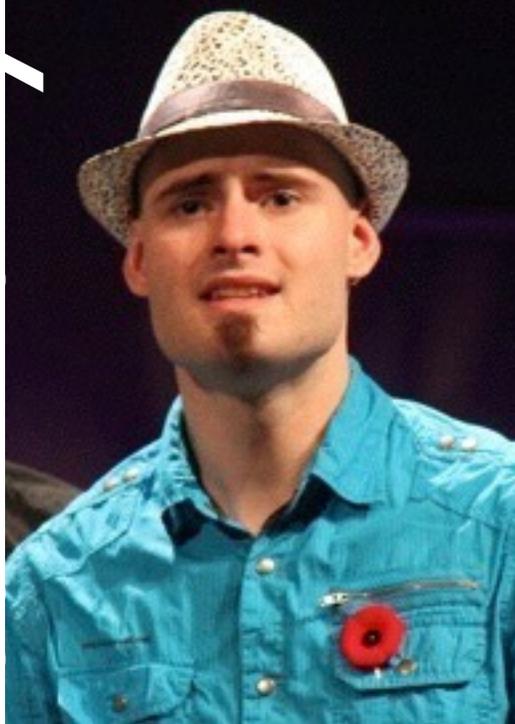


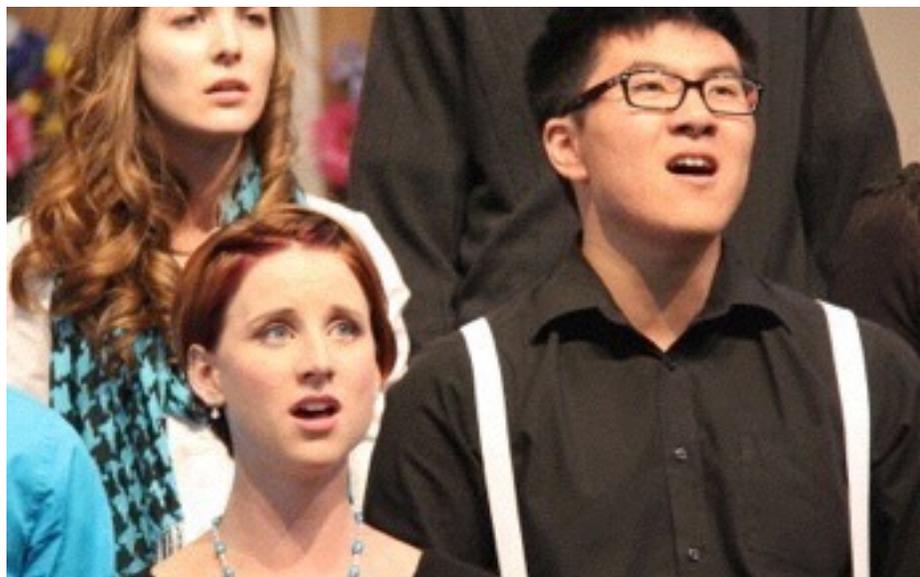
community



leadership



worldview



music



Harmony through Harmony

Annual General Report
2012-2013

www.harmonythroughharmony.com

justice

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Through **music** and the arts,
Harmony through Harmony seeks to
build **community**, expand **worldviews**,
develop **leaders** and fight for **justice**.

HtH has the following three objectives, according to our document with Corporations Canada:

Objective #1

To have a positive impact on the lives of young people through:

- Education and training in the performing arts;
- Learning together as a community about issues affecting the world today;
- The development of leadership skills; and
- The presentation of secular and religious musical concerts and tours.

To use the performing arts to inspire engagement in social change.

Objective #3 Through HtH's

presentation of musical concerts and tours, to collaborate with other organizations to raise awareness of the issues affecting the world today and to raise funds for those organizations seeking to address the possible solutions to those issues.

This report is a celebration of how these objectives are being met.

Objective #2

How has HtH had “a positive impact on the lives of young people”? (Objective #1)

Since October 2009, HtH has grown from six to 28 participants. The membership of the 2012-13 season was 17 female singers, 12 male singers, 4 leaders and 2 accompanists. This included 100% retention of our twenty-one participants from the 2011-12 season (note: one singer took a year sabbatical). This year we added 8 new singers (3 male, 5 female). Since our inception, only two participants have left the community and both departures were due to health reasons.

HtH requires a high extra-curricular time commitment from its membership. In the regular season (October to May), there were 28 regular rehearsals, a Fall Retreat Weekend, conferences in Calgary and Edmonton, and two movie nights. Members of HtH performed at 25 events. In addition were the following optional events: 2 movie nights, 3 prayer nights.

Regular rehearsals are spent in the following manner:

- 6:00 – 6:30 supper together to build community
- 6:30 – 8:00 music rehearsal- vocal skill development, choral ensemble music
- 8:00 – 8:45 discussion on world and social issues / leadership development
- 8:45 – 9:00 wrap-up

The evening ends with dessert where participants are encouraged to linger and visit. Most will hang out until 9:45 pm.



Our mission statement reads: **Through music and the arts, HtH seeks to build community, expand worldviews, develop leaders and fight for justice.** Throughout the report there are quotes from participants as the positive impact is best shared from their own stories.

At HtH, we build community. We are intentional in how we build community internally and externally, however, our primary focus this year was to build internally. We eat supper together weekly and use this time to debrief about life and connect; we rehearse and perform as both small and large ensembles; we expect each person to offer his/her strengths and talents to the operations of HtH; we encourage an attitude of ownership; we include volunteers when they seek involvement; we partner with organizations; we encourage participation in our "Learning and Serving" trip. The following paragraphs will outline in greater detail how time has been spent. Whenever we are together, we are learning how to build community.



Seeing every face and knowing that they know who you are and that they are willing to do even the smallest things for each member within HtH and not just their own specific ensembles, shows that we as a choir are strong enough in what we do to have community without

constantly being in community. We all know that we all fight for the same things everyday, and although we can't be together in person, we are all there together. We are in each other's thoughts and we are there in spirit whenever, even one of us making a difference. Community doesn't have to be in the flesh, and at HtH we really do prove that to be the truth. – Sebastian Dykstra, year 1.

This year we created a "handbook" to help new singers. The handbook was compiled by three of our participants: Jennifer Dow, Kaitlin Krell and Alanna Watton. This tool outlines expectations and includes various forms, however, it also includes key biblical passages for the year. This year's passage was Romans 12. Romans 12 has a strong message about community and how we are to live together. Throughout the year we would come back to verses in this passage and how they relate to our vision and mission statements.

While prayer has always been a central feature in HtH, additional prayer nights needed to come from an internal ground-up desire rather than a top-down imposed activity. Two of our participant leaders, Enoch Lin and Alanna Watton, led this initiative in its pilot project phase. The feedback was that these prayer nights were strong community building times and that monthly prayer nights should continue in the future.

In addition to our efforts to build community internally, we seek to build community externally whenever possible. We are gradually expanding our circle of volunteers.

We were blown away by the generosity of our two accompanists: Karin Lavoie and Karla Patzer. Both women are exceptionally talented and donated their time and talents to our community.

We were so fortunate to be invited into the host homes of Frank Benner, Ed & Sandra Bryant, Pieter & Renee De Waal, Han & Lynette Friesen, Kang, Rob & Karin Lavoie, Wade and Susan Lee, Sarah Roy, Arnie & Beth Schmidt, Keith & Corrine Vooys and Sueanne Yee. We were blessed to have Mikayla Benner, The Bryant family, Renee De Waal, Marj & Rick Erlendson, Howard & Janet McLean, Karla Patzer, Gordon Paulson, Bernadette Richardson, Sandy Stokes, Jonathan & Stacey Tweedle, Corrine Vooys cook incredible meals for us.

We are very grateful for the following volunteers for their generosity: Jennifer Airhart for graphic designs, Mitch Dow for creating a variety of systems for tracking data; John Buller, Howard McLean, and Pat Nixon for their connections and influence; Victor Martinez for accounting assistance; Cam Pearn for being our webmaster; and Jonathan Tweedle for video tech.

At HtH, we expand worldviews. ([Object 1b. "Learning together as a community about issues affecting the world today"](#).) This is primarily done through our weekly discussion times, our performances and trips.

This year our discussions were structured around book studies. Each book was chosen to deepen understanding of why we do what we do. We read and discussed the following books: [Humilitas](#) by John Dickson, [Just Courage](#) by Gary Haugen, [When Helping Hurts](#): Alleviating Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert. [Humilitas](#) expounds on the virtue of humility- its place in history, examples of humble leaders and the challenge to seek to be a humble leader. [Just Courage](#) challenges the reader to move from safe and comfortable to living a life of courage and using one's life to fight injustice. [When Helping Hurts](#) defines poverty, exposes past and current development efforts and challenges the reader to explore sustainable change through holistic poverty alleviation.

To further enrich our book studies, we were inspired by the teachings of our guest speakers Jamie McIntosh, executive director of International Justice Mission Canada, who spoke on modern day slavery; Ray Aldred, executive director of My People International, who spoke on Aboriginal Identity; Pat Nixon, executive director of Streetlevel, who spoke on homelessness; Susan Brandt, psychologist, who facilitated a Myers-Briggs testing and workshop; and Larry Nickel, composer, who led a choral workshop on his pieces "Earth Waits for Me" trilogy. Each of these guest speakers are respected leaders in their field and humble Christians in their character.

community



This year, I felt the need and calling for a deeper understanding of God's Word and how it could be applied to all participants in HtH. I was not part of a church small group and because of the existing relationship with the friends I had made in HtH, it seemed only natural to me that we could enter together into a different environment from what we were used to in the HtH context. I was slightly apprehensive going into the first Prayer Night because I knew that each HtH participant came from a different faith background and I was not sure what the direction of the discussions or the entire evening would be. Starting out from the very flexible prayer foundation of ACTS (adoration-confession-thankfulness-supplication), the discussions were vibrant and varied, with input from each person full of insight. It was very interesting to see things from another person's perspective and to reflect on my own choices and decisions. With each Prayer Night (3 total), I was very encouraged to see the attendance go up and the discussion develop from a more timid/reserved attitude to one where each person was more open to sharing their true thoughts and opinions on the issues discussed.

