

## Ottawa choir sings a charitable tune this Christmas season

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Each Christmas, you can hear them in churches throughout the city, crafting their special a cappella gems for appreciative audiences on both sides of the Ottawa River.

They're called the Stairwell Carollers and they've received both provincial and national recognition for their singing excellence - but the gifts these singers bring to the community are not all packaged in purely musical wrapping paper.

Under the leadership of their award-winning director, Pierre Massie, this 28-member choir has transformed income from concert tickets and CD sales into \$50,000 of donations to 20 local charities and 11 high school students going on for further studies in music.

This December, the Carollers are very pleased to announce that Harmony House - Ottawa's only second-stage women's shelter - has been selected as the 2011 recipient of our special \$2,000 Christmas gift.

The choir recognizes the great service that Harmony House provides - offering safe, affordable transitional housing for women and children who are survivors of violence.

"We are so thankful for the support of the Stairwell Carollers", says Harmony House director Leighann Burns.

"Their generosity will help us continue to assist women and children find freedom from violence."

The Stairwell Carollers will make an official presentation of the gift to Harmony House as part of their annual Christmas fundraising concert, "Stille Nacht", Dec. 17, at St Columba Anglican Church, 24 Sandridge Rd. at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at The Leading Note, 370 Elgin St, as well as two Compact Music locations, 785\* Bank St and 190 Bank St, Books on Beechwood, 35 Beechwood Ave, and at the door.