



choir alberta

2019-2020

Annual Report



Alberta Treble Choir with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
at the Opening Concert of Music Conference Alberta

Choir Alberta is an integral contributor to the vitality of the choral community. We recognize choir as a wide and varied art form, and encourage everyone to sing and to be inspired by the choir experience. We are dedicated to raising the profile, elevating the quality, and highlighting the benefits of choir while supporting and educating choral practitioners and audiences.

Choir Alberta provides leaders and singers alike with relevant resources, training, and performance opportunities. Our expansive program roster is delivered in a positive, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Choir Alberta's members include amateur and professional choirs, singers, directors, composers, teachers, audiences, businesses, and institutions. We serve these members with passion and dedication, with the goal of creating a culture that recognizes choir as an essential part of society and a valuable means for community engagement.

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Who we are

Mission

To strengthen Alberta's choir community by:

- Providing valuable programming, resources, training, and networking opportunities
- Creating opportunities for individuals and communities to be transformed by the power of choir music
- Connecting a diverse and inclusive network of choirs

Vision

A dynamic choir community across Alberta.

Core values

DIVERSITY

We see and support choir as a wide and varied art form and are committed to a choir community that is diverse in age, gender identity, race, physical or mental ability, and level of musical experience.

POSITIVITY

We believe in the "power of positivity" and approach our communications, interactions and daily work with a positive and collaborative spirit.

INNOVATION

We believe in the importance of expanding the boundaries traditionally applied to choir, and encourage creativity in programming, rehearsal, and performance.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are intentional about providing universal access to the wide-ranging benefits of choir.

LIFELONG LEARNING

We are committed to the importance of continuous learning opportunities for singers and leaders alike, with the belief that they are the surest path to building and maintaining success.

ACHIEVEMENT + ARTISTRY

We believe that the development of knowledge and skills paves the way to masterful and expressive performances.

INTEGRITY

We believe it is critical that our members can rely on a qualified, efficient, visionary and transparent Board and staff

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Mame Goehner, Calgary

VICE PRESIDENT

Julie Freedman Smith, Calgary

TREASURER

Carol Callaghan, Black Diamond

SECRETARY

Joshua Mohr, Camrose

VP PROJECTS + PROGRAMS

Nicole Hounjet, Calgary

VP DEVELOPMENT

Kate Koplovich, Calgary

VP MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS

Laurel Halkier, Edmonton

PAST PRESIDENT

Karen Hudson, Lethbridge

DIRECTORS

Joanne Collier, Lethbridge

Tyler Leavitt, Lethbridge

Bethsaida Pecson, Edmonton

Thomas Spila, Camrose

Committee Chairpersons

AWARDS + RECOGNITION

Karen Hudson

DEVELOPMENT

Kate Koplovich

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mame Goehner

FINANCE

Carol Callaghan

GOVERNANCE

Joshua Mohr

MARKETING + COMMUNICATIONS

Laurel Halkier

NOMINATING

Karen Hudson

PERSONNEL

Mame Goehner

PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nicole Hounjet

Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brendan Lord, DMus

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Stuart Beatch, MMus

President's message



As 2020 comes to a close, we look back on all that has happened and no one would have predicted all that changed. Not just for individuals and families but for businesses and organizations throughout the world. 2020 was a year that will most definitely go down in history. Choir Alberta can be very proud of all the work done to guide, educate, inspire and support the choirs, choristers and conductors of our province in this time of upheaval and change.

We were able to successfully run two fantastic programs in the early part of the year. Southern and Northern Alberta Children's Choir programs were able to run and had two packed concerts. This was one of the last choral gatherings in the province for the year. As preparations were underway for Choralfest, the Board had to make a quick and very calculated decision to cancel the program. Hundreds of hours were spent planning and preparing for this program. We felt disappointed but it was the same disappointment that all of the world was feeling for so many reasons. This cancellation would not be last of 2020, and we ended up needing to cancel all regular programs for the rest of the year.

At the onset of COVID, our amazing Executive Director, Brendan Lord and fantastic program coordinator, Stuart Beatch started thinking creatively and reached out to our members to see what was needed in this time of turmoil. Through surveys, roundtables and (now the standard) zoom calls, we were able to create new "virtual" programs that provided connection to our choral community.

The Convolution project grew out of a need and desire for music and connection in this time of isolation and anxiety. This proved to be a very successful program. We were also able to provide several educational webinars and complete a very successful 'Run For Music' fundraiser in the Fall that raised over \$36,000 for choirs in our province.

I applaud our amazing staff, this Board, and our members for enduring this past year with optimism, hope and creativity.

Thank-you to all of our wonderful members who give to Choir Alberta. Giving comes in all forms and at this time we need each and every one of you to keep this organization strong. Serving on working groups, participating in roundtables, answering questions when we reach out, and giving monetary contribu-

tions. I encourage all of you to keep staying active and to use your Choir Alberta Membership to its fullest. This is a great time to look at our newly updated music library, attend our new virtual Music Conference Alberta in 2021 and give us suggestions for programming that you would like to see in the coming year.

The last two years as President of Choir Alberta have been an honor. It is my pleasure to hand over the position to Julie Friedman-Smith. Her passion, leadership and love for the arts is a perfect recipe for success.