Just looking at the small sample size of these meetings, I believe that this initiative was and is one that is Holy Spirit inspired and I believe it is helping to strengthen the bonds within the HtH community. While there are quite a few more topics I would like to really dig into which we have not had the opportunity to even touch yet, I believe this is a step in the right direction, and especially for all of us who have issues in our lives where we do need the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ. I would like for us to continue developing this group, as it has pushed me to seek God further and also given me encouragement in my low moments, and spurred me on in my "ok" moments. – Enoch Lin, year 2.

I had just come from a gap year of intense spiritual development and community building and was craving personal challenge and growth as I came back to life in Calgary. I had heard HtH perform before and I was excited to be singing, but I did not expect such a focused and intentional leadership model. I am so grateful for the leaders and singers in HtH because while they expect dedication and growth, they also realize that it is only through openness and brokenness that a person can lead to his or her full capacity.



I had never given much thought to the issue of human trafficking before I joined HtH. For a while now, I have been discovering and fighting what I can see as selfish apathy about many different issues in my life. Within the HtH community, I have found that coupling a huge human rights issue with the developing of leadership initiative is such a powerful way to push mere teaching into potent practice. Being confronted with horrific stories forced me to want to take a stand, while learning how to take initiative made me desire to find a cause to fight for. It would be easy for either objective to lose momentum, but put together, I have found a healthier and more sustainable way to continue my own personal fight against inbred selfishness as well as fighting for the lives of the widowed, orphaned, and oppressed.

As I learn more about human trafficking, I am becoming more passionate about getting other people involved in the cause. If every young person could learn to be even just a little more selfless, I think we would surprise ourselves at the diverse areas that we could reach and affect. I know that for me, it often takes just one little push to get something rolling. Unfortunately, I was away for the final concert, but since the venue was my home church and the date was on the Young Adults night at the church, I decided to try and get the Young Adults group to attend the concert. I talked to my Pastor and with some generous reductions and donations, we got more than 30 young adults to attend.

I'm not sure what the response was or how it affected those young adults, but I do know that even if I wasn't necessarily singing in the choir, I would still want all of them to hear about this cause. It's easy to ignore passing information, but it's harder to ignore graphic evidence and obvious close proximity. I am still trying to figure out the most productive ways for me to tackle this issue, and I still often have to motivate myself to get uncomfortable enough to care at all. That is why the community of like-minded and passionate people is so invigorating. Positive peer pressure can be a wonderful thing! I know that I want to make a difference, and I know that I can depend on the HtH community to encourage me and help me make that difference. I strongly believe that community is a vital part of life, and when this can be taken to achieve goals beyond ourselves, God's work is truly being done. – Sammi Friesen, year 1.

We attended and performed at two conferences on human trafficking: "Unbound Calgary" and "Unbound Edmonton". Both conferences brought in speakers from all over North America. Participants attended the keynote sessions and chose from the plenary sessions.

Our year ended with a trip to Winnipeg and Southern Ontario. A detailed summary of this trip can be found later in this report.

Over the course of the year the group watched and discussed the following movie documentaries: "Sex + Money: A National Search for Human Worth", "Trade of Innocents" and "Nefarious".



Artistic Director Report



Torrance Airhart

It continues to be a blessing and pleasure to serve as artistic director of the HtH organization. Again this year we proved that our norm is for there to be no norm. This year was an adventure of multiplication, mentoring, growth in our knowledge and heart passion for the victims in our own country, and of course great music.

Artistic Growth

The group was challenged musically in new ways this year.

Repertoire

We learned some important lessons through our repertoire this year. Most of our repertoire this year was in our sweet spot – a fine balance of artistic and rockappella styles allowing our singers room for fun and musical growth.

We learned 12 new songs. (There is always past core material that is brought back and used)

- 2 were Christmas pieces
- 3 were in the Earth Waits trilogy
- 5 were internal Reid/Ben/John arrangements
- 6 were of the “popular” variety/style and 6 were more artistic/neo-Classical

This probably represents both a relative ceiling on our capabilities in learning new material and also the best possible balance in our styles. To date we still remain committed to a balanced and diverse approach to musical stylings.

One particular low was leaving a large piece behind – Dark Night of the Soul. This decision provided me room to learn some of the repertoire challenges moving forward: now that we are likely forever in a state of multiple ensembles, and time spent together rehearsing as one group is rare and limited, it will affect some of our repertoire decisions with large scale pieces such as Dark Night, which, while it has artistic beauty, would have completely consumed all of our mass rehearsal leaving no room to work with the group on our other material.

Leaving behind Dark Night provided room for a high point musically: the Larry Nickel suite “Earth Waits for Me”. This larger work could be broken apart as a trilogy (three smaller pieces), required only piano accompaniment, and seemed very timely and appropriate with its First Nations lyrical focus. We got amazing mileage out of this work in Calgary and Winnipeg. Because of my friendship with Larry, I was able to get him to stay over a weekend at our house and he was able to come and work with the group on this piece- a rare opportunity to collaborate with

an esteemed composer. This experience hopefully laid the groundwork for more collaborating with Larry.

Quality musically remains strong – and definitely stepped forward again this year – I felt that the musical product that we put on stage this spring was our finest yet. As we get further along the growth curve musically, incremental progress comes in smaller and smaller steps but it is definitely still moving ahead. This is



partly due to setting the bar very high in auditions – we still turn away voices that would be readily snatched up by other community choral groups, and by a commitment in leadership to push for musical excellence and accountability.

This spring we experimented with choreography for the first time – on the song “Fix You”. Most of the group bought into the choreography, and our 6 featured dancers were quite excited about their roles. I felt that this was a good opportunity to further visually enhance the storytelling aspect of the show. In the end Beth rescued some of the choreography for the spring performance and it was likely more stressful than it needed to be. In pursuing it again we would need to create more rehearsal time (which is always a precious commodity) and program it earlier into the season to allow for more repetitions.

We have broadened the pool of our instrumental performers this year. Deliberately taking steps to use more guitar players and the like. This will continue to reap benefits down the road for touring and local gigs.

Artistic Team

An excellent addition to our artistic administration this year was Planning Centre Online (PCO). This technology tool was (and will continue to be) a great aid in coordinating music for gigs, and tracking attendance for rehearsals and performances. We can post rehearsal plans in advance there and coordinate musical progress and rehearsals. Through PCO, Reid/Becky/myself can write updates to each other, and even text each other during the course of a rehearsal evening.

leadership





Karin Lavoie and Karla Patzer were lifesavers for us in accompanying this past year and have both indicated their willingness to continue – which will be an even smoother ride the second year around as we continue to adjust to each other’s strengths



worship sets, discussed how to create a framework within HtH that would enable us to be ready to respond to requests. At the end of this we had a binder with setlists, a couple of instrumental and a few vocal teams assembled for anytime the occasion arises. Touring

This year was my first opportunity to travel and tour with HtH. I was with the group on the Winnipeg leg of the spring tour. Traveling will never be something I initially jump at in the HtH context, with nagging dietary restrictions and time away from my family. Nevertheless, I would have to admit, that it provided great relational bonding, as well as some lasting impressions and impact on me personally.

Touring allows for our music to be used on different stages, and in different scenarios than we would have access to otherwise. It creates challenges for our accompanied repertoire (a number of us having to substitute in as accompanists), and puts added growth pressure on our vocalists to have to “step up” at times. Having two adopted siblings that are native (Dene and Metis), I found a lot of the native poverty and conditions that we witnessed to be quite emotionally searing. Many times I realized that were it not for my family taking my brother and sister in, they would have grown up in places like the reserves and neighbourhoods we were visiting.

A memory that will remain with me forever was the “sweat” that we participated in with Marcel Hardisty. It’s a rigorous and intensive experience by any definition, but to go through it with close friends – and then to have Marcel open to allowing us to add our own prayers and songs to the “liturgy” – was exceptional. It was quite simply one of the most passionate multi-sensory worship experience that I have ever been a part of.

In conclusion, the 2013/2014 season will bring new adventures, challenges and triumphs of its own. I will strive to continue to push the musical/artistic bar higher (realizing that the incremental



steps will get ever smaller and harder to maintain), and work in tandem with Beth, Reid and Becky to ensure that whenever God opens the doors to further expansion/multiplication we will be

and conducting/rehearsal styles.

One challenge remains in the coordinating of the rehearsals with Reid/Becky – to ensure that we’re always teaching the same material the same way, and also the scarcity of mass rehearsals together as a group. (Only 6 this year – which was a factor in our decision to leave Dark Night of the Soul behind)

This year one of my tasks was to provide mentorship to John Vooy in the area of worship leading. John has a lot of musical potential as a leader and has a heart for worship. Being that we are at a point as a group where we don’t often get asked to lead worship – but when the opportunity presents itself we need to be prepared – it made sense to delegate worship leadership to him.

Over the course of a few meetings this spring we explored some of the bigger ideas involved in leading a team, putting together



At HtH, we develop leaders. This part of our mission statement reflects **Object 1c**. "The development of leadership skills". This year we multiplied into two ensembles. This was a significant shift for us as an organization as it required structural changes in leadership.

We expanded the "Lead Team" from 4 core leaders to include 5 participant leaders (Jennifer Dow, Enoch Lin, Katie Pearn, John Vooys, Alanna Watton). The lead team met formally 8 times and informally, weekly. These 5 participant leaders greatly assisted the transition by modeling expectations of attitude and effort as well as assisting in communication and administrative tasks.

The Lead Team was led by the Executive and Artistic Directors. The Lead Team included the Directors of the Ensembles (North Ensemble = Reid McLean Wiest, South Ensemble = Becky Timmons). The Lead Team was split between the Ensembles. The purpose of The Lead Team this year was to ensure consistent musical quality standards in the Ensembles, facilitate frequent communication between the leaders, provide leadership skill development, care and nurture the leaders and ensure that the Leadership also experienced the mission of HtH.

