

University of Victoria Chamber Singers

Number 16 August, 2015

Alumni Newsletter



2015 Alumni Retreat at Morehaven - July 3 - 5:

Ruth Bard '84, Connie More, Beth Whitmore '98, Graham Specht '02, Hayley Crittenden '03, Alexis More '99, Rick Knoles '95, Darryl Neville '01, Michael Laudadio '90, Mareya Green, Felipe Sequeira '01, Doug Green '92, Wade Noble '00, Rob Hogan '83, Bruce More, Mickie Noble

Alumni Updates:

Rasma Bertz ('90) now has a flat in Victoria (so she can party when she's not at home on Salt Spring Island).

Jamie MacIver ('89) has moved back to Victoria. His 2 daughters will be at UVic in the Fall. Having finished his medical studies, he is now doing his "clinical rotations" in Chicago and Atlanta. "Things are going well for me here except perhaps for getting my nose broken last month. I am in Obstetrics and was aiding in a birth when a (very large) woman who was in labour and being transferred to the delivery bed lashed out with her foot and kicked me square in the snoot, granted, a large target. It's catcher's mask and Kevlar vest from now on".

Neil Bryant ('96) is in his fourth year of teaching Sciences and Law at Brentwood College.

Brenda Hak (Bailey) ('88) teaches music at a small rural school of 100 students in Ashdale, Nova Scotia. She's been married for 31 years (to the same guy) and has 2 grown children. She still sings and regularly perform roles in musical theatre. They have 186 acres where they grow 2.5 acres of hops, .25 acres of lavender, and they opened an on-farm micro-brewery last May.

Charles Barber's ('84) next main-stage with City Opera of Vancouver is THE LOST OPERAS OF MOZART: three he began, but never finished.

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Michelle Dosch (Seibel) ('84) has been teaching nursing in Kamloops for 8 years. She doesn't sing much except after too much wine. (*Well at least she continues to do half of what we taught her, eh? Ed.*) She has fond memories of the Nelson trip (last newsletter cover photo - end of the altos). She remembers the bus stopping for avalanche control and us putting on a mini-concert right there on the highway.

Ryan Noakes ('08) and his wife Laura live in Vancouver. He works at Electronic Arts as an Audio Tester and sings with the Pacifica Singers and the newly formed Excelsis Chamber Choir. He still somehow manages to "find the time to compose a little".

Ian Bullen ('96) is thriving with his "Black Folder" enterprise, having just returned from "shows" in California and Texas. His wife **Elizabeth MacIsaac** ('84) is very busy this year also with her DMA conducting studies at the University of Washington.

Megan Huckabay (Lapp) ('02) and her husband are now living in Bend, Oregon. She is teaching several piano and voice students via Skype and cares for her "adorable" baby Anneliese.

Dallas Bergen ('01) took his Toronto Choir "Univox" on tour to Cuba in April.

Chris Morash ('60) turned 92 this year. (Wait, that can't be right! - must be 92 & 60.)

Margaret Gillie ('86) a free-lance clarinetist in Toronto met an ex-chamber singer violist at a gig last month! It turns out it was Karen (Emiko) Matsumaru ('02). "We're EVERYWHERE!"

Congratulations to **Peter DeRoche** ('81) and **Mark Ward** ('92) who both retired this year after excellent high school teaching careers.

Sara Quist ('00) has a busy career as a Doula. (Google it!)

Congratulations to **Dan Hogg** ('02) and his bride Laura - married June 28.



Remember when:

we got a great review in Christ Church, N.Z. - 1995

“Rather than being a choir of one basic sound like Kings College Cambridge, the remarkable uniqueness of this youthful group is that it is several choirs in one. The dramatic changes in tone colour were exploited not for gimmicks but for deeply thought out interpretations. An enormous versatility in timbre.....my over-riding impression was an ability to match the tone colour perfectly to the stylistic needs of each, thereby attaining a greater degree of stylistic differentiation than other choirs....blend, balance, attack tone, nuance are all immaculate. The finest choir I have ever heard here was the Swedish Chamber Choir. This virtuostic Canadian choir wasn't too far from that level.”

