

minnesota BOYCHOIR

2024 Annual Report

From the Executive and Artistic Director



Our 62nd Season has come to an end, and I wish to take some time to **extend a heartfelt thanks to YOU, our Boychoir community, for another banner year!**

While our membership is still bouncing back, this season **we welcomed 27 new families** and closed out the year with 120 singers! These young people joyfully sang---and even danced---their way through collaborations with Cantus,

Minnesota Orchestra, the Winnipeg Boys' Choir, Maryland State Boychoir, and spoken word artist Joe Davis and area youth choirs for a Youth Song Share. The Boychoir also added their voices to several worship services, performed in 10 local schools and senior living communities across the metro area, and in May headed to Bemidji for a concert with Legacy Youth Chorale. Between performances our singers enjoyed music theory lessons, music retreats to Camp Wapo, and fun social get-togethers like snow tubing, movie night, and Allegro Night-Out.

Perhaps my proudest moments this season happened during our summer tour to Tennessee. The choir was very well-received throughout the tour, with concert audiences in Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville absolutely charmed by the poise, sound, and professional demeanor of our singers. Seeing our members happy and taking pride in themselves and the organization is THE ultimate gift beyond gifts. I am forever grateful for the opportunities afforded the Minnesota Boychoir and continue to be humbled by the enormous number of lives changed by our presence and music. The applause, tears, hugs, and handshakes filled our hearts and carried us all safely back to Minnesota where we were warmly welcomed home by our families and friends.

The end of the season is always bittersweet as we say goodbye to our graduates, almost all of whom have sung with us for over 9 years! This year all 10 seniors are off to post-secondary studies at Haverford College, Luther College, St. Olaf College, the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, the University of Minnesota--Twin Cities, Lawrence University, Iowa State University, and St. Thomas University. We wish them well and thank them for all they've contributed to the choir---their beautiful voices, hours and hours of mentorship and volunteering, and their commitment to sticking with the Boychoir even through the trials and tribulations of the pandemic.

As always, I am honored to be a part of the Boychoir family. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving---to me, our singers, our alumni, and our community. Thank you.

Mission

The Minnesota Boychoir, through inspirational music and performance, develops exceptional character and musical ability in boys of many backgrounds.

Vision

We nurture boys to find their voice and become leaders of the next generation.

Serving

During the 2023-2024 season the Boychoir served 120 boys ages 5-18. Choirboys hailed from Hudson to Buffalo Lake, Isanti to Lakeville, and everywhere inbetween.


Minnesota Boychoir

75 W 5th Street, Suite 411
Saint Paul, MN 55102

www.boychoir.org

651-292-3219

 /MNBoychoir

 @mnboychoir

We value your feedback!

At the end of each season, we survey our current families to see how the year went for their singer(s). We love to hear when things went well, but also value when folks share their challenges or concerns. Results of our 2023-24 survey:

- 97% felt their child learned, grew, or changed because of their time in the choir
- 99% felt their child received a high-quality arts experience in the choir
- Suggested areas of improvement: communications (quality, quantity, and tone) and authentic and intentional DEI efforts.

Staff

Mark Johnson, Executive and Artistic Director
Todd Price, Accompanist
Anna Keyes, Managing Director
Phillip Radtke, Assistant to the Director
Amy Driscoll, Development Manager

Board of Directors

Officers

Michelle Deering, Chair
Cari Nesje, Vice Chair
Kristen Swanson, Treasurer
Molly Driscoll, Secretary

Directors

Anne Christ
Cassie Christensen
Brian Huilman
Kevin Sauter
Melanie Broida Werl
Roger Williams



The **Exceptional Volunteer Award** honors those who lend dedicated service and support to the Minnesota Boychoir community. Honorees showcase their ability to lead by example, demonstrating the Boychoir's values of leadership, respect, community, character, and self-confidence.

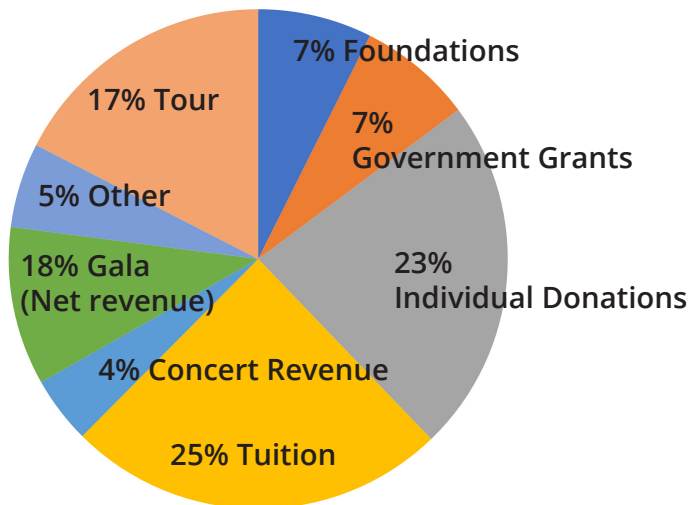
The choir is fortunate to have dozens and dozens of dedicated volunteers, but the winners of the 2024 Exceptional Volunteer Award have been so supportive for so many years, selecting them was a no-brainer! After years of managing the Boychoir merch table at winter concerts, spring concerts, and many other performances, **Donna and Kristo Sween** could teach an advanced course on packing, unpacking, hauling, storage, setting up, taking down, taking stock, accounting, digital cash apps, and customer service! And they do it all with patience, care, and an abundance of humor! This never-say-no, 'sure, how can I help', 'this is really important to our family' couple sit at the core of what it means to have a servant heart & attitude. Congratulations Donna and Kristo and thank you!



