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Christmas Magic with the British Columbia Boys Choir

CHILLIWACK, BC – Come celebrate the spectacular 45th Anniversary Christmas performance from *The British Columbia Boy Choir* as they raise their majestic voices in the Main Theatre of the Cultural Centre singing traditional Christmas music **December 10 at 7:30pm**. Rejoice in the holiday spirit with a magical evening overflowing with glorious music presented by the Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society.

With songs such as The Child - by Bob Chilcott, On Christmas Morn - by David Brunner; Gloria Canon - F. Joseph Haydn and a variety of choral musical styles sure to put you in the Christmas spirit this is a holiday performance you won't want to miss. Songs celebrating the playful spirit of the season will also be sung including, We Three Kings, Calypso Lullaby (with a hint of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"), Not

Another Fruitcake, Please! (anything else.... please!), and Jingle Bells... with Jay Althouse's fabulous twist on this classic tune. Join the boys for a carol sing-a-long and of course the Choir's 45 year-long tradition.... "Stille Nacht - Silent Night".

The boys choir has a performance history that spans nearly half a century and has represented Canada all over the world in various concerts, events and competitions. This four-part secular boys choir, one of the few in North America, will surely set the mood for the holidays with the angelic celestial voices of this amazing choir.

Founded in 1968 by Donald Forbes, the ***British Columbia Boys Choir*** has won international acclaim throughout Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, China and South America. The Choirs repertoire frequently include sacred and secular works, selections from musicals and opera, folk songs from around the world, and an assortment of Canadian works; many specifically composed for the Choir. Their music is pure magic, an acoustic delight for all to witness this Christmas season.

With four CDs currently on the market: *Home*, *Places*, *Symmetry* and *Spirit* the ***British Columbia Boys Choir*** has four Choirs in two locations, Burnaby and Nanaimo, with over 75 members. Membership is open to boys and young men, ranging in ages seven to twenty-four years old that reside in Vancouver's Lower Mainland region and central Vancouver Island. In addition to frequent radio and television appearances, the Choir has made over 20 recordings and a one-hour documentary film "*Summer Song*" profiling the Choir's tenth tour to The Netherlands.

Having trained over 900 members in its 45 year history, the ***British Columbia Boys Choir*** has represented Canada on 30 international tours, performing a demanding repertoire spanning centuries, from Gregorian chant to contemporary works, sings in up to ten languages, and for the first time, will be visiting all ten provinces on one tour!

Come enjoy the heavenly atmosphere created by the ***British Columbia Boys Choir*** as they share their magical music, enchanting audience members. Tickets are \$32 for Adults, \$29 for Seniors, and \$27 for Students. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW(7469) for more information.

The British Columbia Boys Choir is generously sponsored by Star 98.3, McLean's Funeral Services Ltd., Hallmark Promotions, Sutton Showplace Realty, Coast Capital Savings, The Chilliwack Progress, The Department of Canadian Heritage, The City of Chilliwack, British Columbia Arts Council and the Province of British Columbia.

Create Your Own Series and Save! Purchase tickets for three or more different performances and save \$5 per ticket! (*Shows must be bought at the same time to qualify*) Subscriptions are only available by phone or in person at The Centre Box Office.

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Additional Information

The British Columbia Boys Choir:

From the beginnings of western classical music, singing has been especially significant. Vocal music designed for church use was, for many centuries, the only music notated and preserved. Chant traditions of the early middleages flourished in the many monasteries and churches.

As time went on, composers experimented with intertwining two or more melodic lines and what we now call polyphony became fashionable. Composers came to realize that differing voice types helped highlight the sophisticated interplay that is the hallmark of vocal polyphony. But at that time aspects of church policy affected resources available to composers: mixed choirs were not allowed in sacred contexts and there were many young singers already in the monasteries. The desirability of a complete range of voice types lead to the use of boy trebles in sacred choirs.

Thus for many centuries serious composers wrote their best and most impressive works in service of the church. Unaccompanied (or 'a capella') vocal polyphony was the style of choice and these works were specifically conceived for the blend of boys' and mens' voices. Today all the serious choirs learn and perform the great historical choral repertoire: modern youth choirs are unable, by definition, to handle the full-spectrum repertoire. Contemporary mixed SATB ensembles can and do perform with sophisticated musicianship but they do not ever have the sound heard by Lassus, Palestrina, Byrd, Josquin and beyond; only male voice ensembles create the sound conceived by the early masters. But let's go back to the *British Columbia Boys Choir's* fundamental definition: a non-liturgical (in that they are not church affiliated) SATB choir of young people, uniquely equipped to perform the choral masterpieces of the 6th through 18th centuries. That the *British Columbia Boys Choir* is by definition restricted by young tenors and basses is, to put it mildly, non-traditional. These implications, especially regarding new choral work tailored for the ensemble, will be covered in an article next issue.

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, and offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music. Since opening in 2010, over 120,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 1,800,000. Overseen by The Chilliwack Arts and Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City of Chilliwack, other partners in the project include The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and The Chilliwack Players Guild.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre

- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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