



"Camerata Nova just keeps getting better and better."

- Monica Hultin,

Winnipeg Early Music Society

"Camerata Nova holds a very unique position in this community (Winnipeg) where choral music is so important."

- Andrea Ratuski,
CBC Producer

Camerata Nova: Renaissance and beyond

Who We Are

- A dozen professional singers, led by Artistic Director Andrew Balfour, specializing in early and contemporary music.
- Balfour is a Cree composer and arranger, giving Camerata Nova a unique creative dimension.
- We have managed successful collaborations with other prominent arts groups, such as the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Canzona and Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers.
- Among our regular singers, we have counter-tenors, overtonists and a didgeridoo player.
- We regularly feature early music specialists, such as sackbut, cornetto, lute and organ players, that we bring in to encourage the development of early music in Winnipeg.
- Other regular collaborators include:
 - An early music string quartet of WSO players led by Claudine St-Arnauld;
 - Winnipeg Composers and performers such as Dan Wiebe, Richard Moody and Lianne Fournier;
 - Various percussionists including Daniel Roy;
 - Crystal bowl player Reinhard Jucknat.

Our Organization

- Camerata Nova is a registered corporation of Manitoba with charitable status.
- We have a 12-member Board of Directors with a full slate of managing committees.
- We have a strategic plan and manage using a three-year business plan.
- We have received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Manitoba Arts Council (MAC) and the Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC).
- We are a member of MusicNet, the Manitoba Choral Association and the Association of Choral Conductors of Canada.
- We are part of the Arts Stabilization Manitoba Performance Builder Program.

Our Achievements

- 13 years of offering our own concert series in Winnipeg
- 13 years of modest financial surpluses
- 25 new Manitoba choral works commissioned and premiered
- 3 CDs – nationally distributed by SRI, Canada's top independent classical distributor, all in their second production run due to demand, and one DVD
- 4 recordings and multiple broadcasts by CBC Radio
- Performances at the New Music Festival, the Indigenous Festival, the Agassiz Summer Chamber Music Festival, and Le Festival de la Chanson française

Camerata Nova and the Community

- Our non-traditional, sometimes informal approach to classical music has attracted a diverse audience of young people, people interested in music for wellness and people who like more general styles of music, as well as classical music lovers.
- We have a 12-year history of offering two performances of a free holiday concert in late November. Over the years, this has become a musical highlight of the season, attracting more than 1000 Manitobans annually.

Our Mission

To offer audiences an alternative musical experience by performing early and contemporary music, pushing the envelope of the classical experience through innovation in scores, sounds and spaces.

Our Ten-Year Vision

To become nationally recognized as a unique, experimental vocal group that is able to perform early music in either traditional or innovative forms and whose original contemporary music expresses the reality of life in our urban prairie/aboriginal culture.

This choir has so much heart [...] and enlivens antiquated scores with such missionary zeal that even the most die-hard, newer music lover would find it hard to resist.

- Holly Harris, Winnipeg Free Press

- We offer new bridges to the Aboriginal community. Andrew Balfour, our Artistic Director, is composing unique works with roots in both the classical and native traditions, including compositions in Cree expressing the issues faced by contemporary First Nations people.
- Andrew Balfour has an ongoing relationship with schools and school divisions in greater Winnipeg, using his classical and Aboriginal backgrounds to reach students and teach them about music. He is also an inspiring role model for Aboriginal youth.
- We have a special relationship with the Franco-Manitoban community. All our public communications are in both languages, several of our performers are bilingual and we perform regularly in St. Boniface and on French-language media.

CONCERTS OF THE 2009-2010 SEASON

Bright Day Star

November 28 at 8:00 p.m. and November 29, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.
Manitoba Hydro Place (360 Portage Avenue)

Camerata Nova teams up with the University of Manitoba's Cantata Singers to explore the beautiful acoustic in the atrium of the new Manitoba Hydro Place. Repertoire includes Renaissance music from Praetorius, Gabrieli, Bach, and Morales with glorious double chorus motet, contemporary and medieval carols and new arrangements by Andrew Balfour. There will even be a chance for some amazing sing-a-longs! Admission is free but donations are encouraged.

