

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)
MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted
3. Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)
MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2023 AGM be approved as presented
4. Board & Staff Reports from 2022-23 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b, 3c)
MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented
5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)
MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2023 be approved as presented
6. Appointment of Auditors for 2023/2024 Fiscal Year
MOTION 5: That Olafson & Jones be appointed as auditors for the 2023-24 fiscal year
7. Update for 2023-24 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 5a & 5b)
8. Election of Directors (Attachment 6)
 - 8.1. Report of the Nominating Committee
 - 8.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)
 - 8.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested***MOTION 6: That MCA's board of directors be elected as presented***
9. Other/New Business
10. Adjournment
MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2023, 10:30 am
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

DRAFT Minutes

Present: David Sawatzky (Chair), Avonlea Armstrong-Green, Kathleen Bell (Joie de Vivre), Maureen Britton (Central Manitoba Choral Association), Jorrel Camuyong, Carole Carlson (Unique), Katie Donnelly, Klaus Froese, Nancy Gomes Fast, Vic Hooper (Honorary Member), Marjorie Hughes (Seniors Choral Society), Adam Kilfoyle, Rosemary Komadowski (Assiniboine Chorus), Philip Lapatha, Derek Morphy (Honorary Member), Marilyn Redekop (Honorary Member), Naomi Russell, Alyssa Sherlock (Incantatem Singers), Stuart Sladden, Sonya Williams, Jenny Steinke-Magnus, (staff), Brittany Mielnichuk (staff, recording)

Zoom: Marla Fontaine, Carolyn Gwyer, Crystal Kolt

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:36am. David welcomed everyone to the meeting, did a land acknowledgement, and gave attendees instructions on voting privileges.

2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)

MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted.

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Vic Hooper. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)

MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2022 AGM be approved as presented.

M/S: Adam Kilfoyle/Naomi Russell. CARRIED.

4. Board & Staff Reports from 2022-23 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b & 3c)

David summarized activities since the last AGM as outlined in the attached board and staff reports. He reviewed some of the highlights:

- Our programming began with MCA's first outdoor choral festival GATHER, setting an exciting tone for a return to in-person activities after nearly three years of altered programming due to the pandemic.

- ChoralFest and MB Sings (formerly Provincial Honour Choirs) returned to in-person and although our registrations were lower compared to pre-pandemic years, both events were considered successful and were welcomed back by our choral community.
- MCA's IDEA Special Interest Group planned and hosted a small symposium, BEYOND. Essentially a "mini-Podium", the two-day event brought those in the choral community together to explore longstanding choral traditions, experience new ways of thinking, and expand our practices.

Jenny drew attention to MCA's work behind the scenes, emphasizing the increased use of our lending library, our focus on communications and marketing, and the creation of a new strategic and fund development plan to guide MCA's work.

MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented.

M/S: Naomi Russell/Stuart Sladden. CARRIED.

5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)

Adam presented the Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2022, and highlighted the following:

- These financial statements reflect MCA's activities when we were largely still in pandemic restrictions.
- This is MCA's first year using Olafson & Jones as auditors.
- The in-kind donation from St. John's Music (large sheet music donation) is reflected in both our revenue and expenses.
- There were increased staff costs comparative to years past from adding Brittany to the MCA team and hiring summer students in 2022.
- MCA has demonstrated good fiscal responsibility with only a small deficit of \$1,100 for the year ending August 31, 2022.

MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2022 be approved as presented

M/S: Kathleen Bell/Nancy Gomes Fast. CARRIED.

6. Interim Financial Statements to May 31, 2023 (Attachment 5)

Jenny presented an update on MCA's finances up to May 31, 2023, and highlighted:

- MCA has done well with grants this year. Outside of our annual operating grants, we received several project and professional development grants to help offset the cost of our programming, resources, and operations.
- Although we lost money with GATHER, we still deem the festival a success considering the overwhelmingly positive response from the community.
- ChoralFest registrations were lower than expected and our costs have gone up since pre-pandemic years.

- Sponsorships and donations helped to ensure MB Sings costs were covered despite lower registrations.
- INSPIRE, the senior high leadership camp, has been postponed to summer 2024.
- The funding we received from FCMM for the Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition has now run out, so we are putting it on hold while we review the competition and source new funding.
- MCA has been purchasing memberships with other arts organizations to make new connections and expand our network (Unison, Creative Manitoba, Manitobans for the Arts, etc.).
- We continue to strive to be responsible stewards of the money we receive from our funders and members to sustain MCA's mission, vision, and goals.
- As of May 31, our revenues are greater than our expenses (net positive), and we are projecting to break even by the end of the fiscal year.

7. Appointment of Auditors for 2022/2023 Fiscal Year

MOTION 4: That Olafson & Jones be appointed as auditors for the 2022-23 fiscal year
M/S: Adam Kilfoyle/Marilyn Redekop. CARRIED.

8. Plans for 2023-24 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 6a & 6b)

Jenny and Jorrel presented the approved program slate and a break-even budget for next year. MCA wants to focus on supporting and building our choral community and this is reflected in both the program slate and budget for next year. They noted:

- Our flagship programs ChoralFest and MB Sings will remain in place.
- We are working with leaders in Westman, Norman and Parkland to do a “ChoralFest Tour” to ensure our programming reaches all Manitobans.
- New programs include the INSPIRE Leadership Camp, Member 101 session, Choral Reading Session and networking events, and Sing-along events.
- GATHER and BEYOND will not be happening this season but we are keeping them in mind for future years.
- The Run for Music and Fundraising Gala are dependent on whether MCA can hire someone for the fundraising position.
- MCA will be increasing our staff team to three or four in the fall (dependent on funding).
- We anticipate grants, donations, and sponsorships to be higher if the fundraising position is filled.
- We are intentionally budgeting more for advertising, promotion, and outreach to ensure MCA is connecting with our community and reaching new audiences across Manitoba.

9. Election of Directors

9.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

- David and Adam thanked Adam for his years of service to MCA as Board Treasurer and presented him with a card and gift on behalf of MCA.

- Stuart explained that due to our board restructuring in 2022 most of our current Board Directors are currently in the middle of their terms.
- 9.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)
- David called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.
- 9.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested
- There were no new nominations from the Nominating Committee or the floor.

10. Presentation of Awards of Distinction

David presented three Awards of Distinction as nominated by members of the community, noting that full bios of all the winners would soon be available on our website:

- Derek Morphy – MCA Award for Artistic Excellence
- Millie Hildebrand – MCA Spirit Award
- Marla Fontaine – MCA Spirit Award

11. Other/New Business

There was no new business to note.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29pm.

MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned.

M: Stuart Sladden. CARRIED.

Manitoba Choral Association Annual General Meeting

President's Report

Last year, the board of MCA gathered to envision how to best embark upon a new season of choral singing. The world was slowly coming out of the pandemic, and we understood that there would be a lot of work to do to bring choral singing back to the heights it had once enjoyed in the province before public singing was shut down. We generated some great ideas and crafted some ambitious plans. And we went for it. I'm proud to say that this past year has seen MCA produce some fantastic events for the provincial choral community. From singers to conductors, member supporters, donors, and audiences, Manitoba Choral Association has worked to enrich the lives of Manitobans through the art of choral music.

