



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.

2021-2022 Impact Report



A Letter From Executive & Artistic Director ***Shara L. Cocchiola***

Summit Choral Society (SCS) has not only persevered through the toughest of operating times during the pandemic but has flourished. The nationally recognized, award winning programs offered have grown to include something for all ages and musical inclinations. SCS now provides unparalleled programs throughout the community: from singing in a choir to learning music theory, from composing music to playing percussion instruments. SCS provides opportunities to learn and grow for people of all ages. As the greater Akron area moves forward from the Covid-19 pandemic, I am proud to reflect on all that Summit Choral Society has accomplished during this most challenging time. When music was needed most, SCS provided safe, uninterrupted in-person programming during the past two seasons. The number of specific programs expanded from three to six.

The **Children's Choir Program** is a nationally recognized, award-winning program that serves children in grades K-12. Youth in the Children's Choir Program averaged twenty-five weekly rehearsals and eight performance opportunities including a collaborative performance and educational tour with Cincinnati Youth Choir and Columbus Children's Choir. SCS's **Metropolitan Chorus** is a beloved community choral experience focusing on intimately-performed repertoire that provides relevant, inspiring and ingenuitive programming. This adult choral ensemble rehearsed weekly and held three concert sessions this past season. The annual *Christmas Candlelight Concert, choralography*, SCS's annual benefit event recognized Paul Thomarios (THOMARIOS) and John Blicke (Rubber City McDonald's) as Honorary Chairs, *Balladry*, the spring concert -simply stunning choral programming! **Sing With Me** classes are a new community favorite! This comprehensive early childhood music program for caregivers and children from birth to 5 years of age offered three eight week sessions of music enrichment activities. These classes foster a love of music while stimulating brain synopsis connections and reinforcing positive neuromuscular development through song, instrument introductions. **Akron City Gospel Singers** enjoyed a community sing session in October under the direction of dynamic local community leader, Jaron LeGrair. Disney's *Frozen for Kids Summer Music Camp* explored musical theatre vocalizations, choreography and production culminating in a performance at the Knight Stage at the Akron Civic Theater. **DrumSing** musical drumline experience for high school age youth and young adults entertained audiences with performances throughout Downtown Akron during the summer, including the Akron Marathon, PorchRockr and Pride Festival!

SCS is so thankful to have incredible support from the greater Akron community. These valuable experiences would not be possible without community support from individuals, corporate sponsors, foundations and government entities. Along with this funding, this season culminated in the creation of the **Summit Choral Society Maynard Family Foundation Scholarship Fund** and the **Summit Choral Society Grace Wakulchik Sing With Me Fund**, endowments at the Akron Community Foundation – thank you Akron!



Thank you Akron!
Shara Cocchiola



Summit Choral Society is proud to reside and rehearse in Summit Artspace, Akron's *Place for the Creative*. SCS's family of musical programs are all proudly directed by certified, degreed professionals with live, acoustic musical accompaniments. Experience SCS live this season as a participant, patron or audience member. SCS does not require proof of vaccination status from singers or patrons.

Executive & Artistic Staff



Shara L. Cocchiola
Executive & Artistic Director



Heather J. Cooper
Principal Conductor

Rachel Baker, Director of Marketing & Event Management • Jessica Bell, Music Director
Steven Cocchiola, Accompanist, Theory & Technology Director • Brandon Davies, Operations Manager
Matt Dudack, DrumSing Director • Emily Garlock, Music Director • Jaron LeGrair, Akron City Gospel Singers, Conductor
Beth LeHoty, Pianist • Gary Sexton, Controller • Daren Williams, Security

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Diane Kilo – Emeritus Director

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

A Lifetime



DISNEY'S FROZEN KIDS

Summer Music Performance
July 29, 2021
Knight Stage at the Akron Civic



YMCA 150TH ANNIVERSARY SING

Performance Choir
August 21, 2021
Lock 3



AKRON COMMEMORATIVE SING

9/11 Anniversary Tribute
September 11, 2021
Summit ArtSpace



CONCERT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Children's Choir Program
December 3, 2021
Goodyear Theatre



CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHTS

An Annual Holiday Tradition
December 17,18,19, 2021
St. Bernard Catholic Church



CLEVELAND CAVALIERS SING

National Anthem Feature
January 28, 2022
Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse



A SPLENDID SERENADE

Children's Choir Program
May 7, 2022
St. Bernard Catholic Church



BALLADRY

Metropolitan Chorus Concert
May 7, 2022
St. Bernard Catholic Church



SING WITH ME

Early Childhood Music Program
Spring, Summer and Fall
Class Sessions

VIEW 2021-2022

e of Music



AKRON CITY GOSPEL SINGERS

Community Sing Session
September 25, 2021
Summit ArtSpace



DONOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

Thank you!
October 1, 2021
Summit Choral Society



ARTISTS SUNDAY SING

Holiday Caroling
November 28, 2021
Summit ArtSpace



SOUNDS OF SPRING SHOWCASE

Children's Choir Program
March 27, 2022
Akron Civic Theater



ALL OHIO TOUR

Performance Choir
April 1-3, 2022
Cincinnati & Columbus, OH



CHORALOGRAPHY

Annual Benefit Event
April 9, 2022
Greystone Hall



DRUMSING

Downtown Akron Events, Akron
Marathon, *Frozen* for kids,
Porch Rockr, Akron Pride Festival

PARENT TESTIMONIALS:

"We are so grateful for the team at SCS and all you have done to make not only our daughter's choir time inspiring and meaningful, but also her childhood as SCS has played such an important role in her development as a young woman. Thank you for all you do for my child, the children and families of SCS, and our community!"

-Randy

"I just want to thank you, your teachers, conductors and volunteers involved in Summit Choral for your hard work this past year. With the constant changes and unknowns that were frustrating everyone, I can only imagine how difficult it was to keep the choirs going. But I am so appreciative that you did. It provides such excellent musical education for the kids, and socialization especially when they most likely weren't able to hang around their school friends, etc. I'm incredibly grateful that my daughter had the opportunity this year to not only have some weekly normalcy, but also be able to grow in the area of music instead of staying stagnant."

-Virginia

PROGRAM OFFERINGS



CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM

The Children's Choir Program is a leveled musical arts education and performance program for children in grades 1-12.



METROPOLITAN CHORUS

The Metropolitan Chorus is a traditional choral experience focusing on intimately-performed works.



SING WITH ME

Sing with me is a comprehensive early childhood music program for parents and children infants to 5 years old.

WILL UPDATE—PHOTO ON RB PERSONAL



DRUMSING

DrumSing is an innovative hybrid musical experience for high school age youth and young adults, combining traditional drumline with vocalized melodies.



SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

Summer Music Camps are one-week camps for school age children that explore a variety of musical themes.



AKRON CITY GOSPEL SINGERS

Akron City Gospel Singers is based in the rich tradition of gospel song and will enhance the lives of many - providing fellowship between diverse families within our community,

CHORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

FUNDED IN PART BY: LLOYD L. & LOUISE K. SMITH FOUNDATION, THE CHARLES E. & MABEL M. RITCHIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
WELTY FAMILY FOUNDATION



Amber Cocchiola
Kent State University
Metropolitan Chorus



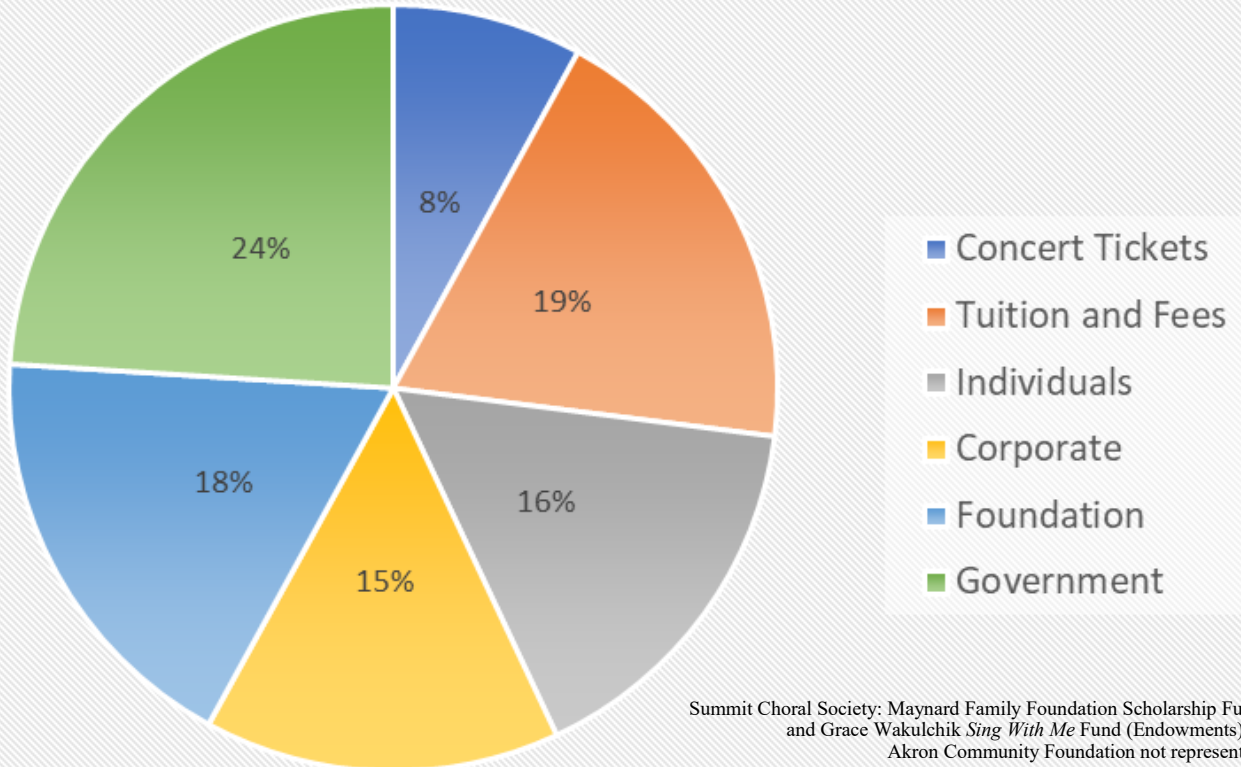
Laura Kupper
University of Akron
Children's Choir Program
Sing With Me



