

Spirit's Voice

SPIRIT'S CALL CHOIR NEWSLETTER FINDING OUR VOICE IN PRINT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NEWSLETTER DATE
FEBRUARY 14TH, 2004

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New Choir Takes City By Storm

The Spirit's Call Choir performed to a packed house of enthusiastic fans on November 30th, 2003. With special guests James Keelaghan, Joelle Bremault and a Sierra Leone singing group, the choir performed two acts of spiritual selections, pop tunes, and sweeping choir songs to an appreciative crowd at a fundraiser for NEST, the North End Sponsorship Team. NEST supports new refugees as they settle into our community. Through everyone's collective efforts, over \$4800.00 was raised (see page 3).

The Spirit's Call Choir has been around for about three years, with very humble beginnings. At an "Explorations of the Self" workshop with Margaret Tobin & Dorothy Becker, participants began a healing chant that invoked

such an emotional connection that one person remarked "We should start a choir," and that's exactly what they did. A group of 9 or 10 women began in Margaret Tobin's home singing along to CD's. Margaret's desire to take it farther, along with much support over the last 3 years, has resulted in this successful concert.

Having been asked to leave her high school choir for her exuberance, Margaret has used that energy to help co-create a choir that began with people who were told they couldn't sing. Often it's because they have deeper voices, such as altos, who don't often have music written specifically for their range.

The choir has expanded on a continuing basis ever since it's inception and been joined by novice to accomplished singers & musicians and those

who love to "Sing for the Joy!." Still, one thing remains true. It is a safe haven for those who want to sing, no matter their talent, perceived or otherwise. It is where we squeak and squawk sometimes and sing from the heart all the time. It is a sanctuary for one's spirit as it learns to take flight in song.



Margaret Tobin
Spirit's Call Choir
Enthusiasm
Coordinator
and the true
"Divine Miss M"

Your Newsletter

- What do you want this publication to do for our choir?
- Do you have any story ideas or the desire to help create this particular outlet of our choir?

To submit articles, etc contact:

- **Newsletter Editor/Publisher**
Clark Kenyon
ckenyon@winnipeg.ca
ckenyon603@mts.net
- **Editorial Assistance and Grammatical Guidance**
Margaret Tobin
Jenny Gerbasi

For info on Spirit's Call Choir please contact :

Dawn Lazar
488-0495

dlazar@mts.net

Bigger Location Now A Reality

As many of you know, our choir has grown exponentially since our inception. We've done well with first Margaret's house and then Beth Mason & Catherine Cote's homes as well. When we realized our space needs went beyond that,

after an exhaustive search, the space at the University's Women's Club (UWC) was found. Now that too seems to be ever shrinking as our numbers grow and so a rental agreement with the Unitarian Church is now in place. We

have sung in the space a few times before and it seems to fit our needs and our budget and Lisa Remple gets a beautiful piano as well. It is located at 603 Wellington Crescent just off the bridge and has ample parking.



**Heavenly Voices
Lift Spirits
Ever Higher**

Spirit's Call Choir is...

- A safe place to find the singing voice I thought I never had.
- Like singing in the shower without all the water.
- Where heart, mind and voice truly unite.
- A place to unbridle oneself from the world and let the spirit fly.
- a place where there's always an open chair for a bass!!!
- A choir to sing in that tries to honour all cultures, paths and journeys that people are on.
- Where we turn a herd of cats into a band of angelic voices.
- Warm and inviting.
- a group with a vision to tie personal, choral and global harmony together through the power of voice and spirit.
- A time to experiment safely, do whatever we do and measure the afternoon a huge success - no matter what!
- A place where we've found our voices and our new friends

Words From Jo Ann Jensen's Heart

This story was submitted by one of us but could easily match the sentiments we all attach to our group singing experience.

The choir for me represents a part of the healing journey. For me the opportunity to share in the joyful language of singing not only with other members but with our audiences is an opportunity to communicate our truest na-

tures. I believe voices joined in song carry with them deep meaning about who we all are and what we share in common and bring to each other. I felt the power of that message as soon as we opened our mouths to warm our vocal chords and the emotional resonance of a group of voices sounding all at once is so strong, nurturing and full of

beauty. Singing to me is all about sharing, giving, and receiving and discovery. The last choir I sang in was in Quebec a number of years ago. It wasn't until last Sunday's practice that I realized what a vital part of my life singing was and is. It truly does contribute to the healing that I need at this time.

"This choir is a place where our voices and spirits unite in a safe and inviting place. To promote personal, choral and global harmony"

Need Your Quotes, Stories, Reflections Here

I am very glad to be typing these words in our first ever newsletter but I was hoping this space would have included words and feelings you shared with me by email after our concert. Sadly, a computer crash lost those wonderful thoughts and delayed this publication. I am asking those who might still have copies to

re-submit them to me now. Also if you have a special story relating to the choir, let me know about it. We're always looking for more content.

This publication is for us to find our voice in yet another powerful way so let's open up like we did November 30th and let it all out.

Please send your quotes, stories, ideas, and upcoming events to both my email addresses:

ckenyon603@mts.net
ckenyon@winnipeg.ca

Any help in the creation of this newsletter is always welcome and appreciated.

A big thanks to Heather Emberley for the Free Press article about Spirit's Call Choir. You honour us. That piece alone has created an influx of 30 new members & precipitated our move to a larger location. Thanks so much for your beautiful words.