In October 2022, MCA undertook its first event of the year with GATHER, an all-day choral concert in the Lyric Theatre at Assiniboine Park. Even though the weather was rather cool, we couldn't be happier with the turnout. We had food trucks, art vendors and other arts organizations represented on site throughout the day. And of course, the amazing line-up of choral groups including the Buffalo Gals, Rainbow Harmony Project, the University of Manitoba and Canadian Mennonite University choirs, and many more, as well as a workshop with Cory Campbell, and JP Hoe capping the event. It was a great way to say that choral singing was back.

Manitoba ChoralFest was finally in person in 2022. We had a great slate of clinicians from throughout Canada and changed the format slightly from years past. Even so, with many choral programs in a rebuilding stage, attendance was not as high as in previous years. We anticipate that will change in the future, and certainly this past November saw an increase in performers and attendees.

We also had a fantastic Manitoba Sings event in February 2022, as we did just a few weeks ago. We're enjoying the new location at Portage Avenue Church. The adult choir was quite full, but youth numbers were lower than in previous years. No doubt, this is also a by-product of the pandemic.

And finally, I just want to mention our BEYOND choral symposium. This event was meant to engage and inspire choral educators from around the province with clinics from prominent choral educators from Canada and the US. Among our many presenters, Melanie DeMore reminded us of the power of music and of singing within community. She showed us the power music has to engage people, to reflect, to tell stories, and to provide meaning. Doug Friesen showed us how thinking outside the box can lead us to brand new music learning experiences. All of our presenters were engaging and experts in their field. And of course, visiting and catching up with colleagues is always a great reason to get together.

The future is certainly looking bright for Manitoba Choral Association. I have to give a very large thank-you to our fantastic Executive Director, Jenny Steinke-Magnus, for her tireless work and energy. The work she has been able to do has been nothing short of amazing. And I want to thank our other staff and board members for giving their time and energies toward making MCA such an important vehicle for choral music in the province. You're all amazing people and your contributions to MCA are invaluable.

There is still much work to do. We've heard from so many people that rebuilding their choral programs after the pandemic will take time. Manitoba Choral Association wants to be there as we build the future of choral singing in this province together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Sawatzky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. David Sawatzky, DMA
President
Manitoba Choral Association

Manitoba Choral Association Annual General Meeting

Executive Director's Report

Although this was already reported on at the June 2023 AGM, it is worth repeating that the 2022-23 year was a year to remember! MCA lost no time getting back into the swing of things, with a full year of in-person and hybrid events for the first time in several years. The post-pandemic world has had its share of challenges, but all the while MCA has focused on keeping singing and community at the core of all we do. Since our last AGM, we have re-launched our old programs and created new ones, expanded our resource offerings, grown our membership, and increased our staff capacity. I am both thrilled and humbled to be part of this great work.

2022-23 BY THE NUMBERS

Performers	5,745
Workshop Attendees	1,070
Audience Members	1,950
Volunteers	125
Guest Conductors/Facilitators	31

PROGRAM & RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

Awards & Competitions

- [Emily Gayleard](#) received the 2022 Bert Kroeker Scholarship and [Lauren Fehr](#) received the 2022 David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award.
- Awards of Distinction were given out at our June 2023 AGM:
 - Derek Morphy – Award for Artistic Excellence
 - Millie Hildebrand – MCA Spirit Award
 - Marla Fontaine – MCA Spirit Award
- We encourage the MCA community to nominate individuals, choirs, and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to our choral community for an [Award of Distinction](#). Nominations are received on a rolling basis and recipients are honoured and celebrated at various MCA events.
- 2022 Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition (FSCCC) winner: [Leanne Cooper-Carrier](#) won for her piece *Refraction*.
- After a board meeting discussion in March, it was determined that the FSCCC would be put on hold for the time being, with the plan to review the competition for 2024-25.
 - *Thanks to FCMM for providing a grant to cover the 2022 FSCCC prize*

Choir 101

We offered a two-day hybrid workshop on September 9-10, 2022 for beginner/novice singers just in time for the choral season to start. Dr. Stuart Sladden led singers through the basics of sight-singing and theory and the fundamentals of vocal technique over two days at the CMU South Campus.

- *Thanks to FCMM for providing a grant to support this event.*

GATHER

MCA's first outdoor choral festival on October 1, 2022 at the Assiniboine Park Lyric Theatre was a great success! It was a chilly overcast day but that didn't stop people from coming out. We estimate about 1,000 attended throughout the day. Nine choirs performed, from Winnipeg and the Interlake: CMU Chamber Choir, Ecco Singers, Fort Richmond Collegiate, Margaret's Choir, MBCI Singers, Quarry Choristers, Rainbow Harmony Project, St. James-Assiniboia Divisional Senior Choir, and UofM Upper Voices.

We also featured performances from Buffalo Gals, Juvel, Those Guys, and JP Hoe (who collaborated with the university choirs for the finale performance) and we held three workshops: Rose Van der Hooft presented morning and afternoon yoga workshops, and Cory Campbell presented a mid-day participatory workshop on his original song [Gratitude](#).

We were fortunate to secure four food vendors and 10 artisans to sell at the festival. We also invited several community organizations to promote their services and programs in our community tent. We organized an arts & crafts tent and a face painting tent.

- *Thanks to The Winnipeg Foundation for providing a grant to offset the cost of running this event. Thanks to our other sponsors: Assiniboine Credit Union, The Winnipeg Free Press for providing advertising, RBC for providing volunteers, St. James Assiniboia School Division for providing risers & tables, and Tim Hortons & Red River Co-Op for providing food for volunteers.*

TEMPO

This annual one-day professional development event was held virtually on October 21, 2022 by the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA, of which MCA is an affiliate partner organization). It provided an opportunity for Manitoba music teachers to gather individually or in small groups to view virtual presentations on various musical topics throughout the day. Among the choral presenters were Charlotte Botha, Marla Fontaine, Melissa Remus Spragg, Terrence Taylor, and Rose van der Hooft.

ChoralFest

We were excited to hold our first in-person ChoralFest in three years from November 14-23, 2022. Adjudicators and clinicians included:

- Senior Years/Community Choirs: Dr. Jennifer Lang (Saskatoon, SK), Dr. Tracy Wong (Toronto, ON), Dr. Andrée Dagenais (Brandon), Hussein Janmohamed (Vancouver, BC)
- Vocal Jazz Ensembles: Duane Davis (Grand Rapids, MI), Kerry Marsh (Naples, FL), Julia Dollison (Naples, FL)
- Early Years/Middle Years Clinics: Liz Kristjanson (Winnipeg), Marla Fontaine (Brandon, MB)

We took several calculated risks by hiring nearly all of our adjudicators and clinicians from outside of Winnipeg, offering in-school early and middle years clinics, and offering French adjudications to Senior Years choirs. NEW for 2022, all SY/Community choirs received two 20-min clinics from different clinicians instead of the normal 30-min clinic. Despite these changes, registrations were not as high as in years past.

