

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)
MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted
3. Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)
MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2024 AGM be approved as presented
4. Board & Staff Reports from 2023-24 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b)
MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented
5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)
MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2024 be approved as presented
6. Appointment of Auditors for 2024/2025 Fiscal Year
MOTION 5: That Scarrow & Donald be appointed as auditors for the 2024-25 fiscal year
7. Update for 2024-25 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 5a & 5b)
8. Election of Directors (Attachment 6)
 - 8.1. Report of the Nominating Committee
 - 8.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)
 - 8.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested***MOTION 6: That MCA's board of directors be elected as presented***
9. Other/New Business
10. Adjournment
MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 7:00pm
Hybrid Meeting: 600 Shaftesbury Blvd./Zoom

DRAFT Minutes

Present:

In-Person: Derek Morphy, Stuart Sladden, Jenny Steinke-Magnus (staff), Alexis Chlopecki (staff, recording)

Zoom: David Sawatzky (Chair), Scott Armstrong (O. Koshetz Choir), Kathleen Bell, Trish Buri (Seniors Choral Society), Ben Campbell, Jorrel Camuyong, Michelle Chzyk (Konektis), Ruth Denton, Katie Donnelly, Jamie Dyck (Ecco Singers), Henry Engbrecht, Nancy Fast, Elizabeth Gebauer (das Femmes), Jeff Green, Katy Harmer, Sharon Hyndman (Women in Harmony), Crystal Kolt, Ron Krug, Philip Lapatha, Lori Mackedenski, Oscar Pantaleon Jr. (Musica Singers), Donna Platt (Good Neighbours Chorus), Naomi Russell, Robyn Stewart, Tara Cameron-Tilokani (Westman Youth Chorus), Elaine Thompson (Straitclair Theatre), Brittany Mielnichuk (staff).

1. Welcome

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. David welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared a land acknowledgement.

2. Adoption of Agenda (Attachment 1)

MOTION 1: That the agenda be adopted.

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Elizabeth Gebauer. CARRIED.

3. Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting (Attachment 2)

MOTION 2: That the minutes from the 2023 AGM be approved as presented.

M/S: Naomi Russell/Henry Engbrecht. CARRIED.

4. Board & Staff Reports from 2022-23 Year (Attachments 3a, 3b, 3c)

- Jenny highlighted a few details from the 2022-23 reports.
 - The return of our flagship programs, events, and workshops post-pandemic was exciting and drew a wide variety of individuals including singers, choirs, conductors, choral and vocal jazz specialists, and volunteers. Awards and competitions were also given out that fiscal year.

- Choir 101 was a successful new workshop led by Stuart Sladden. TEMPO, although virtual that year, was well attended. ChoralFest's return in 2022 brought in 133 choirs to participate. MB Sings returned following a two-year hiatus with just over 200 participants. BEYOND, new to MCA, brought about 40 choral leaders together for a two-day professional development workshop with various choral and arts specialists from across the continent.
- Because choirs had returned to singing, library usage greatly increased. Over 7,000 pieces of music were borrowed during the fiscal year.
- Membership numbers for choirs increased from the previous year and even surpassed pre-pandemic numbers; individual membership numbers remained the same with no major influx or decrease.
- We grew in terms of our staff team. With the help of summer students, the project of digitizing the library was completed: over 5000 titles of the music were digitized and made accessible on the website. Brittany Mielnichuk was brought on full time and is now back on part-time to focus on communications and marketing. In August 2023, MCA was able to hire Alexis Chlopecki as a full-time administrative assistant.

MOTION 3: That reports be accepted as presented.

M/S: Ron Krug/Elaine Thomson. CARRIED.

5. Auditors' Report and Financial Statements (Attachment 4)

- Jenny presented the auditors' report and financial statements and highlighted the following:
 - Robyn Stewart, who is now MCA's active treasurer, stepped into the role near the end of 2023 and is now officially elected to her position for a two-year term.
 - The auditors, Olafson & Jones, gave MCA a clean audit opinion; they were happy with our accounting records. MCA had a good experience working with them on the audit, and from discussion with them, we have also decided to update some financial policies before next year's audit.
 - "Long-term debt" refers to our CEBA loan (\$40,000), which was paid back in full this year.
 - There were increased staff costs comparative to last year's report due to hiring new staff (Alexis) and increasing hours.
 - Our overall program budget broke even: losses through some programs were recouped with gains from other programs.
 - Overall, MCA has had a strong fiscal year with a small surplus of \$800.

MOTION 4: That the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, be approved as presented

M/S: Robyn Stewart/Crystal Kolt. CARRIED.

6. Appointment of Auditors for 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

MOTION 5: That Olafson & Jones be appointed as auditors for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

M/S: Robyn Stewart/Crystal Kolt. CARRIED.

