

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!