Respectfully submitted,
Mame Goehner

Executive Director's message

Members and friends,

2019-2020 will forever be the season during which choral music confronted its greatest challenge in recent history — COVID-19. Over the course of a few short weeks, Alberta's choral community was silenced as government guidance necessitated the cancellation of all rehearsals and concerts. Adding fuel to the fire were anecdotal accounts of widespread transmission at choir events which led to concerns that that choirs could be super spreaders. Months of uncertainty followed, but although incredibly challenging, the choral community responded with tenacity and creativity.

Until March, Choir Alberta's season was progressing well and saw the successful launch of new programming initiatives designed to advance the goals set out in the strategic plan. Pop Up Choir YEG was our first foray into the casual choir experience and was designed to include everyone who loves to sing, regardless of their musical background. We were also prepared to offer the inaugural Alberta Vocal Festival in April aimed at groups performing non-traditional choral genres including vocal jazz, a cappella, and barbershop.

Music Conference Alberta 2019 was the largest to date involving twelve presenting organizations and hundreds of delegates, exhibitors, presenters, and performers. Held in Calgary for the first time in more than 20 years, we were



able to take advantage of some of Calgary's most beautiful venues including Studio Bell, the home of the National Music Centre, the new Central Library, and Mount Royal University's acoustically superb Bella Concert Hall. Especially exciting was the conference's first-ever collaboration with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra that provided hundreds of youth an opportunity to play and sing alongside some of Calgary's finest musicians.

Although successful, Music Conference Alberta 2019 really hit home the fact that the conference has outgrown its current management model and that a new approach is needed. In January 2020, the Board of Directors of the three co-producing organizations (Alberta Band Association, Alberta Music Education Foundation, and Choir Alberta) adopted a proposal to establish Music Conference Alberta as a non-profit company with co-producing and collaborating organizations as stakeholders. This model will allow these organizations to continue to drive the artistic and educational content while shifting the responsibility of shared aspects (including everything from the website to receptions) to the company. We believe that this approach will result in the greatest value for Choir Alberta members, both in terms of the conference and other offerings.

The 2019 biennial chorister workshop tour took Choir Alberta to cities and towns across the province. Although we maintain a consistent presence in Edmonton and Calgary, the workshop tour affords us an opportunity to work directly with Alberta's rural choral community – this time, to collaborate with choirs in Medicine Hat, Camrose, and Hinton. More than 310 singers attended the workshop entitled Sing Well As You Age: Freeing Your Singing Voice with presenter Sarona Mynhardt.

On Thursday, Mar 12 – three days before the launch of Choralfest 2020 – COVID-19 restrictions were intro-

duced. This meant the cancellation of a full Choral-fest, of the inaugural Alberta Vocal Festival, of Visiting Choral Artist workshops, and Run For Music. As was the case for many organizations, we pivoted our offerings, both in terms of the "what" and the "how." In late March, we convened the first of several virtual roundtables as vehicle through which participants could support, share with, and learn from one another. Recognizing the fears and stresses that conductors were facing, we offered a webinar in early April entitled 'Self-Care for Conductors'. In addition, we developed a comprehensive online resource page to help conductors and music educators as they adjusted to teaching and holding rehearsals online.

Financially, the organization's financial position was strengthened in 2019-2020, and the excess in revenue over expense posted will be directed toward replenishing net assets. We anticipate the next two years will pose a significant financial challenge, but the organization's leadership is committed to ensuring financial stability.

2019-2020 saw significant organizational and leadership changes. First, in Nov 2019, our Administrative Assistant of five years, Spencer, submitted his resignation. Although that position has not been rehired to date, it is our intention to do so alongside the relaunch of Choir Alberta's in-person programming. We have welcomed three new members to the Board this year – Joanne Collier, Carol Callahan (Treasurer), and Julie Freedman Smith (Vice President) – and saw the appointment of two new members – Justin Macosky (Calgary) and Tina Alexander-Luna (Grande Prairie) – to the Program Advisory Committee. We have already begun to benefit from their important perspectives and valuable work.

Today we bid farewell to three members of the Board. First, to our Secretary, Joshua Mohr, whose guidance in the area of governance, has been an invaluable

asset to the organization. Second, to our VP Projects and Programs, Nicole Hounjet. Nicole was the first Chair of the Program Advisory Committee and has firmly established its critical role within Choir Alberta's leadership structure. And last, to Karen Hudson, who, today, completes her 16th year on the Board served over the course of two 18-year terms. Her infectious passion for the choral art and her in-depth knowledge of our choral community has been foundational to many important discussions and decisions. We wish all three of these exemplary choral leaders and advocates the absolute best with their future endeavors.

