

● About Us ●

Summit Choral Society

Summit Choral Society (SCS) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the Greater Akron community. SCS is unique in that it provides a continuum of musical training and performance for all ages, young children through senior adults. Founded in 1990, SCS began with one choir, Masterworks Chorale, and established the Children's Choir Program the following year. Recently, the Metropolitan Chorus has emerged as SCS's new adult choir, appealing to a diverse group of singers and audience members. Entering its fourth year, the Choral Scholars Program mentors collegiate students who are emerging leaders in their field. The vision of SCS is to provide the Greater Akron community with an unparalleled pathway for choral music education and performance.

The Metropolitan Chorus

The Metropolitan Chorus (MC) is a multi-generational adult choral ensemble that performs a wide variety of music and specializes in intimately-performed works. Spanning more than six decades in age and representing many diverse backgrounds, cultures and beliefs, these singers are brought together by their love of the choral arts and share a dedication to preserving choral repertoire from all over the world. Singers in the MC engage in a positive, challenging, team-building experience which also benefits the community. Representing a continuum of music education and performance opportunities for adults in NE Ohio, these singers share a passion for bringing high-quality musical experiences through traditional and uncommonly performed choral repertoire to the community.

The Children's Choir Program

SCS's Children's Choir Program (CCP) provides vocal music education to children in grades 1-12, based on the Zoltan Kodály method of attaining musical literacy. Singers are placed in one of six Musicianship classes and appropriate leveled choir (Beginning Singing, Intermediate, Advanced or Performance) according to individual musical experience and skill. Each singer progresses at his/her own pace through both the choirs and the classes, building music literacy and developing their vocal technique. Additionally, the Performance Choir singers have the opportunity to tour. This nationally-recognized chorus recently performed as the Featured Choir in the 2018 National Youth Choir Festival at Carnegie Hall in New York City and at the National Memorial Day Festival in Washington DC, 2017. The activities provided in the CCP help all singers grow musically, socially and educationally, promoting self-esteem, accomplishment and pride.



NE OHIO'S
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
PROGRAM



NE OHIO'S
METROPOLITAN
CHORUS



● Sing ● Support ● Sponsor ●

...with the
Children's Choir Program
or Metropolitan Chorus

...high-quality,
nationally recognized
choral education &
performances

...a concert
...a child
...a cause

2017-2018 Season • Annual Report

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.

Summit Choral Society Staff



Shara Cocchiola
Executive & Artistic Director



Heather Cooper
Principal Conductor

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A Letter from Summit Choral Society

This, SCS’s first Annual Report, has been designed to update, inform and thank our many community supporters, advocates, talented children and adult singers and our accomplished educators and conductors on staff as well as the dedicated and passionate Board of Directors. The 2017-2018 season, *Tutti*, was driven by positive collaborative efforts throughout the community to provide comprehensive choral music education and performance programming to all individuals interested in the services offered at Summit Choral Society (SCS). SCS is heavily invested in implementing ways to provide services to all individuals, throughout diverse demographics and socio-economic areas, who benefit from involvement at SCS.

The Children’s Choir Program (CCP), ages 6-18, provided educational and performance opportunities to over 180 children from more than 75 schools this past season. These children engaged in exceptional music instruction, choral arts education and training as well as were involved in multitude of educational and performance events. Singers in the CCP demonstrated choral arts music mastery on many levels while integrating advanced individual and ensemble presentation skills.

The Masterworks Chorale (MC), ages 18+, inspired over 1,500 spectators at the annual Christmas Candlelight Concert event this past December. Additionally, this brilliant choral ensemble joined forces with the Akron Symphony Orchestra and Chorus for productions of Wagner’s *Die Meistersinger* and Verdi’s *Requiem*. Recently reinvented as the Metropolitan Chorus, SCS’s unique adult choral ensemble entertained singers, patrons and donors alike at Choralography, March 2018. This choral ensemble is dedicated to excellence in engaging audiences through unique, intimately-performed works.

SCS is grateful for the community support received each and every season. With ongoing community support comprised of individual and corporate donors, singers, patrons and foundations alike, SCS's family of choirs will continue to provide relevant, high-quality inspiring and ingenuitive programming throughout the Greater Akron community. Entering our 29th year, driven by a completely engaged Board of Directors and managed by a highly committed and professional staff, SCS is positioning itself to be recognized as one of Akron’s anchor arts institutions for years to come.

