



CHORUS AMERICA ANNUAL REPORT

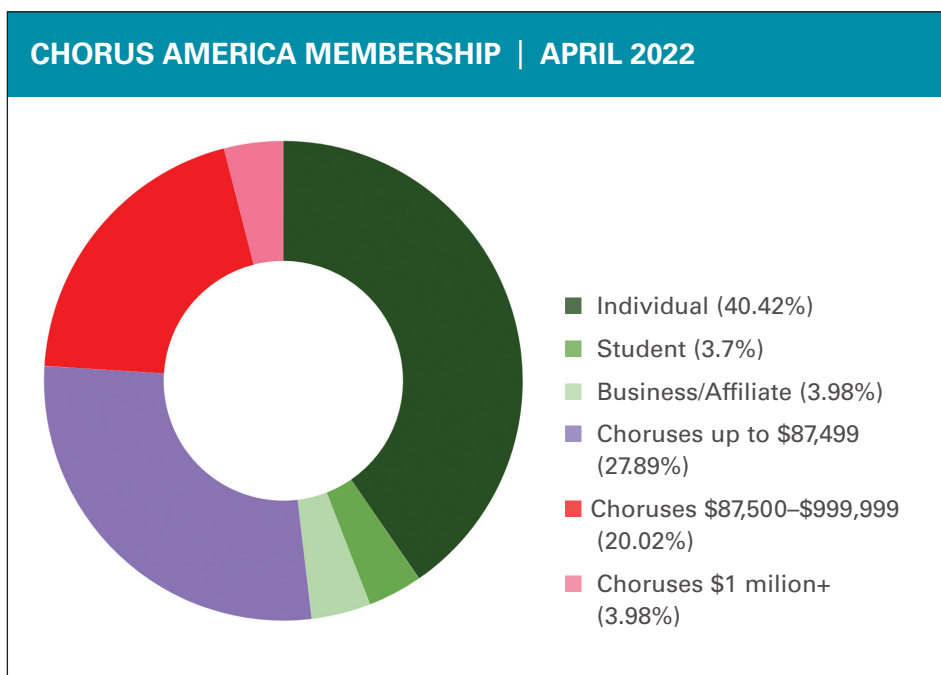
September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022

MEMBERSHIP & PROGRAMS

Membership

Chorus America currently has 1,169 members and serves over 8,406 individuals through their affiliations with choruses, industry-wide businesses, and other member organizations. Similar to other member organizations during the pandemic, Chorus America's membership has been challenged by the economic impact of the pandemic on group singing organizations. We have prioritized keeping our community connected through pay-what-you-can pricing, which 22% of our members have taken advantage of to renew or join during the current fiscal year.

This spring and summer, Chorus America is launching the Chorus America Online Community, a new member benefit. The Chorus America Online Community is a secure online space where members can connect, ask questions, share ideas, lend expertise, and have conversations with their peers. It features a discussion forum as well as a library for sharing documents, resources, and links. Implemented through the Higher Logic platform, this tool facilitates increased direct, peer-to-peer engagement and integrates the resources already available on



our site with new materials shared by our members for an increased brain trust.

We are excited about this and other new opportunities to serve the field through our services and evolving programs, many of which are detailed in the following program highlights.

Programs

The 2022 Conference met the field's need as a two-part event in 2022: a two-day Online Conference Event on April 7-8 that focused on professional development sessions, and an In-Person Conference Event

in Baltimore on June 15-17, focusing on networking and peer-to-peer engagement. Both events addressed mental and emotional wellbeing in the choral field (recognizing the unique struggle our field has gone through since March 2020 and the impacts on arts workers and the community’s reduced access to music-making during a sustained period), repairing and restoring the field, and access, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI).

Chorus America is deeply committed to advancing ADEI, and our members consistently request more information on implementing ADEI principles and strategies. This year we continued the ADEI Learning Lab, a four-week workshop. The Learning Lab is specifically designed for White choral leaders seeking to address structural racism in their organizations and become better allies and accomplices to their BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) colleagues. Participants learned about their own identities and the ways these identities position them within

the choral field, as well as how concepts of ADEI can be used to create change within their organizations.

This year marked an exciting new direction for Chorus America, which has positioned us to be a valuable resource for sustaining and supporting choral music education. We are thrilled to have launched our first regranting program: the Music Education Partnership Grants. Made possible through a new funding partnership Chorus America distributed \$950,000 in grants ranging from \$25,000–\$50,000 to support projects during the 2022–23 school year. The grants will support collaborations between nonprofit choruses and schools to increase access to choral music education with a focus on the core values of the grants program: co-creation, cultural exchange, and dismantling historic and systemic racism.

