



2021 - 2022 CHOR LEONI ANNUAL REPORT OUR 30TH SEASON





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MEMBERS OF CHOR LEONI

First Tenors

Evan Goldenberg
Corey Hollett
Ken Hollett
Shaun Jackman
Bob Keyes
Derek Kief*
Stephen Nestmann
Aaron Purdie
Peter Spira
Will Ting
Jaime Vargas
Freeman Woolnough*

Second Tenors

Stephen Baker
Alan Chiang
Charles Crossin
Fajar Dumadi
Kyle Harland*
Choji Hayashi
Bruce Hoffman
Reid Howard
Tom Kidd
Rod Locke
Mark MacDonald
Asher Maclaren
Marc Petrunia
Keith Sinclair
John Wyness
John Zuidhof

Baritones

Kenyon Alexander
Joseph Anthony
James Carter
Allan Cathcart
Patrick Cotter
Ian Farthing
Mike Fletcher
Doug Graeb
Roger Grose
Phil Jack*
Mike Jackman
Kelk Jeffery
Peter Joosten
Liam Kearns
Paul Larocque
Douglas Leung
David Love
Greg Martin
Rob McAllister
Trenton Millar
Greg Mohr
Daniel Sheinin
Ted Steiner

Bass

Doug Au-Lange
Rick Bennett
Stash Bylicki
Garth Edwards
James Emery
Byron Hanson
Josh Jenion
Eric Kristensen
Chris Moore
Bob Rankin
Larry Smeets
Michael Soderling*
Jon Sykes
Nicholas van der Velden
Alex Vollant

* = section leaders

Honorary Lifetime Members

Paul & Margaret Birch
Christopher Gaze, O.B.C, M.S.M.
Martha Lou Henley, C.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

CHAIR

Rick Bennett

VICE CHAIR

John Geddes

TREASURER

Marni Johnson

SECRETARY

Conor Graham

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Leanne Denis

Peter Joosten

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Masato Oki

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Executive Director: Stash Bylicki

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Digital Media Producer: Phil Jack

Manager of Marketing & Patron Relations: Bruce Hoffman

Marketing & Community Relations Coordinator: Ariane Bell Vila

Office & Patron Services Coordinator: John Rice

Collaborative Pianist: Ken Cormier, Tina Chang, Karen Lee-Morlang

Voice Instructor: Jeanette Gallant

Lighting Design: Brad Trenaman

Sound: Grant Rowledge

Archivist: Eric Kristensen

FOUNDER

Diane Loomer, C.M.

VISION

To engage and enrich the world through the art of male choral music.

MISSION

Chor Leoni inspires audiences, trains artists, educates youth, and advances the male choral art form by creating, promoting, and presenting male choral music.

We create transformative experiences for our performers, audiences, and communities.

We champion Canadian culture at home and abroad.

VALUES

Supporting and supported by one another, we:

- Thrive on the joy of making and sharing music
- Insist on and cultivate excellence, diversity, inclusiveness, and respect
- Embrace courage and innovation
- Are dedicated to engaging, building, and improving communities through art
- Aspire to continuous growth as musicians and individuals.

Report from the Chair

BY RICK BENNETT

Welcome to our 2023 AGM, a time to look back at our 2021-22 year, honour some of our community, and cast our eyes to the future.

2021-22 was a year of immense contrast. Immense joy and crushing disappointment.

Joy as we took to the public stage again, albeit masked, for Remembrance Day and Christmas.

Disappointment as the emergence of Omicron shut us down again, forced concert postponements of PopCappella, and compromised our visions of VanMan and the Leonids' inaugural concert. Then more joy as we finally retook the stage, unmasked (!), for a rollicking season-ending Popcapella.

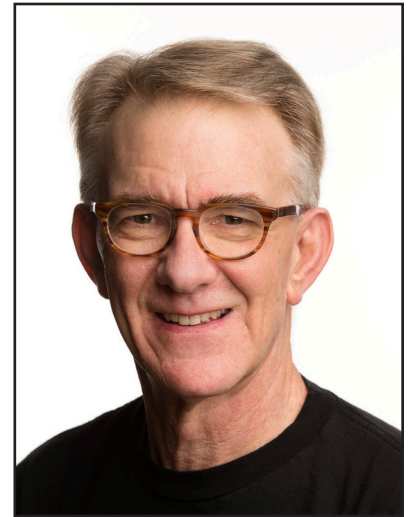
Emotional roller coasters are always tough. Ours was worsened as masks and physical distancing hampered our ability to support one another at the very moment when we most needed that support more than anything else.

Leaving Covid behind, we discovered, would not be straightforward; certainly not linear.

And yet and yet and yet – 2021-22 was the year that proved beyond all doubt our collective resilience. Despite everything that Covid threw at us, we (ahem) rose again.

I will carry to my grave the memory of those two weeks in March 2020 when, as the world's doors were slamming shut, the board pivoted from approving a \$1 million 2020-21 program to one whose only goal was to ensure there would be a group of men who, when the plague eventually ended, would pick up the pieces and set about once again to, in the words of our Vision, engage and enrich the world through our art.

That is exactly what happened last year.

