



CAPELLA REGALIS

6350 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2A1

MEN AND BOYS CHOIR

www.capellaregalis.com

November 19, 2018

Dear Friend,

Meet Gabriel O'Brien. Last spring, when our wonderful assistant director, Dominique Saulnier, said a tearful goodbye and headed off to Germany to continue her musical studies, Gabriel took over as director of the Capella Regalis Probationers' Programme and assistant to me with the senior choristers. This is a significant milestone in Capella Regalis history: Gabriel joined Capella Regalis at its very inception. He was just 8 years old, singing soprano in a fledgling, totally unknown men and boys choir that I had just started in Halifax.

Two years ago I wrote to you about CR's new batch of "Young Men" – the first generation of lads who made the difficult transition through voice change to join the men's section as altos, tenors, and basses. Gabriel is one of those guys and he still sings bass in the choir, but when I'm away he runs rehearsals for me. We have come full circle. The mentored have become the mentors.

Gabriel the boy soprano (photo 2013)



Gabriel the Probationers' Director (photo 2018)

In his new role, Gabriel is the first mentor that a Capella Regalis rookie encounters when he enters the quad of King's College campus and begins his journey as a CR chorister. And what a role model. Gabriel is fast becoming a fine organist and his skills as a choir director will get honed and sharpened quickly in his work not only with CR, but as the youngest member of the King's Chapel Choir as well as the King's Chorus (both groups that he joined this year) and as the Sunday morning organist for the King's Chapel. But Gabriel is an all-round musician: when he is not working on his keyboard chops, he's playing guitar, violin, or, more recently, the banjo. Somewhere in the midst of all this he is attending his last year of high school.

Gabriel's having reached an apprenticeship stage is precisely what we hope for in Capella Regalis. The mentorship processes that are inherent to the system – boys, to young men, to men, receiving their training not only from their director and our fabulous vocal coach (Janelle Lucyk), but from the older, more experienced members of the choir – will continue to produce the Gabriels of the future, with your continued support and increased funding for Capella Regalis.

We are grateful for your support, which brings this unique musical education into the lives of so many young boys who would otherwise never have encountered it. Please consider continuing your support of Capella Regalis this season. Enclosed you will find a card with instructions on how to make a donation.

Yours,

Nick Halley, *Artistic Director*