



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Capital Vox, Ottawa's jazz choir, unveils brand new jazz choral composition competition**

In an effort to encourage the expansion of Canadian jazz choral repertoire, Capital Vox, Ottawa's Jazz Choir, is launching the Capital Vox Canadian Jazz Choral Composition Competition. It is a contest for new jazz choral works. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the winning entry will be announced in January 2009.

The composer of the winning selection will receive a \$1000 cash prize. The work will be premiered by Capital Vox, under the direction of conductor and music director Elise Letourneau, at a concert on the Fourth Stage at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa ON in the spring of 2009.

The competition is for an original jazz work for mixed-voice adult choir. Compositions may be a cappella or accompanied by jazz trio. Texts may be sacred or secular, in English or in French. There is a \$25 entry fee, and entries must be postmarked by October 17, 2008. Please visit [www.capitalvox.ca](http://www.capitalvox.ca) for more in-depth composition guidelines, submission guidelines, choir information, eligibility information, and the entry form.

As Ottawa's only community jazz choir, the members of Capital Vox are all excellent vocalists in their own right, several of whom perform in the city. Capital Vox is comprised of 24 voices plus the able accompaniment of guitarist Tim Bedner, bassist Mark Alcorn, and drummer Marilee Townsend - who perform regularly as Alcorn Bedner Townsend.

The choir's first season included their debut concert, a cabaret presentation, being the anchor choir in a massed choir event presenting sacred jazz, and their Happy 1st Birthday Capital Vox Concert. The choir was formed to explore the works of classic jazz composers, as well as standards old and new, in a large group vocal setting. It also seeks to recast traditional music in a new, jazzy light; as well as present music by Canadian jazz composers. The choir membership seeks continual growth in vocal, improvisational, and musicianship skills; culminating in quality music-making and concert performances.

Elise Letourneau, Capital Vox's founding music director, is an Ontario native recently returned from 20+ years in the U.S. Her recordings have garnered airplay on both sides of the border. In addition to composing and arranging for a wide variety of settings, Elise enjoys a full and diverse voice and piano instruction practice and an active performance schedule, averaging 75-100 dates annually.

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