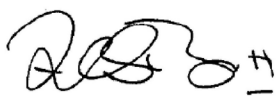


We began again to thrive on the joy of making and sharing music. Our local audiences responded by returning to our live shows. Others flocked to our digital concerts and Chor Leoni Inside – initiatives themselves born of necessity by Covid. And people from every quarter supported us financially with astonishing generosity.

If any still doubt that Chor Leoni is back, we have only to point to the extraordinary beginning to our current season, one filled with unbridled joy, love, and musical accomplishment.

Such resilience is not a given. I believe that Chor Leoni's is grounded in the love and care we share among ourselves, and beyond that with our audience and supporters. Without it we are at most just another good choir. With it we are, well, Chor Leoni I guess. And that, my beloved brothers in song, is quite something.

Respectfully and lovingly submitted.



Rick Bennett
Chair



Report from the Artistic Director

BY ERICK LICHTE

The 2021-22 season was designed with hope at its core. After the silence of the previous season, this year was to be a triumphant return to music and live connection, including many new and forward thinking initiatives. It was designed with the idea that Covid might be behind us. This was, unfortunately, not the case. And, though live music making and concerts resumed, the Omicron surge took the choir and its PopCappella concerts off-line for a few months in the beginning of 2022. It also pushed us back to uncertain and disconnected times.



This derailment pushed half of the choir's already demanding season, into the space of three months. This period was one of the most trying and stressful times in my career. This was also the moment where the weight of fatigue from the pandemic seemed to settle on the choir and all of Vancouver. It was hard.

But as I look through the pages of this report, I am overwhelmed by two things.

First, the sheer amount of successful and boundary-pushing projects done by the choir including 26 world premieres, the launch of The Leonids, a new professional in-house ensemble built for our VanMan Festival, a new album and extraordinary online concerts and other digital content. The amount of quality offerings the choir and organization created is astonishing.

Second, what I see in the pages of this report are the smiles of the beautiful singers of Chor Leoni, the students of our MYVoice program and our ever-supportive audience. As we spent almost the whole season masked, it was these smiles that were there but were hidden. Clearly the cameras caught a disproportionate amount of these unmasked moments of joy! Seeing the pictures of the smiles Chor Leoni created last season reminds me of what this organization is about and where it draws its energy.

Through it all, Chor Leoni loved and supported each other, loved our music, loved our audience and our community. And they did it often with unseen smiles. I will be forever grateful to everyone who helped us bring music back during this trying but triumphant season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erick Lichte'.

Erick Lichte
Artistic Director

Report from the Executive Director

BY STASH BYLICKI

The 2021-2022 season was a testament to the lasting endurance and impact of Chor Leoni. While some may say that it was nothing short of miraculous to come back from a pandemic hiatus and accomplish what we did, knowing the organization, our singers, and our community, endurance, will, and perseverance are to be expected. We put on 15 concerts, honed in a successful digital concert series, launched The Leonids, toured, welcomed our new Composer in Residence, ran two successful educational programs, and commissioned an unprecedented number of new works. Everyone should be very proud.



We were blessed with incredible support from the community that allowed us to not only survive but to broaden our impact. The David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund further bolstered the MYVoice endowment, ensuring that young singers continue to be enriched by the power of choral singing. Supporters – individual donors, foundations, sponsors, and government grantors – contributed generously and entrusted Chor Leoni to make an impact on the world through their philanthropy. This success would not be possible without them.

Organizationally, it was a year of growth as we welcomed Ariane Bell Vila, John Rice, and Cynthia Philpott to the team. We are grateful to have them with us and to all staff for their tireless work behind the scenes. At the same time, Bruce Hoffman, our long-time marketing guru, retired from many years of invaluable work at Chor Leoni. Much of our success over the past 30 years is thanks to Bruce's work, and Chor Leoni would not be the gem of Canada that it is without his love, care, and support. On behalf of all of Chor Leoni, I express my gratitude to Bruce and to all who shepherded Chor Leoni to where it is today. Seasons like this are an opportunity to remember the incredible work that brought us here.

Respectfully submitted,

Stash Bylicki
Executive Director



BARBARA PENTLAND AWARD

We were honoured to be presented with a Pentland Award of Excellence this year for our extraordinary contribution to Canadian Music. The award recognizes the innovative format of our Canadian Choral Composition Competition (C/4) as well as the many dozens of new works we have commissioned from and premiered by Canadian composers. Thank you to Sean Bickerton and CMC BC!



NEW ALBUM RELEASE

LA NEF & CHOR LEONI

SHANTIES! LIVE



“Chor Leoni was the perfect instrument to bolster and complement our original crew. Our collaboration gave La Nef the opportunity to take the music even farther than we have on our voyage so far.”

Seán Dagher, Musical and Artistic Co-Director of La Nef.

Released in May 2022, Shanties! LIVE was recorded live at the Chan Centre for Performing Arts in February 2020 at a performance presented by Early Music Vancouver. Originally conceived when members of La Nef were hired to sing sea shanties for Ubisoft's Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag, the 14-track album features songs of travel, adventure, and missing loved ones who are far away.

Soloists featured on the album include: Seán Dagher, voice/cittern; Nils Brown, tenor; Michiel Schrey, tenor; Clayton Kennedy, baritone; David Gossage, flutes/percussion/voice; Nelson Carter, violin/voice/percussion; and Bill Gossage, double bass/voice.

