

December 17, 2013

Dear friends,

Capella Regalis is now in its fourth complete season. The men and boys continue to sing some of the most powerful music of the last 1,000 years in our weekly Evensongs at the University of King's College Chapel. Thanks to our Assistant Director, Nick Veltmeyer, the junior programme is up and running, giving our newest choristers a chance to prepare themselves for the big time. The transportation programme is in full swing, providing rides to those boys who would not otherwise have access to this experience. Our individual tutoring programme, led by Henk Fisher, provides extra help with reading and sight-reading to our younger choristers. We began the term with another truly memorable Choir Camp, Benjamin Britten's *Saint Nicolas* was a smash hit, and the rest of the 2013-2014 season of concerts, both in Halifax and away, gives us plenty to work on, and much to be excited about (the website tells all: capellaregalis.com). So the Capella Regalis routine, always a dream of mine, continues to do its job.



I'd like to introduce you to Ryley. I met Ryley three years ago, when his teacher shepherded him into an audition for Capella Regalis taking place at his school in Halifax's north end. He had never sung in a choir, heard Latin, or been taught to read music. After the audition, however, Rylee was interested enough in the opportunity that he asked me to come meet his father to see if he could join the choir. When I described the programme to his father, he seemed intrigued but skeptical about the worthiness of the endeavour for Ryley at that time. Ryley was determined, however, so he joined the choir and has stuck with it through the inevitable ups and downs.

I think it is safe to say that neither Ryley nor his father expected that singing in a choir would become such a big part of Ryley's life. Over the past three years, Ryley has discovered that music is a great passion of his – one that brings joy, encouragement, and nourishment - and he has become devoted to it. He is supported in this new-found passion by his father and grandfather, who attend all of our concerts. Ryley is now focused and determined in rehearsals, services, and concerts. He enjoys turning pages for Paul at the organ. He came on his first tour with the choir in May, and he was promoted from "junior chorister" to "regular chorister" soon after. It has been wonderful to watch Ryley catch the music bug, which I am certain will stay with him throughout his life.

It is your support that makes it possible for boys like Ryley to excel in Capella Regalis. Please consider making a gift to Capella Regalis. You can do so by returning a cheque with the postage-paid reply card enclosed with this letter. Cheques should be made payable to Musique Royale with Capella Regalis in the memo line. A charitable donation receipt will be issued. Thank you - your support makes all the difference.

Nick Halley
Artistic Director