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# PHOENIX

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## CHAMBER CHOIR

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October 13, 2013 - 12:00am -- Anonymous (not verified)



IN THE FALL OF 2009,  
RAMONA TOURED  
EUROPE AGAIN...BUT  
WITHOUT US!

Due to Ramona's sabbatical, our official Phoenix season did not start until the end of November. Ramona spent September to November sitting in on rehearsals, attending concerts and meeting conductors in both Germany and England.

And, while Ramona was away, we were given the opportunity to try some new things - first of all, we got to work with Dee Daniels and Fred Stride to put on a fundraising performance of Duke Ellington's "Sacred Music" at St. Andrew's-Wesley on November 20th. It was an amazing evening, with Fred's fantastic band, Dee and her incredible voice, and even a tap dancer! The place was packed to the rafters and has actually become an annual event, due to its success that night. We were fortunate to have Mike Angell and Magdy Ghobrial as co-conductors to rehearse us so ably in Ramona's absence. Thanks, guys!



Phoenix performs  
Duke Ellington's  
Sacred Music with  
Dee Daniels and  
Fred Stride  
November 2009



Upon Ramona's return to us, rehearsals began in earnest for our traditional Christmas concert, beginning with a fall retreat and dinner at Barb Paul's afterwards.



Phoenix Fall Retreat and Pizza Party  
November 2009

We performed our Christmas concert twice. On Saturday, December 19, we sang at the North Langley Community Church and the next night we were back at Shaughnessy Heights United, with our great friend Roy Campbell accompanying us on the organ.



But first, another new thing! If you recall, Phoenix was hired to sing seven pieces in Armenian at a wedding a few years previously. Our Armenian was apparently quite flawless (due entirely to the amazing phonetics and musicality of Father Housig) and resulted in us being asked to another Armenian gig in early February! The concert was to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the birth of Komitas Vartabed, the great Armenian musician who rediscovered Armenian medieval music and had the vision to record ancient peasant music from villages around the country. The audience packed the large church and was moved to tears to hear music from their homeland. The appreciation that was poured over Phoenix was so uplifting! And, the Armenian community was also incredibly hospitable - they provided us with a light dinner before the concert and a wine and cheese reception afterwards.

Another new thing for Phoenix was the plan to perform two different concerts in the spring, less than four weeks apart! It was an incredible challenge to rehearse both sets of repertoire simultaneously. As well, we continued to fill our obligation as choir in residence at Shaughnessy Heights by singing at an April church service and holding open rehearsals.

On May 7th, we took our first set of repertoire to the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium attached to the Abbotsford City Hall for the Fraser Valley Concert Series. This performance helped us prepare for our concert the very next day at Shaughnessy Heights. The concert was titled, "On the Threshold of Heaven" and it was hoped that "through the inspired works of such composers perhaps we too can capture a glimpse of paradise."

And, less than a month later, we were back again with "Britain Exposed!" This was a journey through the history of British music from medieval times, with stops in the Victorian Age, the 20th and 21st century and ending with a touch of the Proms! The concert was really fun for chorister and audience member alike!

Our last performance of the season was as a part of "Songfire", a Festival of Song put on by the Vancouver International Song Institute. On June 13th, we participated, along with the Lyric Singers, in "BC Birthdays with a touch of Barber", celebrating Barber's 100th birthday. The concert, and our 27th season, ended on a sweet note, with birthday cake for all!

In 2009/2010, Phoenix was...

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Basses
		Mike Angell	Chris Bates
Kate Baldwin	Jaime Ashurst	Kevin Barclay	Christopher Fleck
Margaret Barry	Charlene Gallaher	Brian Day	Magdy Ghobrial
Leanne Dalton	Janet Kyle	Perry Dickison	Colin Hamilton
Vanessa Hughes	Dale Owen	Greg Farrugia	Rob Hollins
Debbie Low	Barb Paul	Wayne Liu	Phil Jenion
Sharon Schermbrucker	Manako Roberts	Kiel Magis	Eric Kristensen
		Matthew Smith	Henri Lorieau

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 28 - 2010/2011** will be posted next weekend!

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Jul 27, 2018

### 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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**Canada Council  
for the Arts**