

# COMMONWEALTH YOUTHCHOIRS ANNUAL REPORT

# FY2009



## From the Executive Director



*Dear Friends and Colleagues,*

In Fiscal Year 2009, Commonwealth Youthchoirs continued building a solid foundation for future development, growth, and service. We were careful stewards and the result was a budgeted surplus, despite the economic difficulties across our nation. Your interest in and support of our choirs and diverse group of young singers is of great importance and has a positive impact on our community, as well as on each choir member.

My sincere gratitude goes to all the staff, board, volunteers, and supporters of Commonwealth Youthchoirs for helping secure our future. The continuing commitment and excellence of our music directors is our backbone. As Fiscal Year 2010 unfolds, we look forward to partnering with you for our next steps.

*Susan S. Ashbaker*  
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 2008-2009, PG and KSB membership grew to over 300 young men and women between the ages of 7 and 17, and represents five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey and Delaware. 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*  
Nathan Wadley, *Music Assistant*  
Brenda Phillips, *Music Assistant*  
Marcia Pasch,  
*Membership Coordinator*

## Board of Directors 2009-2010

Ned Case, *Treasurer*  
Colleen J. Christian, MD  
Anne Ciesla-Bancroft  
Karen Colquitt-Hall  
Linda Deis  
Steven M. Fisher, *ex officio*  
Joseph P. Fitzmartin, *ex officio*  
Heather Garrison  
Gil Hanson  
Georgette Macbeth, *Secretary*  
Thomas Pasch  
Larry Passmore, *Vice Chair*  
Ann Schmieg  
Deborah Schrage, MD  
Rebecca Thornburgh, *Chair*



# THE YEAR'S SUCCESSES



## Program Successes

- Membership continued to grow, reaching 300 choir members, an increase of 9% over the prior season. We have expanded our programs with new initiatives, most notably with **FYI! (Find Your Instrument!)** at the Wister School in Germantown. The FYI! pilot program provides choral music education in the classroom to 4<sup>th</sup> graders in a Philadelphia public school with no music resources. It was especially meaningful for us that the first FYI! class performed along with our own younger singers in our annual **Treble Concert**. We also developed a **week-long summer camp for boys** in partnership with William Penn Charter School. We will be adding a girls' camp in the Summer of 2010. We are proud of our results in outreach and diversity that manifest our organization's mission and commitment to the community.
- Our **5th Annual Gala Concert** at the Kimmel Center, again a sell-out, put our young singers on stage with international opera star Denyce Graves and featured the world-premiere of our commissioned choral work, *The Music Makers*, by composer Nicholas White.
- The **Opera Company of Philadelphia** engaged our boys for *Turandot* and our girls for *L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges*. The opportunity for our singers to perform at a professional level reflects the commitment of our Music Directors to high artistic standards. Other performance opportunities this year included appearances with **Lyric Fest** and the **American Boy Choir** as well as in the **Lansdale Community Concert Series**, Comcast's video **Holiday Spectacular**, and our own **Holiday and Spring concerts** which set attendance records.
- Our **annual summer tours**, which emphasize home-stay living experiences overseas, performances in noted venues, and cooperation with local youthchoirs while on tour, took the Pennsylvania Girlchoir to Austria and Hungary. The Keystone State Boychoir tour took place in Chile and Antarctica during the South American summer month of December 2009.

## Organizational Successes

Commonwealth Youthchoirs operates with a detailed budget and a policy of spending for programs only when funding is assured. As a result we had a small surplus in FY2009 despite difficult macroeconomic conditions. Grant income for FY2009 included support for FYI! as well as an increase in scholarships. Tuition covers only 1/3 of the full expense of musical education for each child, and we have experienced an increasing number of grantors who underwrite the full cost of a child's participation. We are very grateful for this support because it allows us to reach more children. Grantor support and increased enrollment allowed us to add music staff in 2009. Finally, with support from LaSalle's Nonprofit Center, we began a strategic plan for the next five years to build on our successes in 2009.

## Treasurer's Statement

Commonwealth Youthchoirs reported an increase in unrestricted net assets of \$16,139 for its fiscal year 2009 ending August 31, 2009.

A decline in program revenue compared to 2008 is entirely explained by the absence of a boys' tour in the summer of 2009, the tour being rescheduled to December 2009, fiscal 2010, to allow for a performance in Antarctica during the Chilean summer.

The choirs offset the difficult economic environment with increased enrollment, successful fundraising events, and greater income from choir performances. The choirs therefore had the resources to add experienced musical staff to accommodate the higher enrollment as well as invest in new printed music to expand the choirs' repertory.

