

Lady Cove Women's Choir with Shallaway's Jubilate present *Never Give Up On A Dream* by R. Stewart/B. Taupin/J. Cregan Arranged by Bill Brennan

For thirty years Terry Fox has inspired people all over the world to never give up on our dreams. What better way to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope than with a new arrangement of Rod Stewart's *Never Give Up on a Dream*, which Stewart performed throughout the 1980's in tribute to Terry. Lady Cove Women's Choir, the internationally award-winning choir from St. John's, birthplace of the Marathon of Hope, was given permission to produce a modernized arrangement of this song, with its moving and powerful lyrics. The arranger is musician Bill Brennan, a nationally recognized performer and composer/arranger, who was delighted to become involved with the project. Bill has completed an emotionally charged rendition for Lady Cove Choir, and has included children's voices, in the spirit of the enormous impact children had on Terry and Terry has on children. As one of way of ensuring we never give up on Terry's dream, Lady Cove Choir will premiere the new arrangement on April 12 along with members of the celebrated Shallaway Youth Choir and Bill Brennan on piano.

Bios

Lady Cove Women's Choir is named after the community of Lady Cove in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador. Based in St. John's, the Choir of over 40 voices was established by conductor Kellie Walsh in September, 2003 and has become one of Canada's leading women's choral ensembles in this remarkably short period. It is comprised of amateur and professional musicians who are committed to performing, at the highest professional standards, music created specifically for women's voices. The choir's mission is to reveal to audiences the strength, versatility and beauty of women's choral music; to expand the repertoire for women's voices by commissioning and reviving works; to assist local women's and children's special interest groups through charitable activities; and to provide talented and dedicated women musicians with exceptional musical and interpersonal experiences. In 2008 the Choir won first place in the CBC Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs in the Contemporary Music category and then took first place at the 2008 Bela Bartok New Music Competition in Debrecen, Hungary. Karen Kain, one of the leading classical ballerinas in the world, is Lady Cove's honorary patron. Lady Cove Choir will be back on the International stage in 2011 as one of only twenty-five choral ensembles in the world – and the only choir from Canada -- chosen to participate in the 9th World Symposium on Choral Music in Puerto Madryn, Argentina. They will perform for Festival 500's International Symposium and the World Conference of The International Council for Traditional Music in St. John's, in advance of their trip to Argentina.

SHALLAWAY Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus

Jubilate is the intermediate ensemble of SHALLAWAY *Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus*, founded by Susan Knight in 1992. Its members range in age from 11-15 years. Shallaway is a cultural organization that expresses itself mainly through choral music. Its mandate is to develop and enrich its youth as excellent musicians, aware cultural agents and empathic, active civic contributors. Jubilate performs independently, and also joins with the senior ensemble, Camerata, to form SHALLAWAY's Youth Choir. In Jubilate, choristers are coming of age musically, developing confidence with more demanding repertoire and stretching their musical skills and knowledge. It is a vibrant age group, full of ideas and energy. Jubilate marks the beginning of choristers' consciousness as serious music-makers. With guidance from the faculty, and mentorship from older choristers, in addition to their general choral development, Jubilate members are expected to continue improving their ear and voice training and sight reading. Also emphasized and facilitated is the forging of community within the group, the importance of conscientious independence of each chorister, and a growing awareness and reflective ability with regard to socio-cultural issues. Jubilate tours provincially every spring. Kellie Walsh is the associate conductor and successor of Shallaway.

Bill Brennan's expertise as a pianist, percussionist, composer and producer can be heard on some 90 albums. He has performed across North America and around the world: Austria, Germany, France, Japan, Norway, the Czech Republic, England, Scotland, Portugal and Switzerland. Brennan has released two solo piano recordings and a recent jazz album with vocalist Jeff Dyer. Brennan has been musical director for CBC's *Vinyl Café*, and documentary composer for David Suzuki's *The Nature of Things*. He has been involved with some of the best-known organizations in Canadian culture including the Canadian Opera Company and the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan. Nationally and internationally, his work has been formally recognized through a number of prestigious awards and commissions, including the Freddie Stone Memorial Award (1999). As a player, composer and arranger of contemporary classical, jazz, folk and world music — always exploring, always open to new ideas, Brennan's talents resist classification. Brennan was named the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council Artist of the Year for 2006.