



Share Your Song with Cantores Celestes

Issue 9 - New Year 2012

CANTORES CELESTES
CELEBRATES OVER 20 YEARS OF MAKING MUSIC

IN THIS ISSUE

From Kelly



Photo by Linda Young

There is always a theme to a Cantores Celestes concert. It might be a grouping of a style of music, such as Olde English Christmas music or a theme found around us, like *The Realms of Nature* or *Music of the Dance*. Or it might be a theme of passion, such as *Songs of Hope and Freedom*.

And Fire and Light has always been a favourite theme of mine. I am drawn to music where the mystical and magical characteristics of fire and light are portrayed to carefully chosen poetry and music.

Gustav Holst developed an interest in Eastern mysticism when he began his association with the St. Paul's Girls School in Hammersmith, England. He devoted time to learning how to read Sanskrit literature and translate it into English so he could set some of these beautiful texts to music. It was during the composing of these works that he explored asymmetrical metres (five or seven beats in the bar), which he considered more suited to settings of the English language.

At our Spring concert the choir is singing Group II of Gustav Holst's *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*. In the first part, the choir sings to Varuna, the God of Water, whose face "...doth scorch as flames of angry fire." asking forgiveness and requesting shelter. In the second, a song to the Agni, the God of Fire, we ask Agni to "Burn up our sin...". Again, the theme is redemption through fire. Even in the last piece, the Funeral Chant, the theme of fire as a way to redemption is explored.

Light is also portrayed in Kentaro Sato's *Veni Sancte Spiritus*. In this piece we ask that the Holy Spirit "Shed a ray of light divine!" and that the blessed light "Shine within these hearts of Thine."

While I can't express how much working with the women of Cantores Celestes means to me, I am very excited about working with the 8 stellar musicians who will be sharing the stage with us in April.

From Kelly

Spring Concert

CDs still available

"Bootcamp"

Kudos to Us

Chorister chronicles

A New Look

Giving Back

Composer Notes

Guest Musicians

Sponsors

Bootcamp pics

Spring Concert
Saturday, April 21st, 7:30pm

Note the new time



CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR
AND DIRECTOR KELLY GALBRAITH
PRESENT

Spiritus
MUSIC OF FIRE AND LIGHT
SATURDAY APRIL 21, 2012
7:30 P.M.

FEATURING NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF
Veni Sancte Spritus - Kentaro Sato (Japan)
Kyrie Eleison by Boaz Avni (Israel)
as well as
Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda #2 by Gustav Holst
and Gospel Music

WITH GUEST MUSICIANS
Ellen Meyer - piano,
William O'Meara - organ
Chamber Orchestra

RUNNYMEDE UNITED CHURCH
432 Runnymded Road (north of Bloor)

admission \$20.00
General Admission and General Seating
\$1,000.00 donation will be made to a local charity

www.cantorescelestes.com 416 236-1522

Poster Design by Carol Sebert

Spring Concert

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 7:30 PM
Spiritus - Music of Fire and Light
CANTORES CELESTES WOMEN'S CHOIR

The choir will perform two absolutely stunningly beautiful North American premieres: Japanese composer Kentaro Sato's '*Veni Sancte Spiritus*' and '*Kyrie Eleison*' by Israeli composer, Boaz Avni. This concert's themes of fire and light are beautifully illustrated in both of these pieces, with their rich and colourful harmonies and intricate vocal lines.

Also featured is Gustav Holst's '*Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda*' from the seldom performed second set with orchestra, and Gospel music reflecting the light and hope. Two pieces will be sung in the Shaker tradition, *Wayfaring Stranger* and *Hark I Hear the Harps Eternal*. These pieces are sung unaccompanied, as traditional Shaker tunes were sung. An interesting aspect of this type of music is something called *shape notes*, which give a visual cue to the singers who may not or may not read music. These two pieces reflect on the journey to heaven and its promise of peace.

