

# The 35-year Reunion of the UVic Chamber Singers:

**Reunion Day: April 26, 2008;**

Two years in the planning, over 300 of the 450 members from the past 35 years were located and contacted. Over 150 alumni from all over North America and as far away as Korea participated in this most exciting event, held at St. Aidan's United Church in Victoria or participated in the organization and attendance at concerts across Canada during the following weeks. In Victoria, distinguished alumni presentations included videos of the work of film-makers and scorers, a recital featuring singers, string players and pianists, and a reading session of alumni composers. Conductor Bruce More commented: "It was with tears in my eyes that I listened to the first phrase of the reading session, when 80 voices from the past and present began to sing one of the alumni compositions." The collective musicianship and vocal power was best summed up by Deryk Barker in his review of that evening's concert when he wrote, "let us just say that this was probably the finest choir of its size ever assembled in Victoria."



The reunion concert



Displays with giant banner on left



The reading session

Alumni attendees enjoyed a mammoth display of memorabilia: 2 rooms with tables full of pictures, programmes, and other items, a TV/VCR cycling 12 videos taken during the past 20

years, and 12 banners from the East Asian tours ranging in size from 6 ft. long to a gigantic banner from the '05 Chongqing International Choral festival which measured 20 by 50 feet.



Here's trouble: Jenn, Karen and Beth

Group singing events included an hour of fun while reading through some of Bruce's Gospel publications and gag arrangements. This was followed by a rehearsal of the massed choir selections for the 7:30pm concert for the general public. At 9pm a potluck dinner was served to over 100 alumni, followed by speeches, memories and roasts which ranged from thoughtful remembrances to hilarious stories.

The sheer energy of the reuniting of these people - the shouting and the hugging as they saw each other for the first time in decades - was a total delight! Heather Beckett (Selby) '83 tells of her Chamber Singers experience: "to



Charles and Amy (all the way from Mississauga)



Memories.....



Life with the conductor - the real story.

always expect the best and more, and never be afraid to care; (these qualities) have shaped my life as a musician, as a teacher, and as a parent." Ken Brewer '88 said "I talked with a lot of the alumni, and there was one chord that rang proudly throughout: the Chamber Singers experience was the strongest musical influence in our lives."



## Reunion Tour April 27-May 19, 2008:



The first tour rehearsal

felt good to open myself to this wonderful form of music once again.” After continued rehearsal on Monday morning, the group boarded their tour bus at 3pm for the evening concert in Parksville, with a subsequent concert each night in Comox, Langley, Penticton, Castlegar, Medicine Hat, Regina and Winnipeg. At the same time,



The second concert - in Comox

performance was at Christ Church Deerpark in Toronto. As for the concerts, this one was organized by Chamber Singers alumni and had a highly enthusiastic audience with encores and standing ovations, befitting the final concert of a truly exciting tour and Bruce More's last tour concert with the Chamber Singers. To quote Deryk



Medicine Hat concert

to raise the level of choral singing - with the possible exception of Bruce's wife, Connie; and it seems only fitting that UVic has decided to honour the couple with a Bruce and Connie More Scholarship.” The lives of the 40 alumni who experienced the busy 3 weeks of the reunion activities were greatly enriched, and the accomplishments of the Chamber Singers yet again contributed to the achievements of the University of Victoria.

Sunday morning at 10 am, 20 alumni singers joined 20 of this year's Chamber Singers to rehearse the full programme for the tour. One alumnus said, “I have to admit I was nervous - I know what was expected of us and I worked my ass off before coming. I haven't had the opportunity to sing at such a high standard for many years and it



Bruce with Margaret, Ken, Gloria and Sue (early '80s)

the singers were treated to some of Canada's most beautiful scenery as they travelled on a brand new luxury coach (McCullough Coach Lines) almost 11,000 kilometres to several regions of B.C., the prairies, the Canadian shield, the multicultural intensity of Toronto and Montreal, and the grandeur and beauty of our nation's capital. The last



Stephanie, Rachel, Lindsay and purse

Barker: “None who have passed through his hands in the last three-and-a-half decades could deny that the experience was a life-changing one. In the sixteen years (this week) that I have been reviewing Music in Victoria, I can think of nobody in this town who has done more



Our brand-new bus!

By the way, Bruce says that this was the best tour group ever - really!





With the Doukhobor Youth Choir



Mark Wark - "Ladies & Gentlemen, I am a Chamber Singer!"



First hotel room party in Thunder Bay



Bruce visits with Lorren Culley - '75



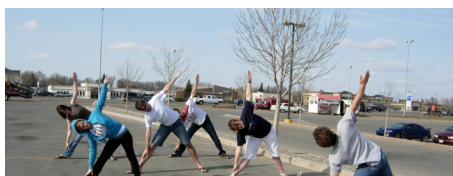
Bruce "chats up" the audience



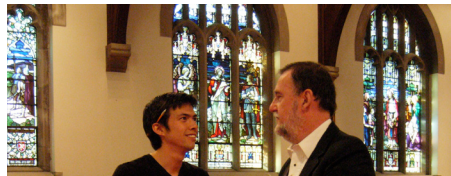
Rehearsal in Deer Park



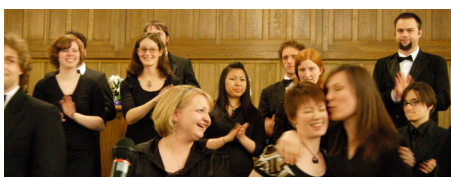
They're so cute when....