Chris Burnham
SCS Board President

Shara Cocchiola
SCS Executive & Artistic

Corporate, Foundation and Government Contributors



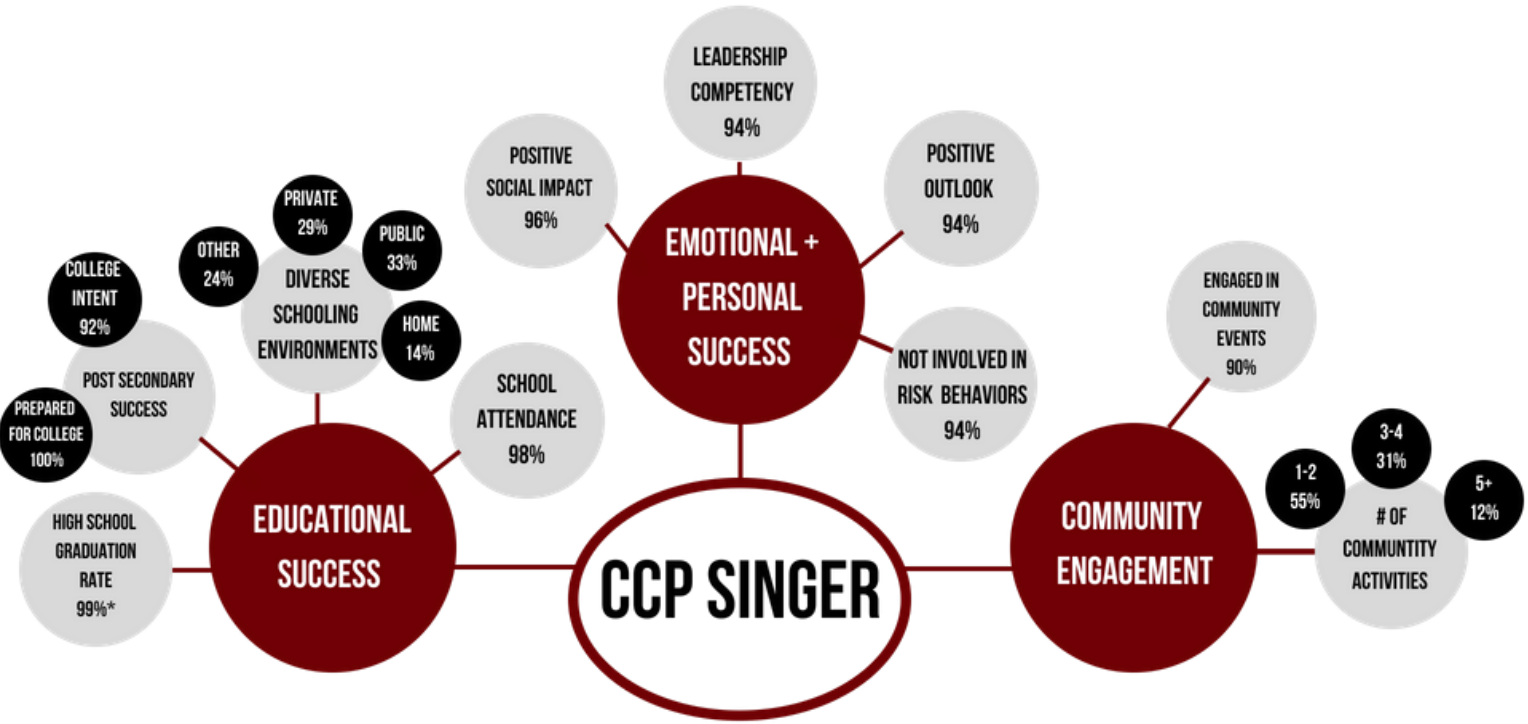
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Community and Individual Impacts

SCS: Children’s Choir Program Singer Impact Survey



SCS Singer Impact Statements

“The most important thing that Summit Choral Society has taught me is that music unites all races and ages.”

“While all the music education we receive in Summit Choral Society is clearly important and valuable, I think that the most important thing of all is that I have learned to be a genuinely good human being.”

“Not only has Summit Choral taught me the ins-and-outs of the world of music, but it provided me with such beautiful relationships and memories. I made many friends, some beginning since day one.”

“Summit Choral Society has taught me how to be an individual while working in a team, be myself, but join with others who share my passion to make beautiful music.”

“When you're in choir, it's not just you. It's a group of individuals who have to learn to come together despite our differences and make something beautiful that can bring joy into a world that is often lacking in it.”