Share Your Song

is edited & published by
Catherine Roe

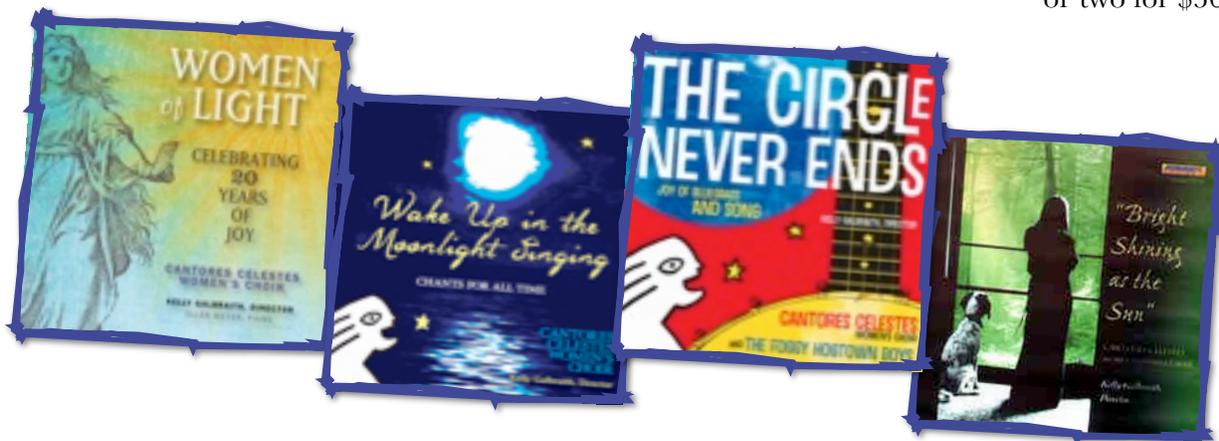
Logo by Shauna Rae
Contributions by:
Kelly Galbraith
Carol Sebert
Debbie Gonsalves
Patricia Longlade
Nadia Kargl
Jacqueline Hayden

New Time

Please note the time change:
the spring concert will begin at 7:30pm, to better accommodate our out-of-town audience members.

CD's Still Available

Cantores Celestes' CDs make a great gift for any occasion. While two of our releases are now sold out, we still have copies available of four of our recordings: *Bright Shining as the Sun*, *Women of Light*, *Wake up in the Moonlight Singing* and *The Circle Never Ends*. Please visit www.cantorescelestes.com for ordering details. CDs will also be available for purchase at our May 7th concert. They are \$20 each or two for \$30.



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

Retreat or Bootcamp?

We start every season with what we affectionately term “Boot Camp”. We spend Friday evening and Saturday at the Baby Point Club House, ostensibly on a retreat to rehearse and have fun. The bootcamp label came about when we realized that we were going to be working very hard. We also get to know each other a little better and discuss how to increase awareness of the choir and plan what is coming up in the future for Cantores Celestes.

Getting to Know You...

This time around, Mary Ann Archer led us in an exercise to get to know each other. She came up with a list of questions and we paired up and asked each other three of these questions. We learned quite a bit about each other. The most popular question was “What drives you crazy?” We learned that you shouldn’t walk slowly in front of Jennifer H., open cupboard doors at Erin’s or drive badly around Catherine. We also discovered that it’s best to use proper grammar around Margaret and pronounce Eimear’s name (it’s EEE-mer) correctly!

What We Do

The Women of Cantores Celestes pull together, not only to create the music that is so important to us, but behind the scenes as well. We want to thank Marilyn Smith and Evelyne Dafau for all their work on our sponsorship campaign for many years. With these two dynamos on sabbatical, there were some pretty big shoes to fill. Erin Weiss, Kate Mossman and Alison Hope have stepped up to run the show, with Patricia Longlade offering backup.

This year we want to increase our online presence and to get this initiative up and running, Jean Ann Steward, Mikaela Lefaive, Jamie Dyck, Kate Mossman, Heather Kulchicki, Mary Tangelder and Debbie Gonsalves. Leanna Kurs has set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

What’s Next for Us

Cantores Celestes has been invited to perform at SING! Toronto Vocal Arts Festival on April 14th between 1pm - 2pm (TBD). SING! will be Toronto’s first a cappella festival and we are very excited about the opportunity. We are also singing at St. John’s Church, in Agincourt – where Kelly is the organist -- on June 2nd at 7:30pm.

