



Share Your Song

with Cantores Celestes

Issue 7 - March 2011

CANTORES CELESTES
CELEBRATES OVER 20 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

From Kelly



Photo by Linda Young

We are all very excited about our Spring Concert! Not only are we fortunate enough to be welcoming back some of our favourite musicians (Ellen Meyer, William O'Meara and The Emperor String Quartet) we are also going to perform the Canadian Premier of Vaughan Williams' *In Windsor Forest*. Other highlights are Mozart's *Missa Brevis in B*, a Mass that wasn't performed very much in the 1700s because the clergy of the time felt parts of it were too much like a dance. We hope to have your toes tapping!

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Giving Back to the Community

The women of Cantores Celestes believe in giving back to the community and have been doing so, both at the local level and farther afield, since 2003. To date, over \$30,000 has been donated to various causes.

At this Spring concert, the choir will donate \$1,000 to the Fred Victor Centre's Bethlehem United Shelter, which is the only shelter in Toronto that accepts pets. Their philosophy is that a person's connection with a pet is more important than ever when, "...everything else seems to have been taken away from them." This shelter takes away the need to choose between a beloved pet and shelter.

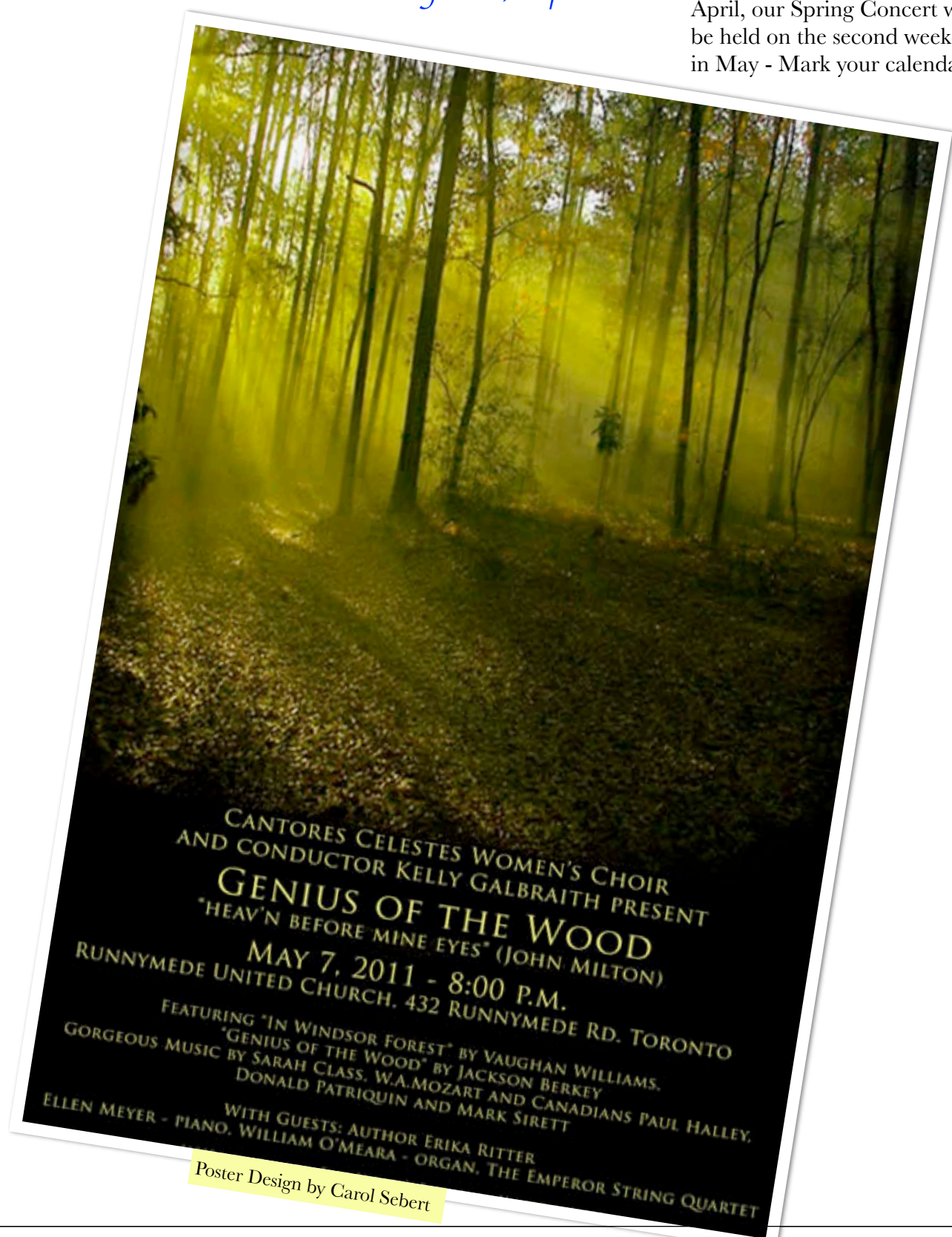
This shelter is a not-for-profit, social service organization that fosters positive change in the lives of homeless and low-income people, helping with finding permanent housing or emergency shelter, job training and much more. The shelter address the needs of more than 1,000 individuals every day at 10 sites across Toronto. The shelter at Caledonia Road and Lawrence Avenue has 60 beds and accommodates 10 pets a night, if they arrive with their owner, making it the only pet-friendly shelter in Toronto.