NEST Numbers and a Look Back and Forward

Here are the final figures for the NEST Concert 2003:

Total income:
\$4866.00

Ticket sales:
\$4140.00

Donations:
\$702.00

Expenses:
\$36.58

Net Proceeds:
\$4830.02

This was such a great event in so many ways. So much so, preliminary plans are already under way for a NEST Concert in fall 2004. Our success was due to the tireless efforts of people like Choral Director Lyle Eide & Margaret and many others. Lisa Remple, our pianist, was crucial. Ticket organizers & sellers, sound people, those who recorded the events, other choir musicians, those who showed the person next to you the right way to sing that part, etc. In short, all of

us coming together to co-create a wonderful event for those in attendance, for NEST and for our own personal reasons. We are the Spirit's Call Choir but we are also a choir that's getting higher. We'll again need a co-created effort to do this in the fall. Let's use this newsletter as a place to thank all those who work in front & behind the scenes to make things like this happen for our choir.

E-mail your suggestions for thanks to me at :
ckenyon603@mts.net or
ckenyon@winnipeg.ca

35th Celebrations

Spirit's Call Choir —35 months maybe/ Choir Member—35 years for sure

Hello Margaret:

Thanks for the e-mail about the change of location plans. I almost feel quilty sending you an e-mail if you are getting 92 choir members doing the same thing. You couldn't even read them all in one day.

Anyway, Congratulations on your choir success. Most

choirs can't even get enough people to show up on a regular basis and you can't stop people from wanting to join. That says it all. You certainly have touched a chord with many people who like to sing. It has a wonderful atmosphere and it is fun.

Anyway, if all goes well I will see you from afar on Sunday afternoon. I can't go to the potluck supper as it is my 35th wedding anniversary and there is a supper being held for us.

Bye for now

Another Story Of Next Morning Glory

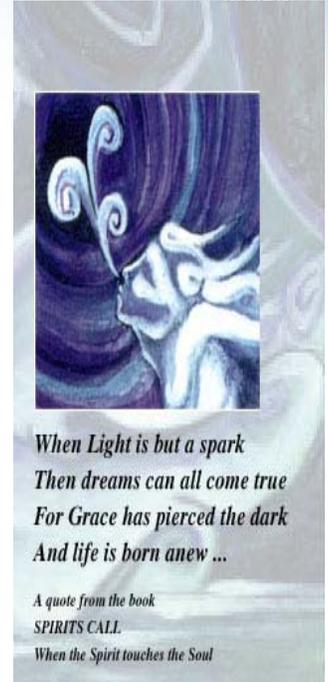
Hi Margaret,

I popped by your office today but unfortunately, you weren't in. I thought we could do a bit of basking in the after glow. I know I speak for many when I say how much I have

enjoyed Spirit's Call. The concert last night was spectacular and I certainly did sing for JOY. The smiling faces from both choir members and the audience said it all. My heart was full! Deb Hnatiw



Margaret searching the Himilayas for those who haven't yet been "Tobinated"



This newsletter is a tool for us communicate as much as it is a way to share our hearts. Please forward any suggestions or full blown articles you have to Clark Kenyon to make this publication everything it can be.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Sing for Your Life!" Workshop

with **Shivon Robinsong**

Back by Popular Demand!

March 12-14, 2004 at the Unitarian Church

To keep alive the singing souls of Spirit's Call Choir and other interested songsters while our Spirit's Call Choir's harmonic choral director, Lyle Eide, is away for his winter retirement travels, Spirit's Call and Hollyhock are collaborating for this very special singing event!

March 12 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

March 13 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

And March 14 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Unitarian Church at 603 Wellington Crescent
(Wellington at Academy - next to Children's Rehab Hospital)
Fee is \$165.00 - Choir Members \$150.00 (GST incl)

Deposit of \$50 by Feb 15th (Bursaries available)

"Explorations of the Self" Retreat

with **Dorothy Becker and Margaret Tobin**

Remembering Our Beginnings Retreat

For those who are ready to move forward in their lives and transform fear, self-blame and doubt into fearlessness,

self-acceptance & courage.

June 3rd to 6th, 2004 at Falcon Trails Resort

Falcon Lake, MB. For more info call

Dorothy Becker at 488-4983 or Margaret Tobin at 474-8594

Website: www.spiritscall.com

The Way of the Heart™ & GeoTran™

An experiential approach like no other

- to empower, enhance & enrich your life.

Introductory Course - Mon. Feb 16th

Free information sessions March 11th & April 19th

Contact Dorothy Becker at 488-4983

Website: www.spiritscall.com

"LET OUR VOICES BE LIFTED UP, UNITED IN SONG, SO THAT WE MAY BE HEARD AND OUR SPIRITS TOGETHER MAY CHANGE THE WORLD"

Drum For Peace

February 21st , 7-10 pm

Marymound Gymnasium, 442 Scotia St

A collection of drummers starting with a rhythm and letting it grow around the circle. The infectious beat spreads through the room enticing the crowd to starting moving to the beat of the drum and the rhythm of their hearts. It's one of the events planned by the Center For Spiritual Awareness in their Season for Non-Violence. For more information.

Call the Center at 233-6620

(parking is available)

An Evening Of Jazz

Klowak/Cummings Group Jazz Cabaret

with vocalist **Luisa D'Abramo**

March 13th at 8:00 pm at 603 Wellington Crescent

Tickets are \$15 each or \$75 for a reserved table of 6

or \$100 for a reserved table of 8

Wine, beer, coffee, tea, soft drinks for sale

Sweet & savoury snacks included in price of ticket

Choir Calendar

SUNDAY, FEB 15TH

**2 - 4 PM AT UNITARIAN CHURCH
POTLUCK AT PAT REID'S
993 DORCHESTER AT 5:30 PM**

SUNDAY FEB 22ND OR 29TH

2 TO 4:30-5:00

TO BE ANNOUNCED

MARCH 12 TO 14

**SHIVON ROBINSO'S
WORKSHOP AT UNITARIAN
CHURCH. SEE FULL AD.**

MARCH 7, 21, 28TH

**2 TO 4:30-5:00PM
UNITARIAN CHURCH**