Our 25th Anniversary

As part of the celebrations of our 25th anniversary year in 2013-14, we discussed touring in Winnipeg. The tour will likely happen around the 2013 Canada Day weekend. Kelly is leading a committee to organize the tour; volunteers are Eimear Duggan (for travel), Lana Thompson, Erin Weiss, Kate Mossman, Jamie Dyck, Sharon Ferreira and Margaret Elder.

The next edition of *Share Your Song* will be published in the Spring of 2012.

A Special Thank you

Sir Derek Holman not only attended our Christmas Concert,
he was so moved he sent Kelly a little congratulatory note:

5th December 201

To Kelly Galbraith and C.C.W.C

Dear Kelly,
Warmest thanks to you and
your wonderful choir, for a grand
performance of "Six Christmas" on
Saturday.

I was delighted by it all - the Choir
and its soloists, the expert instrumentalist,
and the dynamic conductor who
prepared and led it all . . .

Six Christmas is now 24 years old,
I am eighty, and I have it on
the very best authority, that you,
Dear Kelly, will shortly be 29!

Happy Birthday Kelly,
Merry Christmas to one and all -
"Now Have Good Day!"

Derek Holman
H

More Kudos

We were very touched to receive this email after our last concert:

Good Morning Kelly:

My mother and I attended Saturday evening's performance and sat in the balcony. While there isn't a lot of knee room in the front row it certainly gave us a bird's eye-view of the concert. There aren't enough superlatives to tell you how wonderful we both thought this was. My mother's favourite was exquisite and she didn't nod off even once - she was captivated throughout (she was concerned earlier in the day because she doesn't sleep well and once she sits down, gets warm and doesn't move it's usually game over for a while). As we left she kept thanking me for taking her and having such a wonderful evening. Even as she left on Sunday she was again thanking me for having thought we should go and that she would enjoy the performance. I have to admit, just as you said, it would slow down and we would be ready for bed at the very end, and in the last song I was lulled to a gentle snooze. It's a good thing I wasn't in my jammies or that would have been it for the night.

Thunderous applause broke me out of that dreamy state. Thank you Kelly, for having given us a gentle respite from the cares of the world where song and music were all that mattered. Please pass along my mother's and my thanks for an "exquisite" evening to your choir and accompanying musicians. Leave me on your e-mail list - we'll be there another time. The elevator was a huge help. Susan Jackson, Audience member at the Christmas Concert, December 2012

Giving Back to the Community

As has been the case for many years, the women of Cantores Celestes continue to believe that giving back to the community is a duty and a privilege. For the spring concert, a \$1,000 donation will be made to '**West Toronto Keys to Inclusion**'. West Toronto KEYS to Inclusion is a group of West Toronto families and friends of young adults with an intellectual disability who have recently graduated from high school and are keen to participate meaningfully in their community. They believe that neighbourhood opportunities for knowledge and work/volunteer/social experience are **KEYS** to the successful creation of strong vibrant communities which include people with an intellectual disability.

They seek to establish and maintain strong connections with our West Toronto neighbourhood business partners to create opportunities in **volunteer work, employment, and social recreation**.

Please visit our website for more information www.westtorontokeys.com

west toronto
KEYS
to inclusion

Cantores Chronicles

At the time I joined the choir because I love music and I wanted to have something to do in the winter that had more structure than joining a band. I joined January 2 years ago.

I like the large variety of music we sing at Cantores. In a sense I enjoyed choral music before without knowing I liked it. I used to listen to Gregorian chants, a little bit of opera among many other types of non-choral music. I have a CD with 12 different versions of Ave Maria which I listened to years before joining the choir. Who new there where so many different versions of Ave Maria.

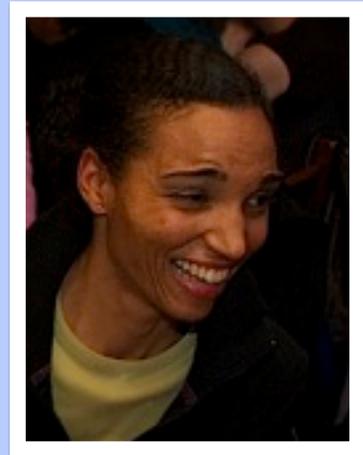


Photo by Catherine Roe

I often feel like I am singing about things that are rarely discussed such as the meaning of life, the journey. Some of the music is even a little esoteric such the one we are working on right now from Holst. I enjoy discussing such topics but realize it is not every one's cup of tea. So for me it's an outlet. When someone writes something whether it is a book or music the incoming message is sort of like having a conversation with the author. Invariably my own thoughts contribute to the experience and an exchange is made between author an recipient.

