

Date: April 11, 2011

**Subject: Lady Cove Women's Choir awards bursary to local student with interest in traditional music**

On Saturday, April 9, during its sold-out *Come and I Will Sing You* concert at the CLB Armoury in St. Johns, Lady Cove Women's Choir awarded the fourth annual Lady Cove Women's Choir \$1000 Bursary.

This year's recipient is Julia Bowdring a third-year student at Memorial University's School of Music who is studying piano with Dr. Maureen Volk.

The Lady Cove Bursary Award is given annually to a developing musician from Newfoundland and Labrador in support of his/her musical education or performance activity and is part of the choir's mentorship initiatives.

"When I learned that I was this year's winner of the Lady Cove Women's Choir Bursary I was absolutely thrilled, shocked and overjoyed, and could hardly speak!" Ms. Bowdring said. "I am so thankful to the Lady Cove Women's Choir for giving me the opportunity to travel to Ireland to learn not only some new music, but about the importance of being a tradition bearer."

In making the Bursary presentation, Board of Directors Chair Donna Ball noted that the Bursary Committee always has a difficult task choosing only one recipient since they receive so many strong applications each year from all over the province. "What tipped the decision in Julia's favour was how enthusiastically she described her love of traditional music, and how she shares that passion with young children through teaching them fiddling."

"Winning this bursary means that I will be able to develop as a traditional musician," Ms. Bowdring said. "As one of the few young traditional fiddlers in this province, I feel it is crucial for me to continue to develop my practice and performance skills."

Ms. Bowdring noted that she'll be using the money to travel to the University of Limerick, in Ireland, to attend the Blas International Summer School of Irish Traditional Music and Dance. The Blas program is famous for its world-class tutors, and she'll also have the opportunity to learn about various performance practices and techniques common in traditional music. "I will develop my technique, and my repertoire, which I hope to pass along to my fiddle students and my friends," she explained. "The Blas program will help me understand what it means to be a traditional musician in this day and age. This bursary will assist me in attending this program, and help me continue the tradition of fiddle music in this province."

Ms. Ball also announced that the Penney Group, a Newfoundland and Labrador-based business, has committed to funding the Lady Cove Bursary for the next five years. "We are sincerely grateful to the Penney Group for believing in Lady Cove Choir, and believing in our goal of supporting youth from our province in their pursuit of musical excellence," she said.

### **About Julia Bowdring**

Julia Bowdring is a 20-year-old musician from St. John's, Newfoundland. She is actively involved in the music scene of St. John's as a pianist, violinist and fiddler. She has played piano since she was five years old, violin since she was seven, and discovered her love for traditional music at the age of eleven. She was in the STEP Fiddlers for many years, and is now an alumna and teacher of the younger students. She is a former member of the Celtic Fiddlers and Cúnla. Julia has just formed a new traditional group called Waiting for Thursday. She is the fiddler and keyboard player for the popular folk-rock band At Ship's End, who are currently recording their first full-length album. Julia has played in the United States, England, the Isle of Man, Ireland and Canada. She was the Concert Master of the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra for three years, and is now in the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra. Julia is in her third year at Memorial University of Newfoundland, studying piano performance under the tutelage of Dr. Maureen Volk.

### **About Lady Cove Women's Choir**

Lady Cove Women's Choir is named after the community of Lady Cove in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador. Based in St. John's, the Choir of over 50 female voices was established by Kellie Walsh in September 2003 and has become one of Canada's most celebrated choirs. It is one of only twenty-five choirs from around the world to be selected to perform at the *9th World Symposium on Choral Music* in Argentina in August 2011. It has placed first in all competitions it has entered in the past five years, including CBC Radio's Competition for Amateur Choirs in the Contemporary Music category and the Bela Bartok New Music Competition in Debrecen, Hungary. Karen Kain, one of Canada's leading classical ballerinas in the world, is Lady Cove's honorary patron.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact Nicole Dawe, Choir Administrator, Lady Cove, (709) 725-4758 or by e-mail at [contact@ladycove.ca](mailto:contact@ladycove.ca)