

# Greetings

from the president



Welcome to Season 12. The dust has settled following the huge success of UNISON Festival, with delegates offering

heartfelt thanks and compliments to all Rainbow Harmony Project Hosts, and we now refocus our attention. Following UNISON, RHP hosted a Visioning evening, asking our members and supporters to provide valuable input on where we should be focusing our attention, and how we are doing so far. The results of this event have already been shared with the Music Team and Board and will also be the focus of some discussion at our upcoming AGM. There are some things to keep in mind this season. Please bring your own reusable water bottle; we are a scent-free environment; and the weekly snack is provided by some of our members. If you are interested in being one of these members, please contact Ivan for more information. Thank you to all volunteers for all you do each season; and in particular to our past board members who are stepping down this season: Del Mansell, Kiley Dyck, Paul Sullivan (who is now Past President), Cassandra Chepil, Melody Chepil, and Karl Johnson and a thank you to those stepping up, in particular, a warm welcome to new Associate Director, Alan Blanchette, one of RHP's founding members.

Leah McIsaac

## dates to remember

**Witches, Ghosts & Faeries Oh My! Halloween Social**  
sat oct 23  
8pm-1am  
new location  
Lord Roberts Community Centre  
725 Kylemore Ave.  
(off Osborne St. South)  
tickets \$10

**Rehearsal and AGM**  
sat oct 16  
Knox United Church  
400 Edmonton St.  
10:00 AM Rehearsal  
12:30 PM Pizza lunch  
1:00 PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**ChoralFest**  
sat nov 20  
Time TBA  
Sturgeon Creek United Church  
207 Thompson Ave

**Many Gifts Concert**  
sat dec 4  
7:30 PM  
Knox United Church

**Potluck**  
mon dec 6  
Unitarian Church,  
603 Wellington Crescent  
6:30 PM Doors open

Our very own FABULOUS FIRSTS video documentaries to open **Reel Pride** thurs oct 7  
7pm Gas Station Arts Centre (445 River Ave) in Osborne Village  
For details visit [www.reelpride.org](http://www.reelpride.org)

"full of the peaceful courage of being ourselves"  
**UNISON** CANADIAN CHORAL FESTIVAL  
Winnipeg May 21-24, 2010

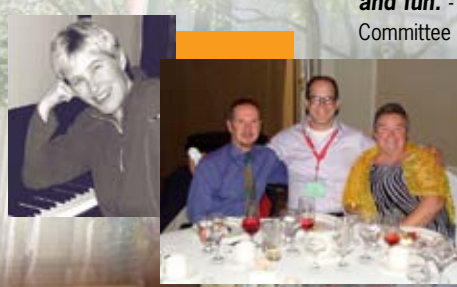
# what memories!

"colourful and fun"



■ **My favorite memory is Saturday afternoon. Already humming inside from our concert the night before, I returned to Knox United, the old inner city church beside the park full of children and their families, and there was Paul Sherwood as custodian of ceremonies: friendly, fluently bilingual, witty and respectful. That afternoon was full of the peaceful courage of being ourselves, caring about diversity and our city, and welcoming others. I felt proud to be there.** - Keith

■ **My personal favourite memory was spending so much quality time with various members of our RHP chorus, going for meals, rehearsing, singing and listening to our guest choirs. Oh, and of course Pictoria and Glory — our ambassadors — so colourful and fun.** - Elizabeth Hunt, Unison Committee Member



See more photos and video memories at [www.unisonfestival.ca](http://www.unisonfestival.ca)

For up-to-date info on any everything choir-related, please visit our web site [www.rainbowharmonyproject.ca](http://www.rainbowharmonyproject.ca)

## We treasure you, too.

So we asked Del:

### How big a job was it?

The first year was a hectic time for me. I hadn't used a computer for a few years and it was intimidating to learn a new program. Hiring an admin assistant helped greatly with the workload -- collecting ticket money, ticket distribution, collecting and recording member donations, etc -- cut the workload in half.

### Did you enjoy it?

Yes, [hesitantly] I enjoyed the challenge; however, it was peppered with aggravation and some frustration. There was no manual to refer to. One accomplishment I'm proud of was updating the manual. I enjoyed that.

### Did you learn something that would benefit the choir?

Yes, I learned that we need to be constantly aware of those among us who live in poverty -- and I use that word purposefully. The Board must be sensitive. Many members struggle financially to participate fully in choir activities. The Board must be careful about asking for donations, fees and contributions from choir members. In the years that I've been on the Board the choir has prospered financially. Unison has left us with a healthy surplus.

Board members work very hard, often devoting many hours to the practical business of getting things done instead of making policy. It is a daunting responsibility. To keep the choir functioning requires hundreds of volunteer hours. I would urge anyone who is passionate about the choir to join the Board or work on a committee.

*Doug Holroyd, our new Treasurer, has done just that.*

## UNISON – what memories! *(continued)*

■ **Unison — I will never forget our running/dancing onstage, finding our spots, turning around and gazing on a sea of friendly faces, each one of whom had a coming-out story. There truly was a lot of love in that room and it was a sweet, special, emotional moment that is seared in my memory.**

- Tim

"There truly was a lot of love in that room..."

■ **My memories include the adrenaline rush of standing on stage announcing the start of the concert in a few moments and seeing every seat filled — then the unbelievable feeling of welcome our choir received the moment we come through the doors singing Willkommen. When the audience burst into applause and began cheering, it was quite literally breathtaking. As a member of the committee that worked for over 2 years to fine tune every nuance of the event, the whole weekend was jam-packed with gratification.**

- Leah Mclsaac

■ **Seeing friends from past choirs, some I've known for 17 years!** - Dana



## Brandon OUTREACH

In May 2010, RHP took a road version of our Unison concert to Brandon where we performed at the Knox United Church in Brandon. We were met with a welcoming supper and an opening performance by the Knox Combo. Relaxed and ready to sing, we had a wonderful time. Of course a big part of the experience for us was the bus trip--and a lot more singing! Thanks to Cassandra Chepil and Melody Chepil for organizing our first out of town outreach! It was a big and joyous effort and a good beginning of what we can do! Just look at us!



welcome all!

### Did you know?

Rainbow Harmony Project is growing! There are (at last count) 62 members registered, and 21 of those are new...