As we continue to navigate the turbulent waters of COVID-19, I am so inspired by the tenacity and innovation of choral leaders across our province—their work paints a hopeful picture for the future of choral music here in Alberta! It continues to be my privilege to play a leadership role with Choir Alberta, and I very much look forward to our continued collaboration in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Brendan Lord, DMus

Current membership

CATEGORY	FEE	2020	2019
Choirs/Institutions – 1-20 members*	\$100	14	N/A
Choirs/Institutions – 21-80 members*	\$150	55	N/A
Choirs/Institutions – 81+ members*	\$250	13	N/A
Choirs/Institutions (no longer active)**	\$150	(82)	146
Conductor/Educator	\$95	34	68
Associate***	\$40	9	10
Student	\$25	2	83
Chorister^	Free	185	189
Life	N/A	16	16
TOTAL		328	508

* New category for 2020
** Old membership category included for comparison purposes
*** New category for 2020; compared with relict Adult Chorister category
^ New category for 2020; compared with Child Chorister category



Choir Alberta Past President Karen Hudson presents the Con Spirito Award to Ken Rogers



Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff presents the Richard S. Eaton Award to Dr. John Wiebe

Awards of Distinction

Choir Alberta's Awards of Distinction are presented annually to individuals and groups who contribute to the vibrancy of Alberta's choral community.

The 2019 awards were presented at the Music Conference Alberta Awards Concert on Saturday, 26 October 2019, at Calgary Central Library.

Con Spirito Award

Established in celebration of Choir Alberta's 25th Anniversary in 1997, the Con Spirito Award recognizes the spirit and dedication of individuals, and their commitment to choral music in their local community.

2019 Recipients — Cheryl Balay (Edmonton), Ken Rogers (Lethbridge)

Patricia Cook Memorial Award

Patricia Cook, Executive Assistant of Choir Alberta (then the Alberta Choral Federation) from 1990-94, inspired this award with her dedication to arts advocacy and to the important role of the arts in education. The award is presented to a person, choir, institution, program or corporation who/which demonstrates an exemplary commitment to music education in schools or the wider community.

2019 Recipient — Jean Czaja (Calgary)

Richard S. Eaton Award

Presented since 1988 in recognition of exemplary service to choral music in the province of Alberta.

2019 Recipient — Dr. John Wiebe (Edmonton)

Programming and resources





Alberta Youth Choir performing at the Music
Conference Alberta Gala Concert

Alberta Youth Choir

A Choir Alberta flagship program, the Alberta Youth Choir is the provincial honour choir for singers ages 16-22. AYC provides a unique opportunity for outstanding young singers from across the province to join forces in the pursuit of choral excellence under the direction of a renowned conductor.

Artistic team

Dr. Sandra Snow, Williamson, MI
Guest conductor

Bruce Cable, Edmonton
Resident conductor

Natalie Prando, Calgary
Apprentice conductor

Gavin Caldwell, Calgary
Pianist

Working group

Nicole Hounjet, Calgary
Learning coordinator

Lisa Friesen, Red Deer
Volunteer coordinator

Heidi Wood, Calgary
Food coordinator

Patti Vaillant, Lacombe
Tour coordinator

Stuart Beatch, Edmonton
Hospitality

Calendar

Oct 5-6	Rehearsal weekend University of Alberta, Edmonton
Oct 24-25	Residency Calgary Stampede Youth Campus
Oct 25	Gala Concert performance Bella Concert Hall
Oct 26-27	Tour performances Strathmore Alliance Church, Rosebud Church

Repertoire

Awake the Harp (from The Creation) – Joseph Haydn
Baba Yetu – Christopher Tin
How Can I Cry – Moira Smiley
I am the great sun – Jussi Chydenius
Let My Love Be Heard – Jake Runestad
The Little Old Sod Shanty (from *Three Prairie Songs*) – arr. Trent Worthington
O Schöne Nacht – Johannes Brahms
The Rumor of a Secret King – John Mackey
Train (from Due West) – Stephen Chatman

Key statistics

Number of singers	77
Number of choirs represented	38
Number of cities/towns represented	19
Combined audiences	772
Total volunteer hours	158.5
Registration fee	\$295



Alberta Children's Choirs



The Southern Alberta Children's Choir on stage with guest conductor Lynnel Joy Jenkins

The Alberta Children's Choir program provides an opportunity for children between the ages of 11 and 15 from across the province to pursue excellence in choral music under the direction of an internationally recognized choral conductor and pedagogue. Two choirs are offered annually—one in Calgary and one in Edmonton.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Artistic team

Lynnel Joy Jenkins, Princeton, NJ
Guest conductor

Liz DiMarino
Preparatory conductor

Evan Mounce, Calgary
Pianist

Calendar

Jan 11	Preparatory rehearsal Knox United Church, Calgary
Jan 30-Feb 1	Residency Mount Royal University
Feb 2	Gala Concert performance Bella Concert Hall

Working group

Liz DiMarino, Calgary
Learning and guest artist
hospitality

Tyler Leavitt, Calgary
Volunteer coordinator

Sarah Drew
Food coordinator

Key statistics

Number of singers	86
Number of choirs represented	17
Number of cities/towns represented	10
Audience	610
Total volunteer hours	201.5
Registration fee	\$195

Repertoire

Jubilanten – Jan Magne Førde
Kyrie Eleison – Ivo Antognini
'Regina Coeli' from *Litanie della Madonna* –
Michael Haydn
I Started Out Singing – Jocelyn Hagen
Here on these Branches – Sarah Quartel
Take Me to the Water – Rollo Dilworth
This Is Your Time – J. Reese Norris

