

Spirit's Call Choir Global Harmony Initiatives May 2014 report

Spirit's Call Choir Supports Personal, Choral and Global Harmony

Personal Harmony – singing to bring balance and joy to our inner being

Choral Harmony – singing to create beautiful sound in our vocal community

Global Harmony – singing to support transformation, justice, joy and peace in our world

Spirit's Call Choir is a non-audition, non-denominational mixed community choir. The choir grew out of an "Explorations of the Self" workshop in November 2000 when people who had been told and believed they could not sing found their voices and decided to form a choir. From 9 original members, Spirit's Call Choir has grown to 160 voices. The first Musical Director joined the choir in 2001.

2011 was the choir's 10th anniversary year

www.spiritscall.com www.spiritscallchoir.ca

Facebook: Spirit's Call Choir

Musical Director: **Jeremy Vallance**
Founding Member and Program Director: **Margaret Tobin**

Previous Musical Directors:

Michael Kurek (Fall 2005 & Spring 2006) **Alex Kirov** (Spring 2004)

Lyle Eide (Fall seasons 2001 – 2004)

Recipient of the Mayor's Volunteer Service Award for the Arts (2010)

Total contributions – from benefit concerts and donations:

\$176,727.40

Local causes:
\$163,752.40

Global causes:
\$12,975.00

Spirit's Call Choir Benefit concerts:

**#1 – Benefit concert for Immigrant Women's Assn of MB (IWAM) –
May 9, 2014 – proceeds TBA**

- Provides culturally sensitive services to Immigrant Woman – encompassing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects
- Practical assistance with housing, employment, stress management, English tutoring, legal and medical appointments,

childcare and learning how to raise their families here in Canada – where many basic tasks and customs are so different. Even learning how to use a transfer on a bus can be a confusing and stressful even!

#2 – Benefit concert for Healthy Start for Mom & Me – interpreter services – December 8, 2013 – \$7,049.00

- Simultaneous interpreter services in up to 20 languages of health programs for pregnant women and new mothers & their babes

3 – Benefit concert for & with Status4 – May 10, 2013 - \$7056.47

- Provides free programs in music & the arts to underserved and at risk children & youth
- Status4 was our cause for this concert – and the Status4 kids also were our guest performers!
- Supported by their gifted music teacher Gentil Misigaro & Founder/CEO & musician Constable Kevin Gibson, the kids singing added much charm and delight to the concert program!

4 – North Point Douglas Women’s Centre – December 9, 2012 - \$7.000.

- The North Point Douglas Women’s Centre works to create a safe, healthy and vibrant community for women and their families. The centre has played a vital role in revitalizing the North Point Douglas neighbourhood.
- This 2nd concert for the NPDWC was to honour and acknowledge the dedicated work of Executive Director Elaine Bishop, who announced she will be retiring next year.

5 – Spirit’s Call Choir Spring benefit concert - May 12, 2012 - \$7,763.36

- Supporting inner city youth
- In partnership with the Rotary Club of Winnipeg

6 – Spirit’s Call Choir’s 10th Anniversary Benefit Concert – December 11, 2011 – Pantages Playhouse Theatre – \$12,035.17

- Supporting inner city youth
- In partnership with The Rotary Club of Winnipeg

7 – Rossbrook House – Benefit Concert – May 7, 2011 – \$10,000

- \$6,963 after expense proceeds topped up to \$10,000 by an anonymous donor
- Supports children, youth and families in Winnipeg’s inner city – open 365 days a year

8 to # 15 – 8 Annual Concerts for NEST – North End Sponsorship Team – total raised - \$76,543.54

- NEST is a volunteer charitable organization that supports refugee families settling in Winnipeg
- Spirits' Call Choir's first full-length concert was invited by NEST – November 30, 2003
- The first 6 concerts raised **over \$58,619.34** for NEST (see NEST Treasurer's reports for details)
- Proceeds from the Nov 28, 2009 NEST benefit concert & CD Launch – **\$9,135.20**
- 8th annual benefit for NEST – December 12, 2010 – after expense proceeds for NEST – **\$8,789.**
- Total raised for NEST to December 2010 – **\$76,543.54**

16 – North Point Douglas Women's Centre Benefit Concert – June 6, 2009 - \$8,630.75

- The North Point Douglas Women's Centre works to create a safe, healthy and vibrant community for women and their families. The centre has played a vital role in revitalizing the North Point Douglas neighbourhood

17 – Winnipeg Art Gallery – December 21, 2008

- Spirit's Call Choir was invited to participate in the WAG's Holiday Concert Series
- Donations from this event and the choir's Holiday Sing Along on Dec 20th generated **\$189.10 to support L.I.T.E.** (Local Investment Towards Employment) – the choir's development-oriented holiday cause for 2008.