Cam leads calisthenics



Bruce and Dallas



Jenn joins us in Medicine Hat



Regina Cathedral - "best acoustics"



Toronto alumni soloists Erin and Meghan



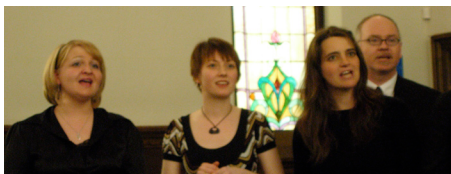
Rachel, Rod and Sandy



Bruce "workshops" Deirdre's choir in Regina



With "Univox" at Christ Church Deerpark



Four "old farts"



Jamie and Flori welcome us in Winnipeg.



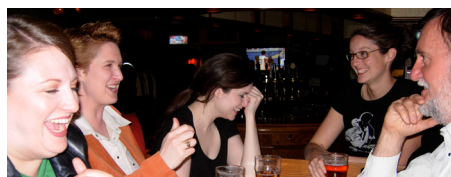
The last bow



Bruce conducts....



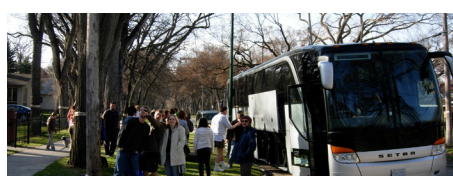
Henry Engbrecht (U. of Man.) chats with Bruce



Alums and Bruce have a "chuckle"



Bruce's real kids.



Leaving Winnipeg



The Core

# Participants in reunion and/or tour concerts:

## From as far away as:

Toronto; Grand Prairie; Charlottesville, Va; Sokcho, Korea; Portland; Mamaroneck, N.Y.; Medicine Hat; Sidney, Australia & Minneapolis

### MID 70'S

Allen (Bond) , Jackie  
More, Constance  
Powell, (Mitchell) Robin  
Culley, Lorren  
Eckford, Michael  
Copland (Kennedy), Mary

### LATE 70'S

Mayoh, Sandra  
McIntosh (Livingston), Barbara  
Rowledge, Grant  
Berton, Michael  
Ebbeson (Symington), Barbara  
Liem (Rowledge), Yvette  
Doolittle, Amy  
Curran (Bard), Ruth  
MacIsaac, Elizabeth  
Bergen, Curt

### EARLY 80'S

Leung, Simon  
Zupanc, Victor  
Borrbridge, (Kushel) Gloria  
Farwell, Deborah  
Gould, Susan  
Bell, Mark  
Robertson (Thorpe), Patti  
Thorpe, Allan  
Barber, Charles  
Mont, Rod  
Heemskerk, Tom

### MID 80'S

Wallis (Plaschka), Hilary  
Brewer, Ken  
Gillie, Margaret  
Cox, Nancy  
MacDonald, Don  
McCarlie, Colin  
Stokes, Tobin  
MacIver, James  
Pattullo (Shumka), Karen  
Hill, Bruce  
Garry, Maureen  
Wiltse (Antolin), Karen  
Girvan, Allison

### LATE 80'S

Selby, Heather  
Bertz, Rasma  
Noble, Wade  
Meyers, Christi  
Glibbery, Justin  
McCauseland, Kelly

### EARLY 90'S

White (Parlee), Jennifer  
Barber, Anne  
Tinney, Lisa  
Ward, Mark  
Harvey, Jennifer  
Howe, Carolyn  
Morash, Chris  
Zarry, Chris  
Whitmore, Beth  
Gorgichuk, Carmen  
Bullen, Ian  
Schenck (Illman), Inge  
Atchison, Mehgan  
Phillips, Byron  
Brigidear, Karian

### MID 90'S

Knoles, Rick  
Bardua, Erin  
Bergen, Dallas  
Bryant, Neil  
Coneys (Alexander), Kathy  
Dimayuga, Bryan  
Tyrrell (Bryant), Shannon  
Joyce, Michael  
Lehton, Dan  
More, Alexis  
Hogg, Daniel

### LATE 90'S

O'Reilly, Philip  
Specht, Graham  
Badel, Bryn  
Nicholson, Maureen  
Tennant, Carrie  
Quist, Sara  
Robinson, Graham  
Cox, Michelle  
Wilson, Jim  
Huckabay, Megan  
Birley, Kristen

### EARLY 2000'S

Cousineau, Kim  
Nowlan, (Mattison) Lara  
Brownrigg, Celia  
Mulroney, Nicole  
Bell, Isaiah  
Cho, Ryan  
Fabri, Evan  
Pollet, Emily  
Sharpe, Curtis  
Shaw, Lisa

### MID 2000'S

Bergstreser, Jennifer  
Borgford, Corrine  
Clausen, Tristan  
Craigén, Stephen  
Cuthbert, Neil  
Fay, Jackie  
Granat, Alex  
Hayes, Brittney  
Henigman, Jamie  
Horvath, Nina  
Hsieh, Patrick  
Jeffrey, Anne  
MacDonald, Nathan  
Sweeney, Sonya  
Sherstobitoff, Andrei  
West, Nicole

### CURRENT

Loo, Stephanie  
MacArthur, Alex  
Manson, Marita  
McPherson, Allan  
Noakes, Ryan  
Notheisz, Jeremy  
Phillips, Dylan  
Rae, Corey  
Ryan, Cairan  
Scambler, Andrew  
Wallace, Cameron  
Yeates, Alia  
Bennie, Yvonne  
Briand, Mark  
Clark, Andrew  
Helgeson, Sarah  
James, Stephanie  
Kill, Nicola  
Loewen, Kurt  
Marko, Ivan  
Martin, Jackie  
Phillips, Kailee  
Spry, Cedric  
Wyatt, Sarah