Lastly I think Kelly is a good leader in terms of setting the right tone, being flexible yet consistent which is tricky. Each person in the choir contributes as well to setting the right tone and I find it's motivating for me to experience. These 2 last reasons are the main reasons I stay.

Nadia Kargl

Alto 1



Photo by Catherine Roe

My most memorable concert moment actually happened after the concert. I had laundered my costume (the old St Mary Maria of the Order of St Flagellus the Strict version) that afternoon, and realized, as I was changing out of it, that I had spent the entire concert with a pair of black knickers statically clung to the outside of my skirt!

Jacqueline Hayden

Soprano 2



A Choristers' Guide To Keeping Conductors In Line

Bury your head in the music just before cues.

A New Look for Cantores Celestes

Thanks to Joanne Weaver

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the choir has a new look and we would like to thank audience member, Tricia May for providing us with this photo of our first time performing in our new, stylish gowns.



Cantores Celestes has its own page on Facebook!

Come check us out!

https://www.facebook.com/update_security_info.php?wizard=1#!/

Featured Composers

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) was born in England. He played the piano, violin and trombone. He began composing at the age of 12, writing piano pieces, organ voluntaries and a symphony in C minor. He attended the Royal College of Music on a scholarship. He has almost 200 pieces to his credit, including operas, ballets and choral hymns.

Holst began as a pianist, but due to a nerve condition that increasingly affected the movement of his right hand, he changed to the trombone, in part because his father thought it would improve his asthma.

He felt that art should be for everyone, not just the chosen few and that an “artist is born again and starts afresh with every new work.”

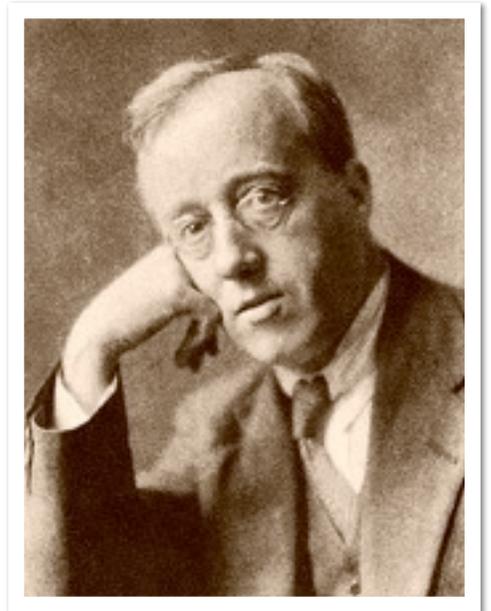
After leaving college Holst read a book by R.W. Fraser about the ancient Hindu gods and goddesses for fire, earth, water, sky and storm. He was greatly excited about the subject matter but was unsatisfied by the available translations. So, he went back to school to learn Sanskrit so he could translate them himself before he set them to music.

Trivia - He was fascinated by people and society and believed the best way to discover a city and its people was to roam around, losing himself in the city. He was often found after being gone for hours, holding abstract debates with local musicians.

Kentaro Sato (Japan) is based in Los Angeles, but was born in Hamamatsu, Japan, a manufacturing city known as a city of music and instruments in 1981. As well as composing, he conducts and is an orchestrator and clinician. He writes music for film, tv and games as well as symphonic and choral concert music. His works have been broadcast, performed and recorded, not only in North and South America but as far away as Asia and Europe.

He has earned a Master of Music in conducting with Distinction and a Bachelor of Music from California State University, as well as a degree in cinema from Santa Monica College.

Trivia - Kentaro means wise man in Japanese.



Guest Musicians

Cantores Celestes is especially excited this year by the amazing group of musicians accompanying us at this Christmas concert.

