

# 45th Annual Meeting of the Membership of Chorus America

## Thursday, June 16, 2022, 9:30 am EDT



### Meeting Agenda

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| I.   | Call to Order                            | Brian Newhouse, Chair                       |
| II.  | Approval of Consent Agenda               |   |
|      | a. Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting    |   |
|      | b. Audit Report                          |   |
|      | c. Membership and Programs Report        |   |
| III. | Governance Committee Report              | Rollo Dilworth, Chair, Governance Committee |
|      | a. Acceptance of slate of Board nominees |   |
|      | b. Welcoming new Board Chair             |   |

### **Slate of Nominees**

#### Board Officers for FY23:

- Anton Armstrong, *Chair*; Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College
- Brian Newhouse, *Immediate Past Chair*; Vice President, Individual Giving, Minnesota Orchestra
- John Earls, *Treasurer*; Board Member, May Festival Chorus; Board Chair, Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
- Marie Bucoy-Calavan, *Secretary*; Director of Choral Studies, University of Akron

#### New Board Members:

- Hilary Apfelstadt, Professor Emerita of Choral Studies, University of Toronto
- Eric V. Oliver, Former Regional Attorney, National Labor Relations Board; Minister of Music at Zion Baptist Church, Avondale
- Steven F. Smith, President, Berkshire Choral International

#### Board Members Re-Elected to Another Three-Year Term:

- Jeffrey Barnett (2nd term), Partner and CFO, Dorsal Capital Management LLC
- Dashon Burton (2nd term), Professional Singer
- Iris Derke (2nd term), Co-Founder and General Director, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
- David Hayes (3rd term), Music Director, New York Choral Society
- John Nuechterlein (2nd term), Community Leader and Former President/CEO, American Composers Forum
- Molly Buzick Pontin (2nd term), Vice President and Director of Education & Community Programs, Pacific Chorale
- Andrea Ramsey (2nd term), Composer, Conductor, and Music Educator
- Anthony Trecek-King (2nd term), Associate Professor of Choral Music and Director of Choral Activities, The Hartt School – University of Hartford; Resident Conductor, Handel and Haydn Society Chorus
- Duain Wolfe (3rd term), Former Director and Conductor, Chicago Symphony Chorus, Director and Conductor, Colorado Symphony Chorus

#### Board Members Concluding Their Board Tenure in June 2022:

- Morna Edmundson, Founder, Elektra Women's Choir
- Miguel Ángel Felipe, Conductor and Choral Music Educator

- Corty Fengler, Board Chair/CEO, Capella San Francisco; Singer, San Francisco Symphony Chorus
- Elfrieda Heinrichs, Co-Founder and Director, The Heinrichs Foundation
- Craig Jessop, Professor of Music, Utah State University

## **Minutes of the 44th Annual Meeting of the Membership of Chorus America Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 12:00 pm EDT**

Chorus America Board Chair Brian Newhouse called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:00 pm, presenting the Consent Agenda detailing program and financial highlights of FY21 for approval.

### Governance Committee Report

Rollo Dilworth, Governance Committee Chair, announced the Board Officers for FY2022 that were elected to serve at the Board meeting on June 7, 2021:

- Brian Newhouse, *Chair*; Vice President, Individual Giving, Minnesota Orchestra
- Anton Armstrong, *Chair Elect*; Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College
- John Earls, *Treasurer*; Board Member, May Festival Chorus; Board Chair, Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
- Marie Bucoy-Calavan, *Secretary*; Director of Choral Studies, University of Akron

He welcomed incoming Board members:

- Craig Hella Johnson (January 2021), Founder and Artistic Director, Conspirare; Music Director, Vocal Arts Ensemble Cincinnati
- Pearl Shangkuan (June 2021), Professor, Director of Choral Activities, Calvin University; Chorus Master, Grand Rapids Symphony

He announced that the following individuals had been elected to serve another three-year term on the Board:

- Marie Bucoy-Calavan (3rd term); Director of Choral Studies, University of Akron
- Rollo Dilworth (2nd term); Professor of Choral Music Education, Vice Dean, Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts Temple University
- John Earls (3rd term); Board Member, May Festival Chorus; Board Chair, Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati
- Rob Istad (2nd term); Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, CA State University Fullerton; Artistic Director, Pacific Chorale
- Robyn Reeves Lana (3rd term); Founder and Artistic Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir
- David Morrow (2nd term); Professor and Director of the Glee Club, Morehouse College
- Steve Neiffer (2nd term); CFO, Los Angeles Master Chorale
- Elizabeth Núñez (2nd term); Associate Artistic Director, Young People's Chorus of New York City; Founding Artistic Director, SoHarmoniums Women's Choir
- Dianne Peterson (2nd term); Executive Director Emerita, The Washington Chorus
- Karen P. Thomas (3rd term); Artistic Director, Seattle Pro Musica

Dilworth then introduced Earl Rivers to make a special presentation to former Board leader Michael McCarthy, who was honored with the designation of Director Laureate of Chorus America.

