

CHORUS CONDUCTOR'S REPORT to October 2018 A.G.M.

The past 32nd season for ROCA season offered a wide variety of repertoire that was satisfying for audience and Chorus alike. Hard to believe that I am embarking on my 25th season with this current 33rd season!

Our fall concert gave audience and performers alike the thrilling opportunity to hear one of the great classics of the repertoire for Remembrance. We were joined in Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" by talented soloists Tabitha Brasso-Ernst and Peter Monaghan. It was a challenging work to undertake, but one which gave us all much satisfaction.

"Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" was basically a fluff program; with little time to prepare after the fall concert, we brought out favourites from past years, and the audience seemed to enjoy them greatly. As has become a tradition with Chorus Christmases, we offered two performances in Richmond, plus one for our friends at All Saints Ladner. Christmas 2017 also offered a number of caroling singouts, both bringing in some revenue, and keeping ourselves in the public eye.

As always, the timing of our spring concert offered scheduling battles with varied Spring Break dates. We prepared a half program of music by BC composers and arrangers, a few of which were new, though it was good to bring out some old favourites. We shared "A Taste of BC" with the Chilliwack Symphony Chorus, welcoming them to join us for a concert in Richmond, and driving out to the Valley to sing with them. I love the opportunity to share music with other choirs; it offers new repertoire ideas, and reminds us of what we do well, and what we still have to work at in performance

Our Richmond Sings! was held on a Tuesday at the end of April in conjunction with choirs from school, church and community; because of a family emergency I was in England at the time, and my gratitude goes to Cathy, Susan and Toby for pulling it together in my absence.

BIG kudos must go to Doris Bruce and Jennifer Dufour and their Chorifest team for pulling together a stellar World Chorifest in May, with many singers from throughout the province and beyond. I am so grateful to the many people who put preparation time into it, or who added their contributions to the weekend to make our guests feel welcome. It was a great weekend!

And then, what more perfect way could we have had of ending the season than the influx of Star Wars characters into the audience for our end-of-season John Williams concert. Under other circumstances it might have been frustrating to do only three selections in the program, but with Chorifest just tucked away, it was a great way to end the season.

As always, my thanks go to all the hardworking and committed members of the Chorus who give so freely of their time in rehearsals, home practice and sectionals, and in concerts and singouts. I cannot express how much I appreciate the steady backup of our accompanist Toby Aldren, who has the mind-reading gift of the best of accompanists! My thanks to Meghan, to the members of the Board for their constant support, and especially to our retiring President, Cathy Bayley - it is a joy to work with you all.

Respectfully submitted

BRIGID COULT