

A Word from Memorial's Dean of Education

Dr. Terry Piper

During the summer of 1997 and, indeed, the entire year, history was remembered and made throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and nowhere more than at Memorial University where we had the pleasure of hosting *Sharing the Voices: The Phenomenon of Singing*. Delegates from seven countries came to understand during the conference why it was entirely fitting that we host this event. Music has always been central to the life of the people who live here, and this event gave us all the opportunity to share in both the serious and the celebratory sides of singing.

As an educator and Dean of the province's only Faculty of Education, my particular concern is to protect the place of music in the lives of children in this province. It is a part of our culture that deserves protection and nurturing, but that sometimes gets forgotten as the education system focuses more and more on technology and the sciences. The activities of this past summer reaffirmed the importance of the arts, and especially music, in people's lives, and strengthened our commitment to retaining them prominently in the curriculum. The bringing together of so many academic musicians and truly excellent choral groups to share their expertise and their songs sent the clear message that Memorial University remains firmly committed to music education at all levels of the educational system.

It was the summer of magic, the summer of song. That is how I will always remember the summer of 1997, a year that marked an important event in Newfoundland's history. It was a first, and I hope, the first of many symposia marking the significance of song to the human spirit. The Faculty of Education is pleased and proud to support this publication of selected papers from the symposium. I hope that they give you the opportunity to glimpse into the experience of the conference. On behalf of the Faculty of Education, and indeed Memorial University, I would like to thank once more all of those who came to St. John's and to extend a very special invitation to return.