Guest choirs featured at Gala Concert

Calgary Girls Charter School Concert Choir —
Sarah Drew, conductor
Gilbert Paterson Select Choir — Tyler Leavitt, conductor
Magrath Elementary Senior Choir —
Josh Sherwood, conductor
The Alegré Choir — Kathy Matkin-Clapton, conductor



NORTHERN ALBERTA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Artistic team

Christy Elsner, Kansas City, MO
Guest conductor

Lyndsey Olsen, Edmonton
Preparatory conductor

Natalie Côté, Red Deer
Apprentice conductor

Kim Cousineau, Edmonton
Pianist and percussionist

Working group

Bethsaida Pecson, Edmonton
Guest artist hospitality

Polyanna Peters, Edmonton
Volunteer coordinator

Jasmyn Sarjas-Terlikar
Food coordinator

Natalie Côté, Red Deer
Learning coordinator

Key statistics

Number of singers	89
Number of choirs represented	25
Number of cities/towns represented	15
Audience	460
Total volunteer hours	252.5
Registration fee	\$195

Repertoire

Trilo – Swedish folksong, arr. Christy Elsner
'Tecum Principium' from *Dixit Dominus* – Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Christy Elsner
Why Not? – Nathan Howe
Stars – Larysa Kuzmenko
All the way home – Sarah Quartel
Morokeni – African greeting song, arr. Bernard Krüger
Hope Lingers On – Lissa Schneckenburger, arr. Andrea Ramsey
Will the Circle Be Unbroken – Traditional Appalachian hymn, arr. J. David Moore

Calendar

Jan 11	Preparatory rehearsal MacEwan University, Edmonton
Feb 6-8	Residency MacEwan University, Edmonton
Feb 9	Gala Concert performance McDougall United Church

Guest choirs featured at Gala Concert

Monsignor Fee Otterson Junior High School Choir —
Bethsaida Pecson, conductor

Good Shepherd Elementary School Choir —
Renata Lemire, conductor

Edmonton Young Voices Children's Choir —
Meghan Rayment, conductor

École Meridian Heights Magic Voices Vocal Ensemble —
Josephine Huedepohl, conductor





An enthusiastic Northern Alberta Children's Choir performs at the Alberta Children's Choir Gala Concert

Conducting Apprenticeship Program



Upper – Natalie Côté on stage with the Northern Alberta Children's Choir

Lower – Natalie Prando with Alberta Youth Choir guest conductor Dr. Sandra Snow

The Conducting Apprenticeship Program provides an opportunity for emerging Albertan choral conductors to be mentored by guest conductors of the Alberta Youth and Alberta Children's Choirs. The program is designed for graduate-level or early-career conductors to further develop their skills under the direction of a world-class conductor and pedagogue.

Apprentice conductors work with the Alberta Youth Choir or one of the Alberta Children's Choirs throughout the rehearsal process, and conduct one piece in each of the choir's performances. Apprentice conductors also receive a private conducting coaching with their mentor.

There is no fee to participate in this program.

2019-2020 APPRENTICE CONDUCTORS

Natalie Côté – school music teacher, Red Deer

Apprentice Conductor for the Northern Alberta Children's Choir

Mentored by Christy Elsner, Founder and Artistic Director of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City

Natalie Prando – Music Director at First Evangelical Free Church, Calgary

Apprentice Conductor for the Alberta Youth Choir

Mentored by Dr. Sandra Snow, Professor of Choral Conducting and Music Education at Michigan State University College of Music

'Sing Well As You Age' Workshop Tour

Choir Alberta's chorister workshop tour partners with choirs and other local presenters to present workshops in communities across the province on a biennial basis. 2019's workshop was entitled 'Sing Well As You Age: Freeing your voice with Sarona Mynhardt'.

Workshop description

A fun and interactive workshop, providing you with the tools to achieve and maintain a healthy voice as you age. Sarona Mynhardt will lead you through a basic vocal technique system and introduce you to a five-day workout with exercises that are easy to follow. These exercises will help you work towards maintaining a rich and consistent tone throughout your range, access to both high and low notes, efficient breath management through phrases, the control and skill to sing any music you wish—and most of all, the confidence to sing and enjoy the sound of your own unique voice!

PRESENTER

Sarona Mynhardt – Gibsons, BC

Calendar

Nov 2	Black Box Theatre, Medicine Hat College Co-presented by Medicine Hat College
Nov 3	McDougall United Church, Calgary Co-presented by Westwinds Music Society
Nov 4	Chapel, UAlberta Augustana Campus, Camrose Co-presented by Augustana Campus
Nov 5	PCL Hall, MacEwan University, Edmonton
Nov 6	Grace Lutheran Church, Hinton Co-presented by Spirit of the Rockies Women's Choir and Foothills Male Chorus

Attendance

Medicine Hat	29
Calgary	78
Camrose	53
Edmonton	110
Hinton	40
TOTAL	310

Registration fees

Individual registration — \$35

Group registration* — \$25

*Groups of 5 or more



Music Conference Alberta keynote speaker Bramwell Tovey inspires and energizes conference delegates

Music Conference Alberta

Music Conference Alberta is Alberta's premier professional development opportunity for music teachers, choral conductors, band directors, and studio instructors. Held in Calgary at Studio Bell and the Calgary Central Library, 2019 delegates attended interest sessions, interactive panel discussions, open rehearsals and rehearsal labs, masterclasses, MCA One-on-One sessions, and concerts. The MCA Marketplace provided an venue for delegates to browse and purchase product, meet industry representatives, and learn about upcoming travel and fundraising opportunities. Leaders in music education in the province were recognized in the company of their peers at the MCA Awards Concert.

