

Conductor's Report October 3, 2016

Thank you to all of the board members and volunteers who make this fine organization possible. Without all of you, arts groups such as ours would not be possible and our society would be dreary indeed. When I think back to last year it is hard to believe we accomplished so much in one season. It is through challenging ourselves in these programs that we become aware of new abilities and are presented with ever more exciting opportunities.

The 2015/2016 season opened featuring music of the great French composers Faure and Ravel. We then had a great Christmas concert with a cast of hundreds! We continued with our partnership with the Richmond Music Festival and featured four Concerto Challenge winners selected from the festival. In May our Beethoven cycle continued with the Seventh Symphony and a performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto with violinist Erin Burkholder. Our season again concluded with the Chorus performing great Broadway Hits. What more could an orchestra ask for!

I would especially like to thank Brigid and the Chorus for giving us the opportunity to perform together at our October, December and June concert! The orchestra members thoroughly enjoy making such a wonderful sound together and it was very gratifying being part of such a successful season.

It is through challenging ourselves in these programs that we become aware of new abilities and are presented with ever more exciting opportunities. The 2016/2017 season will feature music of the great Russian composers Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. In February we will continue with our partnership with the Richmond Music Festival and will feature winners selected from the festival this fall. In May our Beethoven cycle will continue with the Eighth Symphony and a performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with violinist Isabel Lago. Our season again will conclude with the Chorus celebrating 150 years of Canadian music. What more could an orchestra ask for!

I believe the orchestra has come a long way in the past several years. We have grown in membership and have become recognized as one of the leading amateur orchestras in the lower mainland. Thank you to Cathy and the Board for all of the support and encouragement that you have provided the orchestra. Each season we grow and become stronger in numbers and ability.

And finally I would like to thank Meghan for all of the hard work she does to keep us organized, book rehearsal and performance venues, contact sponsors and supporters and all the other jobs that are done so efficiently.

When we look at this organization and what it has accomplished in the last year it is truly remarkable. We perform music covering over 200 years of history and in a great diversity of styles and cultures. We include members that are enthusiastic amateurs to aspiring students to dedicated professionals. We perform great concerts of fabulous music to appreciative audience and we also take this music out to the community to people who are not able to come to our concerts. We also support many community events and organizations beyond the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus. For all of these things we can be truly proud that we have enriched our society in such a positive way.

James Malmberg