Ellen Meyer raised and educated in Toronto, is one of the most in-demand collaborative pianists in Ontario. Possessing a large and varied repertoire, she is known for her interest in woodwind music, and has accompanied master classes for such renowned artists as Sabine Meyer, Karl Leister and Ricardo Morales. She has recently performed in recital at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, and was privileged to present two programs with English clarinet phenomenon Julian Bliss this past December. Ellen began accompanying choirs when she was 11 years old, and choirs have figured prominently in her musical life ever since, having worked with the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus, Toronto Choral Society and numerous others, in addition to Cantores Celestes. She also does a great deal of orchestral piano around the GTA. A founding member of the Riverdale Ensemble, Ellen has performed at festivals in Germany, made many appearances in the U.S. including Washington D.C. and Salt Lake City, and across Canada. Her goal is to perform in all the provinces and territories, and Antarctica if there's time.



Ellen has appeared on upward of 15 commercial recordings, several with Cantores Celestes, Riverdale Ensemble and Ossia. You can find information on the Riverdale Ensemble at <http://www.riverdaleensemble.com>



Cantores Celestes is, once again, very happy to be joined by the **Emperor's String Quartet**.

Formed in 1983, the Emperor String Quartet has been a musical mainstay on the Toronto social scene performing their inimitable brand of chamber music for a vast array of public, private, corporate and government functions and concerts. The Emperor String Quartet has performed in Toronto, Ottawa and Washington for the reigning monarchs of Great Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and Jordan as well as Presidents, Prime Ministers, Governors and State leaders from over ten countries.

We like performing with **Bill O'Meara** so much that he will be accompanying the choir on organ, once again. In addition to his freelance career as a soloist, choral accompanist and silent film accompanist, Bill is the organist at St. Michael's Cathedral.

For more information about Bill's involvement with Organix, an annual organ concert festival here in Toronto, please visit www.organixconcerts.ca



Guest Musicians, con't



Stephen Fox wears the multiple hats of musician, instrument maker and scientist. Born in England, raised in Western Canada and currently based in the Toronto area, he began his university studies in physics, achieving a Master of Science degree with a thesis in theoretical plasma physics, before deciding on a career in music.

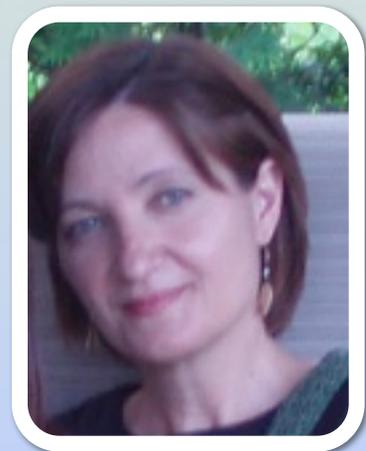
He is heard regularly on concert stages in the Toronto area performing on clarinet, historical clarinet, saxophone and other woodwind instruments in numerous professional orchestras and chamber

ensembles, and has performed concerti with orchestras in Toronto and elsewhere. He has presented recitals and participated in chamber concerts in Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Czech Republic, Australia and the U.S.A. as well as at various locales across Canada, and was invited to perform at International Clarinet Association ClarinetFests in Stockholm, Salt Lake City, Washington and Tokyo. He is a founding member of the Riverdale Ensemble (performing on modern instruments) and Ossia (period instruments), and along with his colleagues has recorded three chamber music CDs. He has been heard on CBC Radio 2, Czech Radio and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

In addition to performing, he is one of a select handful of clarinet builders in the Western Hemisphere, designing and producing both modern clarinets and reproduction historical instruments, with customers all across the world. His lectures and demonstrations on musical instrument acoustics, design and history have been heard at universities and conferences throughout Canada and in the U.S.A., Europe, Australia and Asia.

Jill Soloman is an active freelance bassoonist in the greater Toronto area. Principal bassoon in Opera York, Wish Opera, Opera Brampton, and Opera Kitchener, she also plays with groups such as the Amadeus Choir, Talisker Players, and the Cellar Singers. Jill teaches private bassoon lessons, as well as beginner band classes as an Itinerant Music Instructor for the TDSB. She teaches masterclasses and presents workshops around the GTA and at Ontario Music Educators' conventions. She is a member of the faculty at both National Music Camp and Music by the Lake, and is also a certified yoga instructor teaching at Moksha Yoga studios.