CHOIR IN RESIDENCE



ST. ANDREW'S-WESLEY
UNITED CHURCH

The 2021-2022 season saw Chor Leoni settle in at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church as their Choir in Residence.

The two organizations spent the season exploring ways that they can further each other's missions.

As a community, St. Andrew's-Wesley is rooted in the values of spirit, arts, social justice, and inclusion. As an extension of these values, Chor Leoni lends its voice to create spaces where all of you is welcome and where all of you can be transformed through music and community.

We're looking forward to continuing to build our relationship with everyone at St. Andrew's-Wesley United, and are so thankful to be able to call such a beautiful space our home.



COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

DON MACDONALD

My tenure so far as composer in residence has been immensely fulfilling both musically and personally. It has afforded me the opportunity to look forward to new creations and new relationships, but also to reflect on my history with the ensemble and the profound impact it has had on me as an individual and as a musician.

It is a privilege to be part of an organization that strives to stay relevant, pursues new creative endeavors, and continues to expand. Last Spring's premiere of "Dolcissima mia Vita" heralded a new era for the group with the addition of the Leonids to the Chor Leoni family of choirs. At the same concert, the MYVoice Program singers performed "Carry Me" and the mass choir performed "The Grace of Light". As I sat in the audience it was quite moving to see how things had evolved since the group's humble beginnings in the Loomer family kitchen.

Looking back, it is interesting to note that I wrote the arrangement for "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda" in 1993 for the first Remembrance Day concert. It was my first work for the group, so it seems fitting and somehow celebratory that this coming Remembrance Day, 30 years later, the singers once again took to the stage to perform a piece of mine.

Thank you to Erick for being an incredible sounding board for my creative ideas, to the choir for letting an old lion back into the pride and brilliantly performing my works, and to the organization for all your support.



BREATHE IN HOPE

NOVEMBER 10 | 7:30PM

NOVEMBER 11 | 2PM & 7:30PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver

REFLECTIONS ON BREATHE IN HOPE

BY ROGER GROSE

I attended the Chor Leoni Remembrance Day Concerts in past years and hoped that one day I could sing with this remarkable choir. I was enthralled by their sound – the smooth choral blend, the full crescendos and the sweet pianissimo passages. That dream was realized last September when I auditioned for the choir and became a member of Chor Leoni. My first program with Chor Leoni was Breathe in Hope - the Remembrance Day Concerts of 2021.

What an experience! The crush of learning the music in September and October gave way to a most thrilling and powerful musical experience at the Remembrance Day performances. Now, singing in a choir is vastly different from hearing a choir in a one-time-only concert setting. The singer has the great opportunity of learning the intricacies of the music and the added benefit of living with the text of the music during the weeks of rehearsal.

And, oh, such insightful text! Whether it was the choir affirming 'we will remember them' in the "Invocation" or hearing the story of the returning wounded soldiers in "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda", it was stirring. Hope was expressed as the choir powerfully sang, "There is power in making for the right" and the message of peace in "Boundless and Infinite" was both soothing and comforting. There were so many phrases like these which got under my skin and persist in my mind a year later.

Remembrance Day has always been a time of reflection for me. A time to consider not only the sacrifices of those in the Great Wars but also of the many wars and injustices that continue to haunt us even today. Thanks to the music and sensitive programming of the Breathe in Hope Remembrance Day concerts, I experienced the most meaningful Remembrance Day. I definitely paused to think and remember. The music and its message has followed me since then.

Concert Supporters:

John Geddes and Johanna Shapira
Rosalind and Ken Hollett



CHRISTMAS WITH CHOR LEONI

DECEMBER 17 | 8PM

DECEMBER 18 | 2PM & 5PM & 8PM

DECEMBER 20 | 4:30PM & 8PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver

COMING IN FROM THE COLD

BY BRUCE HOFFMAN

There is something magical about hearing Chor Leoni sing at Christmas, and while I'm usually on stage, a few years ago I got to experience that magic as an audience member. For me that started as a walk on a cold and wet evening through the West End to St. Andrew's-Wesley United. I'd bundled up against the weather and I loved the feeling of coming in from the cold, warming up and chatting with folks I knew in the audience, and settling into my seat in anticipation of the music to come.

The spell was cast with the first notes of the candlelit procession and I felt removed from the outside world as the voices of my brothers filled the church. By the end of us all singing Silent Night together I felt recharged with the holiday spirit.

This year that sense of coming in from the cold was even more palpable because we couldn't be together last Christmas. From the risers, I was discreetly looking for friends in the audience and feeling incredibly grateful that we were all there, audience and Chor Leoni together, sharing the experience of Christmas with Chor Leoni once again.



