
PHOENIX

CHAMBER CHOIR

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September 8, 2013 - 12:00am -- Anonymous (not verified)



SEASON 22 FOR
PHOENIX (IN 2004/2005)
WAS FILLED WITH FUN,
INCLUDING A BRAND

NEW EDUCATION OUTREACH
PROGRAMME, SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUNG
CHORAL COMPOSERS!

After being "Lost in the Stars" with astronaut Roberta Bondar a few short months before, it was back to earth for a retreat at Whistler in August.



Phoenix Fall
Retreat
Whistler, BC
August 2004

Then, Ramona rolled out her new programme for the year... a Young Choral Composers Development Programme. With detailed books for each participant, the first session on October 6th was a demonstration and discussion of choral styles, approaches, textures, writing techniques and other considerations. Using a wide range of choral selections from years of repertoire, Phoenix was able to demonstrate these aspects to twenty eager young composers over the course of a day, and had a huge amount of fun doing so. The composers were then encouraged to spend the next few months writing a new composition and were to return in the spring for another session.

Our fall concert, "Sacred Reflections", held on November 6th at Canadian Memorial, was a spiritual journey of comparisons. Six sacred texts were chosen, and each text was set twice...by two composers from different eras. The result? A remarkable transformation of text into highly original and moving statements of faith. It was truly an inspired programming idea from Ramona, and hugely successful for singer and audience alike.

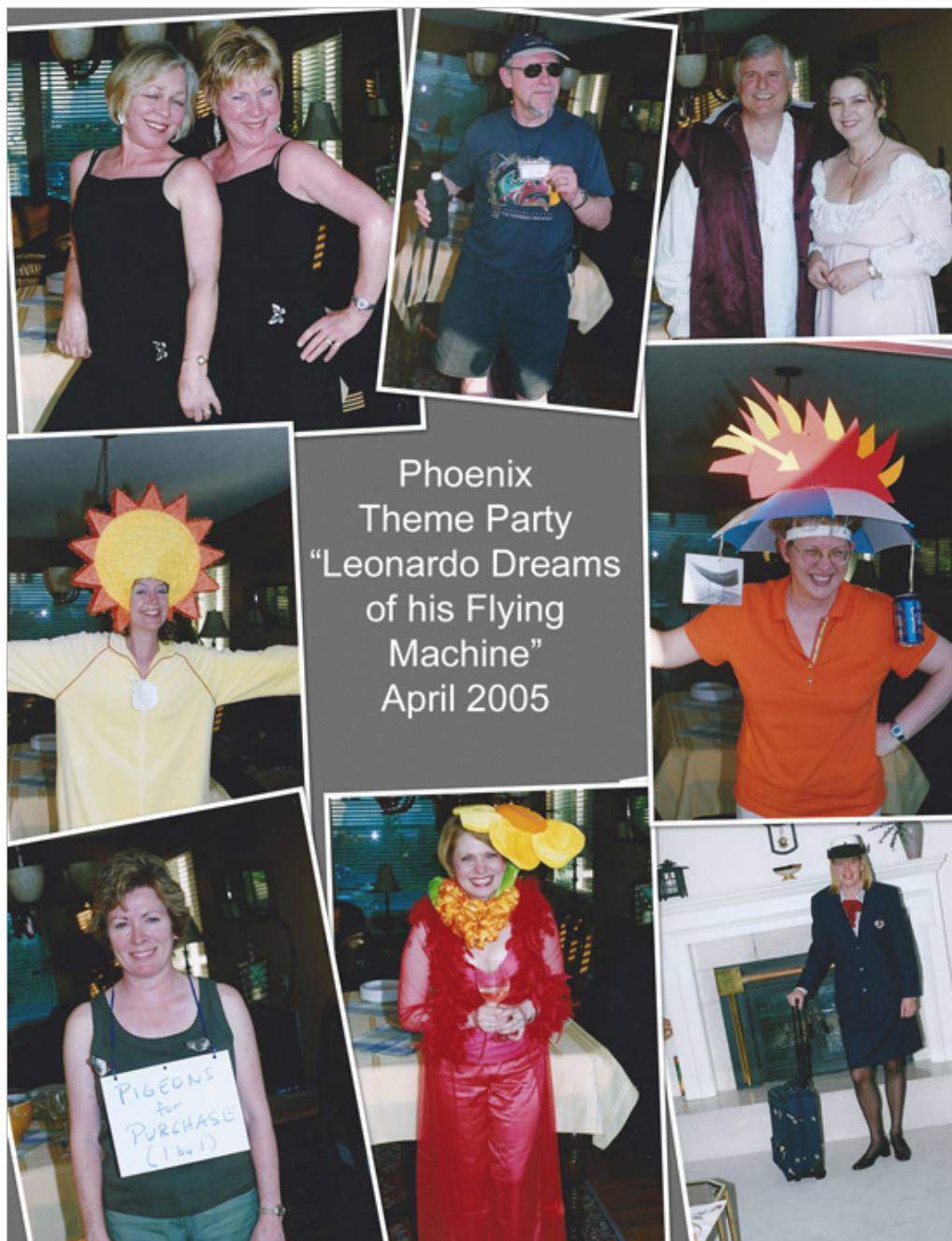
Three concerts were in store for Phoenix that Christmas season. The first was a shared concert at Queen's Avenue United with the Amabilis Singers. Conducted by Anne Wilson Unger, the two choirs had a great time mixing and mingling for joint pieces. The second was at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Surrey. Here, our own Jeff Cabralda

