

A Short Trip Down Memory Lane...



The following biography and programme are taken from the official 1983 inaugural concert.

Phoenix is a new choir, founded in 1983 by several former members of the Chrysalis Vocal Consort, which under the direction of James Fankhauser, performed in Victoria in 1981 and 1982. This eighteen voice group had been rehearsing informally and conductorless since February of last year. In October, the group decided that a conductor was probably a good idea and asked Cortland Hultberg, a Professor in music at the University of British Columbia, to step in.

Phoenix offers its audience a new approach to choral music emphasizing the unusual and adventurous aspects of the repertoire.

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tristis est anima mea | Johann Kuhnau |
| Spherical Madrigals | Ross Lee Finney |
| Si chio vorrei morire | Claudio Monteverdi |
| Invan dunqueo crudele | Gesualdo di Venosa |
| Moro lasso | Gesualdo |
| Will Ye No Come Back Again | Trad., arr. Richard Kidd |
| Ye Banks and Braes | Arr. Richard Kidd |
| To Julia | Eugene Wilson |
| When I Fall in Love | Arr. Cortland Hultberg |
| Squirrel | Stephen Chatman |
| You've Changed | Arr. Ron Smail |
| My Foolish Heart | Arr. Ron Smail |



THE MARTHA LOU HENLEY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Notes: Ramona Luengen | Design/Production: Miles M Linklater, 24pt Helvetica Production Studios



The Phoenician

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20TH 2003-2004 SEASON ANNIVERSARY



Welcome to our 20th anniversary season and what an exciting season it promises to be! Join us in November as we delve into music by women composers from the Middle Ages right up to the 21st century. This concert, a tribute to *Woman as Composer and Muse*, will unearth music of all styles and genres written by the talented, often-neglected, feminine hand. We are thrilled to perform the world première of *Re-member Us* by Vancouver composer Leslie Uyeda.

As every Christmas, Phoenix invites you to share in an ambient, intimate concert that attempts to capture the true Christmas spirit through meaningful choral literature of the season, carols old and new and heart-warming readings. This evening is a gift for the soul, far removed from the commercialism, spectacle and bustle December brings.

The gala finale of our 20th anniversary season explores the fragile beauty of the cosmos in word, image and song. We are honoured to have the esteemed Canadian astronaut, scientist, physician and photographer Dr. Roberta Bondar join us as our special guest.

Dr. Bondar's love and concern for humanity and our threatened earth, deepened since her trip into space, is eloquently articulated in her writings, her speeches and her photography. On May 15 she will join Phoenix for what will be a remarkably moving event, interspersing our

music with her thoughts, experiences and stunning photography of the earth and space. An evening not to be missed!

We hope you will be a part of our year-long celebration as we salute 20 years of choral singing under the Phoenix banner! ♪

Our CBC National Choral Competition Record

- 1984 1st place ~ Contemporary Class; Special Prize for Performance of Canadian Work
- 1986 1st place ~ Chamber Choir Category; 2nd place ~ Contemporary Class
- 1988 1st place ~ Chamber Choir Category; 1st place ~ Contemporary Class
- 1989 1st place ~ International *Let the Peoples Sing* Competition, Contemporary Class and Silver Rose Bowl for Best Choir Overall (50 participating choirs from 18 countries)
- 1998 Council Healy Willan Grand Prize for Best Choir Overall 1st place ~ Chamber Choir Category; 2nd place ~ Contemporary Class
- 2000 1st place ~ Contemporary Class; 2nd place ~ Chamber Choir Category
- 2002 1st place ~ Chamber Choir Category; 2nd place ~ Contemporary Class

A Little About Our Guest



Roberta L. Bondar, OC, O.Ont, MD, PhD, FRCP(C), FRSC

Phoenix is thrilled to announce that Canadian physician, scientist, astronaut and photographer, Dr. Robert Bondar, will be our special guest in May 2004! An ardent advocate for our planet earth, she will share her thoughts, insights and photos at our LOST IN THE STARS concert.

As science and photography have always been linked in Dr. Bondar's life, it

was natural that one of Bondar's

assignments aboard the space shuttle Discovery in January 1992 was to take photographs of Earth. "Although I cared deeply about the environment before I flew in space, I became passionate about it during my flight. My sense of responsibility reaches beyond my lifetime to the future generations of the planet."

Bondar embarked on a career of scientific pursuits beginning in high school. Using her camera in support of her studies, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and zoology from the University of Guelph, and developed new techniques for photomicroscopy while pursuing a master's degree in experimental pathology at the University of Western Ontario. She completed her doctorate in neurobiology at the University of Toronto working extensively with black and white photography.