The Lead Team was to rehearse bi-weekly on Fridays, however, with two ensembles HtH was also able increase the number of performances we did. It was premature to leave the leadership of the performances in the hands of our participant leaders and so frequently performances took priority over the Lead Team meetings. Adjustments will be made to the concept of the Lead Team for the 2013-14 season as a result.

Each Ensemble has a Director, returning participants and new participants. The returning participants assisted in providing leadership to the ensemble. The Director is the final authority in each ensemble and "champions" that ensemble. Ensembles rehearse on Tuesdays.

Harmony through Harmony ensembles are empowered by learning and performing the same repertoire. Unified repertoire allows freedom to focus on excellence and caring. Repertoire includes music from the previous season and new music for the current season. Unified repertoire is simpler and it facilitates cross-over rehearsals between ensembles, greater performance opportunities, greater impact possibilities, greater collaboration. There is no need to clutter the organization's focus with the creative and administrative energy that would be required in order for ensembles to each have their own repertoire.

worldview

NORTH ENSEMBLE REPORT

Probably the biggest success story of the 2012-13 HtH season was the relatively painless multiplication into two distinct ensembles. Most of us had feared this change, and indeed, it took a full season after our South Africa tour to get accustomed to the idea that we needed to grow the organization in this way. Praise is due to Beth, our leader, for continually casting this vision before our community.



Logistically, the change was a challenge. Our usual rehearsal space on Centre B St NW in Calgary could not hold two ensembles on the same night. Since a home-like atmosphere is a high value for our community meals and meetings, we had to identify new homes that could host one group while the other stayed at the Centre B location. Communicating and remembering where rehearsal was on any given week required extra effort this year. But we did have some wonderful new hosts as a result, and it really emphasized the reality that our community is about the people, not the building we meet in.

This change also meant a re-definition of roles for our artistic lead team. While before I helped with rehearsal leading, it was mostly a tag-team effort between Torri, Becky and me. This year I was given the responsibility of leading one HtH ensemble, which involves more than music leading alone. An ensemble director sets the tone and the pace of each meeting, often defines what kind of culture will characterize the gatherings. I was more involved than ever before in relational connecting with individual participants, in facilitating our discussion times. Our singers in previous years looked to Beth and Torri as the drivers in these areas. This type of leading does not come naturally to me, so this was an area of growth for me this year.

The north ensemble consisted of many 'veteran' returning HtH members with a relatively small number of 'newbies'. This made for a familiar environment for most of us, but a greater challenge of welcoming and incorporating the new singers into our community.

One of our members also had to leave the group early in the season due to family and school commitments, which also required some adjusting. It was great to be able to do a few "North ensemble only" gigs this year, and have that flexibility develop within our organization.

Having the North and South ensembles meet at least once monthly at Heritage Christian Academy for combined rehearsal was a good idea, to promote artistic unity and to maintain the vision of a larger HtH community whole.

It will be interesting to see what further questions and challenges arise from having multiple HtH communities. Will each group continue to sing the same repertoire? How many ensembles can we feasibly run in the same city? Will each ensemble continue to discuss the same justice issues? How does each ensemble's 'story' influence the scripting of the shows?

I am looking forward to the season to come.

– Reid McLean Wiest (North Ensemble Director)

New singers: Josiah, Laura, Shayla
Returning singers: Alanna, Ashley, Ben, Christina, Jen D, Jen R, Jayson, Jon, Kaitlin, Katie, Shaun



SOUTH ENSEMBLE REPORT

This year HtH embarked on a unique journey. Choral organizations tend to grow in one way - a bigger mass choir. The culture that HtH strives for would not be facilitated by such a model, therefore the leadership team began a process of discernment to re-envision a model of growth that allowed the community to flourish. The idea of identical ensembles was the solution to our growing numbers and desire for intimate community. During

the summer months leadership put bones to this model and created two ensembles and divide our current singers into two groups roughly based on geography, a North and South ensembles.

As the ensemble leader for the South group and as a relational leader my primary concern was the community dynamic within the ensemble and with the North group. Many returning members were also concerned that many of the friendships they had formed over the past years would suffer because of the change. I was happy to find that there was minimal (if any) relational damage over the year. There were some friendships that required some time outside of HtH rehearsals but I would pose that this made the relationships more viable and healthy.

My other concern was that having two ensembles would create a competitive spirit especially with those who have the strength of competition. There were very few instances when competitive comments were made and in every case there was a gentle correction made by either leadership or other members.

Musically the South ensemble flourished although we had the higher level of new singers (5 new singers and 9 returning). The group worked very hard to learn new repertoire and returning singers helped the new singers learn the older repertoire, this team approach to learning created an efficient and fast paced environment for learning. Ensemble rehearsals along with the combined rehearsals aided the entire group in singing with unity.

We had a few "south ensemble" gigs where we did not combine with members of the north and had to stand on our own two feet. I found these times to be challenging and encouraging, looking back now I see those were times of exponential growth.

Discussion times were rich and fruitful in the South ensemble times. We were able to dive into issues and the level of vulnerability grew over the course of the year. In my opinion this is where the multiple ensemble model is particularly effective. In the larger group times there was generally less varied participation mostly from the extroverts in the room! The small group discussion demands participation from everyone in the group.

Overall I was very pleased with the year. I was thrilled to be able to work with each of the singers, their dedication and openness made this year an absolute pleasure. Great work team!

– Becky Timmons (South Ensemble Director/Producer)

New singers: Kelly, Sammi, Sebastian, Vicki, William.

Returning singers: David, Enoch, John, Laura, Luke, Megan, Peter, Sarah, Stacey.

Note: We are very proud of Becky as in May she graduated with her Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Calgary.
CONGRATULATIONS BECKY!

Ensembles were assembled by voice parts and roughly by home address of each singer. Each returning singer was invited to help create consistent culture in his/her ensemble. This required intentionality in developing relationships. Returning participants were needed in each ensemble. The health and momentum of each ensemble is dependent on the culture maintained and created by returning participants. It is healthy to have the opportunity for different relational seasons of an ensemble. Most recruiting currently happens through relationship.

When ensembles are an ideal size, new singers feel welcomed into an ensemble because no one can fall between the cracks- musically, relationally, in commitment. New singers add fresh enthusiasm, passion and challenge to an ensemble. Returning singers are stretched to be includers, teachers, encouragers.

Special mention should be made that the South Ensemble ended up with 5 of the 8 new singers. The returning singers in the South Ensemble worked diligently to build community and include the new singers. They hosted additional social events outside of the regular weekly meetings and extra rehearsals to help the new singers learn music from previous seasons.

Several participants from the North Ensemble also provided task leadership throughout the year to the overall organization. They were responsible for tasks such as music administration, monthly internal newsletters, performance and production details, organizing of mixer games, and follow up.

Ensembles unite periodically to do sectionals, monthly rehearsals, and combined concerts. One Tuesday a month, the entire HtH community unites for rehearsal together. This rehearsal is led by the Executive and Artistic Directors. Ensembles also joined for occasional sectional rehearsals. (Note: a sectional rehearsal occurs when specific voice parts rehearse together. Generally, the sectional is by gender- basses and tenors, sopranos and altos). Combined rehearsal was a time when returning singers from the two ensembles were very intentional in maintaining relationship with each other as well as getting to know the new singers.

Due to the transition to two ensembles, we did not continue to do Personal Growth Plans for returning singers this year.

The Fall Kick Off Workshop was structured to capture the four parts of our mission statement. This is a crucial time for new singers to get a big picture of our vision and to become integrated into the community. For all participants, the choice to structure our weekend around our mission reinforces why we do what we do. This weekend also kicks off our justice theme for the discussion curriculum and is an intense time of music rehearsing.

This year the structure of the workshop weekend was created by one of our participant leaders, Alanna Watton. She then involved the other four participant leaders in leading activities and community building moments.

Jennifer Dow did a tremendous amount of administrative work this year. Her tasks were generally related to improving efficiency. She created systems for gathering data and compiling reports: attendance, performance, volunteer involvement. She compiled the monthly internal newsletter, The Blab, and posted reminders on the HtH internal Facebook group. She ensured the HtH public Facebook page was updated regularly. She orchestrated the sizing and orders of the HtH shirts and jackets.

Katie Pearn worked with her husband, Cam Pearn, for hours to update and relaunch our website. Together they ensure it is kept up to date. Katie also created our communication plan for our "Meant to be Unbroken" concert and worked closely with publicist Tokie Brideaux to market the concert.

This year saw many other administrative tasks delegated to participants. Laura King issued supply fee invoices and concert ticket sales, Christina Pitre organized music administration, Ben Roth created and maintained a system for book sales, Jen Roy organized all the non-production details for the "Meant to be Unbroken" concert, Stacey Tweedle ensured that birthdays were duly celebrated throughout the year, Kaitlin Krell and Jon Fish assisted in a variety of the above tasks. Each participant on the Canada 2013 trip also had an area of responsibility.

Following the success of last year's HtH Kids Pilot Project in 2012, a small team of HtH adult participants attempted to start a kids ensemble that would again last 10 weeks. This time that meant beginning in March instead of January. There was insufficient interest to go ahead with HtH Kids in spring 2013. We will explore HtH Kids again in the fall of 2013 or for a January 2014 start.

At HtH, why do we...

Meet in a home and eat together?

Apart from being a boon to choir members who have to come directly from school or work, eating a meal together in a home builds community. Critics of Jesus complained that he entered the homes of "sinners and tax collectors" and ate with them – two of the most unmistakable ways of associating with and affirming others. Likewise, one way the early Jerusalem church expressed that they "had everything in common" was by breaking bread and eating together in a home after meeting in the temple courts. And, like the church, HtH is not a merely functional organization but rather an intimate community – as we are together, so we also eat together.



Partner with other organizations at our concerts?