Music Conference Alberta 2019 took place October 22-24.

Venue schedule

Calgary Central Library
Hilton Garden Inn Calgary
Downtown
Studio Bell, home of the
National Music Centre
Taylor Centre for the Performing
Arts, Mount Royal University

Co-producers

Alberta Band Association
Alberta Music Education Foundation
Choir Alberta

Collaborators

Alberta Chapter – Carl Orff Canada
Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers
Alberta Kodály Association
Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association
Calgary Association for the Development of Music Education
Calgary Chapter – Carl Orff Canada
Canadian Music Centre – Prairie Region
National Association of Teachers of Singing – Southern Alberta Chapter
Lethbridge Chapter – Carl Orff Canada

Statistical overview

Component	Total	Choir Alberta
Total delegates	344	53.83 (15.7%)
Choir Alberta + collaborator delegates	135.17 (39.9%)	53.83 (39.8%)
Marketplace exhibitors	23	7
Program advertisements	23	14
Sessions (all)	57	12
Opening Concert attendance	458	
Gala Concert attendance	592	
Awards Concert attendance	250	
Performers (solo + ensemble)	12	3

Choir Alberta affiliate presenters + performers

Morna Edmundson — Surrey, BC
Laura Hawley — Edmonton, AB
Michael Zaugg — Edmonton, AB
Marni Strome — Calgary, AB
Karen Hudson — Lethbridge, AB
Elaine Quilichini and Viva (Calgary Girls Choir) — Calgary, AB
Sheryl Reinhardt and the Western Canada High School Concert Choir — Calgary, AB
Jill Trinka — Pawleys Island, SC [sponsored by AKA]
David Rankine — Kingston, ON [sponsored by Orff]
Damien Lim — Singapore [sponsored by AGEHR]

Alberta Treble Choir

A special project of Choir Alberta, the Alberta Treble Choir brought together nearly 200 singers from 6 treble choirs to sing with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. The choir performed at the Music Conference Alberta Opening Concert held at Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts in the Bella Concert Hall.

PARTICIPATING CHOIRS

William Aberhart High School Treble Choir – Monique Olivier, conductor
Alberta High School of Fine Arts Vocal Ensemble – Matthew Ellis, conductor
Brava — Calgary Girls Choir – Elaine Quilichini, conductor
Cantaré Children’s Choir – Catherine Glaser-Climie, conductor
LCI Singers – Karen Hudson, conductor
Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School Treble Choir – Andrew Snyder, conductor

Resident conductor — Catherine Glaser-Climie
Conductor – Karl Hirzer

Registration fees

Early Bird	\$325
Full	\$375
First-time delegate	\$187.50
One day	\$195
Student	\$75
2-for-1	\$375
Faculty + student	-\$25 per student



Pop Up Choir YEG

Pop Up Choir 1.0
Saturday, Sep 28, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
99ten, Edmonton

Tickets

\$25 each
\$20 per person for groups of 5+

Total attendance – 43

Pop-Up Choir is about all about singing in the company of friends. No performance and no apologies for wrong notes. Oh, and the bar stays open!

Whether you're a seasoned singer, haven't sung for years, or have tended to reserve your singing for the shower, Pop-Up Choir is for you. The music has been arranged so that some parts are simple and others are more challenging. You don't need to be able to read music, but for those who do, the booklets do have a section with notation.

Guest artists

Jennifer McMillan (Edmonton) – Leader and arranger
Caleb Nelson (Edmonton) – Leader and arranger

COVID-19 response

Resource page

The Choir Alberta COVID-19 resource page includes:

- Links to guidance from Alberta Health
- Transmission considerations in the choral setting
- Practical teaching resources
- Online rehearsal tools
- Links to musicianship and music theory resources
- Recommended Facebook groups

Webinars and virtual roundtables

Virtual roundtable

Friday, Mar 20 – 64 attendees

Intended to provide members and constituents with an opportunity to learn, share, and support one another. Resource people – Kathleen Luyk, Sara Brooks, Heather Fraser, Geung Kroeker-Lee, and Catherine Glaser-Climie

Self-care for Choral Conductors

Thursday, Mar 26 – 26 attendees

Designed to equip conductors with strategies for coping with the uncertainty and stress resulting from COVID-19. Facilitated by Dr. Sara Brooks.

The 'Alberta Choral Conductors and Leaders' page was launched in June as a way of facilitating dialogue and timely communication with members and stakeholders.



The 2016 Alberta Youth Choir performs under the direction of Swedish conductor Fred Sjöberg

Library

Key statistics

Titles in library	3,088
New titles acquired	-1,152
Titles borrowed	101
Octavos borrowed	2,569
Choirs that borrowed	43
Chorister benefitting	1,720

Key statistics

Octavos 1-10 pages	\$0.25
Octavos 11-20 pages	\$0.50
Octavos 21+ pages	\$1.00

The Choir Alberta library is comprised of 3 collections – The Choir Alberta Collection, the Canadian Collection, and the Festival Singers Collection. Altogether, more than 3,000 titles and 180,000 octavos are available for loan.