Cantores Celestes has its own page on Facebook!

Come check us out!

Spring Concert May 7th, 8pm

←
Note the new Date!
Instead of the last weekend in
April, our Spring Concert will
be held on the second weekend
in May - Mark your calendar!



Poster Design by Carol Sebert

More on our Concert

Cantores Celestes is very happy to revisit *Symphonie Lumière* by Emmy nominated composer, Sarah Class. With a few sections that “soar”, the sopranos of the choir had a real treat recently. We spent a few hours with Mary Lou Fallis, working on our higher notes. Mary Lou is an engaging and inspiring teacher and we not only had a great time, but came away with some concrete exercises and helpful hints. **Katie, feel free to mix this up a bit.**

The Emperor String Quartet joins the choir for the Canadian Premiere of Vaughan Williams’ *In Windsor Forest* sung by a women’s choir, as well as *Symphonie Lumière*, written by Emmy nominated composer, Sarah Class and Mozart’s *Missa Brevis in B*.

Also featured are Canadian composers Donald Patriquin (*Canadian Mosaic*), Paul Halley (Freedom Trilogy) and Mark Sirett (Watane). Cantores Celestes’ gifted accompanist, Ellen Meyer, will once again accompany us on the piano.



Cantores Celestes had a wonderful time last September when we opened the Barrie Music Festival. The choir was very well received...

Share Your Song

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Bragging Rights:

CANTORES CELESTES
WOMEN'S CHOIR PERFORMS
WITH A “LYRICAL
EXPRESSIVENESS, RHYTHMIC
ENERGY, IMPECCABLE PITCH
AND CLEAR DICTION THAT
THRILLED THE BARRIE
AUDIENCE”

CD's Still Available

Cantores Celestes’ CDs make a great gift for any occasion. While two are sold out and only a few copies of *Bright Shining as the Sun* are left, *Women of Light*, *Wake up in the Moonlight Singing* and *The Circle Never Ends* are available! Please see our website for more information: www.cantorescelestes.com



If you would like to audition to be a part of Cantores Celestes, call 416.236.1522

Retreat or Bootcamp?

Always a good way to start off a new term, Cantores spends a Friday night and Saturday at the quaint little clubhouse on Baby Point Road, going over notes, brainstorming what we want to do next and getting to know each other, not something we are able to do on an average Tuesday night!

Pictures by Catherine Roe



The next edition of *Share Your Song* will be published in Summer 2011.



For a teaser from our latest CD,
click on the link below and follow
the yellow brick road.

www.cantorescelestes.com



Cantores Chronicles



Photo courtesy of Ana Shaw

Hello, my name is Katie Baldwin and I first started singing Soprano 1 with Cantores Celestes in January 2008 – and what a treat it has been!

