



News From Friday Nights

Well gentlemen, it's nice to be back as a new old guy with the Burlington Welsh Male Choir. This is my first attempt to write something for the choir. I agreed months ago, along with **Rod Green**, to publish a quarterly newsletter for the choir and several times since then **David Rock**, the newest member of the Executive Committee, and **Rod Green** have been asking me if I've done anything or if we should meet to discuss the newsletter. My answer was always the same; "It's hard to write something about the choir when we're not privy to any of the information discussed at the committee meetings." Don't get me wrong, I have to admit I feel the committee under **Huw Jones** is doing a very good job running the business of the choir but it seems information is only shared on a need to know basis, and I guess we don't need to know too much because, we or at least I, haven't been told too much. Nothing more than the rest of the choir hears at rehearsals every Friday night. Repeating that news in a newsletter would seem to be redundant.

My first quandary was to name this initial edition of the BWMC news. I tried thinking of a catchy term, like *Quarter Notes* or maybe *Welsh Dragon*, *Ich Dien*, *Cymru*, or *Cor Meibion* or something other than *BWMC News* but so far I've settled with the mundane *News From Friday Nights*. This is where everyone comes in. This is your choir and you should have input into the naming of our quarterly newsletter. If this introductory editorial doesn't ruffle too many feathers, I may be permitted to carry on regardless of the name. Send me any suggestions of newsletter names or items you want included in this forum. Articles, suggestions, criticisms and photos are always welcomed.

I'd like to report on some things that might not be general knowledge and please forgive me if I keep referring to my time as a member of the Canadian Orpheus Male Choir, where, as the secretary, I announced every birthday of our members and occasionally other significant milestones like anniversaries. As secretary I would also type up minutes of the monthly meetings and have them disseminated to those with e-mail within a day after the meeting and post them on the board at the rehearsal the following Monday. The business of the choir was very transparent, current and everyone knew exactly what was being discussed and voted on. I have yet to see any minutes of any BWMC meeting, again I assume it is deemed to be a need to know basis and I guess we really don't need to know all the details. Communication is the key to success in any organization. This is meant to be constructive criticism and not intended as an attack on the practices of the Executive Committee. These are my observations and opinions and not necessarily those of others in the choir.

For example I asked for the artwork of our, and I stress "our" logo, because everyone in the choir can claim ownership if we are current members in good standing, and it was almost akin to asking for the royal seal. I had to qualify my answer to get it. Thankfully my answer qualified and I was given the royal seal, I mean the BWMC logo.

Now you may ask why I needed the logo, well I have been working on a display board that we can have at our concerts or use as advertising in many locations to promote the choir. I don't know if it has been discussed at the committee meetings yet but I have conveyed my thoughts to **Huw Jones** and **David Rock** regarding this project and what I hope to produce will require portrait type photos of every member in uniform. This will serve many purposes. It will improve the camaraderie of the choir so I, as a member in the bass, will get to know the names of everyone else in the choir and likewise for members in all the sections. It will also personalize and introduce the choir to our audiences. You can see in the photo what I've done so far. The board is 4' x 4' and folds in half for easy transportation.



This board will complement the effort that **Craig Howells** puts into the official www.burlingtonwelsh.com website. The entire website is very useful especially to members who wish to listen to any of our repertoire in the members only section. In fact, once we get all the photos of our members, they too could be added to the website further enhancing our image within the community, but that is not my decision to make.

This year has been a year of renewal and real progress. The addition of **Larisa Gulenco** as our accompanist complements our professional staff and I'm sure **Janice Beninger (surname will change)** is very pleased with her support.

Together they have successfully managed to introduce several new songs to the choir repertoire, including *Adiemus*, *Blaenwern*, *Day Tripper*, *If We Only Have Love*, *Mae D'Eisiau Di*, *Non Nobis Domine*, and *Viva La Quince Brigada* to name a few of our recent additions. Rehearsals have been challenging yet fulfilling when our voices come together in a song. Members should really try to make every effort to attend all rehearsals because much is learned every night. The same can be said of our concerts. With over 70 members in our choir, it is disappointing if only 66% attend concerts. Our members, **Janice** and **Larisa** and especially the audience deserve a better commitment.

We were also honoured when internationally renowned Canadian tenor **Michael Schade** agreed to join the choir as another patron. When I told **Lincoln Alexander** that **Michael** had accepted the honorary title he was very impressed and complimented the choir on this achievement. This will undoubtedly prove to be very rewarding in the future. We are indeed honoured to include both of these gentlemen as our patrons. We're hopeful they will attend our annual concert in March next year.

Speaking of concerts...the recent back-to-back concerts with the Boston Saengerfest Choir were very well received and resulted in an invitation to return the favour and visit Boston in the future. That, along with the possibility of joining choirs from around the world in London in 2012 for a massed Olympic choir event similar to the Royal Albert Hall concert, should keep us motivated and keen to attend rehearsals in preparation for these exciting tours.

The choir uniform is being changed and I hear it is going to give us an entirely new appearance. The black jacket, black shirt and black tie with the red BWMC logo will be unique when paired with the lighter slacks (described to me as being olive"). I congratulate the committee for thinking outside the box and breaking with the traditional blue blazer and grey slacks. I look forward to proudly donning my new uniform and watching as the audience recognizes the improvements we have made, musically and visually. This exemplifies progress and renewal.

I would be remiss if I did not extend, on behalf of the entire BWMC family, our congratulations and best wishes to Janice and Simon on the occasion of their nuptials on November 1st.

Lastly, with the impending flu season and the threat of spreading the potentially fatal H1N1 virus, as much as we all want to greet each other with handshakes each time we meet, can I suggest we create another form of greeting to eliminate the spread of this disease and thereby keep everyone healthier? I'd be happy with a nod as an acknowledgement of friendship.

Submitted by **Rick Rozoski**, ipds@quickclie.net