We had the following registrations:

Senior Years – 57
Community Choirs – 14
Vocal Jazz – 21
Middle Years Choirs – 9*
TOTAL = 101 choirs**

*No early years choirs signed up, though the in-school clinics were offered to all ages. Some MY choirs shared the clinic time with other schools (ex. one school invited others to their clinic; another had 2 clinics for their 2 choirs; and 3 choirs from 1 division came together for a pod-like experience)

For comparison's sake, in 2019 we had **133 choirs participate in ChoralFest (**68 SY, 12 Community, 27 Vocal Jazz, 25 EY/MY**).

We recognize that it will take time for choral programs to rebuild their numbers, which directly impacts participation in ChoralFest. We are looking forward to expanding ChoralFest even more for 2023 and are optimistic that this program will reach even more singers and choirs by doing so.

- *Thanks to Sing Canada Harmony and Manitoba Arts Council for contributing grants to offset the cost of running this program. We also received a FCMM grant to cover costs related to a ChoralFest tour, which we will defer to next year.*

Senior High Choral Workshops

We held two workshops for senior high singers: one with MB Sings guest conductor Dr. Melissa Morgan (Regina) on January 27, 2023, and another one with BEYOND presenter Melanie DeMore (Oakland, CA) on May 26. Overall these workshops engaged **450 singers** from high schools around the province in group singing.

MB Sings

After a three-year hiatus, the Provincial Honour Choirs program returned under a new name – MB Sings – with a new look and a new concert venue. With these intentional and meaningful changes, the feelings of community and togetherness, the celebration of song, and joy of music-making remains strong and steadfast in Manitoba.

Under the direction of our talented guest conductors, Dr. Melissa Morgan (Regina), Alisa Wiebe (Winnipeg), Jorrel Camuyong (Winnipeg) and Nancy Gomes Fast (Niverville), we welcomed 200 singers from across The Singing Province on January 27-29, 2023:

115 – Adult Choir
57 – Senior Choir (gr. 9-12)
28 – Junior Choir (gr. 5-8)

Singers came from all over Manitoba and beyond to participate:

Central	48	Parkland	1
Eastman	27	Winnipeg	89
Interlake	9	Westman	22
Other (Kenora & Melville, SK)			4

The finale concert took place at Portage Avenue Church with an opening song by Indigenous drummer and singer Jordan Bighorn (Winnipeg) and guest choir [Horizon](#) (Winnipeg), who sang *Refraction*, the 2022 winning composition of the [Frances Seaton Choral Competition](#) by [Leanne Cooper-Carrier](#).

We look forward to continuing our traditions, establishing new ones and most importantly, inviting our community into song again in 2024 for our 40th anniversary of MB Sings.

- *Thanks to Triple E RV/Philipp Ens, Long & McQuade, and the Winnipeg Free Press for sponsoring this program.*



BEYOND

MCA was thrilled to hold our first-ever choral symposium, [BEYOND](#), on May 26-27, 2023. The event drew over **40 attendees** from around the province and took place at CMU (day sessions) and St. Norbert Arts Centre (closing event). The weekend featured sessions from presenters:

- Melanie DeMore (vocal activist, San Francisco, CA) and Doug Friesen (arts educator, ON) focused on vocal activism and improvisation respectively
- Cory Campbell (traditional singer & drummer, Winnipeg), Ray “Coco” Stevenson (traditional singer & drummer, Winnipeg), and Jordan Bighorn (traditional singer & drummer, Winnipeg) offered Indigenous music and teachings for choral leaders
- Nicole Stonyk (graduate student, Winnipeg) encouraged attendees to move beyond “Indigenous inclusion” in music
- Jenel Shaw (Executive Director of Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, Winnipeg) presented a session on accessibility in choir
- Caleb Rondeau and Roan Regan (choral singers & postsecondary students, Winnipeg) spoke to transgender/non-binary singer inclusion in choir

We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about this new professional development program, an indication that we will surely look at holding it again in the future.

- Thanks to Canada Council for the Arts; the Province of MB Arts, Culture, and Sport in Community Fund; the MB Arts Accessibility Fund; and Assiniboine Credit Union for funding this program.

Library

With choirs back in person, our choral lending library was busier than ever! In 2022 we scanned and uploaded thousands of pieces of music to our online platform, making it more accessible to people all over the province and beyond. It is an incredible amount of work to keep the library running smoothly and efficiently, but it is well worth it to provide this valuable resource to our community.

For 2022-23, **148 orders representing over 7,000 individual pieces of music** were sent out to individuals/choirs in the following regions:

Winnipeg = 106	Eastman = 4	Norman = 1	Saskatchewan = 7
Central = 8	Interlake = 2	Alberta = 1	Ontario = 3
Westman = 8	Parkland = 2	British Columbia = 2	Nova Scotia = 4

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Membership

In 2022 we began using a new membership platform, *MembershipWorks*, to manage our membership, donation, and event data. Members are now able to log in to register for events, post choir events, and update their own profiles and choir information, which now appears in the Find a Choir section of our website.

We were glad to see members old and new taking out MCA memberships in 2022-23, and it is heartening to see that we have even surpassed pre-pandemic numbers! With the return to in-person TEMPO for 2023, and with expansion of our flagship programs into rural areas, we anticipate membership numbers to increase even more in 23-24.

	2022-23	2021-22	Pre-pandemic 2019-20
Choir memberships (School, community, and church choirs)	101 memberships (representing 198 choirs and over 7,000 singers)	133 choirs	164 choirs
Individual memberships (Adult, student, retired individuals)	111 members (78 adult, 15 student, 18 retired)	136	146
Organization memberships (Businesses, non-profits)	8	5	4
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	317	274	314

Membership distribution by region (total choir/individual/org memberships):

Central – 26	Eastman – 20	Interlake – 10
Norman – 5	Parkland – 2	Westman – 26
Winnipeg – 224	Other – 4	

Choral Events

MCA attended performances of the four regional youth choirs in October 2022, as well as performances of various choirs around Winnipeg and beyond throughout the year, as a way to demonstrate support to our membership and to connect with individuals in each community. We plan to make efforts to attend performances around the province on a regular basis going forward and are now exploring an opportunity to collaborate amongst the regional youth choirs in the future.

Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group

We held our first Intra-Provincial SIG meeting in January. Six people attended and there was representation from Norman, Westman, Central, and Winnipeg. The purpose of the group is to provide a space to liaise regularly with and provide support to all Manitoba regions so that MCA may build and strengthen relationships with choirs and members and strategically plan programs and support existing initiatives around the province. We will aim to meet 3-4 times per year to start.

Inter-Provincial Meetings

MCA continues to meet with representatives from other Choral Arts Service Organizations (CASOs) from across the country on a regular basis. I attended an in-person meeting in Montreal in June 2023 to connect with my counterparts and explore topics in the areas of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility (IDEA), membership, and more.