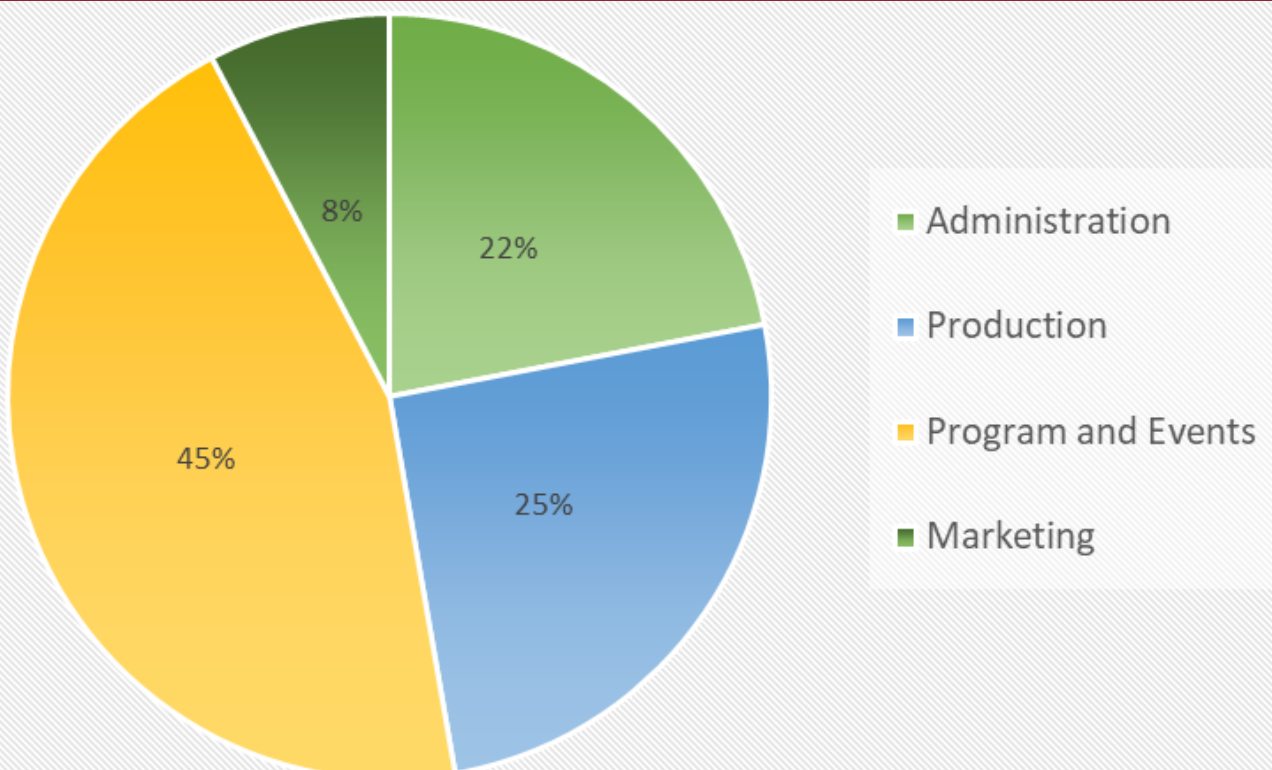
Chase Dunaway
University of Akron
DrumSing

Season Financials

INCOME: \$358K



EXPENSES: \$318K



2021-2022 Season Sponsors

Thank you for your support!

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Making a difference in the lives of others is at the heart of our mission to provide a unique vocal music education and performance arts program for children, youth and adults. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, we are very grateful to our many donors. Your support helps the Summit Choral Society produce and present quality performances of distinguished choral music for the enrichment, enjoyment, and education of our singers, our patrons and the community.