

## “2011:THE CONCERT”

Prairie Voices' first public appearance of the year was part of '2011: The Concert', hosted by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The concert went extremely well with the energy in the Concert Hall making for a great singing environment. All the singers were to be at the Concert Hall for an early 8:45 AM sound check, but everyone showed up and sang their best. By the time the 8:00 PM performance came around, the choristers were warmed up and ready to go. Singing Eric Whitacre's beautiful "With a Lily in Your Hand", while surrounded by talented singers and friends, is the best way to bring in the New Year. We look forward to many more concerts together this year and are excited to share our love of music with you.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Prairie Voices' annual winter concert, this year entitled "With a Lily in Your Hand". The concert takes place on March 19, 2011 at Crescent Fort Rouge Church.

In preparation for this concert, PV is making the long journey out to Gimli Bible Camp for a weekend of extensive rehearsals, with maybe a few surprises thrown in! Catherine Robbins, recognized Winnipeg teacher, conductor, and adjudicator, is coming out to join the choir in Gimli for another one of her informative and inspiring clinics. We will also be learning some new choreography for a few of our songs, and we may be getting some advice from a surprise guest! Another PV weekend retreat is greatly anticipated by the choir; they are all looking forward to two full days of singing, laughing, and some very late nights!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD,

A few years ago, Prairie Voices had the pleasure of being involved in Podium, a Canadian choral experience, in Sackville, New Brunswick. During one of the final performances, we were lucky enough to join forces with the awesome choral talents of the Edmonton group, Kokopelli. In that concert, our choirs sang "Rejoice" by Jeffrey L. Ames. This was one of those 'goose bump' moments for me as a performer; you start to cry, and can't make proper vowel-shapes because you're smiling too much from enjoying it. The concert was SO well received, and we actually spilled out of the auditorium still singing, starting up random pieces of music outdoors. I will remember that performance (and the aftermath) as one of the best experiences of my life.

Touring is very important for a group like Prairie Voices; it allows us to connect with other groups, to share music and gain some inspiration. It's vital for us to be able to get out into our country and show ourselves off at the same time as learning from others. We're hoping to make a Western-Canada tour possible for this coming summer... stay tuned for more details about it!

*Lauren Wiebe*, Events Coordinator