

A Word from the Symposium Co-Chairs

(from *Symposium VI Programme*, 2007)

Dr. Andrea Rose

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Welcome to The *Phenomenon of Singing* International Symposium VI. This event is as an integral component of the biennial, world-class international choral festival, Festival 500 *Sharing the Voices*. With support from Memorial University, and particularly the Faculty of Education and School of Music, we have been able to organize a truly international academic symposium and celebration of singing and song. Symposium VI presenters will represent a number of countries including Iran, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Spain, Kenya, Turkey, Finland, United States and Canada. As we experience the multiplicity of perspectives and musical traditions over the next few days together, the phenomenon of singing will surely reveal itself in unique ways!

We are pleased to welcome our invited plenary speakers: Alice Parker (United States), Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin (Ireland), David Carey (Ireland), Mary Lou Fallis (Canada), Margaret Bennett (Scotland); and joining us via video-conference will be John Greer (United States), Carol Anne Curry (Canada), Lotfi Mansouri (United States), Paul Reeve (United Kingdom), James Wright (Canada) and Judith Forst (Canada). Their presentations promise to be quite intriguing! We look forward also to our 65 presentations related to the phenomenon of singing. We are excited also to welcome graduate students to the Festival 500 Choral Institute.

A special sub-theme of Symposium VI is a celebration of Celtic singing traditions. A diversity of presentation formats will include papers, lecture-recitals, panel discussions, cameo recitals, and a multipoint-video-conference connecting seven locations around the world. This symposium has been made possible by the support and dedication of a number of people. We would like to take this opportunity to thank especially the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Festival 500, from Memorial University - Dr. Alice Collins (Dean, Faculty of Education), Dr. Chris Loomis VP Research, and Dr. Tom Gordon (Director, School of Music). We extend a very special thank you to the Symposium VI Organizing Committee and our student assistants for their unwavering dedication to this biennial event. We feel truly fortunate and honoured to be working with such talented and committed individuals. On behalf of the Symposium VI Organizing Committee, we hope you enjoy your stay in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Symposium promises to be an exciting and rewarding one! We hope to see you at the various planned events where will have lots of opportunities to share ideas, experiences, friendships, music, theatre, food and fun.