7. Update for 2023-24 – Program Slate & Budget (Attachments 5a & 5b)

- Jenny presented the approved program slate with a budget plan to break even for the current fiscal year. She highlighted the following:
 - MCA is being mindful of not over-offering events, to encourage the community to support choirs' events as well as avoiding overloading staff and volunteers.
 - Our major flagship programs, ChoralFest and MB Sings, were successful and will be reported on at the next AGM.
 - MCA is happy to announce the collaboration with Winnipeg Arts Council to participate in the *Winnipeg 150: City of Song* initiative. This is currently in progress, with MB Sings 2024 being the inaugural event. The next event affiliated with this initiative will be the Intercultural Concert 'Together in Song', which MCA is co-hosting with the Manitoba Chinese Choir.
 - MCA is planning several new events to contribute to the City of Song initiative, including a sing-along event for spring 2024, networking events throughout the year, and a senior high leadership camp in either June or October.
 - Awards and competitions will be launched again in the Spring. The Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition, however, will remain on hold. FCMM had a multi-year agreement in place with MCA to provide funding for the prize money, but unfortunately, that agreement has run out. This was an opportunity for the MCA board to evaluate the program and to start looking for alternative options for funding expenses (which not only include the prize money, but also expenses for the performing guest choir and musicians, and staff time to cover this). With this in mind, the board has created a sub-committee to explore what the competition could look like, and if the competition still aligns with MCA's values, as the organization has been moving away from the competitive side of our flagships and programs. The board is looking for other ways of honouring Frances Seaton, including composition workshops, or a competition that could possibly be more youth focused. The board will work at making a decision for 2024-25.
 - The next intra-provincial meeting will happen over the next couple months and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility) Corner will be re-launched in the spring.
 - The tentative program for 2024-25 includes a Regional Youth Choir collaborative concert. MCA wants to continue demonstrating that we are fully committed to supporting choirs across the province. So, in addition to Winnipeg 150 work, MCA is looking forward to working with other regions in Manitoba as well.
 - Small increases can be found throughout the 2023-24 budget, and those are a reflection of costs rising from an operational standpoint.

8. Election of Directors

8.1. Report of the Nominating Committee

- David and Jenny thanked Stuart for his six years of service on the board, and presented him a card and gift on behalf of MCA.
- Naomi will be stepping into the role of President; David will be moving into the Past-President role.
- MCA is still currently looking for a Vice President. David highlighted that it has been difficult to find someone to fill that role as many of the choral directors that were tapped on the shoulder are still trying to rebuild their programs after the pandemic and feel they cannot commit to MCA at this time. For now, the role will remain vacant.
- The rest of our current board of directors are on the slate to be elected for two-year terms.

8.2. Nominations from the floor, if any (to be moved and seconded and have written consent of the nominee if the nominee is absent)

- David called for nominations from the floor. There were no new nominations.

8.3. Election of Directors and Officers from the Report of the Nominating Committee and (or) nominations from the floor, by show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested

- There were no new nominations from the Nominating Committee or the floor.

MOTION 6: That MCA's board of directors be elected as presented.

M/S: Stuart Sladden/Kathleen Bell. CARRIED.

9. Other/New Business

- There was no new business noted.

10. Adjournment

MOTION 7: That the meeting be adjourned.

M: Katy Harmer. CARRIED.

Manitoba Choral Association Annual General Meeting

President's Report

Happy AGM all! I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the members of our choral community for their contributions over the past year. Singers, administrators, conductors, volunteers, staff members, adjudicators, concert-goers, accompanists, cheering parents, teachers, donors, advocates, clinicians... the list could go on and on! So many people from all walks of life make up the fabric of our Manitoba Choral Association tapestry. We could not exist without everyone's passion for the choral arts.

MCA has had a busy year filled with amazing programs and events. We have ventured forth with IDEA efforts in our offerings of IDEA Corner online forums, our "Together in Song" Intercultural Choir concert, initiating the process to sign the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, and by keeping our IDEA tenets at the core of all of our planning. We have provided opportunities for choral musicians of all ages to come together in song with our offerings of the Regional Youth Choir concert and the MB Sings, Torque Brewery "Brews and Tunes" Sing-along and GATHER events. We have provided opportunities for education with our INSPIRE leadership conference for youth, our sessions at TEMPO, our non-competitive ChoralFest program and our collaboration with Festival du Voyageur to offer choral workshops.

We have endeavoured to look to the regions to network and find ways to support choral arts in all areas of our province through our Intra-provincial Special Interest Group online forums. We have continued to advocate for quality music education in our schools through our presence on the Manitoba Music Educators Association board of directors and though the absence of the traditional Music Month concerts at the legislature is being felt, we hope that the planned video campaign will show the government that inspiring music education is happening in our schools. We have celebrated outstanding contributions to our community as well as ongoing education with the presentations of our Awards of Distinction, the Bert Kroeker Scholarship, and the David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award. And we helped mark the 150th birthday of the City of Winnipeg by participating in the "City of Song" year-long celebrations. We have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate!

I want to personally thank all of our volunteers for the countless hours they dedicate to our organization to bring our programs to life. I especially wish to express my thanks to our staff members for the passion and energy which they bring to their jobs every day. We were thrilled to celebrate with Brittany Mielnichuk when she welcomed her daughter Joëlle Anna to her family. Ruth Denton joined the staff team in October as Communications & Marketing Coordinator. Welcome Ruth! As Lindsay Shute's term as Program Coordinator comes to an end, I thank her for the incredible work that she has done to bring our programs to life and coordinate all the many, MANY details involved. To Alexis and Jenny for your ongoing leadership and dedication to this organization, our sincere appreciation for all that you do!

One of the most exciting ventures which MCA will be undertaking in the next few years will be preparing to host Choral Canada's biennial conference PODIUM here in Manitoba in 2028! We look forward to showing the choral nation just why we are called "The Singing Province". We look forward to hearing from our members and stakeholders to learn how best to serve our community and to continue to grow the choral arts here in Manitoba. In all that we do, let us (as the Melanie DeMore song taught at MB Sings 2024 urges us to do) "Lead With Love".

*Respectfully submitted by Naomi Russell, President
February 25, 2025*

Manitoba Choral Association Annual General Meeting

Executive Director's Report

As I reflect on the 2023-24 year, I am blown away by how much we accomplished as a team—our staff, board, committees, and volunteers—and how many new projects MCA took on over the year: collaborating with choirs, living out our IDEA work, participating in a huge city-wide initiative, growing our relationships with members, bringing on new members, expanding our staff team, and the list goes on! I am proud of our commitment to make sure MCA and the choral community continues to recover from the pandemic, and I am both thrilled and humbled to be part of this great work.

