

# Corporate, Foundation and Government Contributors



*A special thank you to our individual donors and supporters!*

## Our Mission

*The mission of Summit Choral Society is to provide a continuum of musical training for young children through senior adults, produce exceptional choral performances and preserve the art of choral music for the enrichment and enjoyment of the Greater Akron community.*



NE OHIO'S  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM  
METROPOLITAN CHORUS  
AKRON CITY GOSPEL SINGERS

## Experience the Beauty

*"Summit Choral Society has taught me that when you are in a choir, it is not just you. It's a group of individuals who have to learn to come together despite differences and make something beautiful that can bring joy into a world that is often lacking it. This organization has given me the opportunity to grow both as a singer and person."*

**- C. Freeman, Performance Choir Singer**

## A Lifetime of Music

*"I just wanted to say how much I thoroughly enjoyed your Christmas Candlelight concert this evening. My high school choir performed Rutter's "Gloria"...that was almost 30 years ago for me! It was a huge challenge for us but working on it and performing it was one of the best experiences of my high school career. I am not a musical expert by any means, but I thought you performed it beautifully."*

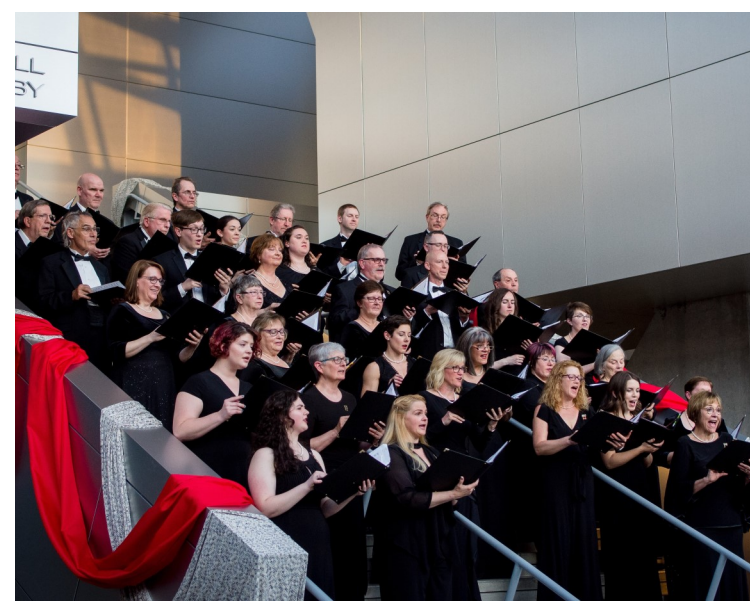
**- C. Kelley, Akron Community Member**



## Experience the Music

*"It has been a joy to sing alongside of talented musicians who give their time to make beautiful music. The satisfaction of performing a challenging piece that required hard work and careful practice is unmatched. Having my two daughters sing with the children's program is a wonderful bonus! Summit Choral Society is so well organized and dedicated to music education for children through adults. I am honored to be a part of it!"*

**- C. Stein, Metropolitan Chorus Singer**



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2018 - 2019 Season *Impact Report*

# Summit Choral Society Board of Directors

**Chris Burnham, President**  
Development Finance Authority



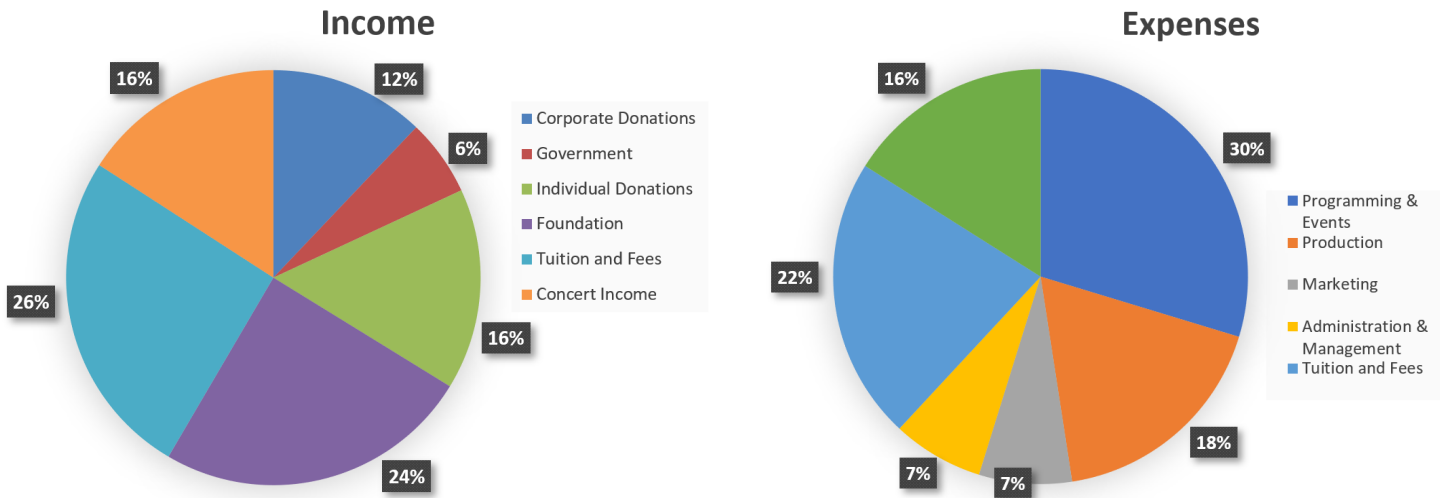
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## Season Financials: An Overview