- *Thanks to The Winnipeg Foundation, Winnipeg Arts Council, and Manitoba Arts Council for providing professional development funding for this trip.*

External Memberships

MCA continues to contribute as an affiliated member and board representative for the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA) and the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba (FCMM). Recently we have also established memberships with Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, Creative Manitoba, the Association for Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM), Manitobans for the Arts, the Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce, Unison Canada, and Musica International.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Communications & Marketing

We have been very busy in this area for 22-23, sharing regular posts and updates through our website, social media platforms, and e-newsletters. This year we also ordered merchandise and promotional materials with our new logo, all of which has been well received by the community. Merchandise is now available for sale on our website.

Strategic Planning / Fund Development

In 2022 the MCA board worked with Pamela Simmons of Corniche Consulting to update our strategic plan and create a fund development plan. Our new strategic plan (Attachment 3c) will guide MCA over the next 2-3 years. We are now working on a plan to determine how best to implement the fund development plan Pam has created for us.

- *Thanks to The Winnipeg Foundation for providing an organizational development grant to cover this project*

Human Resources

MCA recently significantly increased our capacity on our staff team: in 2022 we hired Kathleen Murphy and Jenica Sul through the Canada Summer Jobs grant to digitize our music library, and in September, we were able to increase Brittany Mielnichuk's position to a full-time role. We have benefitted immensely from a larger staff team and at the end of 2023 were fortunate to be able to create another position (Administrative Assistant), for which we hired Alexis Chlopecki. Welcome to the team, Alexis!

Fundraising

Donors continue to be a vital component to our fundraising activities. We are grateful to all those who have supported MCA financially in 2022-23! In total, MCA **supporters** gave **over \$16,000** to the organization, **sponsors** provided **over \$2,000** in funds/in-kind sponsorships, and **funding agencies** provided **over \$130,000** in grants to our organization. A complete list of donors and funders appears at the end of this report.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2023-2024

The 2023-24 year is again shaping up to be a busy one, with new, innovative, and expanded programs and services being offered to the choral community. I am continuing to focus on work behind the scenes, overseeing our programs, operations, and fundraising activities. Specifically on the slate are:

- **Programs:** Plan, implement, and expand programs and events, specifically ChoralFest (regional tour), MB Sings (40th anniversary celebration), and other Winnipeg 150: City of Song events; review and improve program evaluation process (see Program Slate, Attachment 5a)
- **Music Library:** Purchase new shelving, add donations into inventory, finish digitizing library holdings
- **Fund Development:** Implement the fund development plan to focus on building financial stability for MCA

- **Funder & Donor Relations:** Focus on building and strengthening relationships with major donors, sponsors, and funding agencies
 - **Policy Work:** Develop policies in the areas of finance, volunteers, IDEA, etc.; continue to update Terms of Reference for board and committee positions
 - **Human Resources:** Explore expanding staff team and focus on volunteer management
 - **Awards:** Review criteria and strengthen application processes
 - **FSCCC:** Review competition and decide on what it will look like going forward
 - **IDEA Special Interest Group:** Launch this group and hold IDEA events accordingly
 - **PODIUM 2024:** Attend Choral Canada's PODIUM on behalf of MCA
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FINAL THOUGHTS

There are so many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make 2022-23 a success. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated board, staff, and volunteer team, who have been integral in moving MCA forward in our program and operational goals. I truly feel part of a mutually supportive team, working together towards a common goal: seeing the Manitoba choral community flourish.

Our board members and volunteers stepped up in new and important ways in 2022-23, particularly for our new events, GATHER and BEYOND, and of course, the re-launch of our flagship programs, ChoralFest and MB Sings. I want to extend a huge thank-you to our program committees, and especially Kelsey Shiaro and Catherine Robbins, who chaired MB Sings and BEYOND committees respectively. Thank you to our staff as well: to Brittany for stepping up in every area of MCA's work (including those that were not in her job description); thanks to the newest member of our team, Alexis, who hit the ground running in fall 2023 and has taken on many important behind-the-scenes tasks. I have been so grateful for our small but mighty team!

Since the June 2023 AGM, we were fortunate to have found a treasurer, so thank you to Robyn for stepping into that role and has made the transition so seamless! I also want to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Past President, Stuart, who has contributed in countless ways to MCA's programs and operations over the past six years. The organization has benefitted immensely from your experience and expertise in the ChoralFest, Vice President, President, and most recently, Past President roles. I have enjoyed working with you and wish you all the best. Please don't be a stranger to MCA!

I am so proud of the work we have accomplished in 2022-23, and yet I know there is still much work to do. I look forward to continuing this great work with the MCA team for 2023-24 and beyond!

*Submitted by Jenny Steinke-Magnus
February 13, 2024*

Appendix A: 2022-2023 Committee Members & Portfolios

GATHER

Jenny Steinke-Magnus (chair)
Avonlea Armstrong-Green
David Sawatzky
Katie Donnelly
Scott Reimer
Jorrel Camuyong
Stuart Sladden
Kelsey Shiaro
Brittany Mielnichuk

ChoralFest

Jenny Steinke-Magnus (chair)
Sonya Williams
Stuart Sladden
David Sawatzky
Jana Zens
Jorrel Camuyong
Heather Neufeld
Brittany Mielnichuk

MB Sings

Kelsey Shiaro (chair)
David Sawatzky
Sonya Williams
Katrina Lengsavath
Ben Campbell
Janet Isaac-Martens
Nancy Gomes
Jack Roeder
Shayla Davidson
Jorrel Camuyong
Brittany Mielnichuk
Jenny Steinke-Magnus

BEYOND

Catherine Robbins (co-chair)
Jenny Steinke-Magnus (co-chair)
Brittany Mielnichuk
GiUng Lee
Philip Lapatha
Jordan Bighorn

Katrina Lengsavath
Kristel Peters
Kendra Obach
Edward Cloud
Sonya Williams
Marla Fontaine
Jenny Steinke-Magnus

Program Committee

Jorrel Camuyong (chair)
Sonya Williams
Philip Lapatha
Stuart Sladden
David Sawatzky
Kelsey Shiaro
Brittany Mielnichuk
Jenny Steinke-Magnus

Board of Directors

Dr. David Sawatzky, President
Dr. Stuart Sladden, Past President, Nominations
Chair, FCMM Representative
Naomi Russell, Vice President, MMEA
Representative, Archives Portfolio
Adam Kilfoyle, Treasurer
Katie Donnelly, Outreach & Advocacy Director
Crystal Kolt, Intra-Provincial Director
Jorrel Camuyong, Program Director
Philip Lapatha, Director, TEMPO Portfolio
Katy Harmer, Director, Library & Resources
Portfolio
Nancy Gomes Fast, Director, Communications
Portfolio

Other Portfolios

Dr. Catherine Robbins, IDEA Special Interest
Group Chair
Kelsey Shiaro, MB Sings Chair
Fund Development – Vacant
ChoralFest – Vacant