2023-24 BY THE NUMBERS

Performers	4,400
Workshop Attendees	5,550
Audience Members	4,710
Volunteers	105
Guest Conductors/Facilitators	45

PROGRAM & RESOURCES

Awards & Competitions

- [Caleb Rondeau](#) received the 2023 **Bert Kroeker Scholarship**. There was no recipient of the **David G.H. Waters Hymn Sing Memorial Award** for 2023.
- **Awards of Distinction** for 2023 were reported on at the last AGM:
 - [Derek Morphy](#) – Award for Artistic Excellence
 - [Millie Hildebrand](#) – MCA Spirit Award
 - [Marla Fontaine](#) – MCA Spirit Award
- The annual scholarship application deadline is April 30. We also encourage the MCA community to nominate individuals, choirs, and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to our choral community for an [Award of Distinction](#). Nominations are received on a rolling basis and recipients are honoured and celebrated at various MCA events.

Member 101

We held this new event on Zoom in September 2023 for new (and returning) members to hear about all of the benefits they can enjoy with an MCA membership. The session was recorded and posted to our website as a recruitment tool and has been viewed **42 times to date**.

Senior High & Community Choral Workshops

MCA held two choral workshops with **Dr. Tracy Wong** while she was in Winnipeg in October 2023. Both workshops engaged singers in learning Tracy's song *Sehati (One Heart)*. **Katie Erickson** was collaborative pianist for both workshops. Eight choirs (over 200 singers) from senior high and community choirs attended, and we received very positive feedback about the events!

TEMPO

This annual one-day professional development event was held in-person in October 2023 by the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA, of which MCA is an affiliate partner organization) and saw over 500 educators in attendance. Among the choral presenters were **Dr. Tracy Wong** (Toronto), **Dr. Janet Brenneman**, **Avonlea Armstrong-Green**, **GiUng Lee**, **Cathy Horbas**, and **Katy Abraham**. MCA staff spent the day at the MCA booth and connected with many choral educators in the community.

ChoralFest

[ChoralFest 2023](#) was a huge success and we received a lot of positive feedback from choirs this year. The festival took place November 13-21 and included four components:

1. **Senior years choirs & community choirs** (pod format) – Prairie Spirit United Church
 - Dr. Adam Con (Victoria, BC), Michelle Chyzyk (Virden), Kristel Peters, Philip Lapatha
2. **Early, middle, and senior years choirs** (individual workshops) – in-school
 - Nedra Francis, Janna Reid
3. **Vocal jazz ensembles** (pod format) – Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre
 - Christine Guter (CA, USA), Jamond McCoy (CA, USA), Karly Epp
4. **Regional tour** (individual workshops) – Norman/Parkland/Westman
 - Dr. Elroy Friesen, Dr. Catherine Robbins



This year we significantly expanded the program by offering a Regional Tour component, which offered individual clinics to choirs in the Norman, Parkland, and Westman regions. We again offered in-school clinics and continued the new format of all Senior Years/Community choirs receiving two 20-min clinics from different clinicians instead of the normal 30-min clinic. Due to low enrolment from vocal jazz groups the year before, we reduced the number of vocal jazz days from three to two.

We were grateful to use the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre (SOPAC) as a vocal jazz venue for the first time. Roberta Landreth also created a new design for the ChoralFest banner and program cover.

Registration numbers were strong but did not increase significantly from last year, as was the hope:

	2023	2022	2019
Senior Years Choirs	55 at venue 1 in-school	57	65
Middle Years Choirs	9 at venue 4 in-school	9 in-school	15 at venue
Early Years Choirs	0	0	10 at venue
Vocal Jazz Ensembles	19	18	29
Community Choirs	12	14	12
Regional Tour Choirs	11*	0	0
TOTAL CHOIRS	111	98	131

*4 Norman (1 SY, 1 MY, 1 EY, 1 Community); 7 Westman (1 SY, 6 Community)

- *Thanks to the Province of MB Arts, Culture, and Sport in Community Fund, MB Arts Council, the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba, Sing Canada Harmony, and Long & McQuade for 2023 funding*

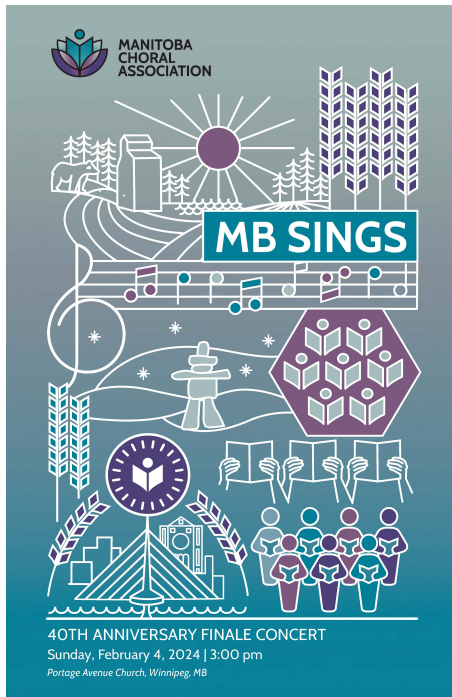
Winnipeg 150: City of Song

In 2023, MCA was approached by Winnipeg Arts Council to be involved in the *Winnipeg 150: City of Song* initiative to celebrate the city's 150th anniversary through choral/singing events hosted by various organizations throughout 2024. As part of our agreement, WAC provided MCA with \$70,000 in funding to undertake the following activities:

- Be the liaison between WAC and the choral community for events and programs related to the initiative (including managing the COS community grant program)
- Include City of Song identifiers in our 2024 online and print materials
- Work with Winnipeg choirs to adopt City of Song branding for their events and programs and add content to the City of Song website, social media channels, newsletters, etc.
- Plan several programs/events in addition to our regular program slate for 2024 (January-December), including but not limited to the *Together in Song: Intercultural Choir Festival*, *Brews & Tunes: Community Singalong*, and in the latter part of 2024, the *INSPIRE: Youth Choral Symposium*, a second iteration of *GATHER*, and another *Gratitude* song workshop with Cory Campbell.

