

Unlike most of the 20 choirs I conducted during the 40 years of my career, Prima Choir was built from the ground up so that when I retired in 2010, I felt that I had completed all I had set out to do. Unfortunately, the resulting loss of direct connections with UVic students and the School of Music led to dwindling membership and Prima's demise over the next 3 years in spite of the impressive efforts of my successor and long-time assistant conductor Wade Noble. At this point I would like to thank Wade for all the major contributions he made to Prima over many years!

Prima was significant to the choral life of Victoria and Vancouver Island not in small part due to an emphasis on community. The back of your programme has a list of every singer that ever brightened Prima's doorway, surrounding the phrase "it takes a choir". You'll probably recognize it as a parody of "it takes a village". The idea is that fundamentally it takes all of the singers to create and sustain a choir. I believe that Prima was the ultimate choral community.

Since 2010, I have seen the results of many Prima Singers in joining, sustaining, and even creating other choirs in Victoria and elsewhere. I encourage all of you, particularly those who haven't sung since they left Prima to do your part in contributing to the growth of the choral art in your community, even if it is only to support choirs by attending their concerts. In this way, you can keep that Prima spirit alive!

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Here are 4 video messages from alumni who couldn't attend from afar. And finally a 6 minute video of random Prima clips. Smart phone videos were not thing until after 2005, we don't have a lot and some of the early ones are terrible quality. These are contrasting, random clips, ending with what was arguably our most exotic trip to —Cambodia in 2009.