Part of what we learn in HtH about violations of social justice is their enormity, and the magnitude and variety of responses that are consequently required to address them. Informing audiences of the issue of slavery and human trafficking has small value if they are not also informed of other organizations which work for those threatened or harmed. Our choir can raise awareness and funds, but we know we cannot directly rescue or protect the trafficked. Hosting other organizations like IJM or HART at our concerts allows people to do this indirectly through these groups.

Seek to develop leaders?

There are several reasons why this matters to HtH. First, since the first person you lead is yourself, leadership development is character development, which ties in to the journey to become more of a disciple of Jesus – a hugely important end in itself. We hope to be people who not only proclaim a message of Christ-centred social justice, but who also live with that message in mind.

Second, being a choir, we recognize that our method of communication is not typical of social justice activists. Just as HtH has taken a particular tack which fits who we are corporately, so too do we want each member, with their particular gifts and abilities, to find the ways in which they can lead well. Good leaders know their strengths and weaknesses; we can all respond to God's call to "seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow," but we can do so more effectively when we lead out of who we are.

Third, developing as a leader requires self-knowledge, and learning who you are and what you can do enables you to better fit into a group – thus, leadership development can be a means of building community. – John Vooyo, year 3.



How does HtH “use the performing arts to inspire engagement in social change”?

(Objective #2)

This Object is met through the fourth part of our mission statement: **At HtH, we fight for justice.** Our repertoire is intentionally chosen for its lyrics. The lyrics contain messages of lament, of challenge, of hope. Through study and expression of the lyrics, participants experience mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically connection to the content. Concerts are then formatted with the repertoire order as the base structure and an awareness message connecting the songs together. The combination of information, music, expression and visual art is powerful. We have the authority and credibility to challenge our audiences to join the fight against injustice because the story in our performance is from our personal and collective journeys. The process of creating an awareness concert, determining the message one wants to communicate, and delivering that message is transformational for the participant.

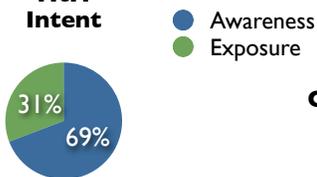
Performances are currently the primary way we fight for justice. With two ensembles this year, we were able to do more performances. The majority of these performances are presentations where we share a message along with our music. The music from the awareness concert continues to be performed in the following season. The 2012 awareness concert “I Refuse... to turn my back, to make excuses, to stay unchanged” was first performed on April 29th, 2012. The “I Refuse” concert was then adapted for church communities interested in learning about sexual exploitation and human trafficking. In these presentations, we encourage our audiences to join the fight and A.C.T.- become Aware, Care, Tell. Our participants are frequently asked questions by audience members after performances. We have become abolitionists (freedom fighters).

As our participants experience the process of using art to express a message, their passion for social change increases. Each participant is encouraged to engage in the concert creation process as a means of offering his/her talents to the fight for social change. The HtH awareness concert is a culmination of our year’s

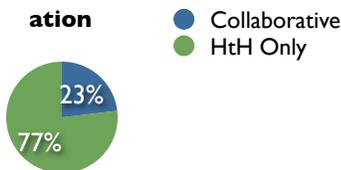
journey together. Mini- teams are created for Production, Operations, Marketing, Communications, Prayer Events, Misc. Tasks.

Event Name	Total Events	Audience Number
2012	14	7667
June	2	705
Jen & Mitch Dow's Wedding		175
Voices for Hope Concert		530
November	7	6180
"We are together" with AYC		160
CSC Life Care Ministries Volunteer Appreciation		80
CSC Gary Haugen Weekend Sat 6:30pm		902
CSC Gary Haugen Weekend Sun 9am		1255
CSC Gary Haugen Weekend Sun 11am		2153
CSC Gary Haugen Weekend Sun 6pm		1430
Skyview Church service		200
December	5	782
Airdrie Singfest		250
CSC Women of Heart		100
Good Samaritans Bake Auction		50
Rosebud School of the Arts		232
"No Crib for a Bed" Awareness Concert		150
2013	13	1627
February	1	300
Ambrose Collaborative Concert		300
March	5	325
Unbound 2013 Conference Calgary Fri		75
Unbound 2013 Conference Calgary Sat		50
Unbound 2013 Conference Edmonton Fri		50
Unbound 2013 Conference Edmonton Sat		50
Southside Church of the Nazarene service		100
April	4	500
Northmount Baptist Church Hymn Sing		75
MRU Social Work Awards Night		75
Kids Helping Kids		200
Millarville Community Church service		150
May	2	452
"Meant to be Unbroken" Awareness Concert		302
JJM Fundraiser		150
Grand Total	26	9244

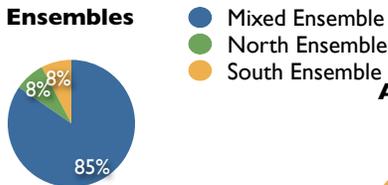
HtH Intent



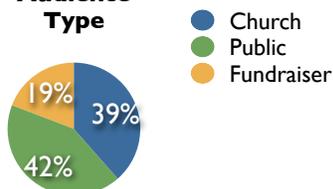
Collaboration



Ensembles



Audience Type



Analysis of Performances

HtH Intent: this graph compares events where the primary purpose of HtH performing was for us to deliver a message about injustice (“Awareness”), or to gain exposure to other arts groups, church communities, or public audiences in hopes of receiving invitations to other events to promote awareness (“Exposure”).

Collaboration: the percentage of events that were performed with other arts groups versus those events that featured HtH as the only performers or guest artists.

Ensembles: the percentage of events that were performed as a mixed group (both ensembles), or in separate ensembles (North or South).

Audience Type: the types of audiences at each event



PRODUCTION REPORT – Becky Timmons

The role of producer was a new concept this year. Each spring we put on a major awareness concert that is meant to be a reflection of the years journey for HtH. Over the past four years we have had increasing engagement with the singers as a part of planning that concert. The idea for the producer role was to continue to give voice to HtH members in the production and to give leadership to the coordination of the creative elements.



The first step of this process was to select individuals to make up a production team. I wanted to select a group with strengths of creativity and ability to think in abstract and general terms. We invited people with those skills and asked other interested members to join in on our discussions.

We had several meetings starting in the new year that would provide the framework for the message of the concert. We discussed who our target audience was and what we wanted to tell them. For the production itself we needed to decide message by defining what we want people to know, what we want them to feel, what we want people to do. At the end of our discussion we decided on the following production goals:

- Who: Canadians: people who need to take the next step
- What: Reaching out to the broken and seeing the image of God in others
- Know: God is redeeming this world through community
- Feel: Courage
- Do: Reach out to the broken through your own brokenness

We then went through a creative brainstorming process to create what production theme or story supported the purposes above. Out of that process came the title "Meant to be Unbroken", the idea of a parable and the beginning of the tree image. Moving from the brainstorming process to the execution was the toughest transition. Our production team was too big to be involved in every element of execution, but we had the critical mass to subdivide into 3 smaller groups, each focused on one element of the production, these 3 teams were: the parable, image and structure (decided on the tree image for poster and the tree on stage) and the program for the concert that included individual biographies of HtH participants. In each team there were varying levels of engagement with participants, partly due to schedules but also because there was a lack of clarity on what task needed to be done.

The result of the above process resulted in a concert that was a little different than our previous years. We wanted to highlight the fact that we are all broken in some way and that God, the great healer, works through community to bring restoration to our lives. The concert leaned more heavily into the message of God's love and redemption than we have had in years previous, this sparked a healthy discussion within HtH and as a result we made positive revisions to the final parable script. The result was a strong presentation with a message that could encourage everyone to take the next step in his/her own journey.



As a choir with a purpose, the songs we perform and our concerts aim to raise awareness about the evils in the world, and in particular, the issue of human trafficking. Before joining HtH, I had never really thought about human trafficking before; whenever I saw or read something about it in the news, it was usually about something that happened in some far off country, which was difficult to relate to. However, we have been learning about human trafficking occurring here in Canada, and how it ties in to the greater web of trafficking happening all over the world. We watched films and also heard stories from survivors of the sex trade, which was extremely eye-opening for me. There is a huge number of vulnerable women (and men) who are lured into prostitution and then trapped there, because they fear their captors; some of those forced into prostitution are as young as 7 or 8 years old. One Canadian woman, Rev. Susan Brandt, came to one of our rehearsals to share her story with us. As a teenager, her "boyfriend" lured her into prostitution. She was then made to be drug-dependent, which led to her being unable to runaway from her pimp. After years of being moved around the country and her body being sold, one night she ran away: the next thing she remembers is waking up on the sofa of a group of Christians who had found her in their garden. Her life finally turned around, and now she runs her own counselling service. Having someone tell you their deeply personal experiences, what they went through, and how they survived, was amazing and terrifying. To hear from someone who has experienced first hand the issues that HtH is trying to raise awareness about was inspiring, and made me realise how important the work that we are doing is. Sometimes I ask myself the question "What difference can I make?" During our rehearsals we spend some of our time learning about these issues through books, films, and discussions, and often the magnitude of the issue is overwhelming. It is hard to envision what difference I can make, and even what difference a whole group of thirty 20-somethings can make. What I have come to realise over the last year and a half, is that change has to start somewhere, no matter how small it seems, and HtH is doing just that. – Laura King, year 2.



Joining a new community can be frightening and overwhelming, especially for an introvert. I initially chose to join HtH because I love music and was inspired by the vision and mission statements. But what I found was so much more than a group of people who sing together for a cause. What I discovered was a community of individuals, committed to one another, challenged by others around them, and driven to God's calling in their lives. God began teaching me about being intentional in my relationships with Him and to be more intentional in giving of myself to those around me. And so, heading into the 2012-2013 season with HtH I decided to do just that.



Over this past season, and particularly on the Canada Learning and Serving Trip, I have been privileged to spend time with this remarkable group of people. Long drives in the car gave opportunity to learn about one another, spending time with various organizations and groups gave opportunity to learn with one another, but what I found most powerful was our time to sing together.

