



CAPELLA REGALIS

6350 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2A1

MEN AND BOYS CHOIR

www.capellaregalis.com

July 20, 2017

Dear Friends,

It has been well nigh one year since you've heard from us. This is not for lack of desire on our part to be in touch with you, to let you know what Capella Regalis has been up to and to ask for your continued support. It is simply the case that we have had a wonderfully busy year! It has been marvelous, but now it's high time that I ask for your support toward the coming season.

In my letter to the audience in our June tour programme, I talked about the importance of learning to listen, as a life skill. I was thinking about this on the way home from a rehearsal back around Christmastime: Why do I believe so strongly that a men and boys choir offers something unique in the world of education? Why do I believe that in the hour and fifteen minutes we spend learning music twice each week, we learn so much more than notes? I think it has to do with this great skill called listening.

In any given rehearsal, the boys are called upon to listen in a way that is unique to choral activity and rare in our present age. They have to listen to themselves to be sure they've got the notes and are making the most beautiful sound possible; they must listen to each other and the men behind them to sing in tune, with proper phrasing and diction and blend, and emulate what the more experienced singers are doing; and they have to listen to me to keep up with the flow of the rehearsal (as they are so often reminded, half of singing in a good choir is simply keeping the focus). This is heightened listening. The choristers are sharpening their listening skills over and over again, at every moment, lest they miss something of great import. I know this is something most of us have to *learn*, because I've had to.

Having just wrapped up the 2016-17 season with our fifth tour and our second recording, my memory takes me back to all of our previous tours, and to our first-ever recording in 2014. We have toured Nova Scotia from tip to tip, Yarmouth to Glace Bay, and this June we made our first out-of-province excursion with a series of concerts across Prince Edward Island. When we recorded our debut CD only three years ago, three of our current basses were sopranos! And so, at the end of our PEI tour in June, we went back into the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax to lay down the tracks for our second-ever Capella Regalis recording. It is a selection of favourites from this year's tour programme. We now have the tracks in the can but we still need to edit, mix, master, and produce the actual CDs over the course of the summer and early fall, a project for which we are currently raising funds with an online 'Indiegogo' campaign: <https://www.igg.me/at/capellaregalis-secondCD>



Indian River Festival, PEI (June 2017)

Of course, there are many other features of our annual season that call out for funding as well: Our annual Choir Camp (five days of music and summer activities in the Nova Scotia backwoods at the end of August); our recent addition to our weekly rehearsals of individual vocal coachings for our Senior Choir choristers; our offering of Choral Evensong services in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, the University of King's College Chapel, and visits to other parishes throughout the year; recruitment efforts to bring new choristers into the fold through our once-weekly Probationers Programme, the training ground for the Senior Choir; the ongoing provision of cassocks and surplices, sheet music, folders, tuning forks, and other supplies for the choristers; our annual tour; special outreach activities such as visits to schools; and so on. If there is a particular activity that you would like your donation to support, please list it on the enclosed Reply Card.

All Capella Regalis programming is possible only with the support of individual donors. We can give our young choristers these experiences only if we have raised enough funding to do so. I hope you will consider making a donation to Capella Regalis. Your encouragement does not fall on deaf ears and your generosity will have manifest benefits in the lives of our choristers and, we hope, our culture for years to come.

Yours,

Nick Halley, Founder & Artistic Director