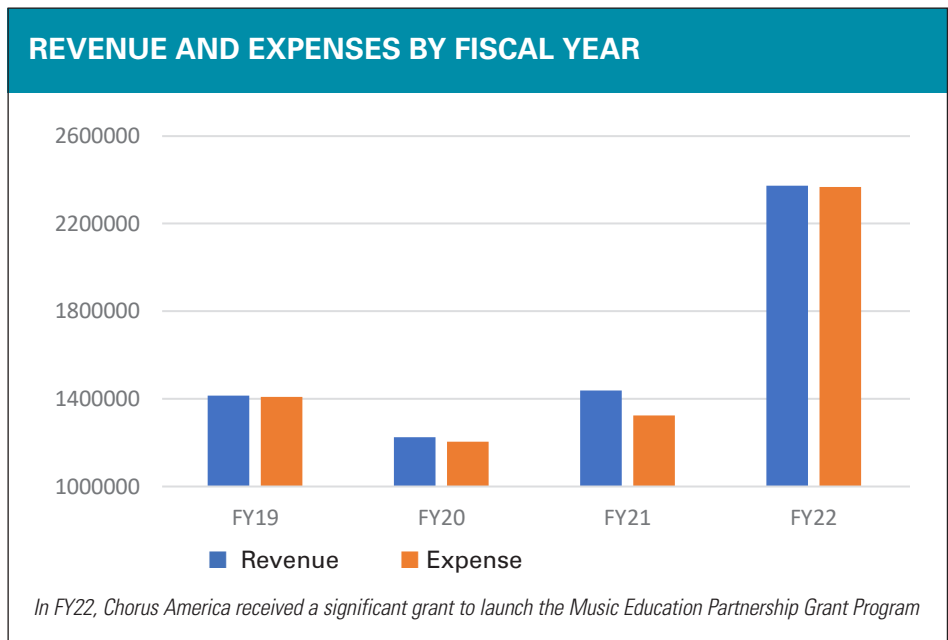
This year we also launched the #RediscoverHarmony campaign (rediscoverharmony.com) to raise public awareness about the value that singing groups bring to their communities. It offers

all choral organizations a platform and social media toolkit to amplify their work and community impact. This project began as an initiative of Chorus America’s Leadership Development Forum, a peer learning group for leaders of large budget choruses. #RediscoverHarmony helps choruses connect with new audiences, patrons, and potential members in their communities. We are encouraging all choruses, choirs, and singing groups to take advantage of this free tool—not just Chorus America members.

The *Voice* magazine is Chorus America’s award-winning quarterly magazine, featuring in-depth interviews and profiles, chorus news, and opinion and commentary on important topics such as board leadership strategies, successful fundraising and marketing techniques, and advice on artistic issues. Chorus America published relevant articles such as “Navigating New Rights Challenges with Online Concerts,” “Feeling Safer in the Concert Hall: What’s Bringing Audiences Back to Choral Performances,” and “What Strategic Planning Looks Like Now.” ■

FINANCIALS

September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022



NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHORUS AMERICA BOARD AS OF JUNE 2022

Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt



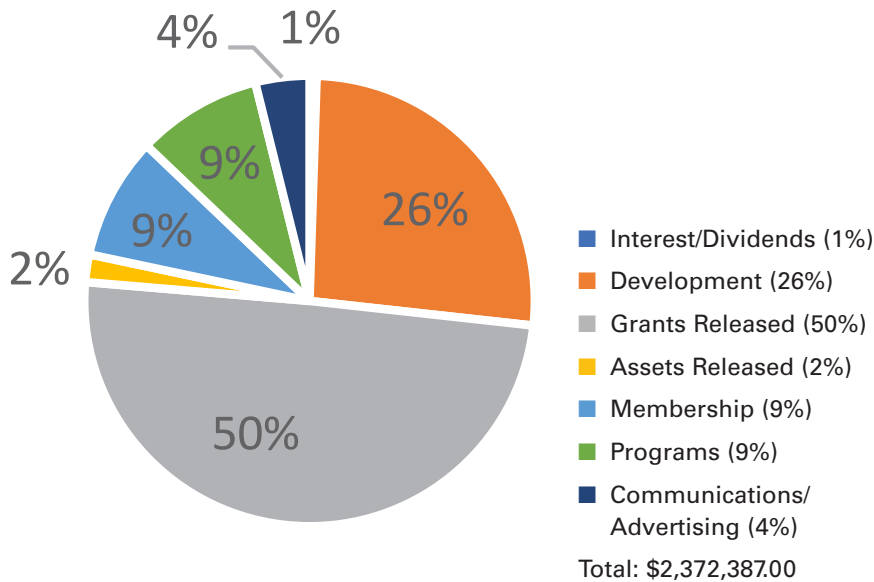
Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt is Professor Emerita of Choral Studies at the University of Toronto where she held the Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting and received the inaugural Teaching Excellence Award in 2013. From 2013–2018, she was also artistic director of Exultate Chamber Singers, a semi-professional ensemble in Toronto. Previously she taught at the Ohio State University and the University of NC-Greensboro, after receiving her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her teaching experiences range from public school to community ensembles to church choirs.

