

COMMONWEALTH YOUTHCHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT

FY2008



From the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Fiscal Year 2008 was a landmark year for Commonwealth Youthchoirs and has provided a solid foundation

for our future development and growth. Your interest in and support of our choirs and young singers has had a significant impact on the community, as well as on each individual choir member of Pennsylvania Girlchoir and Keystone State Boychoir.

My sincere thanks go to all the staff, board, parents, volunteers, and supporters for helping build this strong foundation. Our future is bright and we have exciting plans for the upcoming year. A special thanks to our young singers who have been partners in building our foundation through rehearsal and performance and who truly embody our mission. Making music together has changed their lives.

As Fiscal Year 2009 unrolls, we look forward to your continued support and partnership. We hope you're able to attend many of our performances so that you can see and hear for yourselves the dynamic music making of our choirs and the culture of community and leadership that is part of the KSB and PG choir experience.

Susan S. Ashbaker

Commonwealth Youthchoirs was founded in 2001 by Joseph P. Fitzmartin and Steven M. Fisher. Its mission is to offer world-class choral music education and performance opportunities to young people from diverse economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds, while nurturing leadership skills, building character, and encouraging self-discipline.

In 2007-2008, PG and KSB membership grew to 250 young men and women between the ages of 7 and 17, and represents five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. The choirs' many performances enchanted audiences with their joyful music-making and polished sound. They continue to serve as musical ambassadors for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, both at home and internationally.

Commonwealth Youthchoirs is the 501(c)(3) umbrella organization that administers Keystone State Boychoir and Pennsylvania Girlchoir.



Commonwealth Youthchoirs Staff

Susan S. Ashbaker, *Executive Director*

Steven Gearhart, *Office and Program Coordinator*

Keystone State Boychoir

Joseph P. Fitzmartin, *Music Director*

Steven M. Fisher, *Associate Music Director*

Lawrence Hoenig, *Music Assistant*

Anne Odland,

Vocal Development Coach

Mary Ann Case,

Membership Coordinator

Pennsylvania Girlchoir

Mark A. Anderson, *Music Director*

Jodi Bohr, *Associate Music Director*

Chris McGinley, *Music Assistant*

Brenda Phillips, *Music Assistant*

Marcia Pasch,

Membership Coordinator

Board of Directors 2008-2009

David Binswanger

Edward R. Case, *Treasurer*

Colleen J. Christian, *MD*

Linda Deis

Steven M. Fisher, *ex officio*

Joseph P. Fitzmartin, *ex officio*

Heather Garrison

Gilman Hanson

Georgette Macbeth

Thomas Pasch

Larry Passmore, *Vice Chair*

Ann Schmieg, *Chair*

Deborah Schrager, *MD*

Rebecca Thornburgh, *Secretary*



THE YEAR'S SUCCESSES



Program Successes

- Our sold-out 4th Annual Gala Concert was a success by all measures, featuring the choirs' first commissioned work, *Shehecheyanu: Prayer of Gratitude/Psalm 150: Halleluyah!*, by Andrew Bleckner as well as special guest star, internationally known mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade.
- We collaborated with many preeminent organizations during the 2007/2008 season, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Lyric Fest, Mendelssohn Club, and Westminster College, among others. Many of these performances were reviewed favorably in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Chestnut Hill Local*.
- Our membership continued to grow, reaching 250 choir members during the 2007/2008 season, an increase of 12% over the prior season, with new scholarship support enabling a continuation of the choirs' diversity initiatives.
- We added the instructional class "Singer/Musician" for Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) to enhance the music reading, theory, and sight-singing skills of our choir members. Additionally, our performances were formally evaluated by staff to capture various data as well as track the quality of our performances.
- Our summer tours, which include workshops with international youth choirs, performances in noted venues, home-stays while overseas, and a variety of cultural experiences, in 2008 included Monaco, France, Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria (KSB) and Italy (Pennsylvania Girlchoir).

Organizational Successes

- The CY leadership, both professional and volunteer, developed new institutional support including our first multi-year grants, scholarship funding from distinguished philanthropic organizations, and continuing important gifts from individuals for core programs and tours.
- Our focus on accurate budgeting together with spending controls produced another annual surplus, a portion of which the Board put aside as a reserve for future uncertainty and multi-year initiatives.
- We expanded our revenue-producing recording effort, producing CD's (the PG 2007 Holiday Concert, a KSB Holiday Sampler, the 2007 3rd Annual Gala Concert, and the KSB Australian tour) which are sold to raise funds, are used in promotional, recruiting, and education efforts, and provide an archival record of the choirs' performances.
- We invested in systems to support administration, marketing and communications with choir members, including new leased computers, uniform e-mail addresses, a donated phone system with voice mail and multiple mailboxes, on-line ticketing for performances in home venues, new logos and stationery to present a uniform look to stakeholders, and improvements in the choirs' websites. We created or refined many formal procedures and policies, many of which were initiated to satisfy heightened requirements of the new IRS disclosure statements necessary for Fiscal Year 2009.

