

CONSORTIUM NEWS - November 2012



Dear Elizabeth,

Welcome to the mid-season edition of Consortium News. Since our last newsletter so much has happened we can only present a portion of what has been going on. We invite you to take your time and read the articles that are of interest to you.



Gwyn Hughes - Reader

Dylan Thomas Delights!

You will love hearing Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales* at our concert on Saturday December 1st! It is a beautifully nostalgic recollection of Christmas seasons past as seen through the eyes of a young child. I first heard this story when read to my class in Toronto by my grade four teacher, a Welshman who sounded exactly like Dylan Thomas, and it has stayed with ever since, remaining part of my annual Christmas tradition!

This is an ideal concert for children! All the magic of Christmas will be there. The St. Paul's church sanctuary will already be decked out for the festive season, with the sparkling lights of the Christmas trees providing a cosy holiday atmosphere. Gwyn Hughes, who was himself born in Wales, will read, with lovely carols in between the sections of the story.

Soprano Susan Korstanje and the local professional vocal quartet To•ne will share in the music-making with Merrie Klazek and Elizabeth Ganiatsos, who will contribute the festive sounds of trumpet and organ. It's happening this Saturday, December 1, 8 p.m., St. Paul's United Church, and we wouldn't want you to miss it! See our ad at the bottom of this newsletter



To•ne Left to right: Nancy Berglund, Susan Korstanje, Daniel Bartholomew Poyser, Don Nixon.

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Artistic Director Honoured

Elizabeth Ganiatsos, Artistic Director of Consortium Aurora Borealis, has been recently elected to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of all her hard work and dedication to her community and to this country. The medal was designed to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne.

Ganiatsos was nominated by friends or colleagues and was chosen by a jury of members of the Order of Canada, all of whom believe that her contribution deserves to be marked by this special honour.

The medal will be presented to her at a special awards ceremony in Toronto on Sunday, December 9th, 2012, and although Ganiatsos is being honoured in her home riding of St. Paul's in Toronto, the medal acknowledges her contribution to the cultural life of the City of Thunder Bay.

The Board of Consortium Aurora Borealis is deeply gratified that Elizabeth Ganiatsos, its Artistic Director, has been honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contribution to the cultural life of our city.

It is particularly exciting that the recognition is being granted in the riding of St. Paul's, Toronto, where the competition is very keen. We are pleased that Consortium and the music community of Thunder Bay will have a share in the distinction that she has earned, and are delighted to congratulate Elizabeth with all our hearts.

Elizabeth's response:

I am indeed thrilled to have received this tremendous honour. I am very humbled that I was chosen by the jurors, and that I was even nominated in the first place! A thousand thanks to all of you for your support and enthusiasm for what Consortium Aurora Borealis has brought to our community over the many years. You are the reason that I have been able to pour my heart and soul into keeping the music alive!

Gratefully,

Elizabeth

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 from 8:00 to 8:40 p.m. at Superior C & VI 333 N. High Street, Thunder Bay. It will be held in Seminar Room #1015 on the main floor, to the left of the main entrance. This public meeting is open to supporters and friends of Consortium Aurora Borealis. Donors who have contributed \$50 or more are eligible to vote. We would encourage you to come out for this brief but important meeting.

We are especially looking for people who would be interested in serving on our Board, as we move forward towards our exciting 35th Anniversary milestone! This is a great opportunity to get more involved with a non-profit charitable organization that is making its mark and is financially responsible.

Tricia Baldwin Visits Consortium

We are thrilled to announce that Consortium was a recent recipient of an Ontario Arts Council Compass Grant towards the creation of a strategic plan for audience development, board development and revenue generation, with specialist Tricia Baldwin, the dynamic Managing Director of Tafelmusik, Toronto's Baroque Orchestra, as our consultant. We are excited about the possibilities for growth!

Tafelmusik and Consortium are both looking forward to their 35th Anniversary Season next year, we both have a passionate and dedicated following, and we both perform music of the same eras, the Baroque and beyond, including chamber music. We often play similar repertoire, and use a historic approach. We both have a commitment to educate as well as to entertain, seeking to communicate with enthusiasm and joy. Given these similarities between our organizations, it was clear that Tricia Baldwin would be the perfect choice as a consultant, and we are very pleased that she accepted our invitation. She turned out to be an absolute treasure!



Tricia flew up in time to attend our Dazzling Doubles concert. She received a friendly Thunder Bay welcome, and told us that she had the same kind of nice warm feeling at our concert that she has at Tafelmusik! She was eager to meet and greet all the musicians afterwards, and commended them on their fine job.

