The BCECM is pleased to announce that Dr. Jakub Martinec has been appointed for a three-year term as the Director of the BCECM.

Dr. Martinec is the Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting and Director of Choirs at Memorial University’s School of Music. His research focuses on choral conducting, performance revival of early Czech choral literature, and pedagogical practices for teaching adolescent male singers.

As a renowned choral conductor and the founding artistic director and former conductor of the famous Czech Boys Choir, Martinec has performed with eminent orchestras, ensembles and musical personalities in some of the world’s most famous concert halls and cathedrals, including Meistersingerhalle, Nürnberg (Germany); Winspear Hall (Edmonton); the Pantheon and the Basilica Santa Maria Maggiore (Rome); and he has performed regularly at the Rudolfinum Dvorak Hall and Smetana Hall in Prague. A native of the Czech Republic, Martinec has recorded for national TV and radio in the Czech Republic and has directed on numerous CDs and DVDs. His recording of Britten’s *A Ceremony of Carols* received a 2004 Recording of the Month Award by the London-based Classical Music Web.

Since joining the School of Music in 2013, Dr. Martinec has continued to be active as a guest clinician, adjudicator and presenter at prestigious international choral events, including the Cornwall Male Choral Festival, UK (2013); Pemulwuy, Australia (2014); Podium, Canada (2014); the European Festival of Youth Choirs “Giuseppe Zelioli”, Italy (2014); ChoralFest Calgary, Canada (2015); and RIME – Research in Music Education Conference, UK (2013, 2015).

We look forward to working with Dr. Martinec and rolling out new ideas and projects over the coming year.

Thank you!

The BCECM Board and staff extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Douglas Dunsmore and Dr. Ellen Waterman who recently completed their terms as BCECM Director and Dean of the School of Music, respectively. Dr. Dunsmore and Dr. Waterman have worked tirelessly to ensure the sound stewardship of the choral centre, the success of Board-initiated projects, and the promotion of choral music across the province. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours!
2015 Community Project and Research Project Grants

The deadline to submit applications for the 2015 grant competition is **OCTOBER 15th, 2015**. Please visit the BCECM website for more information.

NEW GRANT PROGRAM for Professional Development!

In addition to the annual BCECM project grant competition, the **BCECM Professional Development Fund** is now available to students and choral musicians, particularly those working with community-based choirs, who are invited to take part in activities that will enhance their choral skills, such as presentations or study/training. The BCECM will accept applications for activities up to $1500. The application deadlines are **October 15, 2015 and May 15, 2016**. Please see the BCECM website for more information.

Results of 2014 Grants Competition

We were thrilled to receive many exciting proposals for research and community projects from across the province. The BCECM is proud to have supported 10 projects in total, and we look forward to more application submissions for 2015.

Community Project Highlights

The community of Churchill Falls, Labrador, held a successful choral symposium in February 2015. The event involved four Churchill Falls school and community choirs that participated in workshops, rehearsals, and a final concert with clinicians Kellie Walsh, Jennifer Hart, and Michelle Chippett.

Lady Cove Women’s Choir commissioned Jonathan Monro to compose a choral theatre work, entitled No Matter What. Directed by Danielle Irvine, the work premiered in April 2015. Lady Cove is the first choir in the country to commission a full-length choral work incorporating all newly composed music with a through-conceived story, and presented in the style of a theatre work with props, staging, lighting, and movement for all members of the choir.

Event planning, workshops, and rehearsals are underway by the Potluck Singers (NL Christmas songs), St. John’s Native Friendship Centre (Collaboration of Aboriginal Artists Showcase), St. David’s Church (Choral Scholars), and Atlantic Light Theatre (“A Call to Arms”) toward their project goals.
Research Project Highlights

Dr. Tom Gordon’s CD recording project of Inuktitut arias is in nearing completion and we can look forward to hearing it in the coming months. The CD features works sung by Inuit soloists Karrie Obed and Deantha Edmunds-Ramsay in collaboration with the Innismara Vocal Ensemble and the Suncor Energy Quartet.

An International Symposium on Singing and Song, organized by The Singing Network, will take place October 1-4, 2015, and affiliated projects are underway.

Carolyn Chong and Chris Tonelli undertook research with the Stella Burry Inclusion Choir and on extranormal vocality, respectively, this summer.