Supper with Scott

The day before the MB Sings weekend kicked off, MCA held a dinner and discussion at our office with Scott Leithead. In total, eight people attended.



MB Sings

We celebrated the 40th anniversary of MB Sings (formerly Provincial Honour Choirs) in February 2024 at Gordon Bell High School and Portage Avenue Church. We were excited to welcome guest conductors **Scott Leithead** (Edmonton, adult choir), **Melanie DeMore** (CA, USA, senior choir), and our very own **Sonya Williams** (Winnipeg, junior choir). To mark the occasion, the choirs sang a mass choir piece (Melanie DeMore's *Lead with Love*), we shared a [special 40th anniversary video](#), and we held a post-concert reception. Roberta Landreth created a new design for the MB Sings banner and program cover as well.

Jordan Bighorn opened the concert with an honour song and Ace Burpee emceed. MLA Logan Oxenham brought greetings on behalf of Wab Kinew and the Province. We had many past conductors and committee members in the audience and were able to honour all of the work that has gone into this valuable program over the past 40 years!

We were encouraged to see total numbers grow from last year's program, though there is still a way to go before we are at pre-pandemic numbers:

	2024	2023	2020 (pre-pandemic)
Adult Choir	148	114	112
Senior Choir	58	56	136
Junior Choir	28	30	36
TOTAL SINGERS	234	200	284

Singers came from all over Manitoba and beyond to participate (38% from outside Winnipeg):

Central	34	Parkland	9
Eastman	20	Westman	17
Interlake	9	Winnipeg	143
Kenora, ON	2		

For more information about this event, please read the MB Sings [recap blog post](#).

- *Thanks to the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba, Winnipeg Arts Council/City of Song, and Long & McQuade for funding this project.*

Together in Song: Intercultural Choir Festival

We co-hosted this event with the **Manitoba Chinese Choir** in March 2024 in Winnipeg. The event aimed to bring choirs together from diverse cultural backgrounds to provide the opportunity for collaboration and community-building. The evening ended with a mass choir piece *You Raise Me Up*, conducted by **Jorrel Camuyong** and accompanied by **Katie Erickson**. The following choirs participated:

- **Manitoba Chinese Choir**, Jasper Zhang, director
- **Musica Singers** (Filipino choir), Oscar Pantaleon Jr., director
- **Oberih Ukrainian Choir**, Olena Gissa-Kharchenko & Sergiy Kharchenko, directors
- **Les Intrépides** (Francophone choir), Bruce Waldie, director
- **Zoongi Ogichidaa Anishinaabe Ikwezensag Nagamoog (Strong Warrior Anishinaabe Girls Singers**, Riverbend School), Gloria Barker, director
- **Dominion Sanctuary Parish Nigerian Choir**, Adebowale Sobowale, director

Overall, the event ran smoothly, and we received positive feedback from the choirs, but we had hoped for a larger audience. However, we are very satisfied with the partnership with Manitoba Chinese Choir and we are open to collaborating with other organizations for future events.

Brews & Tunes: Community Sing-Along

We hosted our first-ever sing-along event in April 2024 at Torque Brewing. We were thrilled with the turnout: 91 singers came out to sing! **Dorothy Dyck** (Winnipeg) curated the set list and was accompanied by several instrumentalists: **Dylan Summers** (piano), **Ian Mikita** (drums), **Austin Winchell** (bass), and **Jakobson Dreamer** (guitar). This was a new event for us, but we received overwhelmingly positive feedback about it, so we are eager to plan another sing-along (or similar event) in the future.

Philippine Madrigal Singers Choral Workshop

In May 2024 we co-presented a workshop with **Musica Singers** featuring the visiting **Philippine Madrigal Singers** (The Madz). The event was held at Maples Collegiate and was sponsored by Winnipeg Arts Council/City of Song and drew 400 singers and conductor from around the city and environs! The Madz started with warm-up exercises and then moved to sectionals where they taught the singers two songs. Afterwards everyone came back to together to sing in a large group. Musica Singers provided volunteers for the event and hosted a potluck meal after the workshop.

PODIUM

Naomi Russell and I attended PODIUM in Montreal in May 2024 on behalf of MCA. While there, Catherine Robbins and I did a bilingual presentation on MCA's IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility) work over the past few years and how it led to hosting the BEYOND Choral Symposium in 2023. The presentation was attended by about 30 people and was well received.

MCA has put in the bid to host **PODIUM 2028** in Winnipeg and it has been accepted. The board has created an ad hoc committee to discuss logistics, performance and conference venue options, accommodations, schedules, and more. This will surely expand between now and 2028 to become a

larger local planning committee, so members are encouraged to look for ways to get involved! I now attend regular PODIUM 2026 committee meetings to observe the planning process.

Library

Our choral lending library was busier than ever in 2023-24! It is an incredible amount of work to keep the library running smoothly and efficiently, but it is well worth it to provide this valuable resource to our community. We saw a moderate increase in extra-provincial orders this year. We continue to offer free shipping to our members within Manitoba as well.

Number of orders packaged and sent out (Sept 1 – Aug 31):

	2023-24	2022-23
Central	8	8
Eastman	7	4
Interlake	4	2
Norman	1	1
Parkland	2	2
Westman	16	8
Winnipeg	102	106
Alberta	1	1
British Columbia	1	2
New Brunswick	2	0
Nova Scotia	6	4
Ontario	12	3
Saskatchewan	7	7
Yukon	1	0
TOTAL	170 orders 12,000 pieces of music	148 orders 7,000 pieces of music

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Membership

We have been pleased with the functionality of our membership platform, *MembershipWorks*, which now manages our membership, donation, and event data. Members are now able to log in to register for events, post choir events, and update their own profiles and choir information, which now appears in the Find a Choir section of our website.

