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**Wednesday Morning, July 7, 2004**  
**The Festival Begins**

It's sunny and cool so far this morning – but we started to have periods of rain beginning yesterday afternoon. The forecast calls for more of the same for the next couple of days, but our choristers will be so busy they won't likely notice.

Tuesday was filled with the usual mix of hard work and fun. Morning rehearsals were followed by a trip to the Recreation Complex for a swim in the indoor pool. Then it was back to the motel for a bit more practice and then into dress uniforms for the Gala Opening. An early supper, complete with towels to keep the uniforms clean, was followed by a meeting of all the choirs performing at the festival at the main performance venue (The Great Hall).



*On to the bus for supper – then to the Gala*

The Opening Gala was a mix of ceremony and music. The choirs were paraded on stage by a pipe band before the festival was declared open. A number of choirs from around the world were spotlighted and the official performers in residence entertained the audience. The bulk of the evening was taken up with an original composition for orchestra, choir and dancers about the breaking of 'The Perfect Vase'. Some of our choristers were quite moved. "It reminded me of when my sister broke my bunny plate", one was overheard to say.



*Arriving on stage at the Gala*

The competitive part of the festival starts this morning. Cantare begins SCC's participation at 9:00 a.m. in the Chamber Choir class. Of course the rest of the Choir, as well as many friends and family, will be on hand to cheer them on. This afternoon the Mass Choir rehearsals start, and the evening highlight will be a concert in the Great Hall that includes choirs from Uganda, Denmark, Canada and our own SCC.

The busy days are starting – but we will stay in touch.