Dilworth turned the meeting back over to Newhouse at the end of his report. Newhouse concluded the Annual Meeting at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Bucoy-Calavan  
Secretary



Carpenter, Evert & Associates

Certified Public Accountants  
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### Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors  
Chorus America  
Washington, District of Columbia

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Chorus America, which comprise the statements of financial position as of August 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expense, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Chorus America as of August 31, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Carpenter Evert and Associates, LTD.*  
Certified Public Accountants

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
January 7, 2022

**CHORUS AMERICA**  
**STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	2021				2020			
	Without Donor Restrictions			Total	Without Donor Restrictions			Total
	Operating	Board Designated	With Donor Restrictions		Operating	Board Designated	With Donor Restrictions	
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>								
Grants and Contributions	\$ 706,554	\$ 10,430	\$ 2,251,295	\$ 2,968,279	\$ 651,333	\$ -	\$ 189,500	\$ 840,833
Membership Dues	198,588	-	-	198,588	222,068	-	-	222,068
Annual Conference	184,669	-	-	184,669	215,849	-	-	215,849
Publication Income	83,695	-	-	83,695	82,379	-	-	82,379
Investment Income	7,273	215,621	-	222,894	8,063	127,575	-	135,638
Other Income	19,863	-	-	19,863	4,116	-	-	4,116
<b>Net Assets Released from Restrictions:</b>								
Satisfaction of Program and Time Restrictions	239,058	-	(239,058)	-	67,000	-	(67,000)	-
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>1,439,700</b>	<b>226,051</b>	<b>2,012,237</b>	<b>3,677,988</b>	<b>1,250,808</b>	<b>127,575</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>1,500,883</b>
<b>Expense:</b>								
<b>Program Services:</b>								
Membership Services and Publications	430,237	-	-	430,237	427,583	-	-	427,583
Projects	431,699	-	-	431,699	310,383	-	-	310,383
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>861,936</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>861,936</b>	<b>737,966</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>737,966</b>
<b>Support Services:</b>								
Management and General	267,643	-	-	267,643	303,328	-	-	303,328
Fundraising	195,887	-	-	195,887	161,917	-	-	161,917
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>463,530</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>463,530</b>	<b>465,245</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>465,245</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,325,466</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,325,466</b>	<b>1,203,211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,203,211</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets from Operations</b>	<b>114,234</b>	<b>226,051</b>	<b>2,012,237</b>	<b>2,352,522</b>	<b>47,597</b>	<b>127,575</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>297,672</b>
<b>Other Changes in Net Assets:</b>								
Designated Expense Fund Transfers	-	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>114,234</b>	<b>226,051</b>	<b>2,012,237</b>	<b>2,352,522</b>	<b>52,597</b>	<b>122,575</b>	<b>122,500</b>	<b>297,672</b>
<b>Net Assets - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>229,235</b>	<b>375,534</b>	<b>588,563</b>	<b>1,193,332</b>	<b>176,638</b>	<b>252,959</b>	<b>466,063</b>	<b>895,660</b>
<b>Net Assets - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 343,469</b>	<b>\$ 601,585</b>	<b>\$ 2,600,800</b>	<b>\$ 3,545,854</b>	<b>\$ 229,235</b>	<b>\$ 375,534</b>	<b>\$ 588,563</b>	<b>\$ 1,193,332</b>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements  
are an integral part of these statements.

**CHORUS AMERICA**  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AUGUST 31, 2021 AND 2020**

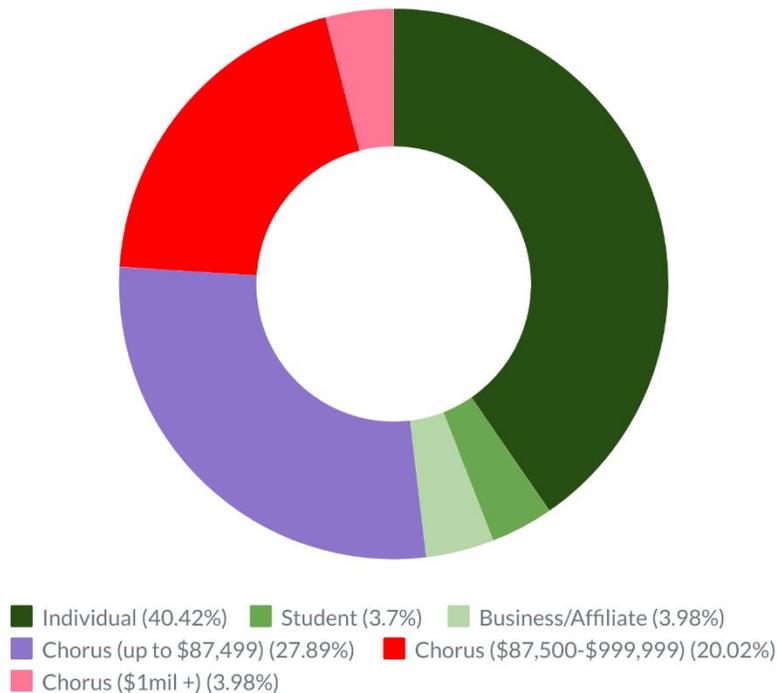
<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,418,361	\$ 241,664
Accounts Receivable	16,192	9,045
Pledges Receivable	936,320	87,740
Prepaid Expenses	10,523	19,982
Total Current Assets	<u>2,381,396</u>	<u>358,431</u>
Investments	1,205,494	894,004
Pledges Receivable	15,000	-
Property and Equipment - Net	51,631	84,856
Lease Security Deposit	<u>8,484</u>	<u>8,484</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,662,005</u>	<u>\$ 1,345,775</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u> 		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 37,727	\$ 36,498
Refundable Advances	-	34,170
Deferred Revenue	12,224	16,204
Accrued Rent	66,200	65,571
Total Current Liabilities	<u>116,151</u>	<u>152,443</u>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
<b>Without Donor Restrictions:</b>		
Operating	343,469	229,235
Board Designated	601,585	375,534
Total Without Donor Restrictions	<u>945,054</u>	<u>604,769</u>
With Donor Restrictions	<u>2,600,800</u>	<u>588,563</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>3,545,854</u>	<u>1,193,332</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 3,662,005</u>	<u>\$ 1,345,775</u>