Overall we did very well for memberships in 2023-24, nearly reaching our budget target and increasing from last year's member numbers. MCA's membership year runs annually from September 1 – August 31, but early bird membership renewals begin as of June 1.

Memberships compared to previous years:

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Choir memberships (School, community, and church)	119 memberships (227 choirs and over 7,970 singers)	97 memberships (190 choirs / 6,800 singers)	133 choirs
Individual memberships (Adult, student, retired)	143 members (91 adult, 25 student, 19 retired, 8 honorary)	111 members (78 adult, 15 student, 18 retired)	136
Organization memberships (Businesses, non-profits)	5	7	5
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS	375	308	274

Membership distribution by region (total choir/individual/org memberships):

Central = 23 Norman = 6 Winnipeg = 260
 Eastman = 20 Parkland = 1 Other = 4
 Interlake = 9 Westman = 44

MCA Attendance at Choral Events

MCA attended performances of the four regional youth choirs in October 2023, as well as performances of various choirs around Winnipeg and beyond throughout the year, as a way to demonstrate support to our membership and to connect with individuals in each community. We are also exploring opportunities to collaborate amongst the regional youth choirs in the future.

Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group

We held another Intra-Provincial SIG meeting in April 2024. Seven people attended and there was representation from Norman, Westman, Central, and Winnipeg. The purpose of the group is to provide a space to liaise regularly with and provide support to all Manitoba regions so that MCA may build and strengthen relationships with choirs and members and strategically plan programs and support existing initiatives around the province. We are hoping to meet again in spring 2025.

Inter-Organizational Meetings

In 2023 MCA joined the Association for Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM), which is a subcommittee of MMEA comprised of university professors, divisional music and arts consultants, and other organizations with a vested interest in music education. MCA continues to meet with representatives from other Choral Arts Service Organizations (CASOs) from across the country on a regular basis. I attended an in-person meeting in Montreal in May 2024 prior to PODIUM to connect

with my counterparts and share updates and ideas around program monitoring and evaluation, library, memberships, and more.

➤ *Thanks to Manitoba Arts Council for providing professional development funding for this trip.*

External Memberships

MCA continues to contribute as an affiliated member/board representative for the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA), the Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba (FCMM), and the Association for Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM). We also hold memberships with Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, Creative Manitoba, Manitobans for the Arts, Unison Canada, and Musica International.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Communications & Marketing

In 2023, we shifted Brittany's role to focus entirely on communications and marketing, and this has proven to be a very positive change. We have been able to share regular posts and updates through our website, social media platforms, and e-newsletters, and Brittany took on the design and creation all of our print programs. We have also expanded our marketing and outreach activities, as well as our advertising partners and sponsor contacts, thanks to work in this area. We continued to sell MCA-branded merchandise and promotional materials with our new logo, all of which was well received by the community. Merchandise is still available for sale on our website and at all of our events.

Online engagement compared to last year:

	2023-24	2022-23
Website		
Page views	54,635	51,312
Site sessions	22,398	20,701
Unique visitors	11,955	11,533
Social Media		
Total reach (by posts/boosts)	34,700	30,100
Content interactions	2,300	950
Link clicks	444	316
Profile visits	4,000	771
Newsletter (eNotes)		
Average open rate*	54.8%	51.3%
Average click rate	4.7%	5.2%

Facebook followers: 1,422

Instagram followers: 1,484

*Industry average open rate = 27.4%

Human Resources

MCA significantly increased our capacity on our staff team in 2023-24: in August 2023 we hired **Alexis Chlopecki** in the newly created role of Administrative Assistant to support library and administration tasks, and in February 2024 we hired **Lindsay Shute** as Program Coordinator to support the many programs and events we undertook in 2024 (for the COS initiative). In fall 2024, **Brittany Mielnichuk** welcomed a baby daughter, Joëlle Froese Mielnichuk, and started a maternity leave. We hired **Ruth Denton** to take over as Interim Communications & Marketing Coordinator for a one-year term. This summer we are hoping to receive funding from Canada Summer Jobs to hire a summer student to assist in cataloguing library donations. We have benefitted immensely from this larger staff team and have been able to accomplish so much more than even a few years ago. We are mindful, however, that with funding in flux, we may need to restructure and/or redistribute responsibilities across the team in the coming months/years.

Fundraising

Donors continue to be a vital component to our fundraising activities. We are grateful to all those who have supported MCA financially in 2023-24! In total, MCA **supporters** gave **over \$25,000** to the organization, **sponsors** provided **over \$1,000** in funds/in-kind sponsorships, and **funding agencies** provided **nearly \$120,000** in grants to our organization. A complete list of donors and funders appears at the end of this report.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2024-2025

The 2024-25 year has been a busy one so far, with new, innovative, and expanded programs and services being offered to the choral community. I am continuing to focus on work behind the scenes, overseeing our programs, operations, and fundraising activities. Specifically on the slate are:

- **Programs:** Plan, implement, and expand programs and events, specifically INSPIRE Youth Choral Symposium, GATHER Outdoor Choral Festival, Communities in Harmony Regional Choral Collaboration, ChoralFest, MB Sings, Festival du Voyageur workshops, a community singalong, a choral reading session, and other events; review and improve program evaluation process (see Program Slate, Attachment 5a)
- **Music Library:** Add donations into inventory, finish digitizing library holdings
- **Fund Development:** Implement donation appeals ahead of 50th anniversary year to build financial stability for MCA
- **Funder & Donor Relations:** Focus on building and strengthening relationships with major donors, sponsors, and funding agencies
- **Policy Work:** Develop policies in the areas of finance, volunteers, IDEA, etc.; continue to update Terms of Reference for board and committee positions

- **Human Resources:** Review job descriptions; find funding opportunities for salary coverage; expand volunteer engagement
 - **Awards:** Review criteria and strengthen application processes
 - **Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group:** Hold at least one meeting in spring 2025
 - **IDEA Special Interest Group:** Launch this group and hold IDEA events accordingly
-

FINAL THOUGHTS

There are so many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make 2023-24 a success. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated board, staff, and volunteer team, who have been integral in moving MCA forward in our programs and operations. I truly feel part of a supportive team, working together towards a common goal: seeing the Manitoba choral community flourish.