Appendix B: 2022-23 Donors, Funders, and Sponsors

Masterworks \$6,000+

Canada Council for the Arts
Philipp & Ilse Ens/Triple E RV
Foundation for Choral
Music in Manitoba
Harbourfront Wealth
Management Inc.
Manitoba Arts Council
Province of Manitoba
The Thomas Sill Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation
Pembina Trails Voices
St. John's Music
Winnipeg Arts Council

Oratorio \$1,000 - \$5,999

Assiniboine Credit Union
Gregory Fearn
Elroy Friesen
Heartland CPAs
Adam & Joanne Kilfoyle
Sharon & Eric Marshall
Sandi & Ron Mielitz
Catherine Robbins
Naomi Russell

Cantata \$500 - \$999

Long & McQuade
Riverwood Singers

Madrigal \$250-\$499

Scott Armstrong
Marie Craig
Ernest Babyne
Andrée Dagenais
James Fast
Ed & Millie Hildebrand
Shirley Lysack
Judy Pringle
Marilyn Redekop
Winnipeg Free Press

Canon \$100-\$249

Carolyn Boyes
Jorrel Camuyong
Aline Caron
Stephen Cocks
Eastman Youth Choir

Maureen Ferley
C. Susan & William R. Finlay
Nancy Gomes Fast
Katy Harmer
Kimberly Harms
Vic Hooper
Janet Isaac
Jennifer Lang
Peter & Stella Maruca
Sue McIntosh
Derek Morphy
Morna-June Morrow
Tim Preston
Scott Reimer
Ed Reynolds
Margot Sim
Jenny Steinke-Magnus
Roberta Velarde
Pearl Von Zuben
Bruce Waldie

Solo \$10 - \$99

Accent Ensemble
Janine Brémault-Barnford
Ashley Buck
Colton Buhler
Carole Carlson
Dennis Chambers
Nancy Chappell-Pollack
Xiaotong Chen
Shayla Davidson
Lottie Enns-Braun
Henry Engbrecht
Karly Epp
Nancy Faulder
Alison Grant-Preville
Jeff Green
Sam Greve
Johanna Hildebrand
Cathy Horbas
Sharon Hyndman
Rosemary Komadowski
Donna Kormilo
Anita Kroeker
Ron Krug
Karen Lamb
Julie Leduchowski
Jacob Lee
Jennifer Lidstone

Monika Lukomska
Martha Mason-Miller
Leah Mclsaac
Brittany Mielnichuk
Pamela Miller
Maureen Morrison
Beverly Morton
Kendra Obach
Patti Lynne Pauls
Bill Quinn
Erika Rasmussen
Red River Co-Op
Corina Ruus
Tania Sablatash
Don Sharpe
Jenny-Lynn Sheldon
Pietra Shirley
Stuart Sladden
Muriel Smith
Melissa Spraggs
Heather Steinhoff
Strathclair Theatre
Committee
Marni Strome
Becki Thiessen
Tim Hortons
Elaine Thomson
Carolyn Truong
Judy Urbonas
Shianne Uschold
Westgate Mennonite
Collegiate
Alisa Wiebe
Colson Wiebe
Erica Wiebe
Dorcas Windsor
Val Wood
Betsy Wrana
Roberta Velarde
Westgate Mennonite
Collegiate
Alisa Wiebe
Erica Wiebe
Sonya Williams
Dorcas Windsor
Terence Wu
Debra Young
Diane Zielonko

MCA Strategic Directions 2022-2025

Armed with a new strategic plan that will help focus our work for the next three years, MCA is committed to living our values of community, diversity and inclusion, education, integrity, health and wellness, and building a more sustainable future.

COMMUNITY

- Expand MCA's flagship programs beyond the perimeter
- Conduct more workshops/programs in rural communities (1-2 per year)
- Engage current and potential members on their own turf
- Promote the joy of group singing
- Engage youth and young adult choirs and singers in programs
- Hold a provincial symposium for choral leaders

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- Increase involvement with underrepresented groups
- Connect with more Indigenous communities for MCA programming
- Develop and implement an IDEA policy to ensure opportunities are offered to community members to participate as MCA members, staff, volunteers, and program participants
- Advocate to the government for the benefits and impact of school music programs

EDUCATION

- Create an adjudicator/clinician mentorship program to increase the skills of future choral leaders
- Explore new programming ideas
- Provide/compile resources for choral leaders to create and grow choirs in schools/communities
- Collaborate with music therapists to expand education programs

INTEGRITY

- Increase attendance at the AGM to showcase the achievements of the organization
- Conduct a focus group with a representation of constituents to determine continued interest in and support of MCA
- Publish an annual report to be more accountable to constituents
- Create efficiencies in the office to free staff and volunteer time to offer more programs and services

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Promote health and wellness, benefits of singing to the wider community

SUSTAINABILITY

- Develop a Fund Development Plan that offers more sustainable future funding
- Develop Endowment Fund for future MCA growth and longevity
- Engage patrons to commit to giving annual major gifts
- Hold a major fundraising event to showcase choirs from around the province

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.

Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Index to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

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Statement of Operations	4
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	5
Statement of Cash Flows	6
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Manitoba Choral Association Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Manitoba Choral Association Inc. (the Association), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at August 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

Budget information is presented in the statement of revenues and expenditures for information purposes only and has not been subject to audit.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Manitoba Choral Association Inc. *(continued)*

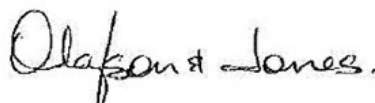
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



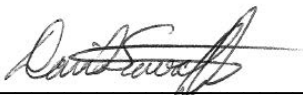
Winnipeg, Manitoba
November 3, 2023

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Financial Position
August 31, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 102,469	\$ 79,057
Term deposits (Note 3)	47,639	35,110
Accounts receivable	26,064	970
Inventory	6,796	4,988
Goods and services tax recoverable	1,771	868
Prepaid expenses	5,929	2,251
	190,668	123,244
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	15,308	4,062
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS	-	46,181
	\$ 205,976	\$ 173,487
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 28,913	\$ 8,204
Current portion of long term debt (Note 6)	40,000	-
Employee deductions payable	2,567	2,794
Deferred income (Note 5)	95,104	83,920
	166,584	94,918
LONG TERM DEBT (Note 6)	-	40,000
	166,584	134,918
LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 7)		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	24,084	34,507
Invested in capital assets	15,308	4,062
	39,392	38,569
	\$ 205,976	\$ 173,487

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



 Director



 Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Operations
Year Ended August 31, 2023

