

The TCA hosts the Trelawny Male Choir

Toronto was the first stop during the 2015 Trelawny Male Choir Eastern Canada tour. The Choir acoustics test in St Olave's on Tuesday afternoon, 8th September 2015 declared the timber truss-beamed roof and soft grey stone buttressed walls ready and willing, as were the choir of eighty-one strong voices singing out, "Oh, Canada, glorious and . . ." Focus on the word GLORIOUS, because that perfectly describes the richness and power of their sound, and in fact, their whole performance Tuesday evening before an audience of 450 people, a sold-out concert.



David Hutcheon, Church Warden welcomed the audience, noted the emergency exits, thanked the fire department for their alarmingly quick attendance when the fire alarm tested itself during the afternoon practise session! David Williams read the Kernow Grand Bard's message. Choir President David Tangye, and Choir Secretary Adrian Abbott introduced the choir and the Musical Director Elaine Tangye and Accompanist Elizabeth Sidebotham. The Choristers called out the names of the eighteen individual choirs they represented from all over Cornwall.

Choir and audience sang, *Oh Canada*, and began a couple of hours of grand renditions of songs, hymns and anthems riding waves of heat and happy applause rolling out of St Olave's open windows and reverberating through the neighbourhood of Bloor and Windermere in Toronto.

Their programme spanned the ages, from modern, *The Rose*, to current, *Trelawny*, and ancient, *A Roman War Song*. The choir's talent showed well in St Olave's church, a place built for reverent celebration, when they belted out spirituals *When the Saints come Marching In*, *Ride the Chariot*, and the quieter *Where shall I Be*. Hymns, *Jesus Shall Reign* and *The Lord's Prayer*, respected the origin and tradition of choral singing. The voices of the eighty-one men touched

the hearts of all people present with *West of the Tamar*, *Hail to the Homeland*, *The White Rose*, and cheered the crowd with *Proper Job*, and *The Floral Dance*.

At the interval, the church emptied quickly to the now well dark outdoors and cooling air drifting (no wind) up from Lake Ontario. The humidity persisted, as did the festive mood of the evening winding down with a raffle of lovely prizes: of special note was a huge gold and black afghan, and twelve refreshers from Sleeman Breweries, our main sponsor.



The choir signalled the start of the second half with their most impressive processional entry; *Speed Your Journey*, the English version of *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* from Verdi's opera *Nabucco*. As is tradition for the last act, an upstanding audience joined for Trelawny, (*the Song of the Western Men*), written by Robert Hawker in 1824.

The glorious evening was coordinated by the constant work and terrific organization spearheaded by then President of the TCA Marion Stephens-Cockroft, St Olave's Church Warden, David Hutcheon, Trelawny Choir Secretary, Adrian Abbot, President of the choir David Tangye, and Musical Director Elaine Tangye. Backing them up was an army of volunteers in Cornwall and Canada organizing and promoting support for the venue.

Later in the year, members of St Olave's Church and members of the TCA came together for a post Trelawny Choir celebration. The choir's gift of a plaque with the crest of Cornwall was presented to the congregation of St Olave's to be displayed permanently in the Sanctuary.