A native Canadian, she has led her university choirs in performances at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and at Podium, the national professional conference of Choral Canada. She has guest conducted honors choruses and festivals through the U.S. and Canada, including more than 35 all-state high school choirs. She directed the 2014 National Youth Choir of Canada and has conducted choral festivals internationally.

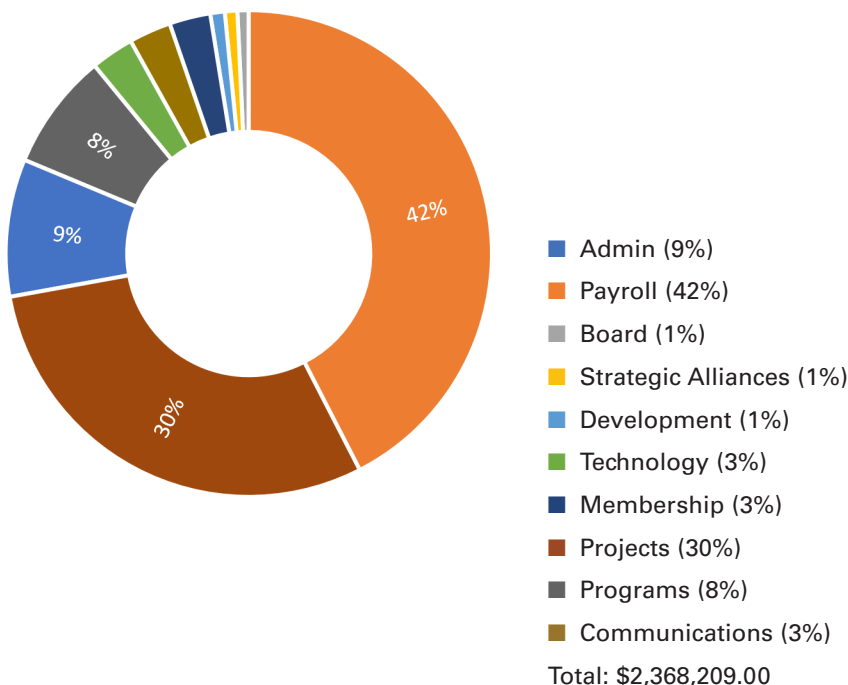
A prolific author, she has published numerous articles and book chapters. Her book on the life and work of Canadian composer Ruth Watson Henderson, *I Didn't Want It To be Boring* (Toronto: Prism Publishers) won Choral Canada's award for Outstanding Choral Publication in 2018.

Long active in ACDA, Dr. Apfelstadt served as National President from 2007–

FY22 BUDGET INCOME BY SOURCE



FY22 BUDGET EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT



2009 and as Interim Executive Director from 2020–2021. She has been honored with leadership awards from the NC-ACDA, Ohio Choral Directors Association, ACDA Central Region, and Choirs Ontario. She is also a member of NCCO and Chorus America.

Eric V. Oliver



Eric V. Oliver recently retired as Regional Attorney for the National Labor Relations Board’s Cincinnati Office (NLRB). Mr. Oliver began his career with the Agency in 1984 as a Field Attorney in the Fort Worth, Texas office. The NLRB is an independent federal agency enforcing the National Labor Relations Act; it acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions.

Mr. Oliver is the Minister of Music at Zion Baptist Church, Avondale, the founder of the Loretta C. Mangrum Chorale, and serves on the Board of the Cincinnati Youth Chorus. He was a Board Member of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, serving a 6-year term ending in 2019. Mr. Oliver received the 2014 Spirit Award from the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Wendell P. Dabney award for Diversity for his work with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Classical Roots Community Mass Choir.

He served as a Legal Consultant and Musician for the Heritage Music Foundation (Los Angeles, CA) and a member of the American Negro Spiritual Festival Competition Criteria Committee. Mr. Oliver graduated from Oberlin College in 1980 with a degree in Government and Music. He received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1983.

