



**PRESIDENT**  
**Remarks to the Annual General Meeting**  
2020

We enjoyed a successful Fall 2019 semester under the leadership and tutelage of Bob and Margaret – what fantastic musicians and delightful people to work with! Our finances were in order. Sponsorship donations and membership engagement in sponsorship exceeded all our prayers. Our Christmas concert was a success. It brought us quite favourable reviews in the media. Camaraderie was great, not only at rehearsals but also at social events, including those at Isabelle's and at Timmie's. We were fortunate to recruit new members – and they worked out well. My work was made easy by a most pleasant, results-oriented Board. So, heading into the next semester, what could possibly go wrong?

Enter one virus!

In March of 2020, I anguished about the looming Board decision on whether to suspend a SVS semester for the first time in its history that I know of. But soon after the decision, I read with sadness about the choir in the US that rehearsed with consequent fatalities and hospitalizations. This occurred despite the reasonable precautions that they believed they were taking. That story hit me hard, but it assured me that we made the correct decision.

Now, with the present semester suspended, I am hopeful that conditions will permit resuming in one form or another during the new calendar year. Meanwhile, we can take pride in the social responsibility that you and fellow Canadians demonstrate every day.

But getting back to the good work of fellow Board members, you'll find in your AGM package excellent reports by our Music Director, Treasurer, Communications Convenor, Librarian, and Sponsorships Convenor. Collectively, they provide a good overview of accomplishments, not the least of which include valued contributions of each choir member and volunteer to a brief but successful season. Take a bow! And we'll sing together soon!

Mike Ouellette