Ian Dando, Critic: Christchurch Star and The Listener

we “wowed” them in Schokino, Russia - 2007



the Chamber Singers used to turn out whole-some graduates worthy of the Royal Guard.



we built bodies at Waikiki Beach in 1989



the Drayden dance - 2001



the conductor looked like this?



or this?



or this?



2015 was a great year for re-connecting with CS's alumni. In addition to the retreat, we visited with Graham Robinson at Dan Hogg's wedding, sharing a hilarious table with us plus Darryl Neville and Graham Specht. In June, we spent a day with Steinar Seve in Oslo during which he regaled us with the following story.



How I ended up in the Chamber Singers Steinar Seve ('05)

I wanted to do the last year of my Norwegian teaching degree as an exchange student. I had checked if there were any universities in Seattle on the list of schools I could choose, since that's where I wanted to be. Alas, there weren't any, and the only university that was even remotely close was UVic. So I listed UVic on my exchange application.

Coming from little Norway, I thought I could just show up on the first day of school and start the classes I had found online and written on my application to the student administration in Oslo. I arrived in Seattle a week before the first day of classes and spent a couple of days there. It was nice. I met a girl who said I could sleep on her couch although she had no couch....

I took the Clipper to Victoria with still four days to spare before classes, so I booked a bed in the Backpackers Inn. Victoria was very nice, so I didn't get my butt to the campus until there was only a single day left before classes were to begin. That's when I found out about how you have to register for classes. I had not done this. I had not applied for student housing either, so I suddenly realized I had no classes and no place to stay. I thought, coming from a socialist country, that these things were arranged. After a few minutes of cooling down and accepting the situation, I found a nice lady in the music department to help me sort my schedule out. I



Steinar's Oslo home.....

got a few music education classes that would be in line with what I was doing back home; "Music in the classroom 306" I think was one of them. I also got Conducting 201 with Capaldo, and being the last one to come to class, I got the trumpet as my instrument. I also got quite a few music classes, like vocal jazz, music composition with "Butterfly", and a few more. For someone who had never really studied music, this was quite a difficult schedule. I would have some trouble over the next few months, but I learned a hellovalot after a year of all those classes.

I also needed a choir credit. I remember being told there were 3 choirs: a women's choir (not for me), a choir for everyone (as someone who loves to sing, I interpreted this as "the shitty choir"), and the Chamber Singers. "But you can almost forget about the Chamber Singers", I remember her say. "It's really hard to get in, and the auditions are almost done. It's down the hall. You can try, if you want. Just sign up and wait." (Or something like that.) So I signed up at the bottom of a list as long as a Norwegian night in the winter. There were ten kids sitting in the corridor. I felt very old, being 26 around these kids. I figured I had a few hours before my turn, so I went for a walk on campus. All those bunnies. Funny. I had a taste of the fresh BC air while I was waiting, and I enjoyed the great weather. After a while my mouth was getting really dry, so I went in to get a drink and decided to check on the list. The door was open and Bruce told me to come in. He gave me some sheets of music and told me to sing. I don't have perfect pitch, so I asked for a starting note and did as well as I could. I didn't feel like it went very well. I had been able to read music somewhat when I was a bit younger but had not practiced for a long time and had never sung to music before.

Somehow, I got the gig. I was later told by Bruce that this was not for my singing abilities, but what do I care. Thanks to that audition, I met the best people possible that year. Lots of music, bands, karaoke, tours. I ended up living with one of the tenors, and I even hung out with some of the basses. Memories and friendships for life - none mentioned, none forgotten. I love you all and think of you when I hear great a cappella choir music.

The "token Swede",
Steinar

Watch video: A day in Oslo with Steinar
<http://brucemore.ca/steinar/>

Chamber Singers Fraud exposed!

THE CONDUCTOR IS THE ONE IN FRONT



or is he?



Summer Retreat 2016

Morehaven, Thetis Island, July 1-2

Re-connect next year

FRIDAY - JULY 1:

Afternoon - retreat begins

7pm: dinner & socializing

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Morning: Breakfast & socializing

11am - Singing

1pm - Lunch

Afternoon: socializing,

hiking, sports, swimming etc.

7pm: Focus dinner

8pm - Best Chamber Singers
stories, games, more singing.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

8:30 am Breakfast

9 and 10:55 departures.