

A Word from the Symposium Chair

Dr. Andrea Rose

I feel certain that I speak on behalf of all of us here in Newfoundland and Labrador who were involved with **The Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium** and **Festival 500**, when I say that it has been a most rewarding experience to bring to reality the exciting idea of gathering scholars from around the world to share their research and experiences relating to singing and song.

This historic event was conceived a number of years ago as an integral component of Festival 500 Sharing the Voices International Choral Festival, one of the anchor events of Newfoundland's Cabot 500th Anniversary celebrations. With co-sponsorship and support from Memorial University of Newfoundland, we were successful in organizing a truly international academic symposium and celebration of singing and song. Seven countries were represented by our symposium presenters - Australia, Canada, Republic of South Africa, Ireland, England, United States of America and Sweden. As we experienced the multiplicity of perspectives and musical traditions over our days together, the phenomenon of singing revealed itself in truly unique and interesting ways. Many of these perspectives have been captured and disseminated in this publication of proceedings.

It is very fitting that this celebration of singing was held in Newfoundland and Labrador, a province steeped in traditions of varying origins and historical depth. In this, the 500th anniversary of Cabot's landing in Newfoundland, we were reminded of our deepest roots as we heard from our plenary speaker, Dr. Beverley Diamond, on the topic of aboriginal musics. We were delighted also that internationally renowned Jan Rubes and Stuart Hamilton, our keynote and dinner speakers respectively, were on hand to share their experiences about the role of singing in their personal and professional lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Festival 500 Board of Directors and Dr. Terry Piper (Dean, Faculty of Education) and Dr. Maureen Volk (Director, School of Music) for their encouragement and support of this Symposium. I extend a very personal thank you to the Symposium Organizing Committee for their dedication to this event, and particularly to Dr. Brian Roberts for assuming the responsibility of editing this publication.

On behalf of the Symposium Organizing Committee, I would like to announce that plans are well underway for **The Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium II** - to be held at Memorial University of Newfoundland, **July 2 - 5, 1999!** I hope you will join us once again for our second symposium, as well as for the many events planned for **Festival 500: Sharing the Voices**, an International Festival of Choral Music and Celebration of Song, **July 1 - 11, 1999.**

I hope you enjoy reading this wonderful compilation of material which is truly

representative of the diversity of presentations delivered throughout the Symposium. I am certain that each paper will make a significant contribution to our individual and collective understandings of the very complex and intriguing phenomenon of singing!

Symposium Organizing Committee

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Carolyn Hart
Bernadette Power
Brian Roberts
Neil Rosenberg
Dena Simon
Kati Szego**

Paper Selection Committee

**Carolyn Hart, Chair
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