	Budget 2023	Total 2023	Total 2022
REVENUE			
Manitoba Arts Council grants	\$ 66,000	\$ 63,133	\$ 64,350
Winnipeg Arts Council grants	15,000	15,500	16,000
Winnipeg Foundation grants	7,500	17,000	2,250
Province of Manitoba grants	-	17,000	5,511
FCMM grants	3,000	-	1,000
Other grants	-	1,500	7,005
FCMM grants through MCA	-	3,600	3,200
Endowment Fund (Note 8)	16,500	16,507	15,678
Donations			
In-kind	1,250	25,550	58,718
Other	17,500	11,436	13,403
Provincial programs (Note 9)	169,705	105,948	15,189
Memberships	18,000	16,110	11,915
Interest income	2,200	3,582	1,394
Merchandise Income	2,250	2,620	-
Rental Income	200	210	392
Miscellaneous	250	2,368	475
	<u>319,355</u>	<u>302,064</u>	<u>216,480</u>
EXPENSES			
Donation In-kind expense	-	25,550	58,718
FCMM grant through MCA	-	3,600	3,200
Fundraising	5,000	4,869	4,869
Provincial Programs (Note 9)	157,655	106,270	17,263
Memberships	1,500	898	847
Advertising & promotions	850	1,183	3,689
Rebranding	-	-	8,175
Rent	18,600	18,515	18,152
Office	5,425	7,289	7,725
Insurance	3,500	3,097	2,956
Professional fees	6,000	5,179	4,484
Telephone	375	328	512
Amortization	-	878	1,133
Travel & Meetings	5,500	2,940	3,978
Wages and employee benefits	110,950	115,136	101,877
Training	1,000	3,076	4,370
Bad debts	-	18	-
Bank Charges & Miscellaneous	3,000	2,415	3,132
	<u>319,355</u>	<u>301,241</u>	<u>245,080</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	-	823	(28,600)
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE	-	-	27,500
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 823</u>	<u>\$ (1,100)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2023

	Unrestricted net assets	Invested in capital assets	2023	2022
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 34,507	\$ 4,062	\$ 38,569	\$ 39,669
Excess of revenue over expenses	1,701	(878)	823	(1,100)
Capital asset purchases	(12,124)	12,124	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 24,084	\$ 15,308	\$ 39,392	\$ 38,569

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended August 31, 2023

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 823	\$ (1,100)
Item not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	878	1,133
	<u>1,701</u>	<u>33</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(25,094)	4,427
Goods and services tax recoverable	(903)	(89)
Inventory	(1,808)	(4,988)
Prepaid expenses	(3,678)	552
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	20,709	(1,054)
Employee deductions payable	(227)	688
Deferred income	11,184	19,533
	<u>183</u>	<u>19,069</u>
	<u>1,884</u>	<u>19,102</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of capital assets	(12,124)	-
Proceeds of disposal of investment	33,971	-
Accrued interest on investment	(319)	(706)
	<u>21,528</u>	<u>(706)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	23,412	18,396
Cash - beginning of year	79,057	60,661
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 102,469	\$ 79,057

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. (the "Association") is a not-for-profit organization of Manitoba. As a registered charity the Association is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Association was instituted for the purposes of promoting, planning and executing choral festivals, programs workshops and providing choral opportunities to singers, directors, and composers throughout Manitoba.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

Cash equivalents

Highly liquid investments with maturities of one year or less at date of purchase are classified as cash equivalents.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with the cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Goods and services tax

Contributed materials and services are recoverable at 50% as a rebate. The unrecoverable portion is recorded as an expense with the rebate treated as a receivable.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Computer equipment	30%
Furniture and fixtures	20%

The Association regularly reviews its capital assets to eliminate obsolete items.

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

Impairment of long lived assets

The Association tests for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount to the projected future net cash flows the long-lived assets are expected to generate through their direct use and eventual disposition. When a test for impairment indicates that the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the carrying value exceeds its fair value.

(continues)

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Revenue recognition

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenue generated from grants and restricted donations are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recorded.

Revenue generated from unrestricted provincial programs, donations, membership and other are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably determined and collection is reasonably assured.

Leases

Leases are classified as either capital or operating leases. At the time the Association enters into a capital lease, an asset is recorded with its related long-term obligation to reflect the acquisition and financing. Rental payments under operating leases are expensed as incurred.

Contributed goods and services

Donated goods and services are recorded when fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services are used in the normal course of the organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

3. TERM INVESTMENTS

	Maturity date	Interest rate %	2023	2022
Guaranteed investment certificate	June 24, 2024	3.65	\$ 32,543	\$ -
Term deposit	June 29, 2024	3.65	15,096	-
Guaranteed investment certificate (*)	April 29, 2023		-	10,110
Term deposit (*)	May 31, 2023		-	25,000
			\$ 47,639	\$ 35,110

(*) Redeemed during the year.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 3,705	\$ 3,243	\$ 462	\$ 659
Furniture and fixtures	9,118	6,396	2,722	3,403
Furniture Upgrades Project	12,124	-	12,124	-
	\$ 24,947	\$ 9,639	\$ 15,308	\$ 4,062

5. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2023	2022
Manitoba Arts Council	\$ 57,975	\$ 34,300
The Winnipeg Foundation	20,000	19,000
Government of Manitoba	10,200	1,800
Membership fees	3,180	2,425
National Youth Choir	2,224	2,224
MCA Program Bursary fund (formerly PHC Fund)	1,152	1,348
Other	373	1,823
Canada Council for the Arts	-	18,000
Sing Canada Harmony	-	3,000
	\$ 95,104	\$ 83,920

6. LONG TERM DEBT

	2023	2022
Canada Emergency Business Account loan bearing interest at 0% per annum until January 18, 2023, 5% per annum starting January 19, 2024. If the outstanding principle is not repaid by January 18, 2024, the forgiven portion of \$20,000 will also need to be repaid.	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Amount payable within one year	(40,000)	-
	\$ -	\$ 40,000

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

7. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Association signed a premises lease agreement for a period of November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2023. The rent during the period will consist of monthly payments of \$1,423 with a 2% increase each year. The lease can be determined with 90 days' written notice.

On March 28, 2019, the Association started leasing its printer for a period of five years and six months at \$497 per quarter plus GST and PST. The printer lease ends in September 2024.

The lease commitments under these arrangements are as follows:

	2024		\$	5,261	
	2025			544	
				544	
			\$	5,805	

8. MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION ENDOWMENT FUND AND BERT KROEKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2006, the Association created the "Manitoba Choral Association Endowment Fund" and the "Bert Kroeker Scholarship Fund" (the "Funds"), which are managed under separate agreements with the Winnipeg Foundation.

As the Funds are managed under agreements by the Winnipeg Foundation, Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations stipulate the Funds do not meet the criteria of an asset and therefore are not recorded on the balance sheet.