Jill majored in bassoon performance at York University, RCM Orchestral Training Program, and the Mozarteum (University of Salzburg, Austria), studying with James McKay, Christopher Weait, David Carroll, Gabor Janota, and Milan Turkovic.



Guest Musicians, con't



Bass player **George Koller** is an award winning musician who plays over half a dozen instruments and has played with a veritable “who’s who” of Canadian and international talents. He has been performer and/or producer on over 500 CDs. He has played professionally and extensively within most genres of music and is best known for his work in jazz, free jazz, folk music, world music and world fusion. In over three decades, George has accumulated hundreds of diverse performing and recording credits and worked with dozens of artists.

In 2010, George helped produce the World Jazz For Haiti charity album at Number 9 Audio Group in Toronto in support of the Red Cross disaster relief fund. The album featured Canadian artists such as John McDermott, Davide Clayton-Thomas and Holly Cole.

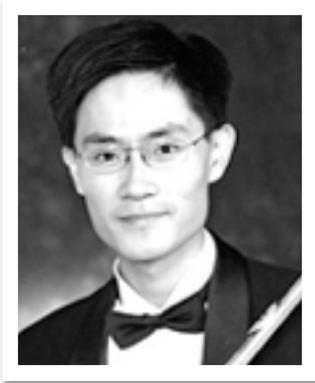
Clare Scholtz completed her undergraduate music degree as a student of Rhadames Angelucci at the University of Minnesota, studied with Richard Killmer at the Aspen Music School and completed her Masters Degree in Performance at the University of Toronto. Clare has performed with the National Ballet Orchestra in Toronto, the United States, Europe and across Canada, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, the Esprit Orchestra, Opera Atelier, Soundstreams, Arraymusic, the Toronto Wind Quintet and as principal oboe and oboe d’amore with Helmuth Rilling at the International Bach Festival. In addition to her orchestral experience she has been very active in commercial music

performance on both oboe and english horn with musicians such as Ray Charles, Michael Buble and David Foster, recording for film scores in Toronto and Los Angeles, and performing for many Broadway shows, including opening the Toronto productions of *Phantom of the Opera*, *Showboat*, *Ragtime* and *Beauty and the Beast*.



Guest Musicians, con't

Canadian flautist **Stephen Tam** is the First-Prize Winner of the 32nd CBC/Radio-Canada National Competition for Young Performers. His past concerto engagements include appearances with the Calgary Philharmonic, the Banff Festival Orchestra and the Canadian Sinfonietta.



As a chamber musician, Stephen has performed at The White House, the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, the Ottawa Valley Music Festival and the Hong Kong Government House, and has been heard on numerous occasions nationwide on CBC Radio. Also in demand as an interpreter of contemporary music, Stephen is often featured at the Music Gallery, and is a frequent guest of Toca Loca and the Toronto New Music Projects. He was recently involved in chamber concerts celebrating the new music of Philippe Leroux, Norma Beecroft, Dai Fujikura and Giacinto Scelsi. Stephen currently serves as principal flute of the Canadian Sinfonietta, and is the newest flute faculty member of the Don Wright Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario.

Cantores Celestes' Sponsors

We appreciate our sponsors and encourage our audience members to patronize them. Many of them support us concert after concert. The following businesses sponsored our last concert in December 2011. We encourage you to go see them as they come very highly recommended. If you remember, please tell them that you saw their ad in the Cantores Celestes concert programme!

Bloor Meat Market, Bloor West Village Dental Care, Bravo Hearing Centre, Capucci, Coco's Closet, Dr. Lisa Chong, Dr. Lisa Wat, Dr. Poon Woo, Eclectic Gallery, Experience Authentique, HumberSide Montessori, In Style Kitchen & Bath, Kathryn Landon, Sutton Realty, MaTeMaSie, Osvath Roofing, Past Life Soul Regression Therapy, Rico Hair Design, Say Tea, Snappers, Strictly Bulk Foods, Swansea Massage Clinic, UPS Store, Dave DeLyzer and Windergarden.

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

www.cantorescelestes.com



*Share Your Song Editor
Catherine Roe*

Candids from Bootcamp