## Summit Choral Society Staff

**Shara L. Cocchiola**  
Executive and Artistic Director



**Heather Cooper**  
Principal Conductor



**Rachel Baker** - Director of Marketing & Event Management • **Jessica Bell** - Choir Director • **Marquis Brown** - Akron City Gospel Pianist  
**Mario Buchanan** - Organist • **Steve Cocchiola** - Musicianship Instructor and Instrumental Accompanist  
**Emily Garlock** - Director of Musical Operations, Choir Director • **Beverly Kalasky** - Pianist • **Diane Kilo** - Business Manager  
**Jaron LeGrair** - Akron City Gospel Singers Conductor • **Beth LeHoty** - Audition Coordinator, Pianist  
**Alexander Looney** - Choir Director, Musicianship Instructor • **Melanie Mesmer** - Choir Director, Musicianship Instructor • **Gary Sexton** - Controller

# A Letter from Summit Choral Society

The 2018-2019 season represents positive accomplishments throughout the community and the nation, showcasing SCS’s dedication in providing the highest quality of choral music education and performance events.

The Children’s Choir Program (CCP), ages 6-18, provided educational and performance opportunities to over 165 children from more than 80 schools this past season. Area children engaged in exceptional music instruction, choral arts training and were involved in many educational endeavors and performance events

The Metropolitan Chorus, ages 18+, inspired over 1,500 spectators at the Christmas Candlelight Concert Series, an Akron annual holiday tradition. Additionally, this brilliant choral ensemble wowed singers, patrons and donors alike with exceptional jazz standards at choral• ography, accompanied by the renowned Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. This unique adult choral ensemble engaged the audience at the Akron Art Museum at the Tapestry of Songs concert event. This event was a cacophony of interdisciplinary arts combining intimate choral music with dancers, live painting and art displays (provided by the Akron Society of Artists) preceded by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in a *Meet the Artists* pre-concert reception.

After 30 years of providing Akron with high-quality choral experiences, SCS was proud to announce the formation of a new grass-roots community gospel choir, the Akron City Gospel Singers! The Akron City Gospel Singers is conducted by Akron local community leader and degreed, professional musician and educator, Jaron LeGrair. Jaron has devoted his career to spreading the love of music throughout the community and has a passion for gospel song.

SCS's family of choirs continue to provide relevant, high-quality, inspirational and ingenuitive programming throughout the Greater Akron community and beyond. SCS is proud to be recognized as a leader in the nation in choral arts and to call the Greater Akron community home.

*Chris Burnham*  
Chris Burnham  
SCS Board President

*Shara Cocchiola*  
Shara Cocchiola  
SCS Executive & Artistic Director

## A Year in Review: Concerts and Events



*A Concert for the Holidays*



*Performance Choir Education Tour*



*Christmas Candlelight Concerts*



*Sounds of Spring*



*choral•ography*



*Tapestry of Songs*



On this year’s performance and education tour in April, Summit Choral Society’s (SCS) Performance Choir placed first in their division and had the highest concert choir score at the Smoky Mountain Music Festival, a national event, on Friday, April 25, 2019. While on tour this spring they also sang by invitation in the pre-show performance at the Grand Ole Opry, had a professional recording session at the renowned RCA Studio B in Nashville, TN, and were featured at the historic Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, KY.

### 2018-2019 Metropolitan Chorus

#### Featured Conductors



Dr. Britt Cooper  
Christmas Candlelight Concert



James Mismas  
Tapestry of Songs

Not pictured, performances at:  
Akron RubberDucks, Holiday Tree Festival, Akron Tree Lighting Festival, Holiday Songs & Carols, Kenmore Tree Lighting Festival and World War II Veteran’s Dedication for Summit County.