Activities relating to each of the "Funds" for the current year were:

	2023		2022
Endowment fund			
Opening balance, beginning of year	\$ 345,570	\$	384,793
Contributions received	-		180
Investment income (loss)	27,381		(20,726)
Disbursements paid to Manitoba Choral Association	(16,507)		(15,678)
Administration and investment fees	(2,772)		(2,999)
	353,672		345,570
 Bert Kroeker scholarship fund			
Opening balance, beginning of year	\$ 30,017	\$	32,824
Investment income (loss)	1,323		(2,559)
Administration and investment fees	(132)		(248)
	31,208		30,017

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2023

9. PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

2023	Revenue	Expenses	Net income (loss)
Choral Fest	\$ 25,822	\$ 37,534	\$ (11,712)
Professional development	2,990	2,208	782
Choral library	1,272	1,163	109
Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition	1,000	1,300	(300)
MB Sings	35,456	22,745	12,711
BEYOND Symposium	25,974	21,067	4,907
GATHER	13,434	20,395	(6,961)
	<u>\$ 105,948</u>	<u>\$ 106,412</u>	<u>\$ (464)</u>

2022	Revenue	Expenses	Net income (loss)
Virtual Choir	\$ 2,822	\$ 2,732	\$ 90
Choral Fest	1,205	1,208	(3)
Professional development	200	459	(259)
Choral library	459	985	(526)
Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition	1,150	1,200	(50)
National youth choir - revenue	9,353	10,679	(1,326)
	<u>\$ 15,189</u>	<u>\$ 17,263</u>	<u>\$ (2,074)</u>

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The association, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the association is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risk arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

11. LINE OF CREDIT

The Association has an operating line of credit of a maximum of \$40,000. The operating line of credit is due on demand, bears interest at bank prime and is secured by term deposits in the amount of \$15,096. As of August 31, 2023 the line of credit used was \$nil (2022 - \$nil), and the prime rate was 7.20% (2022 - 4.70%).



MCA Programming Slate for 2023-24 and Beyond

Note that all programming listed below is subject to change depending on public health restrictions, staff and volunteer capacity, and participant interest/involvement. The Program Committee will provide direction for all programming and program updates will be shared regularly with the membership throughout the year as they become available.

CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

August	September	October
Board retreat	Membership Renewals Choir 101 Member 101	Regional Youth Choir Performances TEMPO
November	December	January
ChoralFest		Board meeting
February	March	April
Member Networking Event MB Sings AGM	Intercultural Choir Concert Sing-Along Event	Intra-provincial SIG Board meeting
May	June	July/August
Music Month Performances PODIUM (Choral Canada) IDEA Corner (SIG) Awards & Competitions	Run for Music* Senior High Talent Event INSPIRE	Intra-provincial SIG Networking/Reading Session Board retreat

*Contingent on staff and volunteer capacity

PROGRAM/EVENT DETAILS

Choir 101

September 2023

This one-day professional development workshop for singers will take place right as choirs start their choral seasons in September. The workshop is designed for novice choristers with a limited background in music. The basics of sight-singing and theory will be addressed throughout the day, as will the fundamentals of vocal technique. The goal is to equip choristers through participatory learning with skills which can be applied in their weekly choir rehearsals for the 2023-2024 season.

Topics to be covered include vocal production, rhythm, melody, harmony, voice parts, dynamics, and the physical and mental health benefits of singing and participating in choral ensembles.

Member 101

September 2023

This is an opportunity for all members, even those who have been MCA members for some time, to attend a virtual session to learn more about what MCA membership is all about. The session will be recorded and posted to our website following the session.

Regional Youth Choir Performances

October 2023

Regional Youth Choir tours and performances will take place across the province in October. MCA plans to attend the performances, and is exploring the possibility of a collaboration between the regions to plan a joint concert in a central location, either for 2023 or 2024.

TEMPO

October 21, 2023

MCA will once again work with MMEA to plan TEMPO 2023, which will once again be held in-person at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute on October 20, 2023. Choral presenters confirmed so far are Dr. Janet Brenneman (Winnipeg) and Tracy Wong (Toronto). We look forward to connecting with music educators and members at the event!

ChoralFest

November 13-22, 2023

Our flagship program will go ahead in 2023 with some exciting additions and expansions:

- **Senior Years Choirs (Grades 9-12)** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians).
- **Middle Years Choirs (Grades 5-8)** will have the option of registering for:
 - Performance in pod system + two 20-min clinics (at ChoralFest choral venue); or
 - 30-min clinic tailored to the choir in their school.*
- **Early Years Choirs (Grades K-4)** will receive a 30-min clinic tailored to their choir in their school.
- **Community Choirs** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians). NEW for 2023, community choirs will have the option of requesting an evening or daytime slot!
- **Vocal Jazz Choirs** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians).
- **NEW! Regional Clinics:** Choirs in Westman, Parkland, and/or Norman are eligible to participate in a special pilot project—ChoralFest will come to them.

* Schools in close proximity may wish to co-host a clinic together in one location. Available to schools in Winnipeg & Surrounding areas (within 150km).

Our 2023 choral and vocal jazz specialists include:

- **Senior & Middle Years & Community Choirs:** Dr. Adam Con (Victoria, BC), Michelle Chzyk (Virden, MB), Philip Lapatha (Winnipeg), Kristel Peters (Winnipeg)
- **Vocal Jazz Choirs:** Christine Guter (CA, USA), Jamond McCoy (CA, USA), Karly Epp (Winnipeg)
- **Early & Middle Years In-School Clinics:** Nedra Francis (Winnipeg), Janna Reid (Winnipeg)
- **Regional Clinics:** Dr. Elroy Friesen (Winnipeg), Dr. Catherine Robbins (Winnipeg)

MB Sings

February 2-4, 2024

We are looking forward to celebrating the 40th anniversary of this flagship program in 2024!

Rehearsals will once again take place at Gordon Bell High School (Winnipeg) on the Friday and Saturday and the finale performance will take place Sunday afternoon Portage Avenue Church again (Winnipeg).

Guest conductors for 2024 will be:

- Junior High Choir (gr. 5-8): Sonya Williams (Winnipeg)
- Senior High Choir (gr. 9-12): Melanie DeMore (Oakland, CA)
- Adult Choir (ages 18+): Scott Leithead (Edmonton, AB)

Member Networking Event

February 1, 2024

This casual event will offer the opportunity for members to mingle with our out-of-town guest conductor, Scott Leithead, and hear about his choral organization's recent name change process.

Together in Song: Intercultural Concert

March 16, 2024

Together with the Manitoba Great Wall Performing Arts, we are looking forward to co-hosting this event, which will bring together choirs of six different cultural backgrounds to showcase a shared love of music and the diversity of choirs in Winnipeg. The event provides a unique opportunity for choirs to collaborate and build community with each other and the audience, through the performance of their own music and a mass choir piece. Singers from around the city will also be invited to participate in this mass performance. This event will be part of the *Winnipeg 150: City of Song* initiative.

Sing-Along Event

March or April 2024

Inspired by open-mic nights and *Choir!Choir!Choir!* events, this event will gather choral enthusiasts for an evening of socializing and choral singing at a local coffee shop or brewery. Using music from the MCA library and local composers, singers will enjoy some refreshments and make music together in a relaxed environment. This event will be part of the *Winnipeg 150: City of Song* initiative.

Music Month

May 2024

MMEA will once again plan weekly concerts at the Manitoba Legislature to showcase school performances in the areas of choir, band, fiddle, and other musical/performing arts. MCA will support MMEA by promoting the concerts.

