

A Word from the Symposium Co-Chairs
(from *Symposium VIII Programme*, 2011)

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Welcome to The Phenomenon of Singing International Symposium VIII. 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 VIII presenters will represent 15 countries including Philippines, United Kingdom, Finland, China, Germany, Argentina, Sweden, South Africa, Ireland, Australia, Brazil, Nigeria, Norway, United States and Canada. A special sub-theme of Symposium VIII and Festival 500 (2011) is the celebration of the ***power of song***. Compelled and inspired by current world events, this festival will provide a special forum for a deep and rich exploration of the power of song as it might be manifested in local and global ways. 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 six invited keynote presenters: Bob Chilcott (United Kingdom), Kate Munger (USA), Scott McCoy (USA), Mark Anthony Carpio (Philippines), John August Pamintuan (Philippines), and Lady Cove Women's Choir (Canada). A new feature of this year's Symposium is the Panel on Growing Choral-Singing Communities. Moderated by Marian Dolan (USA), the international roster of panelists includes: Patricia Abbott (Canada), Ann Meier Baker (USA), Daniel Garavano (Argentina), Sonja Greiner (Germany), and Fred Sjöberg (Sweden). All these presentations promise to be quite intriguing and powerful. We look forward also to over 75 selected presentations related to the phenomenon of singing. You will note in the programme a wide and diverse range of presentation topics that address various aspects of singing - cultural, social, political, pedagogical, artistic, psychological, compositional... and beyond. A diversity of presentation formats includes research papers, workshops, lecture-recitals, and cameo concerts. We are also very excited to welcome 8 graduate students who are participating in the Festival 500 Choral Institute through which they can take one of three courses offered for graduate credit.

This year the Symposium is partnering with two international organizations who share a common interest in research related to the phenomenon of singing. The 41st World Conference of the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) is being held at Memorial University, July 13-19. Our final day, July 13, will be a shared day with ICTM providing an opportunity for Symposium presenters and delegates to attend all ICTM presentations; in turn, all ICTM delegates will be welcomed at Symposium presentations on this day. A second organization, AIRS (Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing), is a research team of 65 scholars in the humanities and social sciences. AIRS will hold its 3rd annual meeting during the Symposium, and members of the AIRS community will be giving presentations throughout the Symposium. We welcome our colleagues, old and new, from both organizations.

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; Drs. David Dibbon and Alice Collins (Deans, Memorial

University's Faculty of Education) and Drs. Ellen Waterman and Tom Gordon (Directors, Memorial University's School of Music). We extend a very special thank you to our Symposium VIII Organizing Committee members who have been working on this event for two years. We also very much appreciate our student assistants and volunteers for their unwavering dedication to this biennial event. We feel truly fortunate and honored to be working with such talented and committed individuals.

On behalf of the Symposium VIII 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!