I love to perform as a group with HtH. Being part of many voices creating harmony is such an incredible experience. As an added bonus, the songs we perform as a group are used for a greater purpose than just enjoyment, they are chosen specifically for the stories they tell. The 2012-2013 season of HtH was full of performances! Many of which I was proud to be a part of!

On the Ontario week of the Canada trip we did a number of performances, some scheduled and many impromptu. No matter where we sang, who we sang to, or how many people were in the crowd, people always seemed to love the music! There was one particular performance that really struck me, and I think will forever stay in my memory. On this trip we had the opportunity to perform at my home church (Calvary Bible Church) in Smiths Falls, Ontario. I grew up in this church, the people there are my family. Even after I went away to university and then moved to Calgary, they have always been there for me, encouraging me and praying for me. Everyone at the church knew I was in a choir and what we were about, but to have the opportunity to use our performance to encourage and inspire them as a church body was amazing! Following the performance people continually thanked us for the performance and I was told numerous times how inspiring and encouraging the music and the script of the performance was. I am so grateful to be a part of a group that would be willing to drive 12ish hours round trip to make the trek to small town Smiths Falls to share their passion and encourage others.

Music has a power to bind people together more than anything I have ever experienced. Music speaks different languages and brings different personalities together in vulnerable and unique ways. HtH is a group of people bound together by music and by our desire to be the community God has called us to be. I am grateful and humbled by the way I have been openly and fully accepted as part of this community...all because of a love of music.- Ienn Roy, year 2.

How does HtH accomplish “Through HtH’s presentation of musical concerts and tours, to collaborate with other organizations to raise awareness of the issues affecting the world today and to raise funds for those organizations seeking to address the possible solutions to those issues”? (Objective #3)

This year our overall leadership development was focused on increasing capacity to be voices for the voiceless. How could each individual, and HtH as an organization, grow in our ability to fight for justice and for human trafficking and sexual exploitation in particular? How could we then inspire our audience to engage in social change and be exposed to organizations making a difference?

Our year began and ended by listening to leaders from International Justice Mission (IJM) as well as performing at events where their leaders were presenting. We were extremely fortunate to learn from founder and president, Gary Haugen, vice president Sharon Cohn Wu and Canadian executive director Jamie McIntosh. The lives of these three are inspiring. IJM works globally to fight for justice. We were honored to advocate for them and to help endorse their message through our music. It was very exciting for us to help them raise \$100,000 at their Unmasking Injustice Gala – our final performance of the regular season!

HtH never fails to mesmerize audiences with their vocal brilliance, lyrical resonance and magical presence. They not only transport crowds to another dimension -- they help translate this motion into momentum for issues of common concern.

– Jamie McIntosh (Executive Director, International Justice Mission Canada)



We were also thrilled to connect with Pat Nixon, Executive Director of The Hope Exchange Streetlevel Network. The mandate of Streetlevel is to gather, learn and speak in order to bring about significant change in our nation’s collective thinking about social justice, poverty and faith. Their overarching purpose is to engage individual hearts and minds in a manner that inspires, educates and brings about dignified, soulful and life-giving change to and for all people. Streetlevel introduced Harmony through Harmony to many of its partners across Canada on our Canada 2013 Learning and Serving trip.

Whenever HtH does an awareness concert, organizations that align with the issue we are addressing are invited to have booths in the foyer of that venue. At the end of our awareness concert we invite the audience to respond. We give the audience opportunity to learn

What a blessing I experienced this night as I watched the justice workers who make up the Harmony Through Harmony community. They so movingly communicate all of our need to stand against and get involved in meeting the needs of those abused through human trafficking all around the world. This group uses amazing talent for a very selfless intent. I say ‘Well done’ and I am so blessed to walk with you this evening.”

– Pat Nixon (Executive Director, Streetlevel)

about the organizations and take their brochures, to purchase products from them, to donate to them and to explore how they can get further involved. We also have a book table as reading increases awareness leading to further engagement.

This year the organizations we invited to our events all address the complexity of the issue of children caught in sexual exploitation and human trafficking:



In response to the Great Commission, Compassion Canada exists as an advocate for the children to release them from their spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty and enable them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults.



International Justice Mission Canada is a human rights organization that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression, in partnership with U.S.-based International Justice Mission (IJM). IJM lawyers, investigators and aftercare professionals work with local officials to ensure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators and to ensure that public justice systems – police, courts and laws – effectively protect the poor.



My People International is a faith-based organization focused on developing the full capacity of Native Americans. Their mission is to train and equip this generation through communicating the teachings of Jesus to Native North Americans and other Indigenous people around the world in culturally relevant ways.



Streetlevel is a movement of compassionate doers – driven to action by their belief that poverty and homelessness can and must be solved. It is made up of dedicated leaders who, compelled by their Christian faith and through various Canadian organizations and programs, are cooperatively working to address systematic, sociological, economic, cultural and spiritual deficits that contribute to poverty and homelessness across the country.



StreetLight is a mobile drop in centre for young people who are at risk of or live on the streets of Calgary. Staff and volunteers work to provide a safe environment for young people while building relationships and mentoring them individually. StreetLight also functions as a connection to resources in the community. Through our street ministry we work with many young people who are currently involved in the sex trade. StreetLight is a division of Youth Unlimited Calgary.

justice



As a result of our concerts this season, 76 books on topics related to injustice and social change were sold and 18 underprivileged children were sponsored.

In addition to our Awareness events, we collaborate with organizations in their fundraisers. Below is a summary of funds raised for other organizations in events where HtH took part.

Organization	Total \$
HopeShares	
"We are together" with AYC	525.75
Forward House	
Canada Tour: "Meant to be Unbroken" Awareness Concert 2	1,065.00
Cochrane Pregnancy Care Centre	
"No Crib for a Bed" Christmas Awareness Concert	3,000.00
Sonshine Centre	
Voices for Hope at CSC	7,000.00
Good Samaritans	
Good Samaritans Bake Auction	20,771.01
IJM	
IJM Fundraiser	100,000.00
Kids Helping Kids	2,116.30
Grand Total	134,478.06

- Hopeshares works in community development in Bhekulwandle, South Africa
- Forward House is a residential addictions recovery and 'half-way' house for men in Winnipeg, Manitoba

- Cochrane Pregnancy Care Centre provides support and education for girls and women with unplanned pregnancies in Cochrane, Alberta
- Sonshine Centre in a one-year residential facility with counseling and supportive services for women and children fleeing domestic violence.
- Good Samaritans provides sewing and computer training for poor young women in Tuticorin, India



SOUTH AFRICA UPDATE

In 2010-11, HtH made the unusual decision to raise double the cost of our South Africa trip in order to financially assist organizations working there. We were very fortunate to be an "agent" for Artumas Africa Foundation. HtH is extremely grateful to AAF's president, Shauna Mason, for her belief in our organization, her administrative help and her generosity.

The South Africa Trip the same four key objectives as the Canada Trip: build relationships, learn, serve, deepen faith / explore values. We spent one week in Johannesburg / Soweto and three weeks in Amanzimtoti / Bhekulwandle.

As part of processing that trip, we wanted to have time to respond wisely with the extra funds raised. In the 2011-12 annual report, \$42,680 remained to donate.

In the 2012-13 season, we have donated \$10,000 to Oasis Church for their building fund and \$27,000 to SMYLE (Soweto Marimba Youth League); \$7,000 for a garage for their new bus and \$20,000 for land across from their high school. The remaining





HtH seeks to travel to developing nations and locations where your "traditional choir" wouldn't go. Wherever we go, we want to create a win-win experience where we are a blessing and add value by being there and where we grow as individuals and as an organization. We invite God to increase our openness to the world around us in hopes that we will become more aware of the world that Jesus sees. Through prayer, guided reflection, and discussion, we discover how and when we are meant to respond.

Learning & Serving Trip Objectives:

- To develop relationships.
- To learn.
- To serve.
- To deepen faith, explore values

The following are detailed objectives we had for the trip. All were met to some degree; often beyond our imagination! In many instances, it will be interesting to see what next

steps develop in the months to come, especially for our performance objectives. Additional detailed account of the trip can be found on the blog at www.harmonythroughharmony.com This report contains a few samples from blogs written by the traveling participants. They capture a few of the heart moments of the trip.

- Relationships developed with churches and schools in other parts of Canada.
- Relationships developed with IJM, Streetlevel, and other local organizations.
- Relationships developed with our First Nations community / leaders.
- Seeds sown for future HtH ensembles – leadership and participants.

Internal Relational Objectives:

- HtH participants will discover and develop a new level of being in community with each other.
- HtH participants will increase in self-awareness.
- HtH participants will deepen in their understanding of God, values, beliefs, faith.

2. Learn

Music Learning Objectives:

- What choirs / musicians across Canada can we connect / collaborate with?
- What music can we perform together?
- What First Nations music can we be exposed to?

I. Develop Relationships

External Relational Objectives:



Justice Learning Objectives:

- How is life on the First Nations reserves affecting youth, especially young women?
- What does life on the streets look like in different areas of Canada?
- What issues are Christian organizations addressing?
- Are they being effective? Why or why not? How are churches volunteering with them?

3. Serve

Leadership Objectives:

- HtH participants will be involved in the development of the trip's details.
- HtH participants will be the contact for hosts.
- HtH participants will grow in their ability to be ambassadors of Christ and of HtH.
- HtH participants will be involved in leading activities where appropriate. (e.g. youth group)
- HtH participants will advocate for the organizations we collaborate with.

Performance Objectives:

- Increase audience awareness on injustice and complexities of poverty locally, nationally and internationally.
- Inspire Canadians to be courageous and fight injustice.
- Engage the Canadian Church to create more Christian rescue and recovery solutions locally / nationally / internationally and to partner with those that do exist
- Bring Christians and non-Christians together to find solutions to end sex trafficking and exploitation globally.
- Our performance will be based on variations of our spring concert "Meant to be Unbroken"

4. Deepen Faith / Explore Values

- What are Canadian values? Are these the same across the nation? Are they biblical values?
- How does the Canadian Church worship (in music and with their lives)?
- How is God at work in Canada?
- What value does music have in Canada? The arts?