brought his choir from Holy Cross Regional High School to begin the programme. Finally, we held our traditional Phoenix Christmas concert at Shaughnessy Heights. We really should mention our dear friend Roy Campbell, who has joined us for years on the organ for sing-alongs and other accompanying duties. Roy is a big part of the Phoenix family!

In January, the second part of the Young Composer's Programme was held. Thirteen composers attended a read-through workshop. Each piece was critiqued, ideas for further development were suggested, and by the end of the day every piece was recorded for a CD to be sent to each participant. Finally, Phoenix members were asked to rate the pieces - the singers' top four were ultimately chosen to be premiered at our spring concert. It was a very instructive and inspiring day.

The four pieces chosen to be presented at "Revelations", our April 16th concert at Queen's Avenue United, were "Sleep" by Anny Chen, "A Light Exists in Spring" by Elizabeth Knudson, "The Fir Woods" by Heather Harty, and "Watching the Cyborg" by Jeff Mettlewsky. As well, there was a world premiere of Eric North's "All Things Bright and Beautiful", and our commissioned world premiere of Michael Onwood's "How Do I Love Thee?" The audience thoroughly enjoyed each composition and had their own personal favourites!

The closing piece for the concert was Eric Whitacre's "Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine". The choir so loved this piece that it inspired yet another costume theme party! The beautiful lyrics were the inspiration for a wide range of outfits. And again, the pictures really speak for themselves!



Phoenix
Theme Party
"Leonardo Dreams
of his Flying
Machine"
April 2005

The party would have been the wrap for yet another successful season, but one more performance was unexpectedly required. In early June, Leanne's mom passed away, after a battle with cancer, and Phoenix had the honour of performing at her memorial. Lilie was an immigrant from Estonia, so Phoenix sang the Psalms by Estonian composer, Cyrillus Kreek, at the event as a special tribute - it was a fitting farewell to a wonderful woman, and long time supporter of Phoenix.

In 2004/2005, Phoenix was...

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
Margaret Barry	Charlene Gallaher	Mike Angell	Derrick Christian
Rosemary Bell	Danielle Hamilton	Tim Burns	Brian (Hoot) Gibson
Leanne Dalton	Wendy Klein	Jeff Cabralda	Dean Giustini

Corlynn Hanney	Janet Kyle	Jon Goheen	Rob Hollins
Sharon Schermbrucker	Bonnie McCoy	Carman Price	Bernard Mignan
	Barb Paul		Bill Paul
			Shane Raman
			Jim Sanyshyn

If you're enjoying the Phoenix History Project, please be sure to like our Facebook page or leave us your email address so we can keep in touch with you in the future. **Season 23 - 2005/2006** will be posted next weekend!

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RECENT NEWS



Jul 27, 2018

Auditions!

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



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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