
PHOENIX

CHAMBER CHOIR

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April 14, 2013 - 8:33pm -- Anonymous (not verified)

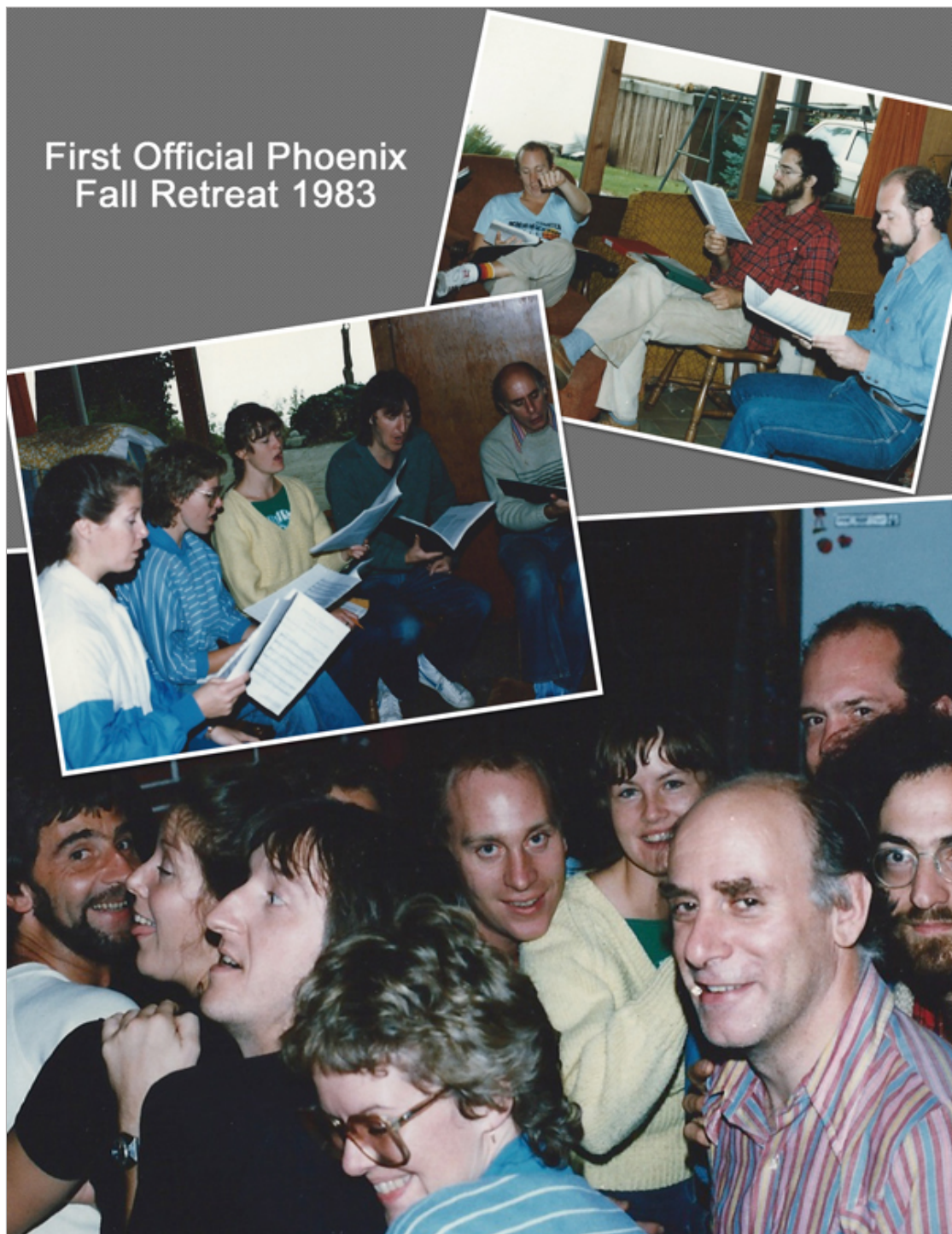


IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED
WHY OUR CHOIR IS NAMED
PHOENIX, WONDER NO
MORE - THE STORY GOES
LIKE THIS.

Phoenix "rose from the ashes" of a previous choir called the **Chrysalis Vocal Consort**, founded in 1979 as an auxiliary group to the Vancouver Cantata Singers and conducted by James Fankhauser. Unfortunately, by the spring of 1982, James Fankhauser's workload had become too great, and the last choir in had to be the first to go!

Conductorless (and nameless) we continued singing together through the end of 1982 and into the fall of 1983. We were simply unwilling to stop - conductor or no. But, we did give the little orphan choir a temporary name, at least. We called it "Doug". (First choir EVER to be called that, I'm guessing...) We even continued the tradition of holding a fall retreat.

First Official Phoenix Fall Retreat 1983



While on retreat we discussed asking Cortland Hultberg, then conductor of the UBC Chamber Singers and professor of Music at UBC, to become our conductor.

And he said yes! So, in October 1983, we officially had a conductor. But still no name.

In the spring of 1984, although we hadn't yet sung our first official concert, we entered our very first CBC Choral Competition. But, we had no name for the entry form. At the last minute, Cortland, along with the choir president/bass Bill Paul, had an inspiration. They named us "The Phoenix Chamber Choir". And, we won! First prize in the Contemporary Category. Not bad for our first try!

Encouraged by our national success, we headed to Victoria on April 1st, 1984 to sing our first official concert at Christ Church Cathedral.



Phoenix, an 18 voice ensemble, offered its audience a new approach to choral music, emphasizing the unusual and adventurous aspects of the repertoire. Our first programme ranged from Monteverdi and Gesualdo, to brand new pieces and arrangements by Richard Kidd, Stephen Chatman, and Ron Smail. A piece that was to become one of Cortland Hultberg's most beloved arrangements, "When I Fall in Love", was performed at that inaugural concert as well. We finished our first season by having our Vancouver premiere at the Canadian Memorial Church on April 11, 1984.

NONE OF US HAD ANY IDEA THAT WE HAD EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY THAT WAS TO CONTINUE FOR 30 YEARS...AND COUNTING!

See any faces you recognize?

In 1983-1984 Phoenix was...

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
			Elliott Dainow
Barbara Del Maso	Deborah Mehes (Gibson)	Mark Donnelly	Richard Kidd
Janet Kidd (Hassell)	Shannon Lythgoe	Stephen Grant	Al McLellan
Rosemary Lister (Lindsay)	Barb Paul	Ron Smail	Michael Murray
Carolyn Tupper	Josie Martens	John Whyte	Bill Paul
			Bill Vermeulen

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Auditions!

Phoenix Chamber Choir will be holding auditions for new members on Tuesday, August 7th, from 7-9pm at Holy...
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Jun 26, 2018

Thank you Graeme!

Under the direction of Dr. Langager, Phoenix Chamber Choir has: released 3 CD's; placed 1st in Adult Chamber... more



Jun 01, 2018

Thanks for a great season!

We're happy to report that we gave our concert last week to a very full house! We're so grateful to everyone... more

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Phoenix Chamber Choir
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**Canada Council
for the Arts**