As a child, I loved to sing and always hoped to take lessons but unfortunately, growing up in a small town in SW Ontario, my musical options were limited. Since my parents played and owned a piano, that's the instrument that became my training ground. And although I often rebelled against my daily practices, it's definitely been an advantage – given the complexity and number of pieces we perform at each concert – to know how to read music.

In addition to piano lessons, I spent countless summers singing and leading others in camp songs, had an early stint in our junior church choir and participated in a variety of community-run musicals. During university and my early 20s, though, I basically let my musical interests slide and it wasn't until the year 2000 – when I lived abroad in London, England – that I joined a proper choir again... and, wow, I suddenly realized how much I'd missed it!

In 2007, after moving to Roncesvalles, I was looking for a choir in the neighbourhood and somehow (serendipity perhaps?) stumbled across the Cantores website. And, what luck, they were looking for sopranos!!

Since my sister's family attends Runnymede United Church, I was familiar with the location and knew it was in a friendly neighbourhood. So, after a quick email to Kelly – followed by a very quick response – I was scheduled for my audition and the rest, as they say, is history.

For me, being in a choir is about so much more than the music. It's about enjoying the camaraderie of others (in this case, a fascinating and welcoming group of diverse, strong women) while working together to achieve a challenging and creative goal. It forces me to leave behind the stresses of everyday life and experience the transcendent, simple joy of losing myself in the music.

In the summer of 2009, I had the opportunity to move to Istanbul to teach high school math and, though it's definitely been an adventure of the highest order, I've missed a lot of things about home – one of them being the inspiring and grounding influence of the Cantores women.

I'm currently home in Toronto for 6 months – perfect timing to rejoin the choir for our upcoming "Genius of the Wood" concert – and am thrilled to be back. It will be sad to say good-bye in June (I'm returning to Turkey for another year) but I know in my heart that I'll be singing with Cantores again someday... and I'm looking forward to it already.



Photo courtesy of Katie Baldwin

Special Guest - Erika Ritter

A Cantores Concert wouldn't be complete without a little something special. This concert is no different. Cantores Celestes is very excited to welcome Erika Ritter to our stage. Erika sees the funny side of human-animal relationships, and the readings she will be presenting from her work at the concert will reflect both the sober and the silly side of this all-important and complex relationship. Erika will be reading from both "The Hidden Life of Humans," a comic novel partly narrated by a dog, "The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships" and work-in-progress with animal perspectives and themes.

Two years ago, when she had just published *The Dog by the Cradle, the Serpent Beneath: Some Paradoxes of Human-Animal Relationships*, Erika organized a fundraiser for the Fred Victor Centre's pet-friendly shelter on Caledonia Road as a way both to launch her book and also to call attention the important theme of how much the fates of animals are held hostage to the fortunes of the humans who are in charge of them. Pet animals are homeless when their human companions are. **find a way to finish this, it sounds (because it is) unfinished - but I didn't want to use the rest of the paragraph from Erika** To find out more about Erika Ritter, visit her website: erikaritter.com

Guest Musicians

We are again pleased to be joined by Pianist Ellen Meyer who has been with Cantores Celestes for many years. Ellen belongs to the Riverdale Ensemble. To see what the Riverdale Ensemble is up to, please check out their website at <http://www.riverdaleensemble.com>



The Emperor String Quartet, Ellen Meyer (piano), William O'Meara (organ)

I need to find more about these - I have more in previous newsletters, that I will put in.



A Choristers' Guide To Keeping Conductors In Line change

Look at your watch frequently. Shake it in disbelief occasionally.

Composers

I plan on doing a little blurb on Sarah Class and Vaughn Williams.

What we have been up to



ARTISTS' LAUDS



Cantores Celestes was privileged to join Fr. Gilles Mongeau and Trisha Postle in an hour devoted to beauty and music. Check out this site for images of the morning and a recording of *Venite*.

<http://www.catholicregister.org/features/46-member-cantores-celestes-enhance-artists-lauds>