Steven F. Smith



Steven F. Smith leads transformative change for performing arts organizations. As President of Berkshire Choral International, he is overseeing

a strategic revitalization of the organization with particular focus on program innova-

tion, artistic planning and collaboration, and enrollment marketing. Previously, Steve served as Executive Director of Seattle Men’s Chorus/Seattle Women’s Chorus, leading an artistic and financial turnaround for one of North America’s largest community choral organizations. Accomplishments included managing a successful artistic transition, rebranding, renewed focus on social justice work, and retirement of debt with four consecutive budget surpluses.

As Executive Director for Revels in Cambridge, MA, he returned the organization to financial health, rebuilding attendance and expanding educational programming. Earlier in his career, he led the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus through a fifteen year expansion, managed concert operations for the Pittsburgh Symphony residency at the Great Woods Center for the Performing Arts, and supported an international roster of concert organists and English cathedral choirs for Karen McFarlane Artists Management.

He has a degree in Music/Arts Management from Baldwin-Wallace University and participated in an Executive Leadership Program for cultural organizations at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Steve has consulted with many small and mid-sized nonprofits and his expertise includes strategic planning, branding, audience development, fundraising, and governance. As a volunteer and advocate, he served on the boards of GALA Choruses (clerk, vice president, president); ArtsBoston (vice president); and Greater Boston Choral Consortium (president). ■

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President, Individual Giving,
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*Board Office as of June 2022:
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University of Akron

John Earls

Treasurer

Board Member, May Festival Chorus
Board Chair, Vocal Arts Ensemble of
Cincinnati

Anton Armstrong

Chair-Elect

Tosdal Professor of Music, St. Olaf College
Board Office as of June 2022: Chair

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Management LLC

Charles Berardesco

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North American Electric Reliability
Corporation

Dashon Burton+

Professional Singer

Iris Derke+

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Distinguished Concerts International
New York (DCINY)

Rollo Dilworth

Professor of Choral Music Education &
Vice Dean, Center for the Performing and
Cinematic Arts, Temple University

Morna Edmundson*

Founder, Elektra Women's Choir

Todd Estabrook

Immediate Past Chair, Handel and Haydn
Society

Miguel Ángel Felipe*

Conductor and Choral Music Educator

Corty Fengler*

Board Chair/CEO, Capella San Francisco
Singer, San Francisco Symphony Chorus

David Hayes+

Music Director, New York Choral Society

Elfrieda Heinrichs*

Co-Founder and Director,
The Heinrichs Foundation

Robert Istad

Artistic Director, Pacific Chorale
Director of Choral Studies, CSU Fullerton

Craig Jessop*

Professor of Music, Utah State University

Craig Hella Johnson

Founder and Artistic Director, Conspirare
Artistic Director, Vocal Arts Ensemble

Anne B. Keiser

Former Board Chair, The Choral Arts
Society of Washington

Robyn Reeves Lana

Artistic Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir

Mark Lawson

President, ECS Publishing Group

Alysia Lee

President, Baltimore Children & Youth
Fund; Founder & Artistic Director,
Sister Cities Girlchoir

Mary Doughty Mauch

Conductor and Grassroots Organizer &
Leader

Marcela Molina

Director, Tucson Girls Chorus

David Morrow

Professor and Director of the Morehouse
Glee Club, Morehouse College

Linda Moxley

Executive Director,
Sarasota Concert Association

Steven Neiffer

Chief Financial Officer,
Los Angeles Master Chorale

John Nuechterlein+

Community Leader and Former President/
CEO, American Composers Forum

Elizabeth Núñez

Creative Director, Young People's Chorus of
New York City; Founding Artistic Director,
SoHarmoniums Women's Choir

Dianne Peterson

Executive Director Emerita,
The Washington Chorus

Molly Buzick Pontin+

Vice President and Director of Education &
Community Programs, Pacific Chorale

Andrea Ramsey+

Composer, Conductor, and Music Educator

Eugene Rogers

Director of Choral Activities,
University of Michigan; Artistic Director,
The Washington Chorus

Diana Sáez

Director of Choral Activities,
Towson University

Pearl Shangkuan

Director of Choral Activities and Professor
of Choral Music, Calvin University
Chorus Director, Grand Rapids Symphony

Karen P. Thomas

Artistic Director and Conductor,
Seattle Pro Musica

Anthony Trecek-King+

Associate Professor of Choral Music and
Director of Choral Activities, The Hartt
School – University of Hartford
Resident Conductor, Handel and Haydn
Society Chorus

Duain Wolfe+

Former Director and Conductor,
Chicago Symphony Chorus; Director and
Conductor, Colorado Symphony Chorus

+ Denotes board members re-elected to another three-year term.

* Denotes board members concluding their board tenure in June 2022.