#18, 19, 20 – Hands of Hope Benefit Concerts – May 12, 2007, May 10, 2008 and May 8, 2010 - \$23,865.17

- Hands of Hope delivers free furniture & household items to those most in need in Wpg.
- Raised **\$8,089.50** for Hands of Hope in the May 12, 2007 concert
- 2nd annual benefit concert for Hands of Hope on May 10, 2008 raised **\$8,500.07**
- 3rd benefit concert for Hands of Hope – Saturday May 8, 2010 – raised **\$7,275.60**
- See www.handsofhope.ca for more information about their wonderful work

#16 – Dalai Lama Peace Concert in Winnipeg – April 19, 2004 - \$6000+

- Held in conjunction with the visit of the Dalai Lama to Canada
- Choirs around the country sang peace repertoire

- An initiative of Gettin' Higher Choir founder Shivon Robinsong and singer Ann Mortifee
- S C C's peace concert was a benefit for **Centre Miriam Centre – raised over \$6,000** – to support women and children who have experienced poverty, violence and abuse
- 2nd largest concert – after the Vancouver concert at which the Dalai Lama was present

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

Funds generated from our singing, donations, fundraising and other sources

#1 – Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba (IWAM) - \$500 (June 2013)

- Contributed in response to their request for interim funding to support keeping their office open during the summer – while awaiting word on other funding submissions.

#2 – Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank - \$200 (December 2011)

- Donation of honourarium for singing live on CBC Radio Noon as part of CBC's day long Fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest on December 9, 2011

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

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

#4 – Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank

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

#5 & #6 – OSU Children's Library Fund – \$1,000 (Two \$500 donations – most recently April 26, 2006)

- A originally grassroots organization that has started numerous 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")
- The 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.

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

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

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

- Margaret Tobin presented donation 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 had initiated a major event in Winnipeg to be held in 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of signing the treaty
- The Winnipeg concert was cancelled when other major anniversary events were moved to Ontario for political and funding reasons
- To acknowledge and support the 10th anniversary, Spirit's Call Choir made a cash donation from our Global Harmony Development Fund to support landmine action

#9 – 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 her kidney for transplant to Joel Solomon in November, 2007

#10 – Friends of DARE Network – \$2500 (August 2008)

- Donation to grassroots organization working with those on the Thai/Burma border – fleeing to survive the genocide in Burma.
- Many are fleeing the country formerly known as Burma (now Myanmar) and attempting to survive in horrific conditions on the borderline – where the refugee camps are already full

#11 – Robert Ohisa Silvio and family – \$1000 (August 2009)

- Robert and his family, refugees from Sudan, are valued members of our choral family
- This donation was to support the family, here in Canada and in the Sudan, on the tragic loss of their dear brother Paul

#12 – WAACA (Winnipeg Afro Aboriginal Cross-cultural Association)
– **\$303.50** (December 2009)

- Choir holiday donation from our end-of-season potluck
- See www.WAACA.mb.ca for information about the innovative work of this new organization

#13 – FreeSchools World Literacy Project – \$1,975

Approximately **\$800** was raised through sale of DVD's of the November 28, 2009 benefit concert for NEST. Idea, filming, time & materials donated by choir members Kathy & Mark George-Moore. This volunteer fundraising project has continued since that time.

Account Giving Summary:

2014 - \$750
2013 - \$400
2012 - \$0
2011 - \$0
2010 - \$825

- 53 DVD's @ \$15 plus donations. \$15 supports one child for one year – so this supports at least one school for a year – possibly two
- See www.freeschools.org to learn more about this wonderful development project

#14 – World Peace Partners (Rotary International District 5550) For 2013 International Day of Peace events - \$500. (Fall 2012)

- \$250 was donated as seed money to support the 2013 events
- This was giving back ½ of the \$500 honourarium Spirit's Call Choir received for being featured performers at the WPP Peace Concert on September 21, 2012

Spirit's Call Choir – CD Launches

All recorded live at various Spirit's Call Choir performances

1st CD - *Together in Harmony* – launched at The Forks in Winnipeg – **June 18, 2005**

- Launched with 2 live performances – canopy area
- Record breaking sales – **sold almost 300 CD's** at that event

2nd CD – *ONE WORLD ONE VOICE*- Launched at the NEST benefit concert – **Nov 28, 2009**

- Dedicated to refugees from around the world and to all who have had to leave their homes to seek safety and freedom

Spirit's Call Choir – “Sing for the Health of it!”

A special Invitation to people affected by cancer to join Spirit's Call Choir

- Initiated in collaboration with Manitoba Artists in Healthcare.
- Continued and publicized through CancerCare Manitoba

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

For community participation and/or contributions to the 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 – December 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. The uplifting effect on these very ill patients and family members was obvious.

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

- Presented and sang at the 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 murdered and missing Aboriginal women
- This included over 500 Aboriginal women in Canada when we first sang for this event

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

- S C Choir sang for a tree planting initiative to help revitalize this area (Honourarium)

#9 – CBC Annual Fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank - \$200

December 9, 2011

- Spirit's Call Choir was invited to sing live on CBC Radio Noon as part of CBC's annual fundraiser for Winnipeg Harvest. Due to limitations of the studio size, 30 of the choir's 174 members self-selected and were drawn by lottery to sing for this event. Other musicians performed live on air throughout the day
- \$200 honourarium - donated back to Winnipeg Harvest

#10 – International Day of Peace Concert – \$500 - September 21, 2012

- September 21st is recognized as the International Day of Peace by the United Nations
- Rotary International District 5550 World Peace Partners put on this 3rd annual event to inspire peace, justice & human rights
- Spirit's Call Choir was invited to be featured performers at this concert.
- \$500 honourarium (For SCC's Global Harmony Development Fund)
- \$250 donated back as seed money for 2013 – an expanded week of peace theme events at various venues plus a special concert at the Walker Theatre
- As part of the 2013 events, Spirit's Call Choir's Sunday singing time on Sept 22, 2013 will be dedicated to support the International Day of Peace and peace, justice and harmony in our world