- How can the arts be better leveraged as a communication tool for God's glory?

Preparation for the trip began in October 2012 with intentional discussions about residential schools and Canadian poverty. Later, HtH did training through Little Warriors in how to identify child sexual abuse and had lectures from local experts including Rev. Ray Aldred (member of the Swan River Cree Nation) and Pat Nixon (Executive Director of T.H.E. StreetLevel Network). Over the course of the year we discovered that many of the issues we had learned about in a developing world context were also happening here. In particular we found that the First peoples of Canada are a particularly vulnerable people group and as such have been taken advantage of in many ways.

As we set out on this trip, we wanted to develop key relationships with people and organizations that were doing the work of combating poverty and injustice. We also wanted to broaden our understanding of First Nations culture and philosophy as well as what Canadian street life looks like.

Pat Nixon connected to Streetlevel partner organizations: Winnipeg Vineyard Church / Flatlanders Inn, Forward House, Eastview Community Church, Toronto Sanctuary, and Southside Community Church. We spent time at the head offices of Compassion Canada and International Justice Mission. We made meaningful connections with Steve Bell, Marcel Hardisty, Tricia Penner, Ovide Mercredi, Tim Huff and Greg Paul.

As we learned, we were also able to serve alongside organizations whether hosting a fundraising event, helping with drop-in times or singing to inspire others.

We also wanted to deepen our own faith as a result of seeing God at work in and through others, being stretched out of our comfort zones, and doing life together.

The trip was divided into two weeks: Winnipeg Week and Southern Ontario Week. Each week had 16 travelers, however, they were not the same 16 people each week. We had 11 travelers who did both weeks. There were 5 travelers able to do only one week, therefore a total of 21 travelers participated on the trip.



Winnipeg Week

Love Winnipeg (www.lovewinnipeg.com).

We began our time in Winnipeg with a Citywide church event called "Love Winnipeg" Over 80 churches from around Winnipeg gathered in the new stadium. The purpose of Love Winnipeg is: "To mobilize the Church of Winnipeg to touch people's lives with the amazing, life-transforming love of Jesus Christ. Churches and ministries from around the city will join together to pray and support each other as they prepare for the special two-week Love Winnipeg adventure. During the two weeks in between, individual small groups, Sunday School classes, youth groups, men's and women's groups and churches will custom-design ways to touch the people of their community with Jesus-powered random acts of kindness."

Winnipeg Centre Vineyard Church

(www.winnipegcentrevineyard.com)

Winnipeg has one of the highest First Nations demographics in Canada. The church bought an abandoned warehouse in the heart of downtown, to be within walking distance to the people they are trying to reach. It is located on the corner of the roughest streets in Winnipeg and very close to several low income housing units. WCV "exist to build a safe community that invites all peoples to worship Jesus as they embrace a kingdom lifestyle that extends God's justice on the earth." They began a drop-in program to build relationships with people. They soon found that there was a need for a place where people could live in a healthy community while they are trying to make new choices. The church transformed the second and third levels into the Flatlanders Inn, which is comprised of many hotel type rooms and a few family apartments. All the residents pay a modest rent, partake in household chores and cook for each other in the communal kitchen. We participated in a church service and two drop-in mornings. We also did two learning sessions with their staff on their journey and philosophy and a tour of the building.

Learning Lectures

Some of the most valuable learning time was lecture style presentations with local experts. In Winnipeg this included Steve Bell, Marcel Hardisty and Ovide Mercredi. Steve Bell is a Juno award winning Canadian musician and storyteller. Marcel is an aboriginal elder from Hollow Waters Reserve north of Winnipeg. Ovide Mercredi is a former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Steve Bell introduced us to both Marcel Hardisty and Ovide Mercredi. He joined us for our learning days from these two men. His presence and participation was immensely valuable.

Mr. Hardisty taught about the Anishinaabe spirituality and worldview as well as First Nations and settler history- especially the history of Indian Residential Schools and its continuing effects. The next day Mr. Hardisty invited HtH to Hollow Waters reserve for a sweat lodge ceremony. This ceremony is a sacred cleansing service to offer prayers and songs to God or Creator. The sweat experience for HtH participants included spoken prayer to God and worship songs like "Awesome God". Members who participated found this to be a unique worship experience and a wonderful cultural opportunity.

Marcel, the elder who taught us about Anishinaabe philosophy yesterday called us today to invite the whole crew to join him in a sweat. Like in a sweat lodge. We were extremely honoured to be invited to such an event and honestly, how many people get invited to something like this? We accepted, of course, and prepared ourselves for the three hour journey North to Marcel's home in Hollow Waters.



We met Marcel at a community house. The sweat lodge was out back. At the lodge doors we gave a gift of berries and loose-leaf tobacco to Marcel - traditional gifts to present the elder at a sweat. These items are also used during the ceremony. We then took a sprig of cedar and a pinch of tobacco each, going up to the fire, offering up a prayer, and placing the cedar and tobacco in the fire. It made a crackle and smelled so nice, sending off a delicate smoke puff. We then proceeded into the lodge. To my surprise, there was a second shelter inside the lodge made of heavy canvas on a willow frame, rather low to the ground. We crawled in through a small opening to sit in the smaller shelter. It had a large pit in the center and we sat around it, women on one side, men on the other. Marcel then took a cedar branch bundle, dipped it into a bucket of cedar water and sprinkled it onto the rocks. The sweat had begun true and proper. The steam felt like a warm hug.

I realized that a sweat is a lot more than just a ceremony for the sake of ceremony. These were some deep emotions I was beginning to have. There were waves of heat washing over me, almost unbearable but really comforting at the same time. I cried some more. I prayed for healing for people I love. I prayed for healing for others in the room. The heat seemed to penetrate all my sore aches. More waves, more song. Some of us were singing along by this point but I couldn't. I kept crying. And crying. Would I stop? I imagined death by crying. I think my soul was being healed. I seem to bottle up pain a lot. I wish I wouldn't but I do. I asked God to heal my soul. The rest of the rocks were piled in. It was so hot. So much steam. But by this point my soul, mind, and body were ready to accept what was. I don't remember much about this round other than feeling a peace. Not just the soul peace that we usually talk about but an everything peace. Emotional, Physical, Mental, and Spiritual. The four parts that Marcel had talked about in Anishinaabe philosophy that were important to reconcile. Heart, Mind, Soul, Spirit. It is so familiar to me. It was coming together. We sang, we prayed, we worshipped God. Marcel isn't a Christian but he understood us and allowed us to worship God. Isn't that wonderful? How wonderful to be free. He was a wonderful example of respect for others.

After this sweat we left as we entered, burning a sprig of cedar and tobacco. I felt such peace and serenity, like my journey was not alone, surrounded by my friends, new and old. Beloved of God. – Kelly Schmidt, year 1.

Mr. Mercredi spoke to us about the changes in Aboriginal life since colonization. He also explained the difficulty that the government and First Nations people have had in interpreting the treaties. A treaty is made nation to nation and the assumption is that each nation is independent and able to enter the agreement. Treaties

are not made countryman to countryman; therefore the Aboriginal people were an independent nation. Our treaties are interpreted by "white people courts", we don't go to the aboriginal justice system. Mr. Mercredi suggests we need an independent tribunal to interpret treaties. He believes that the government is reluctant to give table to talks because the government doesn't stand to gain by giving more rights to the Indigenous people.

I have never encountered a ministry quite like Forward House. I used to work at the Mustard Seed in Edmonton, so I had some knowledge of what residential programs are like, but had never visited any of them. The website describes Forward House as a 'home to men who want to start a new life'. Many of these men are enslaved by addictions, are dealing with legal issues, or struggle with mental illness. They have experienced things like broken homes, jail, detox centres, unhealthy or abusive relationships, lack of education and low self-esteem. They may feel as though they have hit rock bottom and have nowhere else to turn. Some men also choose Forward House as a place to complete their probationary sentences.



The first thing that struck me about Forward House was the peace I felt when I entered the building. Despite being disgruntled prior to going in, we were so warmly welcomed and instantly felt that I soon felt my demeanour changing, almost in spite of myself! It's not something that I can explain, but I honestly felt God's presence in that house, and it gave me comfort and even anticipation for what was to come. I couldn't help but notice the various displays of Christian faith on the walls...whether quotes of Scripture or pictures or notices on the bulletin boards. The house itself was very simply furnished, which might be why these stuck out more- it was not at all hard to tell that Christ was fully welcomed into that place. It was also cool to see toys and other evidences of children that had lived there- Forward House has the ability to house men who have custody of their children.

For those who feel like they have hit rock bottom the truth of the gospel can often become words of life, hope, meaning, and joy. Especially when it comes to addiction recovery- without Christ I think that road would be a lot more challenging, if not impossible. It was exciting to hear of some of the stories of these changed lives.

On the Forward House website are these verses: *"to loose the chains of injustice... set the oppressed free... share your food with the hungry... provide the poor wanderer with shelter."* Isaiah 58:6-7. These are familiar verses for Harmony through Harmony as this is what is at the heart of what we seek to do. I was greatly blessed by the opportunity to learn about Forward House, as well as the ability to raise some funds to support their ministry through our concert later that evening. As usual, God knew what I really needed that afternoon- He lifted my spirits with stories of changed lives, and in witnessing the humble spirit of a man who wanted nothing more than to share with others the joy and freedom he had found in Christ. - Vicki Ross, year 1.



We spent a morning touring Point Douglas community with special focus on Norquay Community School. Point Douglas is an underprivileged neighborhood with a very high crime rate. Because of the availability of low income housing it also has a high ratio of First Nations people. The vision of Norquay school is to provide equity education - leveling the playing field. On our tour of the school we noticed the emphasis on basic services like food, clothing and hygiene, they function as much like a community centre as a school. They have farmers markets at the school because there isn't a convenient grocery store. They have laundry services because of the constant presence of bed bugs and lice. All teachers supply their own classroom with emergency snacks and lunches because many of the children don't have food. Many of the children are in the care of Child and Family Services. Due to the many challenges to have basic needs met, there are many academic challenges. The academic focus was on getting children up to the basic levels of the grade and then finding ways to keep the students in school as they transition to junior high.