“Summit Choral Society has taught me basic social skills and responsibility. Both are a big deal for me because my family life wasn't very good at all when I started out. Going to rehearsal every week was a much needed break from that.”

Summit Choral Society goes far beyond just learning notes and how to pronounce vowels. I've learned how to put my emotion and passion into what I sing. I've learned that family goes beyond the people related to you. And I've learned the true power that music has.

- SCS Children’s Choir Program Singers

Choral Music Impact Research

Music activates every known part of the brain. Brain scans show that their brains are different than those of non-musicians, showing that musicians have bigger, better connected, more sensitive brains.

Students who participate in music score an average of 31 points above average in reading, 23 points above average in math, and 31 points above average in writing.

Students in high-quality music programs score higher on standardized tests compared to students with a deficient music education experience, regardless of the socioeconomic level or other demographic denotations.

Chorus America found that choral singers of all ages are far more likely to be involved in charity work, as volunteers and as donors (76 %), than the average person (44% according to a 2001 report by Independent Sector).

Choral singers are more than twice as likely as to be aware of current events and involved in political processes.

They are also twice as likely as the general public to be major consumers of other arts – and not just music.

Participation in select musical performing groups promote goal attainment, teamwork, leadership, academic achievement, feelings of success, and cultural exposure.

**source material available upon request*

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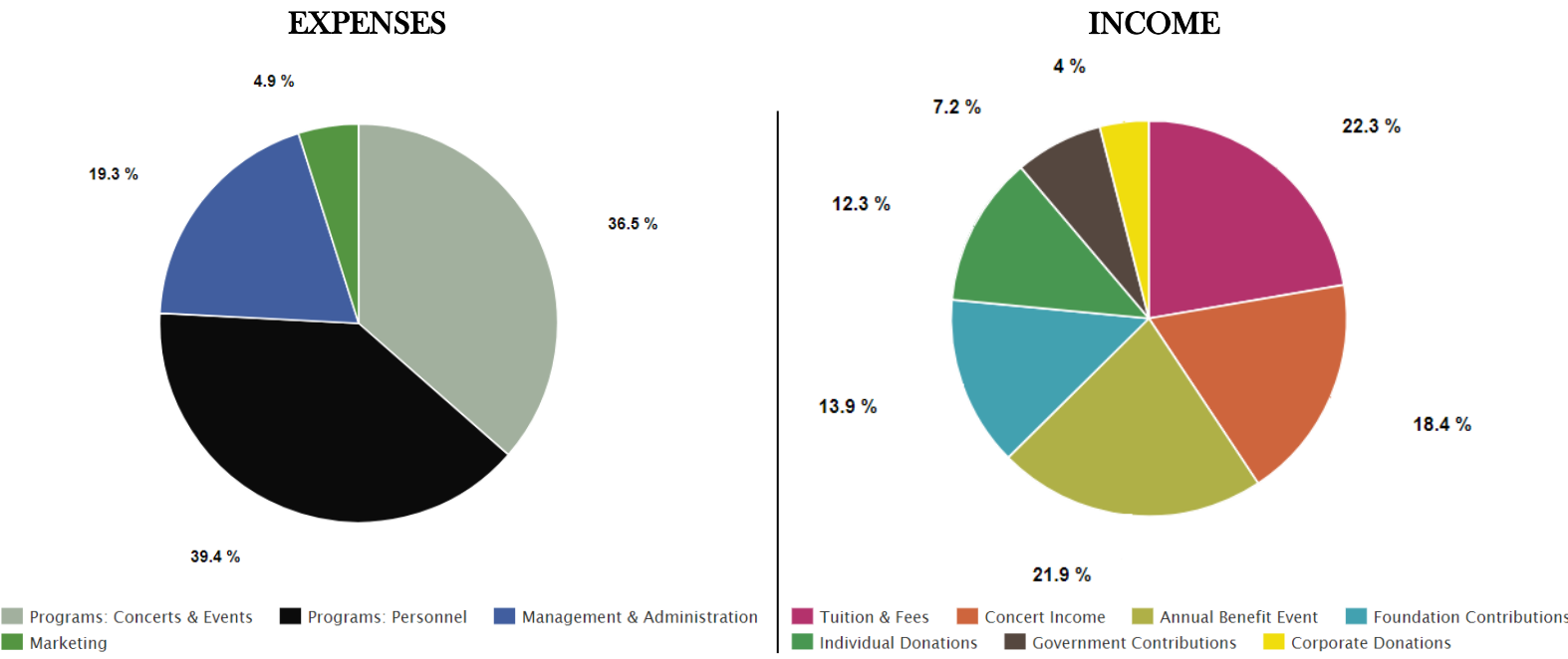
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| Diane Kilo - Emeritus Director |