Cantando members waiting to go onstage.

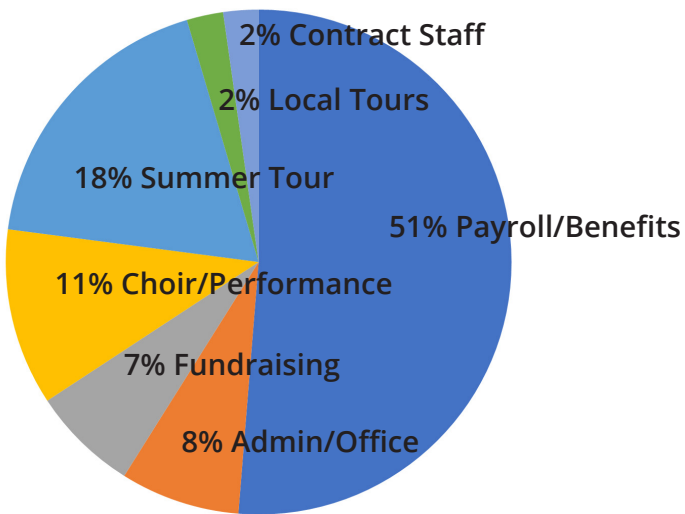
**Donate
Here!**

Sources of Income



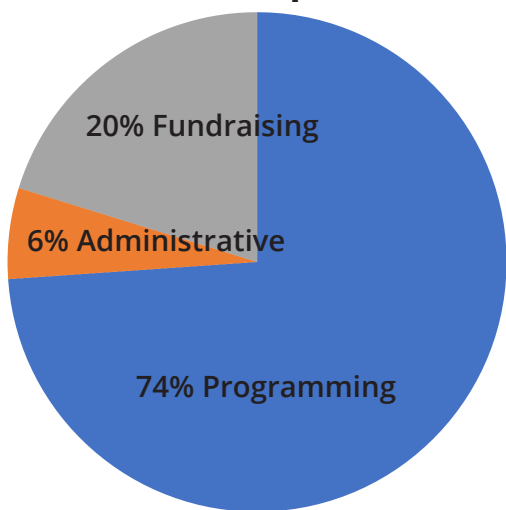
Total \$663,111

Expenses



Total \$640,432

Ratio of Expenses



Treasurer's Report

As we approach our 63rd season, I am pleased to report the future continues to look brighter for the choir!

Thanks to generous individual donations, funding from both private foundations and the state arts board, and an incredibly resolute and talented staff that sparks high engagement of Boychoir members and families, we continue our march toward the financial stability we enjoyed before Covid.

Last year the board and staff created and activated a simple and clear strategy that consisted of measurable goals in the following 4 initiatives we call the "4 B's":

- 1) Increase enrollment of choir members, with an emphasis on creating a welcoming space for more boys from BIPOC communities (**B**oys)
- 2) Increase concert goers (**B**utts in seats!)
- 3) Increase donations (**B**ucks)
- 4) Increase the number of Board members with an emphasis on creating more diversity (**B**oard)

By maintaining our focus on these initiatives, the board has eased the choir back to a comfortable cash position of 6 months operating reserves. We anticipate this will continue to improve as membership numbers and donations build and grow, and this where you, our Boychoir community can help.

Word of mouth is the most effective recruitment tool we have, so send boys our way to join the choir, invite friends and neighbors to concerts, and if you or someone you know is looking to join a highly motivated, involved, and fun board of directors, give us a call!

Here's to a great 63rd season!!

Kristen Swanson

Net Assets

As of June 30, 2023	\$259,718
As of June 30, 2024	\$332,185

Celebrating 25 Years!



This year we honor Todd Price and his 25th anniversary as accompanist for the Minnesota Boychoir! Beyond his technical skill at the piano, Todd plays with a passion for music that comes through in every performance. (Look closely during each concert and you'll likely see Todd wipe away a few

tears at some point.) As a co-worker and friend, he is kind, compassionate, creative, generous, and hilariously funny. As a musician and collaborator he seamlessly adapts to any genre or style, enhancing each piece with his own touch and leaving an indelible mark on all those who have the privilege of hearing him play.