Forward House (www.forwardhouse.ca)

Our final day was centered on Forward House, a Christian organization providing transitional housing for men and their children. It is "a home for men to start a new life". Just under a month prior to our arrival, their founder and executive director had passed away. As they are in a time of transition, Streetlevel wanted us to help encourage their community and especially the new director, Peter Harzan.

None of us had ever been in a place quite like Forward House. For one, the majority of its residents are on parole and secondly, it's actually 5 houses in a row all behind a fence and monitored with many security cameras. What struck us most though was the intentional and unashamed focus on Christ. Peter gave explained to us how the place operates, his story and then gave us a tour. We were honoured to do a fundraising concert for them later that night- our final evening of an incredible week in Manitoba. Peter was a gracious host- providing us not only with a meal but also staying with us at the One88 venue later that evening until we left for the airport at 3 a.m. It gave us a taste of his love and compassion for others. He will be a great next leader of Forward House.



Southern Ontario Week

International Justice Mission Canada Head Office & Compassion Canada Head Office

We had the pleasure of visiting the head offices for two of the international organizations we advocate for as both are located in London, Ontario. Our first visit was to International Justice Mission Canada Head. We sat in with one of their staff meetings, joined them for lunch, prayed with them about upcoming IJM projects and then we sang for the staff.

A few days later, we went to the Compassion Canada head office. HtH toured the facility and then during their staff chapel time we were able to bless them with a 40-minute concert. After we sang, the whole staff gathered in a circle, held hands and prayed for us. It was a wonderful time of mutual blessing!

In both cases, the time spent was mutually beneficial. Each of us now has a better understanding of who the other is and what the other does! All parties are excited to see what the future holds.

Byron Community Church

Thanks to our growing relationship with IJM, we were invited to do a presentation at BCC as part of their Sunday morning service. Rebecca Cuthbert, from IJM, was doing a presentation to their women's group the following evening and we were invited to help "warm up the congregation" to her message. We were unprepared for the incredibly receptive response we received! Following our message, the pastor (John Mackie) got up and announced to the congregation and board that he was going to see that BCC partnered with HtH to support our ministry. He was deeply moved by the Holy Spirit through our presentation: inspired, convicted, challenged. He set the tone for the response of the congregation following the service. We look forward to returning to London!

National Prayer Breakfast

The timing of our trip coincided with the National Prayer Breakfast in Ottawa so we drove 6 hours to attend. Politicians from every major party represented prayed and read scripture and Ben Heppner sang. After the official program was finished, there were three leadership sessions on freedom of religion. Jamie McIntosh, executive director of IJM Canada, presented at the Student Forum of the Prayer breakfast, and generously invited HtH to perform to introduce and close his session. It was remarkable to witness a Christ centered event that was initiated by the leaders of our government. Christian parliamentarians meet weekly on Wednesdays during session on the hill for prayer. This weekly prayer time is not driven by a political agenda but everyone surrenders their heart to Christ and prays for our country.



"We can do no great things, only small things with great love." – Mother Teresa



This quote is one that has had a profound impact on my life. When I first started really learning about the sufferings of the oppressed with Harmony through Harmony, my first instinct was to want to change the world. I would think "I need to do something so that no one will ever go hungry again," or "I must stop modern day slavery." When I put these thoughts in writing now, it seems ambitious at best – laughable at worst.

Our morning at the Compassion Canada headquarters in London, Ontario overwhelmed me with how many people were living out this quote. Compassion Canada is able to do the amazing work it does because it has many hard-working, dedicated and loving people all doing their part. From reception, the call centre and mailing room, to marketing, trip coordinators and communications – every person I met spoke passionately about their work. I sensed they knew they were making a difference and it was inspiring.

What's more, we had the absolute pleasure and privilege to put on one of our awareness concerts for them. As I sang, I watched their faces. I could see God using our music to encourage, soothe and speak to His faithful servants. It was at this moment that I realized God really is using our small act of singing to make a difference too.

When we were finished, their Facility Manager stood up and asked his colleagues to come and stand around us and pray. He spoke boldly and said he felt God was telling him we needed to be encouraged. His words were true, as many of our group had already been traveling for a week in Winnipeg, which proved to be an emotionally heavy week, and we had had a very busy Ontario leg already.

As people came and laid their hands on us, and as the gentleman began to pray my eyes welled up with tears – I let them fall freely. This is what it means to be the body of Christ. To love, encourage, inspire and cheer each other on. *"Encourage one another, and build each other up"* – 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Sometimes it can feel as though the work we are doing doesn't mean much, but don't lose heart. This day helped me believe even more strongly that if what you're doing is God's will, it has eternal significance and will have a ripple effect that you can't even imagine. Never underestimate the power of small deeds done with great love.
– Katie Pearn, year 4.

Toronto Sanctuary (www.sanctuarytoronto.ca)

One of the most impacting tours of the Ontario week was at Toronto Sanctuary where we were taught by Greg Paul and Tim Huff.



Our first session was with Tim Huff. Tim is co-leader of T.H.E. Streetlevel Network and author of children's books. He has been involved in street youth ministry for a long time. Tim shared with us about the philosophy of Streetlevel: the need for services to help prevent "compassion fatigue and burn out" amongst street ministry workers- to keep them well as well as to help change the culture of churches to one where it is an invitation into the blessing of working with the poor not a response to guilt.

Greg Paul is the lead pastor of Toronto Sanctuary. The church / street ministry began with a band who heard a "clear sense that God was calling them to "take it to the streets." The vision for Sanctuary began to materialize when the band was invited by the Central Gospel Hall to use the church building for storage and practice sessions." They took over a church in downtown Toronto with the goal to build relationships and serve each other. Through the Arts, a health clinic, drop-ins, meals and church services, for thirty years they have been building a community with the under privileged in downtown Toronto. Greg Paul was very transparent and honest about life in street ministry; it was refreshing to hear about the ups and downs associated with community. Greg introduced us to the idea of "community exegesis": thoroughly looking at the community you are in and addressing how to best meet the community. He is the author of three books. Each traveler was given a choice of one of the three purchased by HtH.

Southridge Church (www.southridge.cc)

We were very fortunate to spend a short but powerful afternoon with Tim Arnold, Outreach Director at Southridge. Southridge began 30 years ago as a country church. About 10 years ago, they felt God asking them to go through a process to discern where

God was calling them to be. This resulted in a move to the inner city of St. Catharines, Ontario and the purchase of an old school. They believed God was calling them to reach out to the homeless in their area so they renovated the school and began a 40-bed, 24-7 shelter at the church. They soon found that they had to engage the people coming to drop-in in their weekend community as well "This gave the people of the church the opportunity to become friends with people of substantial need, only to realize their own brokenness in the process. Along the way, they realized that they needed to do total overhaul



of their missions department including their sponsored missionaries, partner organizations and outreach programs. They decided that their church would be build around an "anchor cause". Tim pointed out that because they are laser focused on their anchor cause, they unapologetically ignore other potential areas of ministry.

By 2009, the Glenridge location had maxed out its capacity. Instead of expanding on-site the church decided to become multi-site, launching in Welland in the fall of 2009 and North End St. Catharines in winter 2010. Foundational to this expansion was the emergence of new social justice "anchor causes" in those areas of Niagara for the community to rally around and serve with the love of Christ." Each regional church has its own "anchor cause". Our return trip to Toronto collided with a huge rainstorm and traffic so we had four hours to discuss this church and the idea of "anchor cause". To date, our "anchor cause" in HtH has been sexual exploitation and human trafficking.





On Thursday, June 6th, HtH went on another car ride. We drove out to Niagara, saw the falls, and then made our way to the town of St. Catharines. We went to St. Catharines to visit a church that had been recommended to us by Pat Nixon for its outstanding ministry to the homeless, Southridge Community Church (SCC). The first thing I noticed upon arriving was that, unlike many of the other churches we had visited on this trip, Southridge felt sorta like the church I attend. Upon entering, it felt like many a church that I have been to; it didn't have a specific "street" feeling, and even from the exterior you could have driven past and not known that it was anything but a normal church. We then sat down and chatted with Tim Arnold, Outreach Director, who told us about what Southridge does and how he got to be so involved in it.

Southridge is both a church and a shelter that integrates the two together in a way that is truly astounding. The Church and shelter are one building and the staff intentionally make sure that the church and the shelter are not two different things. It was astounding to find out that city council in St. Catharines actually includes Southridge in city conversations regarding homelessness because they recognize that Southridge is addressing the issue so well. Tim explained that the philosophy of SCC regarding homelessness is that the church needs an "anchor cause". One need in the community on which the church decides to focus all its energy and address to the best of its ability. By focusing on one anchor cause, Southridge has been able to make great strides in addressing homeless ministry instead of being caught up in a multitude of programs that attempt to address all the needs of the community.

This philosophy reminded me of Christ's description of the church as the body with many limbs in a way that I had never thought of before. Often we think the limbs of the body are discrete individuals with specific skills, who together form the body. While I don't think that this view is incorrect, Southridge seems to see their church as still only one limb of the body of Christ, who are doing only the job of that limb and not trying to be the entire body by themselves. This was an interesting idea for me, since I normally only think of "The Church" as being whatever church I am a part of and not all churches everywhere, each church perhaps having different roles. Southridge extends this philosophy to their other campuses in surrounding communities as well. Each campus has a different anchor cause specific to the needs of the community in which it finds itself.

