



**AMABILIS
SINGERS**
Amabilis Singers
Member Report 2016

The Amabilis Singers were originally formed in 1980 as The Douglas College Community Choir. In 1989 the singers packed their bags, severed their collegial ties, and became an independent community choir. The group's West Coast roots served as inspiration for the new name. The Amabilis Fir (also known as the Pacific Silver Fir) is a species indigenous to coastal forests. The botanical name Amabilis means "lovely", which the choir was quite content to assimilate as a descriptor!

Our choir is a mixed choir of 50 to 60 members. We have performed music of all musical periods and styles, including large works such as the Requiems of Brahms and Mozart, as well as everything in between- from Bach to Gjeilo, Handel to Whitacre, Rachmaninoff to Lauridsen, from animal imitations to playing tuned glasses. Enthusiastic and eager to learn all types of music, this group of singers has always demonstrated a very special spirit of camaraderie and joie de vivre which not even the most difficult music can stifle!

Our first concert this year was titled Into the Light. The audience was invited to accompany us on a unique journey from darkness into light as we performed works such as Gjeilos's Serenity and Elder's Lullaby and other works which conveyed the peaceful beauty and splendour of the night sky and then as day follows night the arrival of dawn. The singing was accompanied by wonderful photos of space displayed on a large overhead screen.

As well as concerts we also had two day long retreats. These retreats allow us to rehearse pieces in depth and spend more time on them than a two hour rehearsal once a week allows.

We are now rehearsing for our Christmas concert Christmas at Home. This is an afternoon concert celebrating the joyful magic of the Christmas season.

More information on the Amabilis Singers can be obtained from our website:
www.Amabilissingers.org