Treasurer's Statement

Commonwealth Youthchoirs changed its fiscal year in 2008 from a September to an August year end to make the fiscal year coincide with the calendar of the choirs' activities. Thus the eleven-month FY 2008 is not directly comparable to the twelve-month FY2007. Lower revenue figures for FY2008 reflect the shorter year and the timing of a major annual September fundraiser reported in FY2007 and, going forward, in FY2009, but not in FY2008, as there was no September in FY2008.

Notwithstanding the shorter fiscal year, the organization recorded an unrestricted surplus of \$60,796 in FY2008 compared to \$37,537 in 2007. The increase reflects a policy of committing to expenditures only after funding is certain. In addition, the choir received or recognized restricted amounts of \$45,565 designated for FY2009 program activities. The total surplus of \$107,361 for FY2008 reflects accurate budgeting, prudent spending, and successful development efforts. Commonwealth Youthchoirs has a sound financial foundation going into FY2009.

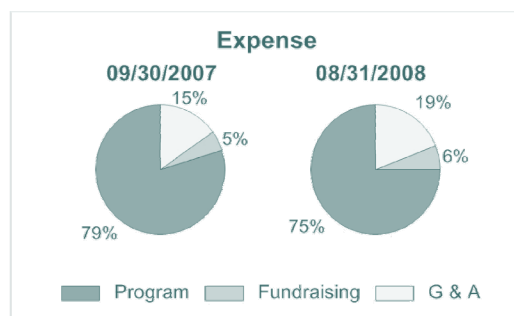
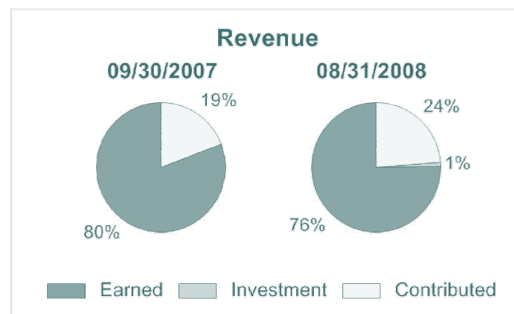
Edward R. Case

Treasurer, Commonwealth Youthchoirs

Commonwealth Youthchoirs

Annual Report

| Financial Activity | 09/30/2007 | 08/31/2008 | % chg |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Unrestricted Activity | | | |
| Revenue | | | |
| Earned | | | |
| Program | \$695,508 | \$603,571 | -13% |
| Non-program | 18,146 | 21,448 | 18% |
| Total Earned | 713,654 | 625,019 | -12% |
| Investment | 2,384 | 4,670 | 96% |
| Contributed | 172,889 | 196,849 | 14% |
| Total Unrestricted Revenue | \$888,927 | \$826,538 | -7% |
| Expenses | | | |
| Program | \$673,508 | \$570,973 | -15% |
| Fundraising | 46,638 | 47,517 | 2% |
| General & administrative | 131,244 | 147,252 | 12% |
| Total Expenses | \$851,390 | \$765,742 | -10% |
| Net Unrestricted Activity | \$37,537 | \$60,796 | |
| Net Temporarily Restricted Activity | \$1,750 | \$46,565 | |
| Net Permanently Restricted Activity | \$0 | \$0 | |
| Net Total Activity | \$39,287 | \$107,361 | |



| Attendance | 09/30/2007 | 08/31/2008 | % chg |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Total paid attendance | 23,546 | 24,371 | 4% |
| Total free attendance | 8,243 | 18,486 | 124% |
| Total attendance | 31,789 | 42,857 | 35% |
| Total school children attendance | 2,500 | 3,050 | 22% |
| Classes and workshops attendance | 75 | 90 | 20% |

| Program Activity | 09/30/2007 | 08/31/2008 | % chg |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Productions | 18 | 11 | -39% |
| Public performances - at home | 40 | 52 | 30% |
| Public performances - on tour | 21 | 27 | 29% |
| Classes/Workshops - for the public | 1 | 1 | 0% |
| Tours | 2 | 2 | 0% |
| World premieres | 0 | 3 | n/a |
| Local premieres | 2 | 2 | 0% |
| Works commissioned | 0 | 1 | n/a |
| Facility rentals - by your org. for your program use | 3 | 3 | 0% |
| Facility rentals - by your org. for your non-program use | 1 | 1 | 0% |



CONTRIBUTIONS 10.1.07-8.31.08

CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Gold (\$10,000 and above)

Anonymous Family Foundation
Connelly Foundation
Freedom 2, Inc.
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Anonymous Family Foundation
Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Clarence A. Rowell Trust through the
PNC Charitable Trust Committee
Wachovia Foundation

Bronze (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Hamilton Family Foundation
Independence Foundation
The H. Chase and Ana Maria Lenfest
Foundation, Inc.
Virginia and Harvey Kimmel
Arts Education Fund

Commonwealth Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Binswanger Companies
The Ellis Trust
GlaxoSmithKline
Cozen O'Connor
The Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell
Foundation, Inc.

