

## The Year in Review

As the end of another academic year draws nigh, it's once again time to look back on the blur of activity that was this year in the Hart House Chorus!

The summer ended with an unforgettable whirlwind tour of Eastern Europe (complete with an evening joyride around the streets of the Austrian town of Bruck an der Leitha in a homemade, open-air mini train that we fondly dubbed the 'schnitzel wagon'!).

Coming off a post-tour high, we launched into our new repertoire and a new academic year with the zeal characteristic

of Chorus members. From a farm weekend packed with rehearsals and eating of lots of tasty food to our participation in U of T's annual Remembrance Day ceremony, the fall term flew by.

We were once again fortunate enough to participate in U of T's second annual reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* alongside such talented readers as the CBC's Kevin Sylvester, author Guy Gavriel Kay and Canadian opera star Russell Braun. The event raised over \$8000 for the U of T Food and Clothing Bank and was a lovely start to the holiday season.

Coming back in January, we continued singing a small portion of our repertoire to prepare a recording for the CBC / Radio-Canada National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs 2004. On the evening of our recording, we were assisted by our new Programme Advisor (and former Chorister), Meghan Roberts. We were thrilled to hear later in the term that our application had been sent forward from the Ontario Regional Adjudications to the National Quarter Finals!

In the bitter early February cold, the Chorus traveled to



Courtesy Gibson

The Chorus sings at the second annual reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Ottawa for the first-ever IVCF hosted by the University of Ottawa. Later that month, on an unseasonably warm Saturday evening (hurrah!), the Chorus held its second annual Black-Tie Jazz Cocktail Fundraiser. With good music, tasty nibbles, a lovely setting and great company, the event was a smashing success!!

Although there are only weeks left until our final concert, the year doesn't feel like it's winding down quite yet. As I write this, we are waiting to hear how well we have fared in the CBC National Choral Competition Quarter Finals... and the snow on the ground makes it feel like spring is not around the corner just yet.

In rehearsal, John Tuttle encourages us to provide "more pig, less chicken"; the rationale being that while the egg-producing chicken is involved, the pig is committed. Thank you to a Committee and a Chorus filled with sweet-sounding pigs (I mean this only in a positive sense!) who have made this year not only productive, but also immensely enjoyable!

Joy Nishikawa, Executive Secretary

**THE HART HOUSE CHORUS**  
Under the direction of **John Tuttle**  
With Marty Smyth, accompanist  
Presents a Spring Concert.

**EXULTAVIT!**



Sunday, **April 4th**, 2004  
3:00 p.m. in the **Great Hall, Hart House**

Featuring works by **BACH, Raminsh** and **Stanford**  
Admission is **FREE!** Reception follows

HART HOUSE - University of Toronto  
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## Jazzing It Up

When the Chorus throws a party, it throws one with style! For the second year running, the Chorus held a Black-Tie Jazz Cocktail Fundraiser to raise money for our (now depleted!) tour fund. The swanky Saturday evening affair was hosted in the Debates room, lit with lovely white tea light candles and silver sparkles. Those in attendance were



Dan Amores and Caitlin George give swing dance lessons during the Black Tie Fundraiser

treated to jazz classics performed by a band that included chorister Ellie Avishai and our accompanist, Marty Smyth. Later in the evening, we were able to watch a swing dancing demonstration by swing dance instructors Caitlin and Dan. Inspired by Caitlin and Dan's expertise, some couples participated in a swing dance lesson following the demonstration. Swing music played on allowing dancers to practice their new moves. Our signature martini, the 'Hartini' was also launched at this year's Fundraiser. Hart House-inspired, the martini was made with Canadian whiskey, lemon juice and Hart House Farm maple syrup. While sipping Hartinis, those in attendance placed bids for varied silent auction pieces, including Hart



Pam, Hartini in hand, and Bernard

House Theatre packages, beautiful jewellery, music and swing dancing lessons and even a surprise box filled with unknown goodies! Not only was it a lovely evening, we were able to make over \$2000 on the event, \$1000 on the silent auction alone! Thanks to the organizing committee for all their hard work in making the event such a success!

*Joy Nishikawa*

## Special Performances and Hire-a-Choir

Special Performances and Hire-a-Choir were busy again this year. In addition to our regular participation in the House's Remembrance Day service, and other small ensemble "gigs", the highlight of the year was the opportunity to sing at the Art Gallery of Ontario's Christmas event at The Grange. Located just behind the AGO, on suitably named Grange Park, The Grange is a 15-room Georgian mansion built in 1817 and wonderfully restored to c. 1830 condition. For one special night at Christmastime, all the rooms in The Grange are opened up and the place is transformed into a 19<sup>th</sup> century Christmas delight, complete with volunteers in

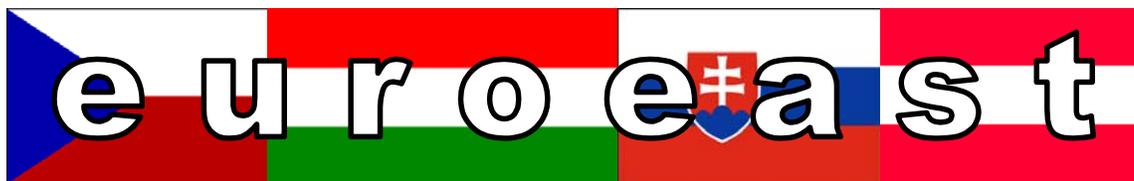
period costumes, warm cider and shortbread for all. I am told by The Grange's curate that it is the only occasion all year when real candles are allowed in a house full of old wood!