Our team stepped up in new and important ways in 2023-24, to expand and celebrate our flagship programs, but also for first-time programs, events, and initiatives like the intercultural concert, the community singalong, choral workshops, and more. A huge thank-you to our committees, and especially to **Kelsey Shiaro** for chairing the MB Sings and ChoralFest Committees (now Flagship Committee), and to **Jorrel Camuyong**, who oversaw our busy slate of programs. Thank you to our staff as well: **Alexis, Brittany, Lindsay, and Ruth** for stepping up where needed in every area of MCA's work (including those not in their job descriptions). I am so grateful for our small but mighty team!

Since the last AGM, we were fortunate to have a stable board of directors stay on for another term. It has truly been a pleasure serving the community with all of you. I want to take this opportunity to thank our President, **Naomi Russell**, who has stepped so seamlessly into the role of organization leader this year, after over 25 years on our board! Thanks to **Robyn Stewart** for jumping in with both feet to learn all the ins and outs of MCA as our new treasurer. And to the rest of the board spread out around the province: **David Sawatzky, Katy Harmer, Crystal Kolt, Katie Donnelly, Nancy Gomes Fast, and Philip Lapatha**, for your dedication to seeing our organization thrive!

I also want to welcome three new board members at this AGM: **Larissa Hrabi, Vic Pankratz, and Caleb Rondeau**. I welcome you all to the team, and I look forward to working with you! At the same time, we also bid farewell to **Katie Donnelly**, who has served on the board since 2022. It has been so valuable having your voice at the table these past few years. I have enjoyed collaborating with you and wish you all the best! Please don't be a stranger to MCA!

I am so proud of the work we have accomplished in 2023-24, and yet I know there is still much work to do. I look forward to seeing where MCA goes from here!

*Submitted by Jenny Steinke-Magnus
February 25, 2025*

Appendix A: Standing Committee Members & Portfolio 2023-2024

Program Committee

Jorrel Camuyong (chair)
Philip Lapatha
David Sawatzky
Kelsey Shiaro
Sonya Williams
Alexis Chlopecki
Brittany Mielnichuk
Lindsay Shute
Jenny Steinke-Magnus

ChoralFest

Kelsey Shiaro (chair)
Sonya Williams
Stuart Sladden
David Sawatzky
Jana Zens
Jorrel Camuyong
Heather Neufeld
Alexis Chlopecki
Brittany Mielnichuk
Jenny Steinke-Magnus

MB Sings

Kelsey Shiaro (chair)
Ben Campbell
Jorrel Camuyong
Shayla Davidson
Nancy Gomes Fast
Larissa Hrabí
Janet Isaac-Martens
Jack Roeder
David Sawatzky
Sonya Williams
Alexis Chlopecki

The Madz Workshop Committee

Oscar Pantaleon, Jr. (co-chair)
Jenny Steinke-Magnus (co-chair)
Jorrel Camuyong
Alexis Chlopecki
Ace Oliver Espino
Lindsay Shute

Intercultural Concert Committee

Gary Liu (co-chair)
Jenny Steinke-Magnus
(co-chair)
Jorrel Camuyong
Alexis Chlopecki
Hermann Lee
Brittany Mielnichuk
Paul Ong
Naomi Russell
David Sawatzky
Lindsay Shute
Jasper Zhang

Board of Directors

Naomi Russell – President, Archives Portfolio
Dr. David Sawatzky – Past President,
Nominations Chair, FCMM
Representative
Katy Harmer – Vice President, MMEA
Representative
Robyn Stewart – Treasurer
Katie Donnelly – Outreach & Advocacy Director
Crystal Kolt – Intra-Provincial Director
Jorrel Camuyong – Program Director
Philip Lapatha – Director, TEMPO Portfolio
Nancy Gomes Fast – Director, Communications
Portfolio

Other Portfolios

Dr. Catherine Robbins – IDEA Special Interest
Group Chair
Kelsey Shiaro – Flagship Programs Portfolio
(formerly MB Sings & ChoralFest
Portfolios)
Fund Development – Vacant
Library – Vacant



Appendix B: 2023-24 Donors, Funders, and Sponsors

Masterworks \$6,000+

Foundation for Choral Music
in Manitoba
Philipp R. & Ilse Ens /
Triple E RV
Harbourfront Wealth
Management Inc.
Manitoba Arts Council
Sandi & Ron Mielitz
Province of Manitoba
Winnipeg Arts Council
The Winnipeg Foundation

Oratorio \$1,000 - \$5,999

Access Credit Union
Elroy Friesen
Heartland CPAs
Adam & Joanne Kilfoyle
Ron Krug
Long & McQuade Musical
Instruments
Sharon & Eric Marshall
Catherine Robbins
Naomi Russell
Sing Canada Harmony

Cantata \$500 - \$999

Andrée Dagenais
Long & McQuade
Riverwood Singers

Madrigal \$250-\$499

Scott Armstrong
Ernest Babyne
Jorrel Camuyong
Patti Clement
Carol Fox
Ed & Millie Hildebrand
Shirley Lysack
Tim Preston
Marilyn Redekop
Scott Reimer
Jenny Steinke-Magnus
Bill Quinn
Bruce Waldie
Richard & Karen Weiland