Though we were only at SCC for a short time, I got a lot out of our visit there in a personal way. Southridge felt like the last piece of the puzzle for me. Up until this point we had visited many churches and people who were addressing the needs of their community, but in Southridge I finally saw an example that was similar enough to my normal life and environment that I could envision it happening in Calgary. Before Southridge, I often found it difficult for me to connect to the churches and people in a deep way because I was unable to see how my story and life could ever fit into the programs that we were visiting, though all of these programs were amazing. In Southridge, I saw a place that did not feel that different from where I spend my Sundays and met Tim, who did not seem that different from me. It was at Southridge that it finally set in that God was using people to do amazing things in areas where they had little or no experience, an idea that counteracts everything that University and career planning has taught me! At SCC, much of the things I had been learning throughout the trip finally fell into place in my mind, and I was left with many things to ponder (which I am still pondering). – Ben Roth, year 4.

NAIITS Symposium (www.naiits.com)

Our final event for the trip was to attend the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies conference "Shaping Faith: How Language Informs the Journey". This was the 10th anniversary of NAIITS and the first year of Tyndale University (the host site) offering bachelor and masters programs in Native American theology. This conference dealt with issues like Orality in First Nations cultures and bible translation into Cree or Algonquin languages. Although the large group presentations were quite academic, the structure of the symposium included small group debriefing times called "talking circles" and shared meal times. These break out times were rich for us to learn from others who experience the issues that the presenters spoke about.

Each evening concluded with a concert. We were honored to be asked by Steve Bell, one of the two Friday evening performers, if we would open his set with a song. What a huge endorsement! We chose to sing "Anyway" by Martina McBride and use it as a song of dedication and appreciation for the vision, commitment and passion that has gone into creating and maintaining NAIITS.

One of the founders of NAIITS, Richard Twiss, died unexpectedly in March. A moving part of the symposium was having his widow and one of his sons present. The NAIITS leadership were very close to Mr. Twiss and there were frequent references to him. It

was really special to be a part of the mourning of this community over their brother and friend and to see how they processed their grief publicly and together.

As non-aboriginals, we were definitely the minority present. It was a privilege to attend and be inspired by aboriginals from across the nation and to watch their interactions. Next year the symposium is in Chicago.



The HtH travelers experienced deep bonding on this trip. It was moving to see the delight taken in spending hours together in vehicles, the flexibility in going with the flow and the maturity that has come in trusting God has a big plan and if we leave room in our schedule for Him, He will bless us beyond our imaginations.



PLEASE NOTE: This trip extended past the HtH 2012-13 Fiscal Year. However, a financial summary for the trip is included here.

Canada 2013 Financial Summary

REVENUE

General Donations	\$1,955
Trip Deposits	\$4,500

Total Revenue	\$6,455
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EXPENSES

Transport (Air)	\$7,125
Transport (Land)	\$3,552
Accommodation	\$2,334
Food	\$769
Learning	\$5,494
Tourism	\$777
Other	\$1,085

Total Expenses	\$21,136
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Net Funds Left to Raise in 2013-14	\$14,681
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VISION

God is the great Artist;
and in His image, we are also creative.
God is the great Redeemer;
and He invites us to be His agents of change in the world.
Through artistic expression in community, we discover how each person
can participate in His redemptive plan for the world.

Harmony with God.
Harmony with each other.
Harmony within.

What's Next for HtH?

From the outset, the vision has been one day to have HtH ensembles all over the world.

To our knowledge, there are no models of choral ensembles with an intentional culture of releasing leaders to multiply other ensembles. Our step to become two ensembles in the 2012-13 season was a significant pioneering moment.

Not only are there no models of multiplying choral ensembles for us to follow, but to our knowledge there are also no choral ensembles using their 'music for a purpose' in quite the way we are. To continue to multiply into more ensembles is dependent on leaders with a deep understanding of our culture and purpose.

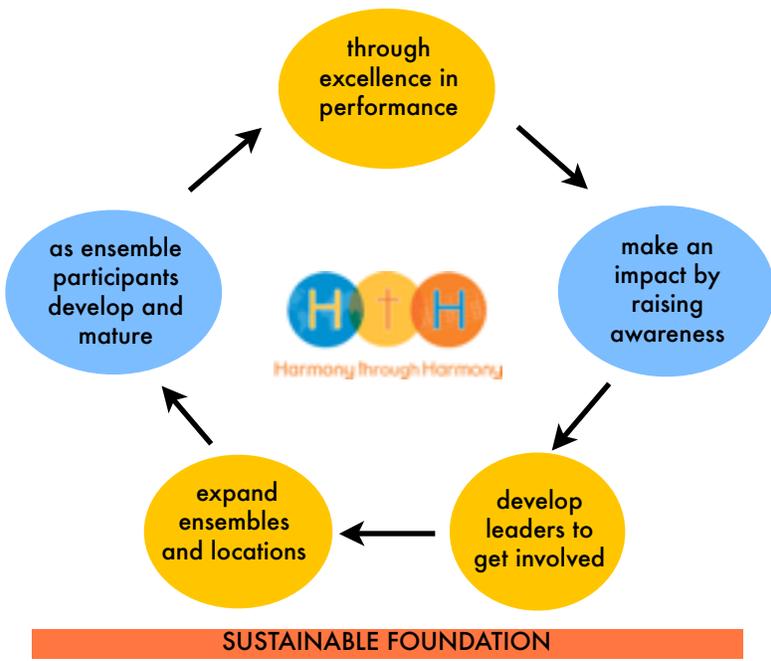
In 2013-14, in addition to our regular HtH season, returning participants who have been in HtH for a minimum of 2 years will be invited to become part of a learning cohort led by Beth McLean Wiest. This cohort is being called "Leadership Discipleship Cohort" (LDC).

In HtH, Jesus is the motive behind all that we do. Jesus' life on earth provided the example of how his followers are to live and be. His final command was "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt 28:19-20) The primary purpose of the LDC is to develop disciples of Jesus, for wherever life takes them. The secondary purpose is to deepen the understanding of why Jesus is the motive behind what we do at HtH and how this looks in the culture we are creating and multiplying.

Meetings of the LDC will be 1.5 - 2 hours in length. They will be weekly beginning September 3rd (HtH season begins mid-October) until November. In November we will assess whether the cohort will meet bi-weekly or monthly for the remainder of the year.

Participants in HtH have indicated desire for more opportunity and time spent in the following areas: prayer; Bible study, book study, outreach of many different kinds, advocating, travel. Our current leadership is unable to lead these initiatives despite knowing they are an extension of our mission statement and would further enhance the HtH community. On the other hand, HtH participants currently do not yet feel confident in their ability to lead an initiative in any of the above areas, despite their desire to engage in these activities. This poses a problem!

The expectation is that within 6-12 months, participants in the Leadership Discipleship Cohort will be leading their own cohort of 4 - 10 people. Our belief is that some of these LDC participants will choose to lead a cohort of other HtH participants in some of the above areas and others will become part of leadership teams of other HtH ensembles. We anticipate the LDC may also lead to discovering alternative music rehearsal methods and innovation on our current weekly rehearsal format.



HtH Gratitude List "I am thankful for..."

HtH is always a place I feel encouraged.
Songs with a purpose
The way God is kept at the centre
New friendships
Laughter until my belly aches
Car trips and chats
Sharing honestly & building trust with each other
Willing & generous hosts / hostesses who make great food
Movies that challenge me
Being given a high standard
Building connections with other organizations
Being pushed outside my box
Great leaders
Being welcomed into a new group
Opportunity to bring awareness to an important issue
Being challenged musically
Book discussions and new books
Committed team members
Growing together
Friendships built from scratch
Connecting with people through music and God together
Grace extended to me in my weakness
People around me I can respect and model myself after
Learning how to use my voice
Beauty in music
No cliques
Scheduled time to visit
Opportunity to learn in both music and social justice in the light of God

Getting to perform and having musical excellence. I am not embarrassed!
Seeing people believe in what we do and supporting us
Becoming closer to old friends
Willingness of others to be open
HtH has helped me to do more introspective thinking, deciding what kind of person I want to be
Generosity of leaders
Being welcomed even though I don't consider myself a Christian
Food!
Community
Mentorship
Fodder for my passion
Constructive traveling
Teamwork
Amazing and funny directors
Really good food when I am hungry
Kick off workshop
Something to live for and strive for
The ideas and creativity that arises
Silly and serious moments
Strength of leadership / people to emulate
Research, knowledge, information
Constant stream of performances
Being able to ask people for prayer
HtH at my wedding
Our Newbies this year
Skyview Community Church inviting us back every year
Splitting into 2 ensembles- fun, closer, more gigs
Social events outside of HtH
Caroling, skating, sledding
Being prayed over by other people passionate about what we do
Challenging music
Our new website



On May 30th, 2012, the HtH Board of Directors chose the HtH Fiscal Year to be June 1st to May 31st. This is the annual report for the year ending May 31st, 2013.

Harmony through Harmony (HtH) began as a pilot project October 6th, 2009. The first HtH Board of Directors meeting occurred on June 30th, 2010. Our founding directors continue to serve on the Board of HtH.

On October 25th, 2010, HtH was issued its Letters Patent to become incorporated as “a corporation without share capital under part 2 of the Canada Corporations Act”. We received our documentation in January 2011. The HtH Corporation Number from Corporations Canada is 787251-9. The Business Number from Canada Revenue Agency is BN 83555 8115 RC0001.

HtH Board of Directors

Karin Lavoie: Office Manager at the Petroleum Institute for Continuing Education

Howard McLean: Business Entrepreneur

Beth McLean Wiest: Teacher, HtH Executive Director

Jack Mortensen: Minister; Director of Resource Development for Young Life of Canada.

Bruce White: Project Director, PCL Construction.

Joanne Wiens: Former School Principal. Choir director at Trinity Mennonite Church.

Sueanne Yee: Concert Pianist and Teacher.

Janet McLean (Board Secretary): Executive Assistant

HtH Staff

Torrance Airhart: Artistic Director (paid)

Beth McLean Wiest: Executive Director (volunteer)

Reid McLean Wiest: Arranger / Composer,
North Ensemble Director (volunteer)

Karin Lavoie, Karla Patzer: Accompanists (volunteer)

Becky Timmons: South Ensemble Director (paid)

