

The Year in Review

Well another year has come and gone for the Hart House Chorus. We started off the fall term learning Brahms' German Requiem - the only piece for our fall concert. Although a challenging piece, the Chorus members worked very hard through the term to make sure that it was a concert not to be forgotten. And we succeeded. At the fall concert, there were more people than chairs in the Great Hall and, in true Chorus fashion, we all pitched in and brought more chairs down for the audience during our break. Between the Requiem and the mass of people in the Hall, it made for a memorable afternoon of choral music.

As in previous years, we held our annual Hart House Farm weekend with good food and good times. The weather was perfect for crawling around in the caves on our time off! The food as always was excellent and pumpkin carving was very creative. This year an Alexander technique workshop was held for the Chorus on the Sunday morning of the weekend. We all learned a great deal from the workshop.

We also sang in the Remembrance Day service under the direction of John Tuttle our choir director and Suzanne Brooks one of our Assistant Conductors of the year. Although it was cold and windy, the Chorus gave a nice performance to remember our fallen soldiers.

At Christmas, we once again participated in the Reading of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol as a fundraiser for the University of Toronto Food Bank. We were graced by excellent performers and were recorded by Rogers Cable for airing on Christmas Morning.

The biggest event by far was the Intersarsity Choral Festival hosted by Hart House Chorus and held in the House. Joanne Chong and Madhava Enros did a fantastic job organizing all of it with the help of a committee of dedicated individuals. This year, the choirs in the festival included Queen's University, Trent University, the University of Western Ontario and IVCF welcomed McGill's Simply Sweetly women's choir for the first time. The entire weekend was full of

rehearsals, speakers and workshops. Our Gala Concert was held at Convocation Hall. The mass choir sung under the direction of Ivars Taurins who also directs Tafelmusik in Toronto. We sang three pieces as a massed chorus and made wonderful music together. Choristers and audience alike pronounced it as a successful weekend!

As we head into our spring concert for the season preparing Rachmaninoff, Vaughn Williams and Avro Part pieces, I cannot believe that the season is winding down! A lot of work has been put into the Chorus this year by all of the members. And we have had a successful year. Thanks to all of the committees and everyone for their hard work! You have made this season one of the best ever!

Meagan D. Gumbinger, Executive Secretary

Meet Our Assistant Conductors



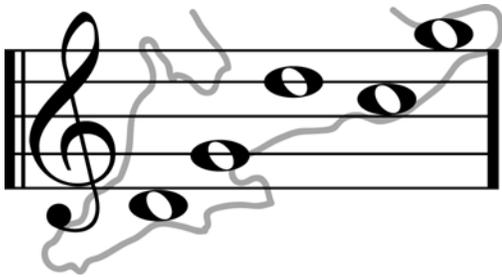
Suzanne Brooks will graduate in June with an Hon. B.Sc. in physical geography, and in the fall will begin a masters degree in environmental planning. Rumour has it that she learned to sing before she could talk -- neither of which she has stopped doing since -- and she has progressed from there to varied choral experiences including the

Ontario Youth Choir, the Nathaniel Dett Choral, and currently, the position of soprano lead at St. Thomas's Church. Suzanne has thoroughly enjoyed her experience as assistant conductor, and feels lucky to have learned so much from this wonderful choir. She particularly wishes to thank John Tuttle, whose tireless contribution to choral music in Toronto makes this city a richer place.



Suddhaseel Sen is a second year PhD student in English at the University of Toronto. Suddhaseel was born in Calcutta, India, where he played the violin and viola in L'Atelier de la Musique, the city orchestra. After coming to Toronto in

2003, he joined the Hart House Chorus & Orchestra, and found choral singing a wonderful new experience. He greatly enjoys singing with his fellow choristers, and looks forward to learning more about the choral repertory and choral conducting under John Tuttle.



**INTERVARSITY
CHORAL FESTIVAL**
2005 — Hart House
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

At 8:30am on a mid-February Saturday morning, roughly 200 singers made their way into Hart House, many of them doing the double-takes and rubber-necking common to those seeing the Great Hall for the first time. Within the hour, they were seated in formation, starting into the first of several hours of rehearsal with acclaimed choral conductor Ivars Taurins.

A scene similar to this – the coffee-fueled early morning first rehearsal of the Intersarsity Choral Festival – recurs every year on an Ontario university campus. The 56-year-old festival is an eagerly awaited staple of the Hart House Chorus' spring term, and made even more exciting this year as it was Chorus' turn to host, a duty last held in 2000.