Cheers to you, Todd! You're the best.



Boychoir Tour Choir on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry.
Nashville, TN - June 2024



A member of Cantabile chatting with students after a School Tour performance.



Thanks to an intensive and deeply collaborative effort on the part of our staff and board, we are very proud to announce that the Minnesota Boychoir has once again been designated a Charities Review Council Meets Standards organization!

The review process examines four key areas: Public Disclosure, Governance, Financial Activity, and Fundraising, ensuring donors and the general public that the Boychoir has aligned its practices, policies, and procedures to widely accepted standards of accountability, responsibility, integrity, and transparency.

Chorus of Support

Abraham and Molly Piper
Adam Sanford
Al and Mary Kloos
Alecia and Joshua Scharback
Alex and Odelis Anderson*
Amanda White and Ben Thietje
Amy and Chad Klopp
Amy and Franck Marret
Amy and Sean McDonough
Amy Dillahunt
Amy Rouillard
Anders Lien*
Andrew Johnson and Megan Iverson
Andrew Lehsovsky and
 Louis Berg-Arnold
Andy and Jan Anderson^
Andy and Jodie Weinstein
Andy Pugh and Kaitlin Hallett-Pugh
Angela Eder
Anil Tadavarthy
Anjuli Glaza
Ann and David O'Neill
Anna and Krys Belc
Anna Keyes and Stephen Manuszak
Anna Rusch
Annalee Wolf and Rebecca Merblum
Anne Johnson and Robert Worrall
Annette and Eugene Jensen
Anonymous
Anton Armstrong
Arlene Mrkonich
Arvind Sastry and Nisha Shankar
Barbara Anderson^
Barbara White
Becki and Mac Johnson
Bernadine Rolle
Beth Bomba
Bettine Hermanson
Betty Janey
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Bob and Carol Rugar
Bob and Lynn Kerber
Bobby and Tammy Moothedan
Brad and Linda Habberstad
Brad and Rachael White
Brad and Robin Nelson
Bradley and Kristin Yanta
Bradley Froslee and William O'Connor
Braxton Haulcy
Brea and Jason Bradshaw
Brenda Bohler
Brenda Filipek
Brenda Starr
Brent and Terra Swisher
Bret Richter and
 Elizabeth Evans Richter
Brian and Jennifer Dusek
Brian Aust and Dorothy Leshar
Brian Blakely and Catherine Nolet
Brian Huilman^
Brittany and Bjorn Arneson
Bruce and Elizabeth Wegner^
Bruce and Kate Wilson
C.E. Rowell
Caitlin Reilly and Ben Schave
Cam Schnackel
Camille and Michael Newman
Cari and Nathan Nesje
Carmela and David Kranz
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Carol Mason Smith
Carol Setterberg
Carol Vissers
Caroline Michaels
Carolyn Caswell
Carrie Sartin
Caryn Josephson
Cathy Bosworth and Marty Hamlin
Celine and Bill Dinauer
Charles and Karen Eberhard
Charles and Patricia Haskins
Charlotte Osborn
Cheryl Zerwas
Chris and Jill Westermeyer
Chris and Lori Shepard
Chris and Steph Ward
Chris Scotti
Christian and Amanda Novak*
Christine Kalla
Christine Olsson
Christine Zuchora-Walske
Christy Sturlaugson
Cindy and David Savard
Cody Warren
Connie and Maurice Facciotto
Corey Christensen*
Courtney and Christopher Ferguson
Craig and Bernie Johnson
Craig and Cindy Johnson
Craig and Karen Calcaterra
Craig B Sutter
Curt Schwieso
Cute and Song Lee
Cynthia James
Cynthia Crist^
Cynthia Jacobs
Dale Williams and Amy Driscoll^
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Dan and Kathy Flicek
Dan Roden and Sheryl Trnka
Daniel and Christine Kallman
Daniel and Krista Teigen
Daniel Bihrl
Darcia and Paul Dierking
Darlene and David Holmes
Darold and Debra Gjoraas
Darren Eliason
Daryl Timmer and Terry Mistalski
Dave and Betty Hirschfeld
Dave and Mary Jo Trapp
David and Karen Johnson
David and Lisa Seekins
David and Marci Campen
David and Mary Goldstein
David Felten
David Gibbons and Mark Lozano
David Hood
David Walters
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Dawn Wiczorek and Ann Schrooten
Debora Holmes
Deborah Sandell
Dee Condon
Denise Scholljegerdes
Denise Shaughnessy
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Dennis and Carol Gilson
Dennis R. Hughes
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Diane Skrivseth
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Gail and Larry Stucky
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Adomaviciene
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 Melanie Broida-Werl
Georgia Vlamis
Gerald and Karen Gaasland
Gerald and Mary Fadden
Ginny Adams
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 ^ Monthly sustainers

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