Canon \$100-\$249

Bing Batitis
Mia & James Clark
Stephen Cocks
Katie Donnelly
Marcia Dyck
Eastman Youth Choir
Brian Faurschau
James Fast
Nancy Gomes Fast
Maureen Ferley
Noreen Gafic
Katy Harmer
Don Harvey
Vic Hooper
Janet Isaac-Martens
Colleen Koop-Sieben
Jennifer Lang
Sue McIntosh
Maureen McNaught
Candy & Rosula Miramon
Derek Morphy
Morna-June Morrow
Alexandra Paul
Judy Pringle
Levi & Tena Reimer
Ed Reynolds
Penelope Scurfield
Margot Sim
Frederick & Edith Simpson
Willy Slipetz
Melissa Spraggs
Roberta Velarde
Lois Watson-Lyons
Dorcas Windsor

Solo \$10 - \$99

Darcia Albrechtsen
Maureen Anderson
Stephanie Andres
Jennifer Best
Janine Brémault Bamford
Ashley Buck
Colton Buhler
Joyce Burns
Tara Cameron Tilokani
Laura Campbell
Christina Cassels

Shirley Cooke & Maxine
Nurse
Marie Craig
Shayla Davidson
Karen Denzin
Carolyn Farquharson
Marla Fontaine
Maggie Goertzen
Christine Gouriluk
Sam Greve
Lisa Grewar
Cathy Horbas
Monica Hultin
Gayle Kolson
Anita Kroeker
Debby Lake
Karen Lamb
Julie Leduchowski
Lori Mackedenski
Christine Mazur
Brittany Mielnichuk
Maureen Morrison
Mavis Nixon
Kendra Obach
Marlene Pauls Laucht & C.
Matthias Laucht
Rich Pentney
Christine Persoage
Barbara Sampson
Don Sharpe
Karen Shaw
Kim Sidorchuk
Carolyn Smith
Jackie Snarr
Dorothy Stephens
James Patrick Stoneman
Strathclair Theatre
Committee
Becki Thiessen
Roger Turenne
Judy Urbonas
Shianne Uschold
Morley Walker & Gail
Marchessault
Alisa Wiebe
Sonya Williams
Women in Harmony
Katy Unruh
Val Wood

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.

Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2024

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
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Year Ended August 31, 2024

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OLAFSON & JONES

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS INC.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Manitoba Choral Association Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Manitoba Choral Association Inc. (the "Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2024, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at August 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

Budget information is presented in the statement of revenues and expenditures for information purposes only and has not been subject to audit.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

(continues)

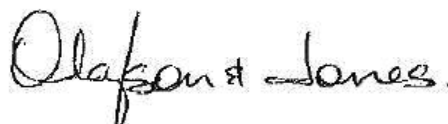
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Winnipeg, Manitoba
February 25, 2025


CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Financial Position
August 31, 2024

	2024	2023 <i>(Restated)</i>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 81,532	\$ 102,469
Term deposits	-	47,639
Accounts receivable	57,730	26,064
Inventory	7,312	6,796
Goods and services tax recoverable	976	1,771
Prepaid expenses	2,755	5,929
	150,305	190,668
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS (Note 3)	45,387	-
	\$ 195,692	\$ 190,668
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 8,136	\$ 28,913
Current portion of long term debt	-	40,000
Employee deductions payable	11,365	2,567
Deferred income (Note 4)	147,376	95,104
	166,877	166,584
NET ASSETS	28,815	24,084
	\$ 195,692	\$ 190,668

LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 5)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



 Director



 Director

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Operations
Year Ended August 31, 2024

	Budget 2024	Total 2024	Total 2023 <i>(Restated)</i>
REVENUE			
Manitoba Arts Council grants	\$ 65,000	\$ 51,125	\$ 63,133
Winnipeg Arts Council grants	15,000	40,000	15,500
Winnipeg Foundation grants	20,000	20,000	17,000
Province of Manitoba grants	-	19,344	17,000
Other grants	47,000	-	1,500
FCMM grants through MCA	-	3,600	3,600
Endowment Fund	16,500	16,511	16,507
Donations			
In-kind	2,500	-	25,550
Other	17,500	25,795	11,436
Provincial programs <i>(Note 7)</i>	144,450	95,801	105,948
Memberships	18,000	17,705	16,110
Interest income	1,700	3,560	3,582
Merchandise Income	2,000	3,935	2,620
Rental Income	200	370	210
Miscellaneous	250	3,727	2,368
	<u>350,100</u>	<u>301,473</u>	<u>302,064</u>
EXPENSES			
Donation In-kind expense	-	-	25,550
FCMM grant through MCA	-	3,600	3,600
Fundraising	5,000	9	4,869
Provincial programs <i>(Note 7)</i>	124,450	82,070	106,270
Memberships	1,650	846	898
Advertising & promotions	3,000	-	1,183
Merchandise	-	2,723	-
Rent	19,575	18,840	18,515
Office	9,125	11,267	7,617
Insurance	3,800	3,436	3,097
Professional fees	5,500	6,198	5,179
Capital assets expended	-	4,773	12,124
Travel & Meetings	12,000	6,649	2,940
Wages and employee benefits	157,800	151,665	115,136
Training	5,200	2,249	3,076
Bad debts	-	-	18
Bank Charges & Miscellaneous	3,000	2,417	2,415
	<u>350,100</u>	<u>296,742</u>	<u>312,487</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,731</u>	<u>\$ (10,423)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2024

	2024 <i>(Restated)</i>	2023 <i>(Restated)</i>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 24,084	\$ 34,507
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	4,731	(10,423)
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 28,815	\$ 24,084