The Festival Singers Collection was established in 2018 thanks to a generous donation by the Sherwood Park Festival Singers. Thanks to our ongoing agreement, new titles appropriate for non-auditioned adult choirs will be added annually.

The Choir Alberta Library also offers a host of resources for Choir Alberta members including:

- Collated repertoire lists by choir type and level
- The Canadian Collection Guidebook
- Collated repertoire lists from the Canadian Collection
- The Choral Music Composed by Canadian Women website
- Member picks
- Access to the Musica International database

Choir Alberta continues to have access to Canada's Post's Online Shipping Tool for library materials. The OST offers significant shipping discounts and free return shipping labels.

Library digitization project

In the spring of 2020, the final phase of the library digitization project was launched. This phase included scanning the scores and updating the metadata for each. The project will wrap up during the 2020-2021 season, and digital loans will launch in September 2021.

External communications

Websites

CHOIR ALBERTA

	2019	2020
Unique visits	17,439	18,152
Page views	40,208	28,882

COMPOSED BY CANADIAN WOMEN

	2019	2020
Unique visits	2,028	190
Page views	3,816	378

Newsletters

	2019	2020
e-notes (monthly distribution)	828	1,005
Concert Listings (bi-weekly distribution)	188	565

Social media

FACEBOOK — CHOIR ALBERTA PAGE

	2019	2020
Likes at July 1	880	1,044
Likes at June 30	1,044	1,213
Growth	164 (19%)	169 (16%)
Average post reach	263	250
Highest post reach	2,175	26,300

FACEBOOK — ALBERTA CHORAL CONDUCTORS + LEADERS GROUP

	2019	2020
Likes at July 1	n/a	0
Likes at June 30	n/a	167
Growth	n/a	167

INSTAGRAM

	2019	2020
Followers at July 1	676	934
Followers at June 30	934	1,118
Growth	258 (38%)	184 (19%)
Average post reach	n/a	32.6
Highest post reach	n/a	651

Financial statements

Financial statements

Sigma Accounting Group LLP

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Choir Alberta Association

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Choir Alberta Association (the Association) that comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2020, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

Independent Practitioner's Review Engagement Report to the Members of Choir Alberta Association
(continued)

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

In common with many not for profit organizations, Choir Alberta Association derives revenue from fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory review. Accordingly, our review of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of Choir Alberta Association. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess of revenue over expenses, and cash flow from operations, current assets and net assets

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Conclusion* paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Choir Alberta Association as at June 30, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 12 to the financial statements, which describes subsequent events related to the global COVID-19 pandemic declared by the World Health Organization.

Edmonton, Alberta

SIGMA ACCOUNTING GROUP LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 127,835	\$ 37,753
Marketable securities (Note 4)	10,292	10,061
Accounts receivable	6,402	1,025
Other receivables (Note 5)	5,030	11,670
Goods and services tax recoverable	8,995	4,435
Prepaid expenses	4,348	1,775
	162,902	66,719
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)	16,430	16,514
RENT DEPOSIT	3,194	3,194
	\$ 182,526	\$ 86,427
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 18,769	\$ 61,267
Wages payable	4,293	2,873
Employee deductions payable	15,732	10,303
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	129,068	41,955
	167,862	116,398
CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT LOAN	40,000	-
	207,862	116,398
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	(43,831)	(48,550)
Restricted	2,065	2,065
Net investment in capital assets	16,430	16,514
	(25,336)	(29,971)
	\$ 182,526	\$ 86,427

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Casino (Schedule1) (Note 7)	\$ 39,809	\$ 37,969
Concert admission	17,031	14,937
Donations	33,156	27,187
Fundraisers	-	44,920
Grants (Note 8)	70,960	85,670
Memberships	24,538	22,458
Music rental and sales	2,303	2,646
Other revenues	30,982	42,600
Program fees	155,511	156,860
Rental income	9,118	7,366
	383,408	442,613
COST OF SALES		
Advertising and promotion	11,286	10,888
Direct program wages	30,056	26,087
Equipment rentals	27,890	22,862
Professional artists' services	25,780	34,853
Supplies, music purchases and administration	35,703	53,788
Travel, meals and accommodations	29,393	57,705
Venues	53,003	46,094
	213,111	252,277
GROSS PROFIT (44%; 2019 - 43%)	170,297	190,336

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
EXPENSES		
Amortization	6,207	6,342
Board expenses	2,592	9,588
Goods and services tax expense	4,553	4,435
Insurance	1,960	1,965
Interest and bank charges	3,256	6,634
Office	21,992	8,764
Professional fees	8,720	9,300
Rent	30,752	30,172
Salaries and employee benefits	97,170	105,103
Telephone and utilities	7,650	7,219
	<u>184,852</u>	<u>189,522</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(14,555)	814
OTHER ITEMS		
Government COVID subsidies	19,190	-
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 4,635	\$ 814