Concert Sponsors:



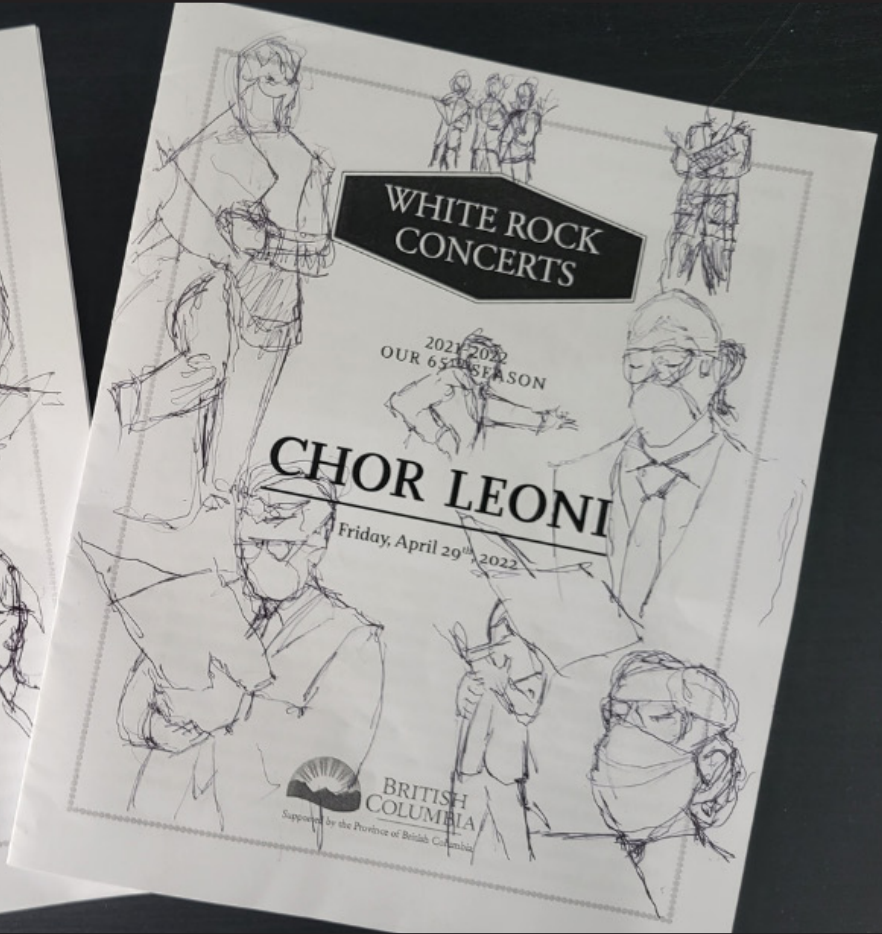
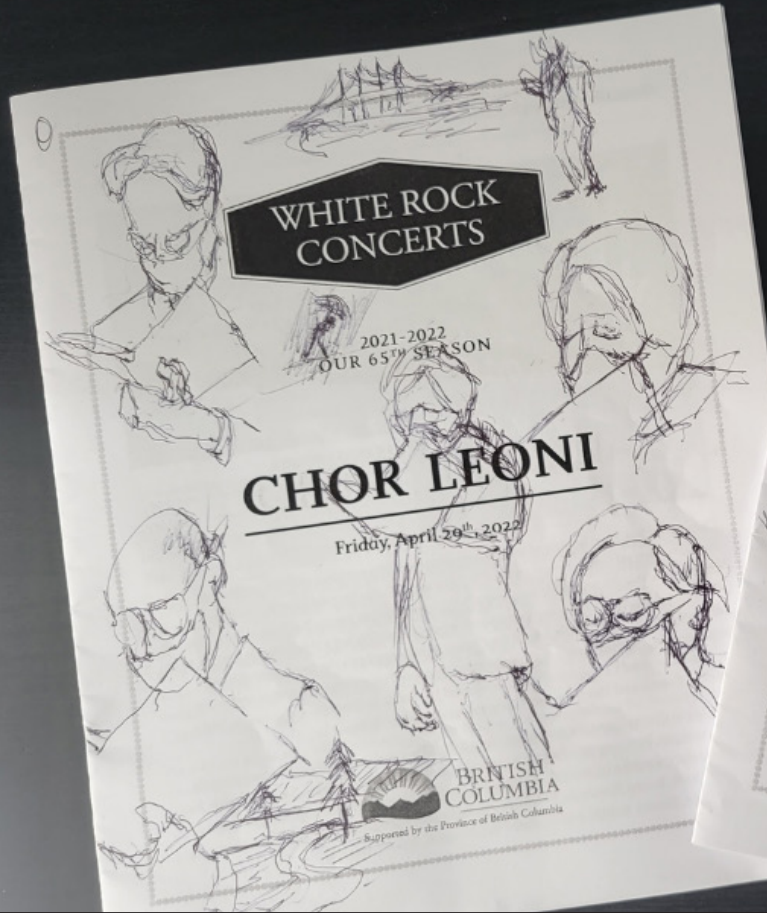
WHITE ROCK AND AGASSIZ TOUR



It was a pleasure and delight to once again have Chor Leoni on our White Rock Concert stage! Chor Leoni has been a favourite among our audience and so we were thrilled to have them as part of our first season back since the pandemic. They presented a wonderful array of beautiful music and many inspiring and reflective moments which brought much needed joy. A special thanks for their willingness to sing 2 shorter concerts back to back for smaller audiences, which was very much appreciated! Thank you Chor Leoni for your music!

Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann
Artistic Directors, White Rock Concerts





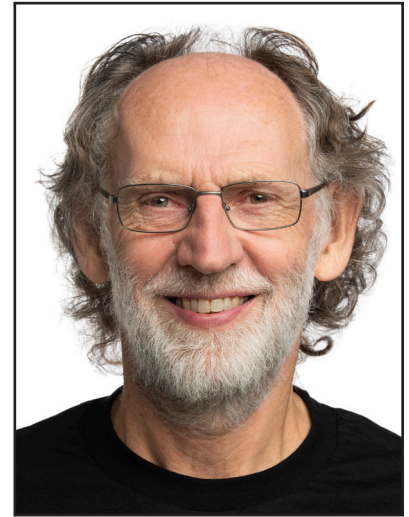
WHITE ROCK AND AGASSIZ TOUR

April 29 & 30 brought Chor Leoni to both White Rock and Agassiz on a mini-concert tour. What a JOY to share music, most movingly, a Prayer for Ukraine early in the war to which the Ukraine was subjected.

For recreation, South Garden Vacation Rental between Agassiz & Harrison was a MUST! SGVR is the home/business of myself & Jacquie Zuidhof. Chor Leoni members spent a few hours on Saturday enjoying smokies, mountain hikes, lawn game challenges, and conversation.

This mini-concert tour was a great opportunity to share music and connect as members of Chor Leoni!

John Zuidhof



A SOUND LIKE THIS

CHOR LEONI & THE LEONIDS

MAY 12 & 13 | 7:30PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver



MAKING CONNECTIONS

BY ANDREW FUCHS

When I think back on my time in The Leonids in 2022, what comes to mind is connection. Sure, musical moments also appear, as does the gratitude of being in beautiful Vancouver, but the strongest memories I have from that time are centered around people. My colleagues in The Leonids are among the most talented ensemble singers in our field, and making music with them daily was an artistically satisfying treat. I'm so proud of the work we did both at our A Sound Like This concert and at the VanMan Choral Summit, on stage and off.

I recall a few of us Leonids had an impromptu lunch chat with some festival participants about not just our paths, but theirs as well. We listened to their stories, offered advice, and shared anecdotes from our lived experiences. I also remember singing alongside the ECAP singers, and how rewarding it was to collaborate with them and to help guide them musically within our sections. Even though the pandemic kept us from socializing too much, I enjoyed getting to know some of the ECAP singers and was very impressed by their talents and professionalism. I look forward to returning in 2023 and continuing to deepen these connections in the flourishing Chor Leoni environment.





"I appreciated the ability to perform with such a high-level group of singers, singing fantastic works from composers I hadn't been familiar with, until now!"
- ECAP participant



"Thank you Erick, thank you Chor Leoni, thank you everyone who makes these opportunities possible and accessible. They've made all the difference to me. :)"
- ECAP participant

THANK YOU TO OUR MYVOICE AND ECAP SPONSORS

Thank you to the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund for supporting the David Spencer MYVoice Endowment Fund. Their generosity helps young singers find their voice and experience the transformative joy of singing in a supportive community.

We are grateful to our Major Educational Program Sponsor, RBC for supporting our Emerging Choral Artist Program (ECAP). Their support of the arts has been a longstanding priority as they recognize that the arts play an important role in building vibrant communities and strong economies. RBC feels that the arts encourage a culture of creativity and innovation, and helps foster diversity and inclusion in our communities.

RBC
Emerging
Artists



"I've been in choirs for some time now, and consistently, some of the best enrichment opportunities I've had were offered by Chor Leoni -- this has been no exception."
- ECAP participant

VANMAN SUMMIT CONCERT

MAY 14 | 7:30PM

Chan Centre for the Performing Arts

Presented by:  **BlueShore**
FINANCIAL



YOUNG SINGERS INSPIRE AT VANMAN

BY MELODIE LANGEVIN

I'll never forget my first VanMan Choral Summit experience. It was 2017, I was a brand new teacher, and several of my wonderful Tenors and Bases were singing in the North Shore MYVoice ensemble. I remember being moved to tears as the Chan Centre reverberated with the sound of hundreds of powerful voices singing together as one, and everywhere I looked I saw the kind of musical and emotional investment that had once inspired me to become a choir teacher.

All young people growing up during these uncertain and challenging times truly need experiences like MYVoice and the VanMan Choral Summit. Pandemic-related mental health concerns that have been exacerbated by our increasing reliance on screen connectivity must be met with opportunities to form meaningful social and emotional human connections with others. Connections that allow us to be vulnerable, encourage us to express ourselves freely, and challenge us to make our diversity our strength are at the core of MYVoice. I am certain that seeing and hearing young Tenors and Bases from all walks of life be vulnerable, expressive, collaborative, and supportive in one of the most incredible musical spaces in Canada moved more than one person to tears on May 14th.



C/4

CANADIAN CHORAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

JUNE 3 | 7:30PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver

The Canadian Choral Composition Competition (C/4) is an innovative commissioning project that puts out a call across Canada for work samples from Canadian composers of any age or stage in their careers. From these submissions, three composers are chosen and are then commissioned to write a work for Chor Leoni. The composers work collaboratively with the organization to conceive and score their works, and near the premiere, are flown to Vancouver to work intensively with the choir. The works are then presented at Chor Leoni's C/4 event, where the compositions are sung, and the audience can interact and ask questions of the composer. Ultimately, a winner is chosen by votes from a panel of judges, the Chor Leoni singers, and the live audience.



