

CANTORES CELESTES CHOIR PERFORMS

SPECIAL FATHER'S DAY CONCERT

Inside Toronto, Lisa Rainford. June 2010

Celebrate Father's Day with a concert by Cantores Celestes Choir showcasing music from the 12th century to the 21st, Sunday, June 20.

Scheduled for 2 p.m., Choir Director Kelly Galbraith assures that families will have plenty of time for brunch beforehand and dinner afterward.

"You'll be out by 4 p.m.," she said. "Bring dad, celebrate Father's Day, but there's plenty of time to eat."

The June 20 concert is an added bonus, Galbraith said. The choir doesn't typically perform in June. It recently performed as part of a benefit for the Stephen Lewis Foundation in May, but Galbraith decided to add another performance to keep her singers in good form. "We've been asked to perform for the opening concert of the Barrie's Colours of Music Festival and I wanted to keep their chops in shape," she quipped. "I didn't want them to stop singing."

As the new choir director at Royal York United Church, Galbraith thought it only fitting to introduce its congregation to the Cantores Choir. The west end-based choir rehearses at Runnymede United Church and usually performs there as well. This time around, the concert will benefit Royal York Road United Church.

Its roots based in classical repertoire, the choir performs a wide variety of music, including Celtic, Bluegrass and contemporary pieces, including several Canadian premieres. The choir performs regularly in Toronto, but has toured Western Ontario and Atlantic Canada as well.

Cantores Celestes has a long history of giving back to the community. It has donated \$30,000 over the years through its Christmas and spring concerts. The June 20 concert is part of a series Galbraith created called Sundays @ 2.

"The choir sounds wonderful," said Galbraith. "The Barrie festival concert boasts the world premier of a piece by a Toronto composer called In Time of Daffodils. The music is wonderful."

The Father's Day concert will serve as a warm-up for Barrie this fall, said Galbraith. "It's kind of like a Cantores Celestes' Greatest Hits," she said.

The concert features classical music, including selections of Henry Purcell's Come Ye Sons of Art and Orban's Mass No. 6. A spiritual tone will be invoked with Shen Khar Venakhi, a 12th century Georgian hymn. At the same time, the choir will also demonstrate that classical music is not always serious by singing "a delightfully wicked" rendition of Giuseppe Verdi's The Witches Chorus, from Macbeth. "Everything from the 12th century to the 21st will be covered," said Galbraith.

Royal York Road United Church can be found at 851 Royal York Rd. (just south of the Royal York subway station). Admission is a suggested donation of \$20. Contact the church at 416-231-9401 for further details or visit www.cantorescelestes.com