

AN OPEN LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I apologize for the length of this letter; but once I acknowledged one person, and then the next, it took on a life of its own.

Bear with me folks, but this session has been such a high in my life, I would like to acknowledge all of the many warm and helpful members of the choir for their ongoing support throughout this incredible session of "When I Sing",

Your great smiles and helping hands have been like huge hugs.

I came back to the choir to listen to the last concert, "How We Love". Beth Chapman's composition has so much meaning in my life, as I am sure that it has in many of your lives. My physical body wasn't ready to return to choir, but my spirit rebounded upon seeing so many smiling faces during the break, and receiving a warm hug from Caroline, who smiled and said, "We've missed you! When are you coming back?" Being the WEED that my Aunt always lovingly called me, my determination to return to choir now POPPED up, like the Dandelion that I am. "Why not now? You know how much you enjoy singing. "It's been a challenging, life-changing experience PERFECTIONISM is a SLOW DEATH, therefore, avoiding this grim family trait, I have had some of the best blessings one could ever hope for since returning to choir.

I was active in attending events like Earth Day and meeting a phenomenal singer, Ann Mortifee, who is also an environmentalist and patient woman who waited forty years to marry her husband! I also hassled Handi-Dart for a ride to the B.C. Legislative Buildings to sing and witness our very own co-conductors, Shvon and Denis receive the honour of accepting the World Harmony Run International Torch-Bearer Award. Never, before joining the Gettinhigher choir, had I been in these buildings in the 26 years I have lived in Victoria.

Another blessing and privilege was actively attending and singing for the First Nations People during their Truth and Reconciliation event on Friday, the thirteenth of April. What a powerful night. And, just recently meeting up with Deborah Millar again, a fantastic person and voice coach, and having the prized moment of saying good bye to her for now.

I would have missed all of these happy and momentous occasions if I had said to myself, "I need to be in PERFECT condition before I return to choir"; and especially, if I was not welcomed by a saged choir member who asked, "When are you coming back?"

Now that I have put all of you to sleep, please wake up because I have some very special choir members to thank.. First of all, my big brother, Bill Hanson, has truly been the supportive backbone of my ability to attend every choir rehearsal and most of the SWAT events. He's not just a pretty face, he's an individual who is quietly on the sidelines, always ready and willing to lend a hand up.

Then there is Gloria who reminded me about that grim trait of PERFECTION, and how it's O.K. to not know all the words to MOZAMBIQUE the first time around, and that it's O.K. to miss the Grandmother SWAT. She's always the nurturing soul.

My thanks to the choir members, Cindy, Judith, Ian, and my contingency guy Bill for volunteering their time from their own busy schedules to make sure that "Dorothy gets to choir". Thanks too to Trish who offered to drive me home after the June 8th concert night, Thank you also Pat for being my extra fingers in putting my small song book together. All of you have been so considerate in things like helping me with my coat to handling my walker. It's been great to be

pampered; I don't get that type of care where I live.

I can have the most tedious day all day MONDAY, but come the evening and I arrive at choir practice the unwanted challenges of the day dissolve away like a miracle. I genuinely meant it when I said to a young doctor at the hospital recently, "I don't need your anti-depressants and I'm not staying here over night, I'm going to the Gettinhigherchoir practice where I get a good dose of natural anti-depressants. The atmosphere at choir is a happy place, full of fun when Denis stands on his tippy toes and wiggles his fingers, signally us to reach for the higher notes..

And finally, thank you. Shvon, for your vast amounts of energy and contagious scenery that you create in your smiling animated manner.

Thanks to all you, It's been a great kick at the can. Seriously though, I believe that the Universe had a huge hand in helping me to fully participate in this wonderful session.

Bless you,

Dorothy Liptrot GHC Monday Soprano