

ENSEMBLE LAUDE CHORAL SOCIETY

959 Falmouth Road
Victoria BC V8X 3A4
Phone (250) 360 2434 or 1-888-970 5489
Fax (604) 733-3995
www.ensemblelaude.org

Press Release

Contact: Ian Bullen
Phone: 1 (888) 970 5489

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ensemble Laude Women's Choir selected for \$9500 legacy award from Arts Sustainability Victoria

VICTORIA, BC, JULY 18, 2011:

Fresh from presenting a session on 'Medieval Music for Modern Day Choirs' at the Festival 500 International Symposium in St. John's, **music director Elizabeth MacIsaac** and **board president Ian Bullen** arranged to return to Victoria early for a mysterious end-of-day meeting 'regarding a donation' from Arts Sustainability Victoria.

Arts Sustainability Victoria (ASV) was the foundation created to implement significant "arts stabilization projects" for the largest arts organizations in the region, which led to direct and matching funds totaling 2.7 million dollars distributed over a number of years to:

- Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
- Belfry Theatre
- Pacific Opera Victoria
- Victoria Conservatory of Music
- Victoria Symphony

Its mandate now finished, ASV had a surplus of funds due to prudent management during the 2009 economic downturn.

Eleven Victoria arts groups were chosen from a selection pool of over 100 arts organizations, to receive **one-time Legacy Awards of \$9500**.

Bullen and MacIsaac's jaws were the last to hit the floor that day for staff from Arts Sustainability Victoria, tasked with the pleasant all-day prospect of informing a series of unsuspecting recipients of the magnitude of their awards.

Elizabeth MacIsaac says "All small scale arts organizations struggle to maintain financial viability while realizing artistic projects on behalf of the community. To our joy and surprise, our efforts have brought this unexpected honour - a recognition of years of devotion to making the most beautiful women's choral performance experiences we can."

Ian Bullen adds that he is particularly proud of the combined efforts of the Ensemble Laude Choral Society board, singers, and volunteers who make a surprising amount of behind-the-scenes work proceed, to enable the spectacle of this group's choral performances. "Their concerts are so much more than a

sequence of choral works - a smoothly integrated arts experience would be more accurate. If you haven't had the Ensemble Laude performance experience, you should mark 3PM December 18th, 2011, on your calendar for the Fall Season's 'by-donation' concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Douglas at Broughton)."

As the only choir selected to be given a Legacy Award, he is proud of the cumulative impact of founding director Elizabeth MacIsaac's work with Ensemble Laude for over 12 years, and ASV's justification: "Your organization has demonstrated strong fiscal management and innovation, sound operating principles, as well as a high level of contribution to the community and to your arts discipline in particular."

Even the creative "donor levels" on Ensemble Laude's web site carry the medieval theme that weaves a strong thread through the choir's wide-ranging performance repertoire: donor levels range from Gryphon through Hippogriff to Unicorn.

The choir's web site is www.ensemblelaude.org

For press information please contact Ian Bullen at 1 888 970 5489 or president@ensemblelaude.org

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