Bondar earned her medical degree at McMaster University with a

special interest in space medicine. After completing her board certification in Neurology, she studied at Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston, specializing in neurophthalmology, how we see and record the world around us. In 1984, she was one of the six original Canadian astronauts selected to train at NASA. In January 1992 Bondar ascended into space aboard the NASA space shuttle Discovery. In her role as an international payload specialist she conducted life and material science experiments in space, becoming the world's first neurologist in space and Canada's first woman astronaut.

For over a decade, Dr. Bondar headed an international medical research team, with NASA and the University of New Mexico, to study the effects of short term and extended duration space flight on the physiology of blood flow in humans. Dr. Bondar is an advocate of using space medical research to provide insight into the recovery potential of the human body, as it simulates disease states during readaptation to earth's gravity.

Upon returning to Earth, Bondar wrote *Touching the Earth* a book in which she speaks of her space experience and her love of the planet. Her accomplishments in nature and landscape photography led the National Gallery of Canada to ask her to participate in its 1997 landmark exhibition, *Science and Photography: Beauty of Another Order*. Bondar recently photographed all of Canada's national parks to document and celebrate the beauty of the planet. She is currently photographing the extremes of climate and structure of planet Earth beginning with deserts of North America.

Among her numerous commendations, Dr. Bondar has been honored as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for her pioneering research in space medicine, and recognized with the Order of Canada and the NASA Space Medal. In addition, she has received 24 honorary doctorates from Canadian and American universities. ♪

New Venue

Due to the space and time demands made on Shaughnessy Heights United Church by a new Korean congregation now sharing the facility, we have sadly been forced to find a new "home" after many years. Our new rehearsal venue is Olivet Church in New Westminster. New Westminster will also be the location of two of our concerts this year – both the Fall and Spring concerts will take place at Queen's Ave. United Church. Our Christmas concert will, as per tradition, take place at Shaughnessy Heights.

Please let us know what you think about our move east, as this year will be viewed as a probation period. The acoustics at Queen's Ave. are wonderful and suit our repertoire well. The staff has been extremely helpful and friendly. Our only concern is you, our audience. Do make sure you let us know how this move impacts you. ♪

Maytoberfest

Plans are underway for a fabulous 20th Anniversary Party, sometime in May. We are proud to introduce Okanagan Spring Brewery as our official event sponsor. Stay tuned for more information. ♪



We Have A Winner!

This spring we asked you, our loyal Phoenix fans, to check in with us again and update your contact information in our mailing database. In gratitude for taking the time to do that, we offered a raffle prize of two free adult subscriptions to the Phoenix 2003-04, 20th Anniversary Concert Season.

We're pleased to announce that the winner of the two free concert subscriptions is Ms. Patricia Angus of Vancouver.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to communicate with us this Spring to let us know you're still out there, receiving our mailings and coming to our concerts. And, a special thank you to all who also took the time to write us a quick note of thanks, ask a question about our music, or simply tell us what you enjoy about our concerts. You are what makes Phoenix successful, and for this we are very grateful. ♪



Audience comments from our last concert

SACRED MASTERPIECES

"What beauty of sound! Transporting. Healing. Thank you." – Paul Bird

"Excellent performance. Precision and soul. The height of Everest aspirations!" – Kaye McMahon

"A heavenly concert. Your choice is so special to us and unique in the region." – Harold and Simone Knutson



The following is a review of our latest CD, LIVE FROM EUROPE, taken from the Russian magazine, St. Petersburg Scene.

Phoenix Chamber Choir Director, Ramona Luengen LIVE FROM EUROPE

Recording of choral concerts in churches of Germany and Luxembourg. Self released.

This double album will introduce you to one of the best chamber choirs in North America, the Canadian choir Phoenix. Seven-time winners of the CBC National Choral Competition and other prestigious competitions, this choir, created in 1983, has successfully recorded (during its 2002 European tour) chamber and sacred music of the last nine centuries in the cathedrals of Trier and Mainz.

Especially convincing is the choir's interpretation of sacred music based on Gregorian chant and music of the 20th century, such as Rakhmaninov's *Bogoroditsye Dyevo* and folksong arrangements by Schoenberg, Ligeti and Ellington. This choir is conducted by director Ramona Luengen, composer and theorist, who demonstrates a virtuosic mastery of the choral forces, a precision in achieving appropriate timbres while maintaining the integrated blend and exactness of the ensemble.

Ekaterina Blajkova
St. Petersburg Scene, April 2003

