



NEWS RELEASE

Edge Island Festival launched: the next stage in choral ingenuity in Newfoundland and Labrador

St. John's – February 20, 2014 – Newfoundland and Labrador choral artists have joined to present a 'festival with a twist' in the province's capital next month. Seen by many as advanced choral practitioners, Lady Cove Women's Choir, Newman Sound Men's Choir, Shallaway-Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus, and Innismara Vocal Ensemble have fused their talents to create *Edge Island Festival of Choirs & Composers*. The innovation on traditional choral traditions will highlight composers and choirs by demonstrating their true value to the communities in which we live.

"Community engagement is an underlying objective for *Edge Island Festival*. We want to excite fellow citizens about the potential which arises from partnerships with choirs," said Kellie Walsh, *Edge Island Festival* organizer. "When people, passion and musicianship converge, humanity reaps the benefits." Walsh said the festival will promote, encourage, support, and inspire the creation of new choral art.

What makes Edge Island Festival unique as compared to other choral festivals is the combination of young and mature musicians, celebration of original compositions focusing on the culture of our place, and community engagement. The March 17-22 festival agenda is robust and characterized by a series of workshops with children and composition students at Memorial University, a pub night at The Crow's Nest on March 19th, and exciting community conducting at public locations in the St. John's area. The event concludes with a gala concert on March 22 at Cochrane Street United Church.

Headlining the event are guest composers:

- Stephen Chatman (Juno winner, one of Canada's most celebrated composers, and head of composition at the University of British Columbia);
- Kathleen Allan (Canadian composer currently finishing a Master's of Music at Yale University); and
- Jason Noble (Canadian composer currently working on a Doctor in Musical Arts in composition at McGill University's Schulich School of Music).

"On this, the most easterly point in North America, where rugged coastlines meet our bountiful ocean, Edge Island Festival will stir your souls and give you a reason to celebrate this place we call home," said Jennifer Babstock, chorister and Festival organizer.

"With the addition of the very talented Fergus O'Byrne as host of our pub night, the MUN School of Music, and so many others who have helped us bring this festival of choirs, composers and community together, participants and concert-goers can expect fun all around", notes Jennifer Hart, Artistic Director of Newman Sound.

This project is being made possible by the generous assistance of the Province's new Bruneau Centre for Excellence in Choral Music.

For more information or to set up an interview please contact:

Lori Shortall, Administrator Lady Cove Women's Choir
Kellie Walsh, Artistic Director, Lady Cove Women's Choir
Phone: 709-725-4758
Email: contact@ladycove.ca

www.ladycove.ca

www.newmansound.ca

www.shallaway.ca

www.innismara.ca

"Creation of art will often carry us to worlds that never were. Without it, we go nowhere." Carl Sagan