

Spirit's Call Choir – Global Harmony Initiatives

April 2008 report

“Spirit's Call Choir Supports Personal, Choral And Global Harmony”

Choir started in an “Explorations of the Self” workshop (November 2000)

Grew from 9 to 190 members – currently approximately 160

Musical Directors:

- Lyle Eide (Fall seasons 2001 - 2004)
- Alex Kirov (Spring 2004)
- Michael Kurek (Spring and Fall 2005)
- Jeremy Vallance (Spring 2006 to present)

Founding Member and Program Director:

- Margaret Tobin (Fall 2000 to present)

Total contributions - from benefit concerts and Spirit's Call Choir's Global Harmony Development Fund:

Local causes: \$54,754.22

Global causes: \$2,500.00

Spirit's Call Choir Benefit concerts:

#1 to #5 – 5 Annual Concerts for NEST – North End Sponsorship Team

- NEST supports refugees settling in Winnipeg
- Spirit's Call Choir's first full-length concert was invited by NEST – November 30, 2003
- These concerts have raised **\$39,648.38** for NEST (see NEST Treasurer's reports for details)

#6 – Dalai Lama Peace Concert in Winnipeg – April 19, 2004

- Choirs around the country sang peace repertoire
- An initiative of Shimon Robinsong and Ann Mortiffee
- Held in conjunction with the visit of the Dalai Lama to Canada
- 2nd largest concert – after the Vancouver concert at which the Dalai Lama was present
- Was a benefit concert for **Centre Miriam Centre – raised over \$6,000** – to support women and children who have experienced poverty, violence and abuse

#7 – Hands of Hope Benefit Concert – May 12, 2007

- Hands of Hope delivers free furniture & basic household items to those most in need in Winnipeg
- Raised **\$8,089.50** for Hands of Hope in 2007
- Planning 2nd annual benefit concert for Hands of Hope for May 10, 2008

Spirit's Call Choir singing as part of other programs:

For community participation and/or contributions to choir's Global Harmony Development Fund

#1 – Healing Harmonics concert – March 23, 2002 – Centre for Self Awareness

#2 – Amnesty International – December 8, 2002

- THEME: Toast to Freedom
- Part of the Celebration for International Human Rights Day

#3 – Canadian Counseling Association – national conference in Winnipeg – May 24, 2004

- THEME: Illuminating Practice – Spirituality, Story and Song
- Received honorarium for choir's Global Harmony Development Fund

#4 – Chapel Concerts – St Boniface Hospital – Dec 2004 and 2005

- In collaboration with Manitoba Artists in Healthcare (MAH)
- Concerts piped to rooms of all patients throughout hospital and some patients brought to the chapel by volunteers

Special Invitation extended to people affected by Cancer to join Spirit's Call Choir – to “Sing for the Health of it!” Initially in collaboration with Manitoba Artists in Healthcare – continued through CancerCare Manitoba.

#5 – Music Therapy Association – national conference in Winnipeg – May, 2005

- Public Forum – May 5, 2005
- THEME – Listening in Practice
- Received honorarium for choir's Global harmony Development Fund

#6 & 7 – Sisters in Spirit – Mother's Day – 2005 and 2006. At The Forks in Winnipeg

- Event held to raise awareness of Aboriginal women who have been murdered or are missing
- Over 500 Aboriginal women were missing or murdered in Canada when we first sang for this event

#8 – CD Launch – at The Forks in Winnipeg – June 18, 2005

- Launched Spirits' Call Choir's 1st CD with 2 live performances at The Forks - canopy area
- Record breaking sales – **sold almost 300 CD's** at that event
- Planning launch of Spirits' Call Choir's 2nd CD in 2008

#9 – Cleaning and Greening of North Point Douglas area of Winnipeg – June 24, 2006

- Received honorarium for choir's Global Harmony Development Fund

Donations from Spirit's Call Choir's Global Harmony Development Fund:

From funds generated from our honouraria for singing, donations and other sources

#1 – Acorn Gardens – Anola, Manitoba – \$500 (2005)

- A rural program working with children of refugee families using nature, creative arts, etc

#2 & #3 – OSU Children's Library Fund – \$1,000 (Two \$500 donations – most recently April 26, 2006)

- A grassroots organization that starts libraries in the poorest areas of Ghana
- Volunteers collect and prepare children's books in Canada to send to Ghana
- Started by Winnipeg's Kathy Knowles (known as "The Velvet Steamroller")
- Idea began when Kathy was reading to her own children while living in Ghana. The local children gathered in increasing numbers to listen. She recognized and responded to the need for books and libraries to promote literacy in Ghana.

#4 – Canadian Landmines Foundation – \$1,000 – for 10th anniversary - December 3, 2007

- Margaret Tobin presented cheque at Gala Landmines Event Nov 28, 2007
- Groundbreaking treaty to ban landmines was initiated by then Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and signed by many countries in 1997
- Spirit's Call Choir initiated a major event in Winnipeg to be held in 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of signing the treaty
- Choir cancelled the concert when other major anniversary events were moved to Ontario for political and funding reasons
- Choir made a cash donation for landmine action to reciprocate for \$3000.00 previously advanced from Canadian Landmines Foundation operating budget for the original project

#5 – Little Traveler Dolls – for Hillcrest/Simunye project – \$500 (2006)

- Funds are raised to support those affected by HIV and Aids in Africa
- Project was started by University of Manitoba medical students and has become a huge success

#6 – Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank

- Food and cash donations were gathered at choir's 'Holiday Sing Along' for several years
- The largest donation was **\$516.34 and 330 lbs of food** in December 2005

#7 – North End Sponsorship Team (NEST) – \$100 (December 2007)

- Donation from Spirit's Call Choir in Shivon Robinsong's name in honour of her donation of a kidney for transplant to Joel Solomon in November, 2007