

From the Choir

A wonderful busy Christmas!

This autumn, the Choir of the Church of St Andrew and St Paul had such a busy rehearsal and performance schedule! Our wonderful music staff - Jonathan Oldengarm, Jordan DeSouza, and Andrew Gray - had programmed a very ambitious but exciting series of special performances in addition to Sunday services. The choir season began with the preparation for the CIOC concert on October 18th during which time the choir performed Vaughan Williams' "Serenade to Music" and "Dona Nobis Pacem". This concert was a commemoration of the beginning of the First World War. As attendees listened to the poetry and music of "Dona Nobis Pacem", the message of the futility and ravages of war and the hope for a better world was meaningfully expressed. The singers (many of whom sang solos in the "Serenade") were deeply moved by the lyrics and beauty of both compositions. This concert was followed on November 23 by the annual Maison du Parc concert featuring the A&P choir and the MSO players in a performance of Mozart's "Great Mass in C minor" – another beloved masterpiece.

With the approach of Advent and Christmas in late November and December, the pace quickened for rehearsals - as it always does around this time. Often rehearsals were lengthened to three hours, and the numbers of rehearsals increased as singers struggled to master the music in time for the CBC Sing-In on December 7. But what fun it was to see the church overflowing with people during this event and to join with them on the carols. The energy within the choir is always very high for this occasion, as one can well imagine.

Two weeks later, the choir prepared a different kind of service – the "Carols by Candlelight" service held in the evening of December 21. Again the church was filled. Traditionally, this service is always more meditative than the CBC Sing-In. As the choir singers processed into the church with lighted candles in a darkened sanctuary, there was a sense of thankfulness within the choir to be part of this service of worship at such an important celebration in the church calendar. This same feeling of joy and gratitude was also present during the Christmas Eve services.

Now in January, the pace in rehearsals is more relaxed. At the same time, the choir is looking forward to three major events, the first being the choir cabaret entitled "A&P's Got Talent" on the evening of March 13. This should be a fun and inspiring concert followed by a reception in Kildonan Hall to meet the performers. The cabaret is also a special fundraising event in support of the next major performance held as part of the Good Friday evening service. At this time, the choir will join with the Ensemble Caprice in the performance of J.S. Bach's magnificent "Mass in B minor." And of course, on Easter Sunday morning, a brass quartet will join with the organ, the choir and congregation in joyful praise and thanksgiving for the Risen Christ.

Please be sure to mark these very special musical offerings on your calendar!

Wendy Glaubitz-Fugère
Choir President

Musical Highlights

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13 our choir will once again perform a musical cabaret. The past two editions have been hugely popular, and allow you the congregation and the broader community to hear our choristers singing very non-church music! Tickets (\$25) will be on sale following Sunday services within the next few weeks. All proceeds go toward supporting the church's excellent music ministry.

ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 at 7:30 p.m. we will present J. S. Bach's great masterpiece, the Mass in B minor. Our choir will join together with Ensemble Caprice, one of Montreal's great period-instrument orchestras, under the inspired direction of Jordan de Souza to present what is probably the most difficult and beautiful of Bach's treasure-trove of great choral works. Many mysteries surround the piece: did Bach intend it for performance? Was it ever performed in its entirety during Bach's lifetime? Why did Bach, a devout Lutheran who never held a Catholic church or court position, write a musical setting of the full Catholic Mass text as opposed to the shorter Lutheran missa brevis?

The Guild AGM and Spring Luncheon

April 22, 2015 at 12:00 noon
Speaker: Myriam Cloutier, Historian
Friends of Mount Royal Cemetery
Lunch reservations: 514.288.9588