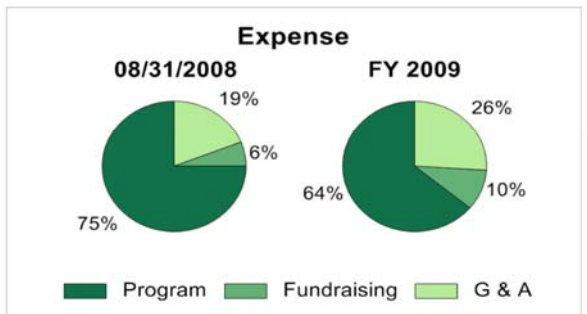
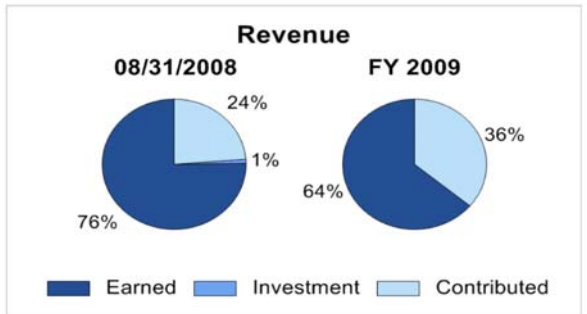
*Edward R. Case*  
Treasurer, Commonwealth Youthchoirs

# Commonwealth Youthchoirs Annual Report

<b>Financial Activity</b>	<b>08/31/2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>% chg</b>
<b>Unrestricted Activity</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Earned</b>			
Program	\$603,571	\$412,587	-32%
Non-program	21,448	19,051	-11%
<b>Total Earned</b>	<b>625,019</b>	<b>431,638</b>	<b>-31%</b>
Investment	4,670	3,225	-31%
Contributed	196,849	244,558	24%
<b>Total Unrestricted Revenue</b>	<b>\$826,538</b>	<b>\$679,421</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program	\$570,973	\$427,302	-25%
Fundraising	47,517	65,997	39%
General & administrative	147,252	169,983	15%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$765,742</b>	<b>\$663,282</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>Net Unrestricted Activity</b>	<b>\$60,796</b>	<b>\$16,139</b>	
<b>Net Temporarily Restricted Activity</b>	<b>\$46,565</b>	<b>\$761</b>	
<b>Net Permanently Restricted Activity</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Net Total Activity</b>	<b>\$107,361</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>08/31/2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>% chg</b>
Total paid attendance	24,371	41,003	68%
Total free attendance	18,486	11,964	-35%
<b>Total attendance</b>	<b>42,857</b>	<b>52,967</b>	<b>24%</b>
Total school children attendance	3,050	5,100	67%
Classes and workshops attendance	90	100	11%

<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>08/31/2008</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>% chg</b>
Productions	11	10	-9%
Public performances - at home	52	52	0%
Public performances - on tour	27	8	-70%
Classes/Workshops - for the public	1	1	0%
Tours	2	2	0%
World premieres	3	2	-33%
Local premieres	2	0	n/a
Works commissioned	1	1	0%
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 FY 2009

## CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

### **Gold (\$10,000 and above)**

Anonymous Family Foundation  
Connelly Foundation  
Lincoln Financial Foundation  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts  
Philadelphia Cultural Fund

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

Anonymous Family Foundation  
Clarence A. Rowell II Trust through the PNC Charitable  
Trust Grant Review Committee  
Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation  
The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation

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

Hamilton Family Foundation  
Independence Foundation  
Sheila Fortune Foundation

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

The Charles E. Ellis Grant and Scholarship Fund  
Freedom 2, Inc.  
LexisNexis  
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Rosenlund Family Foundation  
The Elizabeth B. and Arthur E. Roswell Foundation, Inc.

### **Patrons (up to \$1,000)**

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ING  
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The Walter M. Strine and Alice Washco Strine Foundation  
Woodland Academy of Springfield

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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

Heather and Mark Garrison

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

Edward and Mary Ann Case

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

Susan S. Ashbaker  
Erica and Bob Carpenter  
Colleen Christian and Court Schmidt  
Steven M. Fisher  
Drs. Judith E. Melick and J. Arch McNamara  
Larry and Aita Passmore  
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Schiller  
Bonnie and Peter Schorsch  
Drs. Debbie and Ralph Schragar  
David and Rebecca McKillip Thornburgh  
Leonard and Anne Van Meter  
Angela Wende

### **Capstone (\$500 to \$999)**

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Rosalie and Irvin Gerson  
Linda and David Glickstein  
Robin and Anne Odland  
William and Beth Piszek  
Linda Samost and Ira Goldstein  
Alice and Walter Strine, Esqs.  
Ambika Sureshkumar  
Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Westby  
Marian H. Wood

### **Cornerstone (\$250 to \$499)**

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Alan and Noele Wein

### **Keystone (\$100 to \$249)**

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Veronica Yockobishen

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Margery Bush  
Sandra Casimir  
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Elaine Damiano  
Della Deakins  
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Janet M. Yamron  
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Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wolsky

## *We thank the following for their contributions to the CY Scholarship Fund*

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