to help us kids! So ...thanks! Also a special thanks to those who supplied those grapes with cheese and crackers. Too bad we weren't allowed thirds. (I know. I'm a pig when it comes to grapes!)

There are other songs I enjoy. Actually, often I find myself humming 'The Power Within' when I'm walking down the hallway of my school en9 Tc8icu4(e)0 davolkior ss my mo.6(r4(t.6( )]] sn a g!ig

## Tentative Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Choir</b>
March 24 1:30 – 2:30	Rehearsal	Kingsway United	Concert
March 25 9:45 – 12:00	Kingsway United & Men's Mission	Kingsway United	Concert
April	Kiwanis Music Festival		Chamber
April 25 6:00 – 7:30	Children's Health Summit	Chateau Laurier	Chamber
April 28 9:00 – 12:00	General Auditions	McNabb	<b>Not for Choir Members</b>
April 24, 27, 28, 29 Evenings	Carmina Burana – Chouer Classique		Chamber
May 6 10:30 – 11:45	Battle of the Atlantic	Cenotaph	Concert-Viva
Early–Mid May	School Visits		All
May 22 6:30 – 8:30	Spring Concert Tech Rehearsal	Glebe Collegiate	All
May 24 Choir Call 6:30 Concert 7:30	Spring Concert	Glebe Collegiate	All
May 26 9:00 – 12:00	General Auditions	McNabb	<b>Not for Choir Members</b>
May 27	Petawawa		Chamber
May 29 3:00 - 6:00	Reauditions - Uniform & Music Return	McNabb	Concert
May 28-30	Reauditions	McNabb	Chamber
May 31 3:00 - 6:00	Reauditions - Uniform & Music Return	McNabb	Viva
June 30 morning	175 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Rideau Canal Unisong Rehearsal	Rideau Canal Locks Chateau Laurier NAC	Chamber – Small # Concert (Unisong Group)
July 1	Unisong	NAC	Unisong Group

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Allison Prowse	Music Director, Concert and Viva
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Sally Robinson	Accompanist

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Kay Baggley	Viva Co-Manager
Yvonne Navratil	Viva Co-Manager

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... and thanks to Allison Prowse, Robert Filion