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements  
are an integral part of these statements.

## Membership & Programs

### Membership

Chorus America Membership - April 2022



Chorus America currently has 1,169 members and serves over 8,406 individuals through their affiliations with choruses, industry-wide businesses, and other member organizations. Similar to other member organizations during the pandemic, Chorus America's membership has been challenged by the economic impact of the pandemic on group singing organizations. We have prioritized keeping our community connected through pay-what-you-can pricing, which 22% of our members have taken advantage of to renew or join during the current fiscal year.

This spring and summer, Chorus America is launching the Chorus America Online Community, a new member benefit. The Chorus America Online Community is a secure online space where members can connect, ask questions, share ideas, lend expertise, and have conversations with their peers. It features a discussion forum as well as a library for sharing documents, resources, and links. Implemented through the Higher Logic platform, this tool facilitates increased direct, peer-to-peer engagement and integrates the resources already available on our site with new materials shared by our members for an increased brain trust.

We are excited about this and other new opportunities to serve the field through our services and evolving programs, many of which are detailed in the following program highlights.

### Programs

The **2022 Conference** met the field's need as a two-part event in 2022: a two-day Online Conference Event on April 7-8 that focused on professional development sessions, and an In-Person Conference Event in Baltimore on June 15-17, focusing on networking and peer-to-peer engagement. Both events addressed mental and emotional wellbeing in the choral field (recognizing the unique struggle our field has gone through since March 2020 and the impacts on arts workers and the community's reduced access to music-making during a sustained period), repairing and restoring the field, and access, diversity, equity, and inclusion (ADEI).

Chorus America is deeply committed to advancing ADEI, and our members consistently request more information on implementing ADEI principles and strategies. This year we continued the **ADEI Learning Lab**, a four-week workshop. The Learning Lab is specifically designed for White choral leaders seeking to address structural racism in their organizations and become better allies and accomplices to their BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) colleagues. Participants learned about their own identities and the ways these identities position them within the choral field, as well as how concepts of ADEI can be used to create change within their organizations.

This year marked an exciting new direction for Chorus America, which has positioned us to be a valuable resource for sustaining and supporting choral music education. We are thrilled to have launched our first regrants program: the **Music Education Partnership Grants**. Made possible through a new funding partnership Chorus America distributed \$950,000 in grants ranging from \$25,000 - \$50,000 to support projects during the 2022–23 school year. The grants will support collaborations between nonprofit choruses and schools to increase access to choral music education with a focus on the core values of the grants program: co-creation, cultural exchange, and dismantling historic and systemic racism.

This year we also launched the **#RediscoverHarmony campaign** ([rediscoverharmony.com](https://rediscoverharmony.com)) to raise public awareness about the value that singing groups bring to their communities. It offers all choral organizations a platform and social media toolkit to amplify their work and community impact. This project began as an initiative of Chorus America's Leadership Development Forum, a peer learning group for leaders of large budget choruses. #RediscoverHarmony helps choruses connect with new audiences, patrons, and potential members in their communities. We are encouraging all choruses, choirs, and singing groups to take advantage of this free tool—not just Chorus America members.

The **Voice magazine** is Chorus America's award-winning magazine, featuring in-depth interviews and profiles, chorus news, and opinion and commentary on important topics such as board leadership strategies, successful fundraising and marketing techniques, and advice on artistic issues. Chorus America published relevant articles such as "Navigating New Rights Challenges with Online Concerts," "Feeling Safer in the Concert Hall: What's Bringing Audiences Back to Choral Performances," and "What Strategic Planning Looks Like Now."