Patrons (up to \$1,000)

Argyl Foundation
Arkema Inc. Foundation
CIGNA Foundation
Congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent
de Paul in Germantown
GMAC ResCap
I. L. Cohen Foundation
ING
Merck Partnership for Giving
Merrill Lynch and Co.
PNC Foundation
Trump Entertainment Resorts, Inc.

We thank the following who have contributed to the CY Scholarship Fund:

Anonymous (2)
Clay and Denise Armbrister
Mark and Rebecca Bernstein
Emilie Carr
Patrick and Deborah Cumberland
Mark and Heather Garrison
Susan Goldmann
Tom and Pattie Michaux
Jeffrey and Elizabeth Podraza
Kathleen Torbit

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Gold (\$10,000 and above)

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Asher, Jr.

Silver (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Heather and Mark Garrison

Commonwealth Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Mark A. Anderson
Susan S. Ashbaker
Colleen Christian and Court Schmidt
Dr. Dennis W. Creedon
Linda Deis
Sasha Gerritson
Mark and Jackie Juliano
Kate and Bob Loftus
Wendy and Jim Meyer
Anne and Robin Odland
Tom and Marcia Pasch
Larry and Aita Passmore
Georgette Chapman Phillips
Ann and Martin Schmieg
Drs. Ralph and Debbie Schragger
Lynn Teller
Marion H. Wood

Capstone (\$500 to \$999)

Erica and Bob Carpenter
Margaret Kacergis
Linda Lipscomb
The Palmer Family
Linda Samost and Ira Goldstein
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Schiller
Rebecca McKillip Thornburgh

Cornerstone (\$250 to \$499)

Merri and Drew Brown
Annette B. Congdon
Patrick and Deborah Cumberland
Doreen and Steven Derman
Joseph P. Fitzmartin
Dr. and Mrs. Burton Fleming
Rosemary Frasso
Greg and Liza Guyer
Diego Jaramillo
Georgette Macbeth
Judith Melick and James Arch McNamara
Alexis and Michael Paolini
David B. Picker
Barry and Carol Sukoneck
Robert Spiller and Susan Walla
Leonard and Anne Van Meter
Dr. Jason and Mrs. Gingi Wingard

Keystone (\$100 to \$249)

Anonymous (6)
Patricia Baccash
Anne Bancroft
Dorothy Garfield Baxter
Stacey Beckhardt
Karen Black and Peter Bessen
Dr. and Mrs. Paul Brucker
Annmarie and Michael Byrnes
Walter and Marie Camenisch
Karen Colquitt-Hall

Howard Dall
Silvana Dell
Audrey and Phil Dybdahl
Betty F. Erdman
Mrs. Winifred R. Fahs
Ellen Farber Kurtzman
Seth Frazier and Gale Thompson
Anton Glaser
Rick and Marlene Haberacker
Joy S. Harbeson
Charley and Emily Harmar
Madeline J. Harvey
Kim Higgins
June House
Anna Kroszner
Jane E. Lindenmayer
William A. Loeb
Mrs. Joseph S. Lord III
Eugenia H. McGill
Dr. Susan Metter
John M. Meyers
K. Adu and May-Ange Ntoso
Jennifer and Tom O'Brien
Margaret W. Palmer
Clifford and Meghan Patton
Richard Quinn and Karen Kruza
Dr. Renée H. Rollin
Dave and Suzanne Rowland
Drs. Dahlia and Robert Sataloff
Gloria O. Schragger, M. D.
Jeanne and Donald Scott
Patricia S. Scott
Frank and Taylor Slaughter
Susan G. Smith
Ignat and Carolyn Solzhenitsyn
Joan Ross Sorkin
Stasiuk and Farions 3
Candace J. Steele
Gopal and Raelyn Subramanian
Michele and Frank Tedesco
Beth and Tom Ten Have
Vitek Family
Veronica Yockobishen
Christy and Peter Yaffe

Friend (up to \$99)

Anonymous (4)
Colleen W. Apgar
Azizi Family
Jodi Bohr
Ben Eisenberg
Mary Eno and Dan Wagner
Judy Erdman
Steven M. Fisher
Steven Gearhart
Patricia Harrigan
Eve Horowitz and Jon Perlmutter
W. Vincent Krout
Brian and Karen McCollum
The Reumann-Moore Family
The Parents of Ethan Walters
Peter John Spiro and Merin Wexler
Gayle Wieand
Dr. and Mrs. Albert Zimmerman