This year, the evening included an hour-long concert by a group of 25 Hart House choristers before a gathering of about 50 AGO friends and patrons. The intimate setting of this concert in an acoustically splendid room, combined with the festive environment of The Grange, made this performance a joy for all involved. We put together a programme of traditional English carols that people may have listened to in similar homes two

hundred years ago, along with some of our favourite Chorus repertoire from this year and last. It was a demanding concert, but a very dedicated group of choristers really rose to the occasion. Feedback on the performance was nearly as excellent as the shortbread we all ate afterwards.

The Hart House Chorus relishes the opportunity to share its music with the broader community. If you know of any events that could be enriched by the Chorus' participation, please don't hesitate to contact us and let us know.

*Suzanne Brooks*



.On August 11, 2003, 41 choristers lined up at the Czech Airlines counter at Pearson airport, excited, happy, and full of anticipation. The Hart House Chorus EuroEast Tour 2003 was finally underway! After what seemed like an endlessly long flight, we arrived in Prague, Czech Republic to beautiful morning sunshine, and sweltering heat. Although the record-breaking heatwave that was plaguing Europe was not on the itinerary, the Chorus found other non-scheduled ways to try to counteract it, such as sitting in cool, shady cafés and drinking our signature drink: Orange Fanta.

We embarked on walking tours of Prague's Old Town, and although we were captivated by the Jewish Ghetto, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge with its many artists and artisans, and the beautiful and serene Vltava River, the extreme heat had us contemplating

changing our name to the "Hart House Chorus Naked Tour of Europe." At our first concert at the beautiful and ancient Church of St. Nicholas in the Old Town, John Tuttle went so far as to allow the men not to wear their Hart House suit jackets (wool, anyone?) and to suggest that the next tour be held somewhere farther north – Siberia would do quite nicely.

From Prague we traveled by coach to the town of Ceske Budejovice, the home of the original Budweiser beer. Our accommodations here were so unique as to inspire our signature song: Hotel Gomel, sung to the melody of Gloriana by Benjamin Britten. A day trip to the medieval town of Ceske Krumlov completed our taste of the Czech Republic, and left us eager for our next stop: Austria.



Madhava Enros

Kurt and Maree welcome the Chorus to Prague

We arrived in the little, forgotten town of Bruck and der Leitha, where English was truly a foreign language, and residents of Canada were a complete novelty and a diversion for the villagers. Their hospitality was unequalled, however, and they not only treated us to complimentary drinks, invited us to

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## Meet Our Assistant Conductors



Sarah Pomper

**Ashiq Aziz** is a third year student at the University of Toronto pursuing a Bachelor of Music in piano, studying with Peter Longworth. Ashiq has always loved singing in choirs, and has sung with the Toronto Children's Chorus, the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, the Ontario Youth Choir, and the Victoria Scholars Male Choral Ensemble. He is extremely excited to have the opportunity to work with John Tuttle as one of the assistant conductors for Hart House Chorus this year.



Madhava Enros

**Suzanne Brooks** is in her third year at U of T, double majoring in physical geography and political science. Her musical education began at a young age studying violin and piano. Choral experience includes the Ontario Youth Choir, Calvin Church and the Nathaniel Dett Chorale. Currently, Suzanne studies voice with Nancy Reynolds and is a section lead at St Thomas's Church. Singing under John Tuttle is a tremendous learning experience and a joy, and she looks forward to gaining even broader perspective as an assistant conductor this year.

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Send names  
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Hart House Chorus  
Membership Manager  
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Toronto ON M5S 3H3

Or email:  
lisazoeh@yahoo.ca

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visit their private homes, but arranged for a very special tour of their town on a miniature train. Here we at last found our signature vehicle: the Schnitzel Wagon!

Following a quick tour of Vienna at lightning speed (although not so quick as to neglect sampling the famous Mozart chocolates), we were off to Bratislava, Slovakia. We were enchanted by Bratislava's Old Quarter, where we wandered past the apartments of fellow musicians Wolfgang Mozart and Franz Liszt, while being serenaded by gypsies wearing brightly colored clothing. Their haunting melodies set the tone for our next stop: Hungary.



Madhava Ennos



Madhava Ennos

Although we stayed in the little town of Kecskemet, we took an unforgettable day trip to Budapest. We had plenty of free time to explore this incredible city, and set out sightseeing, shopping on the Vaci Utca, or relaxing in one of Budapest's many spas. The conclusion of this wonderful day was a farewell dinner cruise aboard the Varhegy. The views of the twin cities and of its many bridges were simply breathtaking, and as the sun set on the Danube, the Hart House Chorus Tour of Eastern Europe drew to a close. Tired, hot, and happy, the Chorus returned to Hart House, and were quite content to be home – for now.

*Alexandra Haninec, Tour Manager*



Stay up to date on the activities of the Hart House Chorus by visiting our website at:

<http://hhchorus.sa.utoronto.ca>

You'll find information on concerts, special events, and everything you need to know about how to hire-a-choir!



Madhava Ennos

Hart House Chorus Tour 2003

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