



Choral Conductor Training

May 4 to 6, 2007

Instructor: Herbert Tsang, Music Director,
David C. Lam Christian Hymns Society

Edmonton Chinese Christian Choir

Edmonton Chinese Christian Choir was formed in November 2004, it is a joint church Christian choir consisting of 30 some musically gifted brothers and sisters from different Chinese churches in Edmonton. We hope that through consolidating resources among the Chinese churches, we can further and better develop the Worship and Church Music Ministry.

Moreover, this joint church choir dedicates its service to Edmonton's Chinese churches and the general community, to achieve the following missions: Proclaim God's message, Perform quality music, Promote church unity and Equip better choir members. Ministry of the Edmonton Chinese Christian Choir includes organizing City-Wide Joint Church Worship Service, Annual Heart and Art Church Music Training, Choral Concerts, visitations, and worship and church music workshops.

Choral Conductor Training - May 4 to 6, 2007

(Location is to be determined)

The Edmonton Chinese Christian Choir is pleased to invite you to enroll in a Choral Conductor Training being held on May 4 to 6, 2007. The workshop is being given by Herbert Tsang, Music Director of Vancouver's David C. Lam Christian Hymns Society, and is being hosted by the Choir. Please see back page for Herbert Tsang's biography.

Objectives:

The Choral Conductor Training intends to provide choir conductors an excellent opportunity to improve on their conducting skills, and to learn new aspects of conducting technique. Moreover, the training offers special attention to address choir conductors' needs in terms of rehearsal techniques, building of choir ministry, training of choir members, repertoire selection, church music resources and personal development. The training also encourages networking among choir conductors and other church musicians in the Chinese Christian community of Edmonton.

Training Schedule:

Friday, May 4

7:30 - 9:30 pm: Conducting session 1

Saturday, May 5

10:00 am - noon: Evaluation and techniques seminar 1

1:00 - 3:00 pm: Conducting session 2

3:30 - 5:00 pm: Evaluation and techniques seminar 2

7:30 - 9:30 pm: Attend Concordia Concert Choir Spring Concert (optional)

Sunday, May 6

2:00 - 4:00 pm: Conducting session 3

4:30 - 6:00 pm: Choral resources and continuing learning seminar

6:30 - 8:30 pm: Conductors' networking dinner (optional)

Training Program:

Conducting session: The 30-voice Edmonton Chinese Christian Choir will serve as the ensemble and Herbert Tsang will work with each conductor on individual basis. Herbert will delve into the concepts and secrets of shaping tone, color, blend, balance, diction, intonation, phrasing and a variety of other concepts through concentration and perceptive understanding of the score. All conducting sessions are tailored to match the specific needs of the participating conductors and are videotaped for further review and analysis.

Repertoire: All participating conductors will select 2-3 choral pieces to work on from a given list which consists of a total of 10-12 pieces of different styles and difficulty levels. For those who wish to bring their own choral pieces to conduct, that may be arranged through special request.

Preparation: All participating conductors are required to prepare the selected music prior to the trainings so to make best use of class time. Conductors are also welcome to practice with the choir at our regular rehearsals on Tuesday evenings between April 17 and May 1, 2007.

Evaluation and techniques seminar: Herbert will lead participants to a deeper understanding of choral music-making through elucidation of choral techniques, conducting gesture and score interpretation. Calling on his experience, Herbert will help conductor examine their own strengths and weaknesses through analysis, example and discussion.

Choral resources and continuing learning seminar: Participants will be pointed to the useful resources and continuing training opportunities available to not only develop their personal conducting skills, but also to help strengthen their church choir ministry and the members.

Registration Information:

Enrollment: If you are presently a choir conductor, this training is definitely for you! If you prefer to participate through observation, or if you are preparing to become a choir conductor, you may participate as an auditor.

Due to time constraints, the training can accommodate up to 6 conductors in order to give sufficient time to each to conduct. Up to 10 auditors may be enrolled to sing with the choir so to observe the conductors from the vantage point of the choir. All auditors are welcome to participate in all seminar sessions.

Registration cost: \$50 for conductors, \$20 for auditors.

Registration deadline: April 9, 2007

Registration and information: Elaine Chu, 780-710-5394, elainechu@shaw.ca

Herbert Tsang

Herbert Tsang is currently the music director and conductor of the David C. Lam Christian Hymn Society, Sinfonia Mosaic and the Port Moody Pacific Grace MB Church Worship Choir. In 2006, Tsang has accepted the position as the Dean of Chinese Christian Church Music Institute for Worship (Canada), in which he is going to provide leadership for strategic development for CCCMIW in Canada. Tsang travels widely as guest conductor, lecturer and clinician. An advocate of contemporary music, Tsang continues to commission and premiere many compositions of contemporary composers.

In 2004, Tsang was invited to participate in the 24th National Conductor's Symposium, under the direction of maestro Jon Washburn, rehearsing and conducting the Vancouver Chamber Choir performance. In addition to his local engagements, Tsang has been invited to participate in the 1998 International Young Conductors Competition held in Lisbon, Portugal and recently invited to take part in conductors' workshops with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra and Symphony New Brunswick.

Prior in moving to Canada, Tsang spent three years as the music director/conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of Saint Louis and assistant conductor of both the Southern Illinois University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. He has also guest conducted the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra in the Czech Republic.

As a composer, Tsang has composed scores for two musicals, "The Happy Prince" and "Noah's Ark". Also a prolific writer, Tsang currently has regular monthly columns on the topic of worship and music in two Christian newspapers. Recordings produced under Tsang's musical direction include the "Vancouver Oratorio Society's 10th Anniversary Recording", "O Give Thanks", "How Great Thou Art!", "This is my Story, This is my Song", "It is Well with my Soul", "Thanksgiving", "Joy To the World", "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" and "Make Me A Blessing" all remarkably successful and much sought-after items.

During the 1998 season, Tsang made his operatic debut in Surrey Arts Centre's production of "HMS Pinafore" to critical acclaim. Also in the same year, he conducted in a production of "Le Nozze di Figaro" at the East Slovakian State Opera House. Committed to the training of young musicians, Tsang is on the music faculty of Place des Arts and previously, he held the position as music director and conductor of the Coquitlam Young Artists Orchestra for six seasons. Since 2001, Tsang has also been on the conducting faculty at the Chinese Christian Church Music Institute for Worship music camp in San Francisco, California and Louisville, Kentucky.

The recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, Tsang was Dean's College Scholar, winner of the Young Artist Award from University City Symphony Orchestra, and Fellow of the Southern Illinois University Undergraduate Research Academy. Tsang has also been nominated for the "Emerging Artist Award" with the ARC Arts Council.

Born in Hong Kong, Tsang is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and Washington University. He also studied music at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Royal School of Church Music and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Tsang's conducting coaches include Alfred Duckett, Georg Tintner, Gustav Meier, Murray Sidlin, Peter Bay and Nurhan Arman. <www.herberttsang.com>