



**For immediate release**

May 8, 2009

	<b>W</b>	Although few Canadians are completely illiterate, approximately two
<b>ALPHABÉTISATION</b>	<b>R</b>	fifths of all adult Canadians do not have the minimum literacy and life
<b>I</b>	<b>D</b>	skills necessary for succeeding in our knowledge-based economy.
<b>T</b>	<b>S</b>	Montreal’s Yellow Door Choir is doing its part to change that statistic
<b>MAGIE DES MOTS</b>		with its May concert: The Magic of Words / La magie des mots.
<b>R</b>		Proceeds from the choir’s performances on May 29 and 30 will go to the
<b>A</b>		Canwest Raise-a-Reader campaign.
<b>CHORALE</b>		
<b>YELLOW DOOR</b>		

Raise-a-Reader is an award-winning national initiative designed to raise awareness, funds, and resources for family literacy programs across Canada. Since its inception in 2002, Canwest and its partner newspapers, such as The Gazette, have raised more than \$10 million. In 2008, the Montreal Children’s Library, the Centre DÉBAT, Frontier College, and The Centre for Literacy were just a few of the Montreal-area beneficiaries of the campaign.

“Our choir is committed to community service,” says Brendan Mirotnick, president of the Yellow Door Choir. “We build partnerships with local charities, using our performances to raise funds for them and to profile their vital work. This season we wanted to concentrate on literacy, and we selected Raise-a-Reader because the Canwest Foundation ensures that every dollar donated to Raise-a-Reader stays in the community.”

The choir’s musical director is Eleanor Stublely, director of graduate studies at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music. In keeping with the current theme, some of the songs she has chosen for the upcoming concert deal literally with reading or writing—for example, **I Could Write a Book**, from the Broadway musical Pal Joey. Others make use of or adapt text from famous writers such as Robert Frost and Rainer Maria Rilke. Individual selections combine to build upon the idea that words inspire us, open up new worlds, and enrich the human experience.

The choir is particularly excited to be premiering a new piece by famed Quebec composer and choral conductor Donald Patriquin. **Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace, O Lord** is a masterful adaptation of Bach’s prelude in C and Gounod’s Ave Maria, with lyrics from the Prayer for Peace (also know as the Prayer of St. Francis). Former chorister Dominique Tapin will rejoin the choir for this piece, singing the soprano solo.

Literacy as a theme will receive a unique twist during a rousing rendition of the traditional spiritual **Ain’t No Grave Can Hold My Body Down**. Sung in English by the choir with accompaniment by Julie D. Tee in American Sign Language, the arrangement further emphasizes the power of words in any and all languages.

The Burton Street Singers—all of whom have former or current connections with the Yellow Door Choir—will also be guest performers at the concert. The octet will contribute on its own and with the choir to the evening's theme, notably with an E.E. Cummings poem set as a round by Montrealer Cathy Richards, who is appearing with the Burton Street Singers at this concert.

For ticket purchases and more information about the concert, visit the choir's Web site at [www.yellowdoorchoir.com](http://www.yellowdoorchoir.com) or call 514-738-9052.

Dates: May 29 and 30, 2009

Time: 8 pm (doors open at 7:30 pm)

Place: 5035 de Maisonneuve West, Westmount (2 blocks east of Vendôme Métro station)

Price: \$20; students \$15 (student ID required)

Tickets: Advance sales at [www.yellowdoorchoir.com](http://www.yellowdoorchoir.com) or by calling 514-738-9052; at the door on concert nights

To arrange an interview, call 514-738-9052.