You have to know that this is the very first piece that I've ever composed for a men's choir, and it gave me a taste to write more. So that's a good thing, because it can also be the opposite. You can say "Ok I wrote -" in this case it's a men's choir but you could write a piece for flute, cello and harp and then discover - "Oh this is really not my voice." Or, "This is not a combination that suits me well as a composer". So this is something I learned here that - "Oh, ok, a men's choir is something -" I already have a few ideas for further exploration. So that's actually quite important.

- Pierre Simard, C/4 finalist



It's a wonderful opportunity for any composer, obviously, to write for such a high-class talented choir, and to go through that process. But there's a lot of support and I was really impressed by the care and thought that Chor Leoni has put into the whole process.

- Robert Rival, C/4 finalist



In the collaborative process it is very, very rare, that we get this long development period like we do with C/4. So I think, take full advantage of that, ask questions, don't be afraid. Because we're all learning, we're all here, and want to make beautiful art.

- Katerina Gimon, C/4 winner



Generously supported by:
James and Leslie
CARTER

Community Partner:
CMC BRITISH COLUMBIA
canadian music centre
centre de musique canadienne

POPCAPPELLA II

JUNE 25 | 5PM & 8PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver

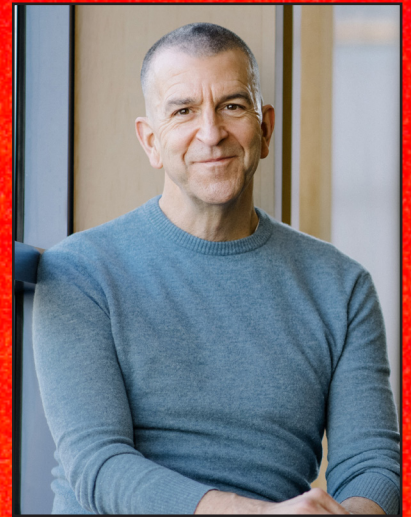
Awesome Chor Leoni Moments

BY PAUL LAROCQUE

I have many fond memories of our annual Chor Leoni concerts at Bard on the Beach. The themed repertoire gave us a unique opportunity to have fun and really connect with our audiences as we performed a wide range of fan favourites and songs from the popular music songbook. It was a spectacular way to welcome in the summer.

That's why, this past June, I was really excited for the return of our PopCappella concerts. Backed by an awesome band and featuring a wide range of popular hits, this year's program was such a pleasure to sing. I especially enjoyed performing "Everything is Awesome" from The LEGO Movie, including fun costumes and antics, as well as some new arrangements of classics such as "Blue Skies."

After an entire season being masked during rehearsals and concerts, I was extremely happy that this final concert was mask optional for the choir. Our audiences were, once again, able to see our faces and expressions and, in turn, the choir could make those connections that are so meaningful.



VOICES FOR HOPE

CONCERT FOR WORLD REFUGEE DAY

JUNE 19 | 4PM

St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver



Wow...what a moving and profound afternoon... Firstly, we want to thank each and every one of you for dedicating your time, talent and resources to make Voices for Hope a reality. Your music brought healing, hope and joy to the crowd that gathered and that matters! Thanks to your support, we were able to raise approximately \$6000 on tickets and donations, and another \$6000 on the silent auction. I know you also raised over \$1600 within the Choir which we are so grateful for!

All of these funds are going to have a direct impact on people's lives. Whether they go to a sponsorship circle at Rainbow Refugee or towards supporting one of the 8 people that will be supported by St Andrew's Wesley United, your generosity will provide rent, household supplies, transportation, medical treatment and education support to a newcomer who is rebuilding their lives after fleeing danger and trauma. Thank you so much for your commitment...

Rev. Rhian Walker



YOUTUBE STATS

AN OVERVIEW

27

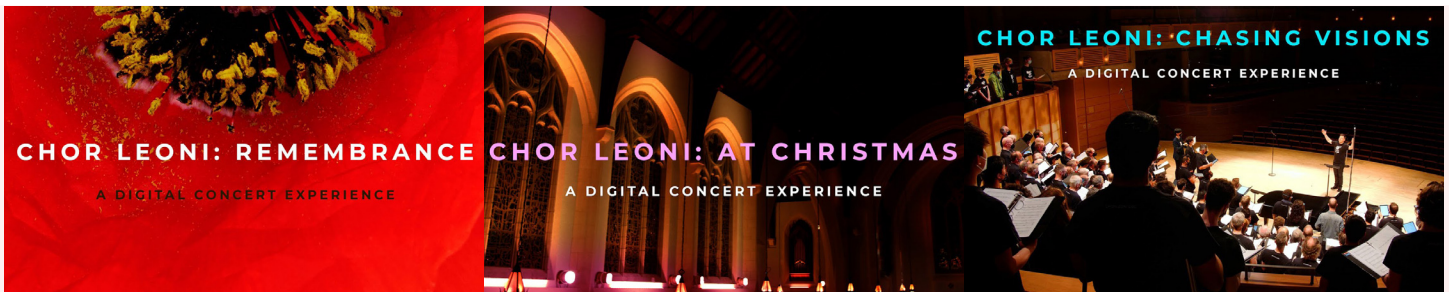
NEW SONG VIDEOS PUBLISHED

10

NEW EPISODES OF INSIDE CHOR LEONI RELEASED

3

NEW DIGITAL CONCERT EXPERIENCES SHARED



“The concert was enjoyed by a large group of our residents – and so recommended that a request was made for a second showing. With the pandemic, and also the challenges with mobility for some of our residents, your professional digital offerings are a welcome relief from the pandemic and isolation that is currently being experienced by many....I hope that we may be included in any Chor Leoni updates for future digital offerings – until it is safe for our more vulnerable population to gather once again.”