Medieval Inuit

March 13 at 8:00 p.m. and March 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
Église Précieux-Sang (200 Kenny Street)

Artistic Director Andrew Balfour and Inuit songwriter and folk/throat singer Madeleine Allakariallak partner to celebrate the music of the Inuit and the Europeans who first made contact with them. The concert will offer a fascinating range of elements from traditional throat singing to medieval music from Scandinavia, to contemporary songs written by Allakariallak and Scandinavian composers. The concert will also feature the premiere of Medieval Inuit, a major new sound drama by Andrew Balfour based on the theme of first arctic contacts. The soaring spirals of Église Précieux-Sang will provide a perfect setting for this haunting, innovative performance.

Venice, Vespers and Viols

June 2 and 3, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral (353 St. Mary Avenue)

Camerata Nova is proud to present another early music concert designed and conducted by Ross Brownlee featuring period instruments and styling. Joining Camerata Nova for this concert is the internationally-known Spanish baroque soprano Maria Luz Alvarez (who currently lives in Thompson, Manitoba) as well as lutenist and theorbo player Phillip Rukavina from Minneapolis and our early music string quartet of WSO players led by Claudine St-Arnauld. Repertoire will be from the glorious Italian Renaissance and Baroque periods, including composers Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Palestrina and Vecchi.

Our Strategic Goals

1. **Strengthen our operational/financial capacity** – We've come a long way, always showing fiscal responsibility, but we now want to take the next steps to have paid administrative staff, attain operating grant status with MAC and WAC, and carry out a full corporate and private fundraising program.
2. **Continue developing our national reputation** – We have a newly redesigned website; we distribute our CDs nationally and have been broadcast nationally. We have uploaded our CDs on the Web, and are working to tour in eastern and western Canada and gain invitations to prestigious national and international festivals.
3. **Continue to surprise and delight our local audiences** – We want to offer new contemporary musical experiences and authentic or arranged early music performances otherwise not available to Winnipeggers and Manitobans. In doing this, we will continue to experiment with new venues, new sounds and new instruments, as well as new and early music.

What our audience has been saying about our performances in 2008-2009:

"An absolutely magical performance that I would see over and over again."

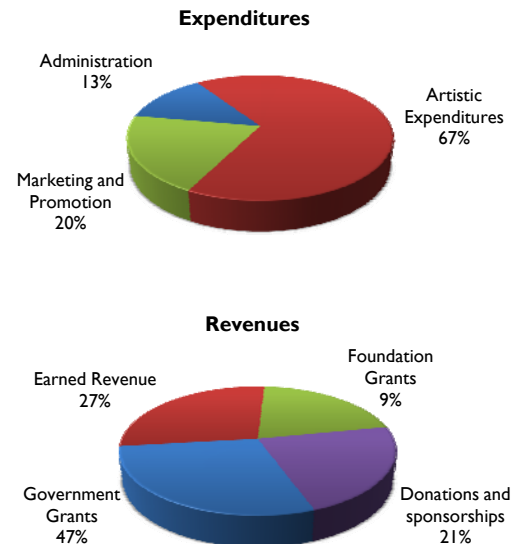
"It was truly exhilarating and a rare treat."

"One of the most entertaining and redeeming performances that I have seen in a long time."

"The choir sang so cohesively as a unit that I found it hard to tell who was singing what at any one time."

"The singing and percussion were lovely to exquisite."

Our financial profile



We were fortunate to receive financial support from several corporate and community sources in 2008-2009:

- Richardson Foundation
- Loewen Foundation
- Manitoba Hydro
- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface
- Caisse populaire de Saint-Boniface
- The UPS Store
- among others...