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 4,635	\$ 814
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	6,207	6,342
	<u>10,842</u>	<u>7,156</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(5,377)	529
Other receivables	6,640	62,597
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(42,497)	7,825
Deferred revenue	87,113	(84,481)
Prepaid expenses	(2,573)	(20)
Goods and services tax payable	(4,560)	6,416
Wages payable	1,420	1,116
Employee deductions payable	5,429	(15,007)
Rent Deposit	-	4,413
	<u>45,595</u>	<u>(16,612)</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>56,437</u>	<u>(9,456)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(6,123)</u>	<u>(4,957)</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Marketable securities	(232)	(37)
Canada Emergency Business Account loan	40,000	-
Cash flow from (used by) financing activities	<u>39,768</u>	<u>(37)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	<u>90,082</u>	<u>(14,450)</u>
Cash - beginning of year	<u>37,753</u>	<u>52,203</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 127,835</u>	<u>\$ 37,753</u>

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended June 30, 2020

	2019 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenses	Contributions	Withdrawals	2020 Balance
Unrestricted	\$ (48,550)	\$ 4,635	\$ 6,207	\$ (6,123)	\$ (43,831)
Restricted	2,065	-	-	-	2,065
Net investment in capital assets	16,514	-	6,123	(6,207)	16,430
	<u>\$ (29,971)</u>	<u>\$ 4,635</u>	<u>\$ 12,330</u>	<u>\$ (12,330)</u>	<u>\$ (25,336)</u>
	2018 Balance	Excess of revenues over expenses	Contributions	Withdrawals	2019 Balance
Unrestricted	\$ (49,479)	\$ 814	\$ 6,342	\$ (6,227)	\$ (48,550)
Restricted	795	-	1,270	-	2,065
Net investment in capital assets	17,899	-	4,957	(6,342)	16,514
	<u>\$ (30,785)</u>	<u>\$ 814</u>	<u>\$ 12,569</u>	<u>\$ (12,569)</u>	<u>\$ (29,971)</u>

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Choir Alberta Association (formerly Alberta Choral Federation) is an association of choral directors, teachers, choristers and others with an interest in choral music. It was founded in 1972 to encourage and promote the understanding and appreciation of choral music by providing educational and artistic experiences. Choir Alberta Association is incorporated under the Societies Act as a non-profit organization and is a Registered Charity under the Income Tax Act.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and balances with banks.

Revenue recognition

- a) Revenue from operations, consisting of concert fees, program fees and advertising is recognized when services have been provided. The association uses the deferral method of revenue recognition whereby contributions are matched to expenses with any excess revenues deferred to subsequent periods.
- b) Revenue from membership fees is recognized when received as all memberships expire on June 30 regardless of when they were actually purchased.
- c) Revenue from casino operations is recognized as funds are distributed for eligible expenditures in accordance with the casino license agreement. Funds in excess of disbursements are recorded as deferred revenue.
- d) Revenue from donations, fundraising, sponsorships and grants is recognized when received unless the grant is clearly for a subsequent fiscal year in which case it is deferred.

- e) Revenue from a restricted contribution is recognized when matched to eligible expenses.
- f) All other revenue, including music sales and library borrowing costs, is recognized when goods or services are provided.

Financial instruments

Choir Alberta Association initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. The association subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable, marketable securities and goods and services tax receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include accounts payable, employee deductions payable and accrued liabilities.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods, with current year additions subject to the half year rule whereby only half of the available amortization is taken:

Computer equipment	3 years	straight-line method
Furniture and fixtures	20%	declining balance method
Music library	5 years	straight-line method

Impairment of Long Lived Assets

The association tests long lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount to the projected future net cash flows the long-lived assets are expected to generate through their direct use and eventual disposition. When a test for impairment indicates that the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the carrying value exceeds its fair value.

Measurement uncertainty

When preparing financial statements according to accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, management makes estimates and assumptions relating to:

- | reported amounts of revenues and expenses
- | reported amounts and evidence of assets and liabilities
- | disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities.

Estimates are based on a number of factors, including historical experience, current events and actions that the association may undertake in the future, and other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty and actual results could differ. In particular, these estimates are used when accounting for certain items such as revenues, allowance for doubtful accounts, useful lives of capital assets, asset impairment and legal contingencies.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute many hours per year to assist Choir Alberta Association in carrying out their services delivery obligations. Due to the difficulty in estimating the fair market value and in quantifying the donated time, no provision has been made in these financial statements for the value of volunteer time received during the year.

3. CASH

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Restricted cash - Casino Fund	\$ 60,266	\$ 36,298
Non-restricted cash	<u>67,569</u>	<u>1,455</u>
	<u>\$ 127,835</u>	<u>\$ 37,753</u>

4. MARKETABLE SECURITIES

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Alberta Treasury Branch term deposit	\$ 8,227	\$ 7,996
Alberta Treasury Branch term deposit - Suzanne Abele Memorial restricted funds	500	500
Alberta Treasury Branch term deposit - Alberta Youth Choir Bursary fund	<u>1,565</u>	<u>1,565</u>
	<u>\$ 10,292</u>	<u>\$ 10,061</u>

Marketable securities are carried at market value. Investments are subject to normal market risk. In order to earn interest, the Suzanne Abele Memorial Fund (restricted use as directed by donor) and Alberta Youth Choir Bursary fund (internally restricted) has been temporarily placed in the investment account.