Sandra Gronnerud
Life Enrichment Coordinator
Amica Edgemont Village

TOTAL VIEWS

108,000

TOTAL WATCH TIME

7,300
HOURS

A DONOR'S PERSPECTIVE

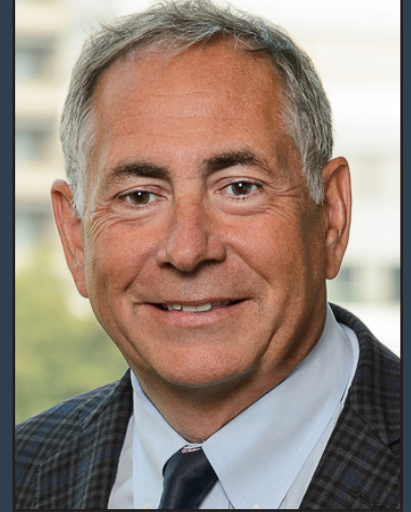
CHOR LEONI IS INTEGRAL TO OUR CULTURAL FABRIC

BY BOB LESPERANCE

Sitting in St Andrew Wesley's church, listening to the gorgeous sound of Chor Leoni's massed voices – electrifying, harmonious men's voices - is like no other experience. I have always been struck by the richness of the Choir's vocal quality. I absolutely love those occasions at the beginning of a performance when the lights of the church are turned low, and we are treated to a candle light entrance of the men singing in deep, cascading harmony. It's literally spine tingling.

Chor Leoni can take a recognizable, humble Christmas Carol and transform it into something rhythmically complex and inspirational. I continue to be awed by this group of men – volunteers! - who produce such wondrous choral music. I am truly grateful that Chor Leoni is part of Canada's mosaic of musical offerings and selfishly thankful they call Vancouver "home". This is why I support Chor Leoni.

Our city, province, and country would be poorer indeed without them; they are an integral contributor to our cultural fabric.



FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Chor Leoni is immensely grateful to the following foundations that have provided much needed operational support throughout the year.

Carlson Family Fund
The Christopher Foundation
Kennedy Duncan Foundation
Deux Mille Foundation
Bob & Judy Hager Family Fund
Hamber Foundation
Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation
Elsie and Audrey Jang Fund
Pankratz-Ferries Family Fund
Alan & Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation
RBC Foundation
David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund

Chor Leoni extends a very special thanks to the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund for supporting the David Spencer MYVoice Endowment Fund. The fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation, helps young singers find their voice and experience the transformative joy of singing.

DONORS

Chor Leoni names its giving levels after the stars of the constellation Leo, The Lion. Thank you to all of our benefactors and friends. Your generosity helps us shine!

The following lists acknowledge donations received from August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022. If you detect any errors or omissions, please call the choir office at 604.263.7061.

REGULUS (\$10,000+)

Alix Brown, Stephanie Carlson, James* & Leslie Carter

ADHAFERA (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Richard Bradshaw, Patrick Cotter*. Martha Lou Henley, Rosalind & Ken* Hollett, Marni Johnson & Gordon Roberts, Liam Kearns*, Erick* & Ashley Lichte, Eric & Beverley Watt

NOVA (\$2,000 - \$4,999)

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* = current choir members

THE DIANE LOOMER FOUNDER'S CIRCLE

The Diane Loomer Founders' Circle recognizes those friends that have chosen to leave a gift in their will or estate to Chor Leoni. Gifts of this magnitude ensure that Chor Leoni and the legacy of our beloved founder, Diane, can live on for many years to come. We are so thankful for the foresight and generosity of those who have left an estate gift and are honoured to acknowledge you in your lifetime for your unwavering support of Chor Leoni.

MEMBERS

Rick* & Lorraine Bennett, Paul & Margaret Birch, Ann Coombs, James Emery* & Rob McAllister*, Ian Farthing*, Jean Hurst, Jaqui Joys, Len & Shauna Kirkham, Eric Kristensen* & Geoff Reid, David Love* & James Harcott, Jane Srivastava

If you are considering a gift to Chor Leoni in your will or estate plans, please contact Executive Director, Stash Bylicki at 778.886.4612 or stash@chorleoni.org

* = current choir member



SPONSORS

Government and corporate sponsorships allows us to share our music with thousands in the community, inspire young men to sing, and sustain our busy season of activities. Thank you to all the organizations that sponsored us this season.