Rajaton returns to St. John’s

The BCECM was pleased to support a new partnership between Cantus Vocum Chamber Choir and Growing The Voices: Festival 500, formed in spring 2015, that seeks to bring renowned vocal ensembles to perform and teach in Newfoundland. This year, the partnership realized the return of the acclaimed Finnish a cappella ensemble Rajaton to St. John’s. Following a stunning gala choral concert on May 26, Rajaton led a high school choral workshop for 255 choristers and their choir conductors in the D. F. Cook Concert Hall at MUN. Participating choirs included Prince of Wales Collegiate Chamber Choir (Terry Howlett), Carbonear Collegiate (Anne Whelan), Holy Heart Chamber Choir (Robert Colbourne), Quintessential Vocal Ensemble (Susan Quinn) and Shallaway (Kellie Walsh). Congratulations to all on the success of these events!
On October 23rd, 2014, 122 students from grades 6 to 12 and their teachers from all over the province, including Little Heart’s Ease, Corner Brook, St. John’s, Clarencille, Eastport, Mobile, Grand Bank, Placentia, Makkovik, Rigolet, Nain, Northwest River, Hopedale, and Happy Valley Goose Bay met in Goose Bay, Labrador, to form the inaugural Pan-Labrador and Newfoundland Youth Choir.

Piggy-backing on the Pan-Labrador Youth Choir project that has been growing over the past seven years through the Labrador School Board, under the artistic direction of choral conductor Kellie Walsh and Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, the Bruneau Centre for Excellence in Choral Music was thrilled to support this exciting collaborative initiative to bring this special group of young choral singers and their teachers together from across the province. Over the course of three days, students developed their vocal technique and listening skills, learned concepts of leadership and cooperation, shared their stories about their local communities and experiences, and learned about their own and each other’s cultural traditions, as well as other international choral traditions.

Conductor Kellie Walsh, the students and their teachers were joined by Inuit elders, singer-songwriter Kat McLevey and CBC national radio host and musician Tom Power to rehearse and present a special Gala Concert at the Lawrence O’Brien Arts Centre. The concert featured arrangements of Sid Dicker’s “Labradorimut/Sons of Labrador”, Leadbelly’s classic “Bring Me a Little Water, Silvy”, and Zulu and traditional Oshivambo songs, among other choral favourites.

Please visit the BCECM website to watch some rehearsal clips and the video of the final gala concert.

The Bruneau Centre for Excellence in Choral Music thanks its many partners in this project, including the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, Cultural Connections, the Nunatsiavut government, Memorial University’s School of Music, and Provincial Airlines, as well as the schools, parents, and local hosts who helped make the project such a success.

Qujannamiik!
Support for young conductors

Choral Conducting Student Attends ACDA 2015 National Conference

In February 2015, Ms. Sophia Werden Abrams, the current MMus. student in Choral Conducting at Memorial University of Newfoundland received a BCECM grant to attend the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The ACDA National Conference is a bi-annual gathering of the finest academic musical minds and world-renowned choirs and their conductors. This year’s conference featured performances in the famous Mormon Tabernacle and Assembly Hall by the King Singers, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Estonian Philharmonic Choir, as well as many other university and honour choirs. The conference also featured reading sessions to explore new repertoire by choral composers from around the world and interest sessions with topics ranging from body mapping and conducting, working with the aging voice, resonance and tuning, to professionalism and leadership in Choral Conducting. Both in preparation for the trip and in Salt Lake City, Ms. Werden Abrams was able to connect with BCECM Board member Bob Chilcott, Director Dr. Jakub Martinec and outgoing Director Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, who generously provided their mentorship and support.

Spectrum heads to OUTShine 2015

In May 2015, Choir Director Alice Hietala and six members of Spectrum, the first LGBTQ community choir in Newfoundland and Labrador, received travel funding from the BCECM to represent their choir and facilitate workshops at OUTShine 2015, Canada’s National GSA and Safer Space Summit, held in Winnipeg. Their workshops aimed at empowering the voices of LGBTQ youth. Congratulations to Spectrum on a successful fundraising campaign that made their trip possible and on their excellent work representing our province at this national event!

Upcoming events in partnership with the BCECM:

- October 3, 2015: ChoirFest Sing! http://www.singingnetwork.ca/projects/
- October 1-4, 2015: Symposium on Singing and Song http://www.singingnetwork.ca/symposium2015/
- January 2016: “Singers Helping Singers” and Charles Bruffy Residency
- February 9, 2016: Public Forum on Singing and Social Change, featuring Choir with No Name (UK) Choir Director Emma Broomfield http://www.mun.ca/mmap

The BCECM is made possible by the generosity and vision of Drs. Angus and Jean Bruneau.