5. OTHER RECEIVABLES

In 2020, the Other Receivables amount of \$5,030 consisted of the June portion of the Canada Summer Job grant (\$750) and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (\$4,265). In 2019, the Other Receivables amount of \$11,670 was the Alberta Community Initiatives Program grant received post year end for Choralfest 2019 held in March 2019

6. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2020 Net book value	2019 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 6,979	\$ 6,979	\$ -	\$ -
Furniture and fixtures	5,298	4,501	797	996
Music library	52,991	37,358	15,633	15,518
	\$ 65,268	\$ 48,838	\$ 16,430	\$ 16,514

7. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2020	2019
Restricted Funds		
Opening Casino deferred revenue	\$ 36,298	\$ 74,267
Casino receipts, interest and 50/50 draw amounts received during year	63,777	-
Eligible casino expenditures during year	(39,809)	(37,969)
Subtotal of restricted fund balance	60,266	36,298
Music Conference Alberta registrations	-	2,592
Rozsa Foundation - Convolution project grant	7,500	-
Alberta Foundation for the Arts - Community Support Organizations grant (received early)	10,309	-
Choralfest registrations	22,928	-
Edmonton Arts Council - Connections and Exchanges grant for Big Sing YEG	25,000	-
Deferred donations	500	500
Rent security deposit	1,000	1,000
Deferred bursary	1,565	1,565
	\$ 129,068	\$ 41,955

8. GRANTS

	2020	2019
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$ 43,595	\$ 46,936
Alberta Community Initiatives Program	-	11,670
Edmonton Arts Council	26,600	23,000
Canada Jobs	765	3,264
Sing Canada Harmony	-	800
	\$ 70,960	\$ 85,670

All grants received during the year have been disbursed for eligible expenditures.

9. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The association has a five year premises lease (expires August 14, 2022) for \$1,597 per month plus common area expense.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The association is exposed to credit risk with respect to accounts receivable. The credit risk is minimized by a large amount of small balances and the fact that the program fees are due at the start of the term. No allowance for doubtful accounts has been established based on historical trends and other information. There was no significant change in exposure from prior year.

Interest rate risk

The association is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed interest rate financial instruments. Fixed-rate instruments subject the organization to risk of changes in fair value. There was no significant change in exposure from prior year.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the association will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The association is exposed to this risk mainly in respect to bank indebtedness and accounts payable. The risk is mitigated through the use of an overdraft facility and cash flow management. There was no significant change in exposure from prior year.

11. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS

Choir Alberta Association is a co-presenter of the "Music Conference Alberta" with the Alberta Band Association (ABA), Alberta Music Education Foundation (AMEF) and Calgary Association for the Development of Music Education (CADME). Choir Alberta Association administered all the related registration and expenses and as a result, Choir Alberta Association's revenue and expenses in 2020 include ABA, AMEF and CADME related conference amounts. The net effect was to increase both Choir Alberta Association's revenue and expenses by their portion which was approximately \$79,911 in 2020 (\$88,990 in 2019) but there was nil effect on net income.

"Run for Music" is a fundraising initiative of the Choir Alberta Association but was postponed due to Covid this year. Choir Alberta Association's revenue and expenses in 2019 included \$20,730 in revenue and disbursements to other organizations but there was nil effect on net income.

The combined net effect of both programs is to increase revenue and expenses by \$79,911 in 2020 (\$109,720 in 2019).

12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation is constantly evolving, and the measures put in place are having multiple impacts on local, provincial, national and global economies.

Choir Alberta has had no in-person activities since February 2020 and had to postpone/cancel a number of festivals and programs including Choralfest 2020, Alberta Vocal Festival, Visiting Choral Artist program and Run for Music 2020. Management has adapted by moving some programming, projects and conferences online. They have also reduced wages and other expenses and accessed a number of the government subsidy programs including the Canada Emergency Business Account loan (\$40,000 interest free loan with the potential for a \$10,000 portion to be forgiven), Canada Emergency Wages Subsidy and they will also be apply for the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy.

It is unknown what the impact of the pandemic will be on Choral associations and the non profit sector in general in the medium and long term. As a result, we are unable to estimate the potential impact on the Association's operations as of the date of these financial statements.

CHOIR ALBERTA ASSOCIATION
Statement of Casino Revenues and Disbursements
(Schedule 1)
Year Ended June 30, 2020
(Unaudited)

	2020	2019
CASINO REVENUE	\$ 39,809	\$ 37,969
PROGRAM COSTS		
Equipment rentals	-	330
Professional artists' services	21,620	16,206
Supplies	1,199	3,650
Venues	6,493	17,704
Salaries	7,692	-
Rent	2,696	-
	39,700	37,890
EXCESS OF REVENUES BEFORE GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	109	79
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Interest and bank charges	109	79
EXCESS OF CASINO REVENUE OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ -	\$ -



Canadian Choral icon Dr. Mark Sirett leads delegates in a reading session at Music Conference Alberta

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