

## The Pro-Musica Choir and its Director of Music

Father Gilles Poisson founded our choir in 1967 but its name, Pro-Musica, was adopted in 1970. Claude Godbout, who assumed leadership of the choir in 1980, gave it new direction through his repertoire selection and musical training of our choir members. Claude Godbout holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music from l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Education and has been directing choirs for many years. Audacious, innovative and avant-garde, he is constantly on the lookout for new challenges. His goal is excellence and his rapport with his choir members has allowed him to pursue it. In recent years, he has worked to develop the colour, the sound and the style of Pro-Musica, whose members are amateur singers who wish to sing a more and more demanding repertoire. He has built his reputation by presenting quality works which are rarely sung in Québec. He has been directing the choir for the past 25 years.

Since 1988, he has established a quality vocal tradition based on a cappella presentations of sacred music as well as on major works such as Requiems by Fauré, Duruflé, Mozart, and Rutter, Samuel Barber's *Agnus Dei*, Allegri's *Miserere mei*, and Joseph Haydn's *Les Sept dernières paroles du Christ sur la croix*.

In addition to his deep commitment to the field of music, Claude Godbout is also a teacher of mathematics.

The choir consists of over 50 members who come from all areas of our region and their friendly attitude is the major component which makes the choir homogenous. They are motivated and dedicated in their pursuit of the goals set by their director.

Pro-Musica gives two concerts annually in the chapel of *Le Séminaire Saint-Joseph de Trois-Rivières* and in addition to its regular activities, is occasionally called upon to give special performances in Québec as well as outside the province. During the *Festival de l'art vocal à Trois-Rivières*, Pro-Musica won second place in the CHORUS 2001 category.

In October 2002, Pro-Musica released its first CD, *Musique de l'âme*, which features Louis Vierne's *Messe solennelle* as well as several a capella pieces.

In 2003-2004, Pro-Musica gave several Christmas concerts and performed Mozart's *Requiem* on Good Friday. The choir then embarked on a tour of France where it performed at *Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Paris*, *la Cathedrale de Chartres* and at *Eglise de Pornic* outside Nantes. In addition, the choir performed with several other Quebec choirs on a Christmas album, *Noels en chœur*. In 2005 the choir performed Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem* and *Stabat Mater* by Pergolesi and is currently taping a Christmas album. In 2006 and 2007 he performed *Fauré and Duruflé's Requiem* and songs from famous Musical comedies.

Pro-Musica was incorporated in 1984 and is a cultural organization accredited by the City of Trois-Rivières.