Season Financials: An Overview



2017-2018 Season • *Tutti* • A Year in Review

Concerts & Events



Akron Tree Festival
November 19, 2017
John S. Knight Center

36th Annual Holiday Tree Festival presented by: the volunteers of Akron Children's Hospital. Every year, more than 200 decorated trees, 85,000 strings of lights and other holidays creations are displayed at the John S. Knight Center to benefit Akron Children's Hospital. Summit Choral Society's SCS's Performance and Advanced Choir are proud to sing at this annual event.



Kenmore Tree Lighting
December 2, 2017
Shadyside Park Pavilion

The Kenmore Events Committee presents: Summit Choral Society's Performance Choir at the 19th Annual Kenmore Holiday Celebration Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held in at the Shadyside Park Pavilion in Kenmore, OH. Local area resident's enjoyed an evening of beautiful songs, traditional carols and holiday festivities, as the tree and lights were lit for the season.



A Concert for the Holidays
December 3, 2017
The Auditorium at Cuyahoga Falls H.S.

Summit Choral Society's Children's Choir Program annual holiday concert. Performing Choirs included: Beginning Singing, Intermediate, Advanced, Performance, Musicals, Broadway, Boyz Choir, and Singers and Standards Choirs - as well as featured soloists! Filled with new and old holiday favorites this concert concluded with beloved choral selections from **The Polar Express!** "A concert that enhances the holiday season!"



Christmas Candlelight Concert Series
December 15, 16, 17, 2017
St. Bernard Church, Downtown Akron

Akron's annual holiday tradition! The Christmas Candlelight Concerts continued at historic St. Bernard Catholic Church. All of Summit Choral Society's Children's Choirs, members of the Masterworks Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Marie Bucoy-Calavan, along with guests from the Akron Symphony Chorus performed during this three (3) night concert series. Patrons of all ages enjoyed gorgeous repertoire sung by candlelight, traditional Christmas songs, as well as a featured performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*



Choral • ography
March 24, 2018

Hilton Garden Inn - East End, Akron

Honorary Chair: Grace Wakulchik

Summit Choral Society's Metropolitan Chorus, the new adult choir, debuted under the direction of conductor Emily Garlock, as well as Beginning Singing and Performance Choir, on an absolutely phenomenal evening of song, dance and festivities. Joined by the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, dancers Brian Murphy and Regina Pietrarroia, as well as pianist, Beverly Kalasky, provided the utmost in spectacular entertainment during this evening of interactive music and dance.
Funds raised: \$67,201.00



Carnegie Hall Performance Choir Tour
April 5-8, 2018
New York City, New York

SCS's Performance Choir sang by auditioned invitation at the National Youth Choir Festival, Carnegie Hall, NYC! SCS's Performance Choir has the distinct honor of gracing the stage at Carnegie Hall as the prominent choir. While in New York as participants in the National Youth Choir Festival, these children enjoyed seeing Plácido Domingo in Verdi's *Luisa Miller* at the Metropolitan Opera, experience a Broadway performance of *Hello Dolly* starring Bernadette Peters at the Shubert Theatre, and sing at St. Malachy's - The Actor's Chapel.
Congratulations to these talented local singers!



Sounds of Spring
May 12, 2018
The Auditorium at Cuyahoga Falls H.S.

SCS's Children's Choir Program spring finale concert! Performing Choirs included: Beginning Singing, Intermediate, Advanced, Performance, Musicals, Broadway, Boyz Choir, and Singers and Standards Choirs - as well as featured soloists! Culminating with John Williams' *Duel of the Fates* from **Star Wars**, under the direction of Dr. Britt Cooper, including singers from SCS's Metropolitan Chorus & featuring the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Orchestra!



Akron RubberDucks
May 25, 2018
Canal Park

All members of SCS's Children's Choir Program are invited to sing at this annual event. Featured performances of the *National Anthem* and *America the Beautiful* kicked off Memorial Day weekend in downtown Akron - complete with fireworks - at this Akron RubberDucks game. A fun and enjoyable evening for SCS singers, families, and everyone at the Canal Park Stadium was had on this festive occasion!

Over 7,000 Community Members Served!