

Subject: Lady Cove Women's Choir to perform on May 8, 2010; choir to collaborate with noted percussionists

Date: April 23, 2010

On May 8, 2010, Lady Cove Women's Choir will present *RhythmSong*, a unique performance, featuring repertoire for women's choir and percussion. The group will collaborate with well known St. John's percussionists Bill Brennan and Rob Power, and internationally-acclaimed Toronto percussionist, Beverley Johnston. The collaboration is the first of its kind for the choral community in Newfoundland and Labrador and will include the world premiere of Canadian composer James Rolfe's work for marimba and treble voices, *Lullaby*. Serving as host for this exciting musical evening will be CBC's Angela Antle.

Lady Cove is presenting this concert with financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts Professional Choir Program. This marks another first for the local choral community. Lady Cove is the first choir in Newfoundland and Labrador to receive funding from this prestigious program. Russell Kelley, head of the Canada Council's music section, will attend the concert to bring greetings and acknowledge this momentous occasion. The choir also received a commissioning grant from the Canada Council for Rolfe's piece, who will be attending the event.

"The St. John's percussion community is a vibrant and creative force in the musical culture of Newfoundland and Labrador" notes Bill Brennan who goes on to say "In the past 30 years, international performers and teachers such as the late Don Wherry and late John Wyre made St. John's their home, building a tradition of excellence in percussion performance in the province. This legacy has inspired collaborations with musicians on the local, national, and international scene, and has been the basis of several successful ensembles, including the Scruncheons, Fusion, The Black Auks, and Spanner. The local community is highly supportive of these activities, as evidenced in the success of such events as Newfoundland's internationally renowned new music festival, Sound Symposium."

Besides the work written for women's choir and percussion, the musical content of this collaboration will include pieces heavily influenced by the world of percussion music, such as the Bulgarian work *Ergen Deda* and a work written for Lady Cove by former Nexus percussionist, the late John Wyre. James Rolfe's *Lullaby*, a work for women's voices and marimba is based on the poetry of Amanda Jernigan. Our host Angela's painting "Upon the Shore, the Season Pans For Light", was also based on Jernigan's *Lullaby* and will be featured at the May 8th concert.

Artistic Director, Kellie Walsh believes this collaboration between Lady Cove Women's Choir and three of the country's finest percussionists will not only establish new repertoire for women's voices, but will also promote rarely performed works, and provide a brand new experience for both the choir and the choral community of Newfoundland and Labrador. The concert takes place at Cochrane Street United Church at 8 PM. Tickets are available from C'est Moi, Auntie Crae's or using Visa by telephoning (709) 726-4443.

Lady Cove acknowledges both the Canada Council for the Arts and The City of St. John's for their generous financial support towards this innovative event.

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 40 voices was established by Kellie Walsh in September, 2003. In 2008 the Choir won first place in the CBC Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs in the Contemporary Music category and then took first place at the 2008 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. In 2011 Lady Cove has been invited as the only Canadian choir to perform at the World Symposium of Choral Music being held in Argentina.

-30-

For more information, please contact Nicole Dawe, Choir Administrator, Lady Cove, (709) 687-7460