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Report from the Treasurer

BY MARNI JOHNSON

2021-22 was an unexpectedly strong year for Chor Leoni financially. We had budgeted conservatively given uncertainties about audience comfort in attending live performances and the success of digital concert fundraising with the return to live events. We ended the year with a surplus of \$78,383 compared to a budgeted loss of about \$83,257 – a positive variance of \$161,640.

There were several reasons for this variance. The revenue picture was very different from the prior year; live performances brought in substantial revenue (\$261,213 before expenses) compared to \$0 the year before. Very favourable results of the Remembrance Day and Christmas programs more than offset less favourable results of the spring programs which were hampered by the impacts of Covid far more than at the start of the season.

As anticipated, government revenue at \$254,647 was down from the prior year (\$359,600) due to the reduction in COVID support; however, we did receive unbudgeted government support in the form of a final COVID relief payment and a one-time payment to support the Christmas program. This resulted in government support exceeding budget by \$74,447.

For the third year in a row, Chor Leoni received a very generous gift from the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund. This year's gift was \$150,000. These monies were subsequently transferred to our MYVoice Endowment at the newly-established Chor Leoni Foundation. The amount of the gift is equally reflected in the revenues and expenses for the organization.

Through the generous support of our donors, donations at \$183,747 were \$74,766 over budget (after normalizing for the gift from the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund).

The Choir also received substantial value in the amount of \$180,379 in the form of in-kind sponsorship. This amount is equally reflected in both revenues and expenses. After normalizing for the gift from the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund and the in-kind sponsorships, performance revenue and government grants each accounted for almost one third of revenues. Fundraising accounted for one quarter of revenues.

On the expense side, as expected artistic and performance expenses at \$662,411 were up substantially from the prior year (\$326,978) due to the implementation of both live and digital programs.

REVENUE

Sales, Grants & Contributions

Performance revenue	\$261,213
Government grants	\$254,647
In-kind sponsorship	\$180,379
Recording sales	\$8,191

\$704,430

Donations & Other Income

Donations	\$333,747
Foundations	\$42,743
Endowment income	\$58,023
Other income	\$4,497
Sponsorship	\$26,980
Membership dues	\$6,800
Interest income	\$990

\$473,780

Total Revenue

\$1,178,210

EXPENSES

Production & Performance Expenses

Artistic & performance	\$662,411
CDs and recording production	\$3,579

\$665,990

General & Administrative Expenses

Administrative personnel	\$183,122
Office & other administrative	\$98,498
Endowment contribution	\$150,000
Other expenses (Income)	\$2,217

\$433,837

Total Expenses

\$1,099,827

Net Income

\$78,383

ASSETS

NET ASSETS – Beginning of year \$427,833

NET ASSETS – End of year \$506,216

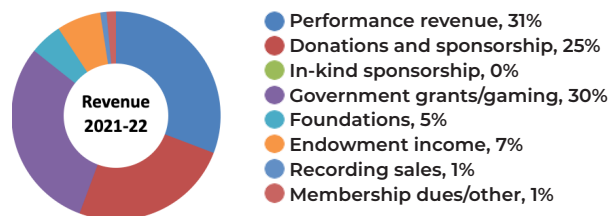
Change in Net Assets \$78,383

NET ASSETS

Operating Fund	\$470,248
Touring Fund	\$0
Diane Loomer Commissioning Fund	\$32,056
MYVoice Fund	\$3,912

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$506,216



*Data has been normalized for the David Spencer Endowment Encouragement Fund donation and in-kind sponsorships.

We invested in our future sustainability by restructuring roles and increasing contract staff in marketing and community relations, and office and fundraising support; and by investing in a new ticketing and customer relationship management system.

After normalizing for the endowment fund contribution and in-kind sponsorships, almost two thirds of expenses related to performance production, education programs, music commissioning and other artistic endeavours, all in alignment with the organization's strategic plan.

Almost half of the music commissioning expenses were drawn from the Diane Loomer Commissioning Fund, exceeding the annual income received from the Chor Leoni Diane Loomer Commissioning Endowment Fund at the Vancouver Foundation. However, the internal Diane Loomer Commissioning Fund still has a very healthy balance of \$32,056 to use toward future commissions.

The choir embarked on a short local tour which depleted the touring fund. Given the capital that has been donated to date, we receive an annual income of at least \$10,000 in income from the David Spencer MYVoice Endowment Fund to help fund our MYVoice program. After incurring the expenses of the program, there is a balance of \$3,912 in our internal MYVoice Fund, the majority of which will be spent in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The Operating Fund ended the year with a balance of \$470,248, an increase of about \$100,000 from the prior year. This amount is approximately six months' worth of operating expenses, which is a reasonable cushion to ensure sustainability through uncertain times.

Since the outset of COVID, the Board has been viewing Chor Leoni's financial picture on a rolling two-year basis, identifying any surpluses generated in a given year to fund anticipated shortfalls in the following year. We have continued to budget conservatively and are forecasting a modest deficit of (\$11,932) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. This will be funded by a portion of the 2021-2022 surplus.

Chor Leoni has fared extremely well through the pandemic and is in a very strong position financially. This is thanks to our many generous donors and supporters, high-performing staff team and Board, and dedicated and talented choir members. There are still many uncertainties about the future but our financial situation affords us the flexibility to weather these uncertainties with confidence.

Marni Johnson
Treasurer