Awards & Competitions

May 31, 2024 Deadline

MCA offers several awards and scholarships each year to foster and support local talent and professional development. These include the MCA Awards of Distinction (MCA Award for Artistic Excellence, MCA Spirit Award, MCA New Voice Award), the Bert Kroeker Scholarship, and the David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award. Every summer, the winners and recipients are announced and members of the choral community are recognized for their achievements. Note that the board has decided to discontinue the Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition until further notice, however MCA plans to offer workshops and other events to continue encouraging the composition of new Manitoba choral works.

INSPIRE

June or October 2024

This 2-day professional development event is designed for high school choir singers to learn choral skills and explore topics such as: vocal technique, warm-ups, intro to conducting, IDEA, social justice, and other leadership topics. We hope to turn young students on to a future in the choral arts and/or education and inspire them to share their new skills with their choral peers.

Reading Session/Networking Event

August 2024 (or other date)

This event will be similar to the reading sessions that used to be offered by St. John's Music and our former Tried & True program. The Program Committee is still deciding on which set-up would be most cost-efficient and beneficial to our membership. Among possible options are:

- Reaching out to publishers for music to present
- Using what is in the MCA library
- Reaching out to local composers

IDEA Corner Sessions

Various Dates, 2023-24

MCA is looking forward to launching our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Special Interest Group (IDEA SIG) through our IDEA Corner sessions. Members from all segments of the choral community (conductors, educators, singers, enthusiasts, etc.) will be invited to come together in-person and/or virtually to explore topics related to IDEA throughout the year.

Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group

Various Dates, 2023-24

Meetings for this SIG will be open to anyone from any region in the province and will explore how MCA can build and strengthen relationships and strategically plan programs to support choirs around the province, and how the regions can connect with and support each other.

Fundraising Events

Dates TBD

If staff and volunteer capacity allows, MCA will plan Run for Music, a fundraising and advocacy project of MCA. Participants will take part in a 5km or 10km run/walk. Funds raised through Run for Music pledges will be split between MCA member choirs and MCA. We may also look at collaborating with other organizations for this.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2024-25

- September – **Member 101**
- September 28 – **GATHER Outdoor Choral Festival**
- October – **INSPIRE Senior High Leadership Event**
- October 20 – **Regional Youth Choir Collaboration Concert**
- October 25 – **TEMPO**
- November 18-28 – **ChoralFest**
- Jan 31-Feb 2 – **MB Sings**
- March – **Singalong event**
- May – **BEYOND Symposium**
- August – **Choral Reading Session**
- **PLUS:** IDEA Corner, Intra-Provincial SIG, composition workshops, and more throughout the year!

Manitoba Choral Association
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
September 2022 through August 2023

	Budget 23-24	Budget 22-23	Notes
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Grants	147,000.00	91,500.00	Miscellaneous operations & program grants
GATHER Festival Revenue	0.00	13,750.00	
Run for Music Revenue	20,000.00	0.00	
Gala Fundraiser Revenue	25,000.00	25,000.00	
Endowment Fund Interest	16,500.00	16,500.00	
ChoralFest Revenue	47,500.00	36,475.00	
MB Sings Revenue	34,000.00	29,930.00	
National Youth Choir Revenues	2,000.00	0.00	MCA contribution to 4 singers; may apply for more grants
PD by MCA Income	15,250.00	11,500.00	Incl. workshops, IDEA Corner, INSPIRE leadership camp, etc.
BEYOND Symposium Revenue	0.00	50,000.00	
Advertising Revenue	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Donations	17,500.00	17,500.00	
Bank Interest Income	1,700.00	2,200.00	
FSCCC Revenue	0.00	1,100.00	Competition on hold, exploring other revenue sources for 2024
Merchandise Income	2,000.00	2,250.00	
Membership Revenue	18,000.00	18,000.00	
Choral Library Collections	200.00	200.00	
Photocopying for Members	250.00	250.00	
Rental Income	200.00	200.00	
Total Income	350,100.00	319,355.00	
Expense			
GATHER Festival Expenses	0.00	13,750.00	
Run for Music Expenses	15,000.00	0.00	
Gala Fundraiser Expenses	12,500.00	10,000.00	
PD by MCA Expenses	15,250.00	11,500.00	
ChoralFest Expenses	43,500.00	37,975.00	
National Youth Choir Expenses	2,000.00	0.00	
Total 5020 - MB Sings Expenses	31,700.00	30,680.00	
Fund Development Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00	Fund Development software, materials
BEYOND Symposium Expenses	0.00	50,000.00	
Memberships outside MCA	1,650.00	1,500.00	
Choral Library Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	New music purchases + shipping costs to members
Salaries & Benefits	157,800.00	110,950.00	2 FTE, 2 PTE
Web Hosting Services	2,500.00	475.00	MembershipWorks software & website expenses
Rent	19,575.00	18,600.00	
Insurance	3,800.00	3,500.00	
Advertising & Promotions	3,000.00	850.00	Promo materials, ad placements, etc.
Phone Expenses	425.00	375.00	
Office Expenses	1,500.00	1,250.00	
Office Supplies	1,500.00	1,000.00	
Photocopies	500.00	300.00	
Office Equipment Rental	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Postage	500.00	200.00	
Accounting / Audit Services	5,500.00	6,000.00	
Bank & Credit Card Charges	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	500.00	500.00	
Advocacy & Outreach Expenses	2,000.00	250.00	Advocacy expenses, tickets to member concerts/events, etc.
Staff Expenses	2,500.00	500.00	Staff meetings, staff travel, attendance at events, etc.
Board Travel & Expenses	7,000.00	2,500.00	Board retreat (in-person), AGM attendance, etc.
Meeting Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	Committee meetings + AGM
Staff Professional Development	5,200.00	1,000.00	PD courses for staff + ED PODIUM 2024 attendance
FSCCC Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	
Total Expense	350,100.00	319,355.00	
Net Income	0.00	0.00	

**Manitoba Choral Association
Board of Directors
2024-25**

Note: All directors standing for election and re-election at this AGM will be appointed for two-year terms.

As per MCA's by-laws, the Vice-President and President assume the roles of President and Past President, respectively, at the end of their two-year terms, and do not need to stand for re-election.

In the event of a vacancy, Directors may, by majority vote, appoint a Member to serve as a Director until the next ensuing Annual General Meeting.

PROPOSED MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2024-25

Naomi Russell	President	<i>Moving from Vice-President to President</i>
David Sawatzky	Past President	<i>Moving from President to Past President</i>
VACANT	Vice-President	
Robyn Stewart	Treasurer	<i>New term – Election</i>
Jorrel Camuyong	Programs	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>
Crystal Kolt	Intra-provincial	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>
Katie Donnelly	Outreach & Advocacy	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>
Katy Harmer	Member-at- Large	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>
Nancy Gomes Fast	Member-at- Large	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>
Philip Lapatha	Member-at- Large	<i>End of term – Re-election</i>