

## Amabilis Singers Report for the 2019 AGM of the Arts Council of New Westminster

The Amabilis Singers is a mixed auditioned choir of 50 to 60 members. For the past few years we have also welcomed talented young singers as choral scholars whose choir fees are waived for the year. Our aim is to foster and promote the love of choral music, singing and performance. We also like to have fun.

We started the year with a day long retreat in January. We have two retreats a year which enable us to rehearse music in depth and spend more time than is available in our weekly rehearsals.

Ramona Luengen, our Artistic Director, continues to enlarge our musical horizons with a wide ranging and ever more challenging repertoire. Our first concert this year was *Force of Nature* in April which featured varied repertoire such as Eric Whitacre's *Cloudburst*, Eriks Esenvald's *Rivers of Light, Water* by J. Aaron McDermid and Katerina Gimon's *Fire*.

At the moment we are rehearsing for our part in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's World Premiere of the children's classic *The Polar Express* in concert at the Orpheum. The score is by two-time Academy Award and Golden Globe Award nominee Alan Siverstri. We are very much in the background but it is a new and exciting experience for us.

This year we have two Christmas concerts, the first on Friday December 13 at 8:00pm and the second on Saturday December 14 at 2:00pm. *Night of Wonder* features beautiful music, favourite carols and boisterous sing-alongs.

We are now in the process of planning for two exciting projects in 2020. The choir will be going on a three day tour to Kelowna in April and May 9 sees us celebrating our 49th anniversary with an evening of music-making with present and former members of the Amabilis family.

More information on Amabilis Singers can be obtained from our website:  
**[www.AmabilisSingers.org](http://www.AmabilisSingers.org)**