Twelve hours of organizational development brainstorming sessions followed during the next two days. We were given an incredible number of fantastic ideas and strategies, which we now have to develop and tie into an action plan. As we move forward we will focus on interesting new initiatives for our 35th Anniversary and beyond. Tricia Baldwin has given us great inspiration, energy and focus, and an excellent foundation on which we can build.

Tricia wrote afterwards to say: "Thank you for the great weekend together and the very wonderful concert! It was great to see how much your audience loves you, and the respect for the musicianship is very evident! You have a great group of people at the Consortium, and I can see firsthand why it has thrived for almost 35 years. Bravo!" Her words make us feel very proud, and we thank you, our audience, for being all that you are to us!

Dazzling Doubles

Our recent "Dazzling Doubles" concert joyously celebrated the vibrant music of the Italian Baroque, with vivacious concertos for two trumpets, two oboes and two cellos by Vivaldi, Albinoni and others.

It was exciting to hear our own local soloists shining brilliantly, supported by our ever-faithful



Special Moments.

core group of strings and harpsichord. The delight and satisfaction that all the musicians experienced during the performance was very evident in their faces. Their enthusiasm was reflected in the warm response of the audience, which numbered slightly over 200 despite the ice pellets and freezing rain that had hit the city during the afternoon! We include two photographs from the concert that capture moments of pride and happiness.

Trumpeter Frédéric Payant demonstrated his newly-acquired Baroque trumpet, the instrument for which our music was originally written. Unlike the modern trumpet, it has no valves, is a different shape, and is very challenging to play! Later, as a surprise, Frédéric popped out from the green room to blow an improvised fanfare on it, very effectively signalling the end of intermission!

Heartfelt thanks to the Institute of Italian Studies, Lakehead University, with which we have recently formed a significant partnership, for sponsoring this memorable concert!



Standing Ovation - final bows!

2012 Tax Year Nears Its End!

We pass on to you a gentle reminder that the 2012 tax year has almost drawn to a close, so now is the perfect time to consider helping Consortium to keep the music alive by becoming a donor, or by renewing your patronage.

Our very reasonable admission only pays for a fraction of our costs! At the moment, the average cost per concert is over \$7,000, but that figure is rising as we meet with greater expenses, in our effort to bring you the best in chamber music from the Baroque and Beyond! As with countless arts organizations, we are affected by the climate of the economy, and more than ever need and appreciate your support! We have some exciting plans for our musical season, but we can only implement them through the kind assistance of donors like you! Thank you so very much for your loyalty!

Please make your cheque payable to "Consortium Aurora Borealis", and join us in celebrating over 34 years of magnificent music-making! You may mail your donation to us, or for your added convenience, you may bring it in person to our concert on Saturday December 1 at St. Paul's United. Our Treasurer, Rosanne Rambaldini, will be happy to accept it, and will verify your mailing address for income tax receipt purposes. You will be acknowledged on our concert programmes in the appropriate patron category for one full year. Thanks from all of us at Consortium Aurora Borealis, including Artistic Director, President, Board members and, lest we forget, from our invaluable musicians!

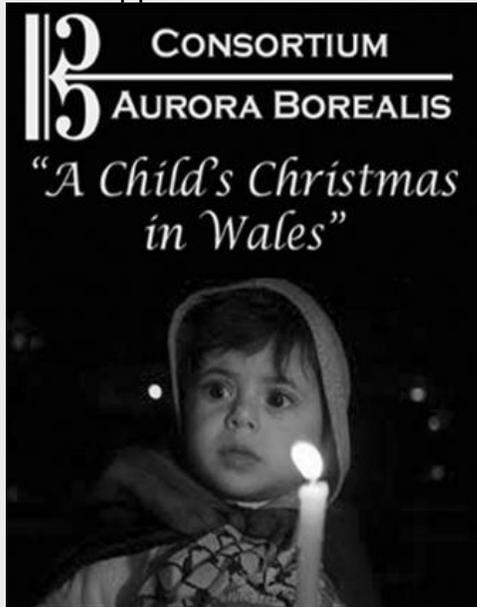
Our mailing address is:
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We're on Facebook!

Come visit us on Facebook, "like" our page and you will receive the latest news and comments about all things Consortium. [Facebook Page](#)

Our Newspaper ad!

We have been working hard at getting the most for our advertising dollar. Promotion is our next largest expense after hiring musicians. Versions of this ad will appear in the Chronicle Journal and online at LakeSuperiorNews.com



Saturday December 1, 8:00 p.m.
St. Paul's United Church
349 Waverley Street
Singers, organ and more!

Christmas Carols & Readings

Merrie Klazek - trumpet
Susan Korstanje - soprano
Gwyn Hughes - reader
To•ne Vocal Quartet

\$15 adult \$10 senior/student
Admission at the door
Pre-concert talk 7:30 p.m.

The Chronicle Journal
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE REGION



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