



MCA Programming Slate for 2022-2023

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.

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

August – Choir 101 (TBD)
September – Membership renewals
October – GATHER: Choral Celebration Festival (1st); TEMPO (21st)
November – ChoralFest (14th – 23rd)
January – Manitoba Sings (formerly Provincial Honour Choirs) (27th – 29th)
March – Accessibility in the Choral Arts (TBD)
May – BEYOND Choir Symposium (26th – 28th)
June – AGM (TBD)
July/August – INSPIRE (TBD)
Various Dates – IDEA Corner Sessions

PROGRAM/EVENT DETAILS

Choir 101, August 19-20, 2022

This one-day professional development workshop for singers will take place right before 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 2022-23 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.

- *Made possible thanks to funding from the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba*

Membership Renewals, opening August 2022

We will launch membership renewals in August using MembershipWorks, our new client relationship management (CRM) platform. MW will fully integrate into our new website and will greatly simplify the way we manage memberships, donations, event registrations, and volunteers. We have reviewed our membership structure and benefits and we strive to ensure membership in MCA is both accessible and valuable to our community.

- *MW annual subscription made possible thanks to funding from the Province of Manitoba's Digital Manitoba Initiative*

IDEA Corner Sessions (various dates TBD)

We held two sessions in 2022 where both members and non-members were invited to join conversations around the topics of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in the choral arts. Sessions included reading articles and watching videos to help guide our discussions, as well as guest speakers to share perspectives on specific topics. We will continue to look for opportunities to host sessions in this series next year, specifically as we build towards our BEYOND symposium.

GATHER: Choral Celebration Festival, October 1, 2022

To celebrate a return to more in-person singing in the fall, MCA will hold a day-long outdoor festival at the Lyric Theatre in Assiniboine Park (Winnipeg). The first of its kind for MCA, the festival will feature rotating choir performances and workshops throughout the day on stage, complete with food vendors, artisans, game booths, and creative spaces set up around the grounds to create a celebratory atmosphere. Choirs from around the province are invited to sign up at no charge for a 15-minute timeslot to perform 3-4 songs for the audience, which will include fellow choristers, friends and family, and community members.

- *Made possible thanks to funding from The Winnipeg Foundation*

ChoralFest, November 14-23, 2022

After two years of holding ChoralFest virtually, we are excited to return to an in-person festival for 2022! New for 2022, we will move the early/middle years clinics to take place in schools, and we will offer the option for senior years choirs to be adjudicated in French. We are also exploring the possibility of offering a ChoralFest tour in regions that normally face challenges to attending the festival in Winnipeg. By making these changes we hope to increase the engagement of choirs of all ages and geographical locations.

The following adjudicators and clinicians have been confirmed for 2022:

- Senior Years: Dr. Jennifer Lang (Saskatoon, SK), Dr. Andrée Dagenais (Brandon), third adjudicator TBD
- Vocal Jazz: Kerry Marsh (Naples, FL), Julia Dollison (Naples, FL), and Duane Davis (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Early/Middle Years: Liz Kristjanson (Winnipeg), Marla Fontaine (Brandon)

Manitoba Sings (formerly Provincial Honour Choirs), January 27-29, 2023

We are planning for an in-person program for 2023 to take place at Gordon Bell High School (Winnipeg). The weekend will look similar to years past: rehearsals on the Friday/Saturday and performances on the Sunday, this time at Portage Avenue Church (Winnipeg). In an effort to better reflect the inclusive nature of the program, and the fact that the event literally brings Manitobans together to sing, the committee has decided to rename the program *Manitoba Sings*. Many in the community will remember that this was MCA's tagline for many years but was recently retired. The new program name is a meaningful way to honour MCA's past while moving boldly into the future. The committee is also reviewing the names of the individual choirs in the program, and these will be announced when registration opens in the fall. We look forward to continuing in the PHC tradition of music-making and fun for everyone!

The following conductors have been confirmed for 2023:

- Youth Choir: Jorrel Camuyong (Winnipeg) & Nancy Gomes Fast (Niverville, MB)
- Senior Choir: Alisa Wiebe (Winnipeg)
- Adult Choir: Dr. Melissa Morgan (Regina, SK)

Senior Years Workshop, January 27, 2023

As in years past, we will offer a workshop to senior years choirs with out-of-town PHC conductor Dr. Melissa Morgan the day PHC starts. We invite all senior years choirs to attend the event, where they will perform for each other and learn a new piece of music with Melissa.

Accessibility in the Choral Arts, March 2023 (Date TBD)

Facilitated by Jenel Shaw, Executive Director of the Arts AccessAbility Network of Manitoba, this workshop will explore the barriers that persons with disabilities may face when accessing choral arts activities, and practical tools to prevent and remove these barriers in their own choirs, and will equip choir leaders and organizations to shift practices and better comply with the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

BEYOND: Exploring and Expanding the Traditional Choral Practice, May 26-28, 2023

The IDEA Committee is planning weekend-long professional development symposium-retreat to offer choral leaders in the province the opportunity to explore ways they can think differently about their arts practice. Manitoban, Canadian, and American choral arts professionals will present on various topics such as: Indigenous protocols for choirs, embracing and encouraging cultural diversity in choir, decentralizing power structures, working with transgender voices, decolonizing the choir practice, challenging gendered performance attire, cultural sensitivity, health and well-being, social justice, and more.

- *Made possible thanks to funding from Canada Council for the Arts*

INSPIRE - MCA's Senior High Leadership Camp, Summer 2023

Plans are in the works to get this program for high school students up and running next summer. The camp would include a group vocal lesson component, an introduction to conducting, a group choir, and numerous leadership activities. We hope to turn young students on to a future in choral music education and inspire them to share their new skills with their choral peers in the fall. Students will apply their new skills through singing in, and taking turns conducting, the camp choir. Facilitators will be confirmed at a later date.