Friday night saw Chorus members ushering their guests, choristers from Queen's University, Trent University, the University of Western Ontario, and, for the first time, McGill University into a Toronto innovation – the all-indoor subway art scavenger hunt (perfect for February) – and finally, as all choral events conclude, to the pub.

The next day introduced the choristers to Ivars Taurins, the festival's guest conductor. He had selected three choral works to rehearse with the massed throngs. While each choir had prepared a short programme of its own, the focus of the weekend's rehearsals would be these three works, to be sung by everyone at the festival's concluding Sunday concert.



While not in rehearsal, the participants were treated to workshops ranging from voice production and intonation to the acoustic design of concert halls to yoga for singers. Barely pausing for a lavish banquet in the Great Hall, an evening of dancing, and a brief night's sleep, the choristers were singing again by noon. The Sunday afternoon concert at Convocation Hall was well attended and received. With a final bow out of the way, choristers bade their farewells, another year's festival come and gone.

Mahava Enros
IVCF Co-Chair

Words from Mary Willan Mason

"Thank you to all IVCF people for inviting me to be a part, a tiny part to be sure, of the festival. I feel honoured to be a part of something I consider an extremely important part of the individual members' development and something which will be of lasting benefit to our country as a whole. Imagine any other way for undergrads and recent grads from various disciplines to meet in an atmosphere divorced from their chosen professions and exhilaratedly full of fun and friendship. Our undergrad memories last our lifetimes. What a way to form bridges for later in life, a devotion to raising one's voice in song with others of the same inclination."

Mary Willan Mason

Do you know Hart House Chorus Alumni who are not receiving this newsletter?

Send names and addresses to:

Hart House Chorus
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A Busy Year for Special Performances

One of the great things about the Chorus is the perfect way that Chorus members balance singing with that other fun activity that begins with S... socializing!!

On a misty Halloween weekend, choristers made the trip up to the Hart House Farm for a weekend of rehearsal, socializing and relaxing. By the time rehearsals had ended, the mist had cleared, revealing an unseasonably warm late-October Saturday afternoon perfect for cave hiking, chopping wood and of course, napping. Saturday evening was filled with Halloween activities including pumpkin carving, a costume contest, the consumption of too much candy and trips to the sauna (maybe not so much a Halloween-specific activity). The prize for most creative costume went to Mark and Kamaya for their picture-perfect re-enactment of Gustav Klimt's painting, *The Kiss*.



After a hearty breakfast on Sunday morning, Elaine Kopman came to give us a workshop on the

Alexander Technique, a method used by musicians and actors to improve body-awareness and coordination and eliminate tension-producing habits. Before we knew it, the weekend was over and it was time to head back to the city.

Some of us were fortunate to attend a concert by the Tallis Scholars at Roy Thompson Hall this year. Founded in 1973, this 10-voice *a capella* Renaissance choral music group has established a world-wide reputation. Performing music by Palestrina, Lassus and Zielenski, the Tallis Scholars blew us away with their clarity of sound, purity of tone and tight ensemble work. Some of us were fortunate enough to express our admiration in person when we ran into some of them at the pub following the performance!

It's amazing to see that the Chorus' dedication to singing will extend to taking turns standing in -18°C weather (it felt even colder with the wind chill)!! On one of the chilliest days in December, some choristers lined up outside of Massey Hall to score good seats for Tafelmusik's annual Sing-Along Messiah. Once inside (and considerably warmer) we joined 'Herr Handel' (a.k.a. Ivars Taurins), the Tafelmusik Choir & Orchestra, special soloists and a chorus of thousands to sing through Handel's Messiah. The afternoon ended with a rousing reprise of the Hallelujah Chorus. One special treat was seeing former chorister (and current Programme Advisor) Meghan Roberts on stage, singing with the Tafelmusik Choir.

Playing in the cold was a treat for 16 choristers in the first annual Hart House bonspiel called Rock the House. Even though it was the first time curling for most, they very

quickly picked up the curl of the rock, the vigorous sweeping, and the yelling of 'HURRY HARD' in fortissississimo!



A large part of what makes being in the Hart House Chorus such a great experience is the people who are in the chorus. This year has been no exception! Hope to see you at the Duke some Wednesday night!

Joy Nishikawa
Social Convenor