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Statement of Cash Flows
Year Ended August 31, 2024

	2024	2023 <i>(Restated)</i>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 4,731	\$ (10,423)
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(31,666)	(25,094)
Goods and services tax recoverable	795	(903)
Inventory	(516)	(1,808)
Prepaid expenses	3,174	(3,678)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(20,777)	20,709
Employee deductions payable	8,798	(227)
Deferred income	52,272	11,184
	12,080	183
	16,811	(10,240)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds of disposal of investment	2,518	33,971
Accrued interest on investment	(266)	(319)
	2,252	33,652
FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Repayment of long term debt	(40,000)	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	(20,937)	23,412
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	102,469	79,057
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 81,532	\$ 102,469

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2024

1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. (the "Association") is a not-for-profit organization of Manitoba. As a registered charity the Association is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Association was instituted for the purposes of promoting, planning and executing choral festivals, programs workshops and providing choral opportunities to singers, directors, and composers throughout Manitoba.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Cash equivalents

Highly liquid investments with maturities of one year or less at date of purchase are classified as cash equivalents.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value with the cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Goods and services tax

Contributed materials and services are recoverable at 50% as a rebate. The unrecoverable portion is recorded as an expense with the rebate treated as a receivable.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded as expenses in the year they are acquired.

During the year, the Board of Directors decided to record capital assets as expenses in the year they were acquired. The effect of this change in accounting policy is a decrease in capital assets by \$15,683, a decrease in deferred capital contributions by \$13,995, an increase in revenue by \$13,995, an increase in expenses by \$375, and a decrease in investment in capital assets by \$15,308.

Impairment of long lived assets

The Association tests for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability is assessed by comparing the carrying amount to the projected future net cash flows the long-lived assets are expected to generate through their direct use and eventual disposition. When a test for impairment indicates that the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable, an impairment loss is recognized to the extent the carrying value exceeds its fair value.

(continues)

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2024

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

Revenue recognition

Manitoba Choral Association Inc. follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Revenue generated from grants and restricted donations are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recorded.

Revenue generated from unrestricted provincial programs, donations, membership and other are recognized as revenue when received or receivable, if the amount to be received can be reasonably determined and collection is reasonably assured.

Leases

Leases are classified as either capital or operating leases. At the time the Association enters into a capital lease, an asset is recorded with its related long-term obligation to reflect the acquisition and financing. Rental payments under operating leases are expensed as incurred.

Contributed goods and services

Donated goods and services are recorded when fair value can be reasonably estimated and when the materials and services are used in the normal course of the organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

3. LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

	Maturity date	Interest rate %	2024	2023
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	June 24, 2026	4.70	\$ 30,266	\$ -
Term Deposit (Note 9)	June 29, 2026	4.60	15,121	-
			\$ 45,387	\$ -

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2024

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2024	2023
Manitoba Arts Council	\$ 53,150	\$ 57,975
Winnipeg Arts Council	45,000	-
The Winnipeg Foundation	25,000	20,000
Foundation for Choral Music in Manitoba	10,000	-
Membership fees	5,310	3,180
Other grants	5,000	-
Program revenues	2,169	373
MCA Program Bursary fund (formerly PHC Fund)	1,523	1,152
National Youth Choir	224	2,224
Government of Manitoba	-	10,200
	\$ 147,376	\$ 95,104

5. LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Association signed a premises lease agreement for a period of November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2023. The rent during the period will consist of monthly payments of \$1,423 with a 2% increase each year. The lease can be determined with 90 days' written notice.

On March 28, 2019, the Association started leasing its printer for a period of five years and six months at \$497 per quarter plus GST and PST. The printer lease ends in September 2024.

The lease commitments under these arrangements are as follows:

2025		\$ 19,744
2026		19,584
2027		3,275
		\$ 42,603

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2024

6. MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION ENDOWMENT FUND AND BERT KROEKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2006, the Association created the "Manitoba Choral Association Endowment Fund" and the "Bert Kroeker Scholarship Fund" (the "Funds"), which are managed under separate agreements with the Winnipeg Foundation.

As the Funds are managed under agreements by the Winnipeg Foundation, Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations stipulate the Funds do not meet the criteria of an asset and therefore are not recorded on the balance sheet.

Activities relating to each of the "Funds" for the current year were:

	2024	2023
Endowment fund		
Opening balance, beginning of year	\$ 353,672	\$ 345,570
Investment income	64,728	27,381
Disbursements paid to Manitoba Choral Association	(16,511)	(16,507)
Administration and investment fees	(2,791)	(2,772)
	399,098	353,672
Bert Kroeker scholarship fund		
Opening balance, beginning of year	\$ 31,208	\$ 30,017
Investment income	3,286	1,323
Administration and investment fees	(237)	(132)
	34,257	31,208

MANITOBA CHORAL ASSOCIATION INC.
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2024

7. PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS

2024	Revenue	Expenses	Net income (loss)
ChoralFest	\$ 44,183	\$ 41,810	\$ 2,373
Manitoba Sings	37,878	34,370	3,508
Workshops	3,872	1,934	1,938
Special Projects	6,860	1,503	5,357
National youth choir	2,000	2,000	-
Choral library	1,009	453	556
	\$ 95,802	\$ 82,070	\$ 13,732

2023	Revenue	Expenses	Net income (loss)
ChoralFest	\$ 25,821	\$ 37,534	\$ (11,713)
Manitoba Sings	35,456	22,745	12,711
Workshops	2,990	2,067	923
Special Projects	1	-	1
Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition	1,000	1,300	(300)
Beyond Symposium	25,974	21,066	4,908
GATHER	13,434	20,395	(6,961)
Choral library	1,272	1,163	109
	\$ 105,948	\$ 106,270	\$ (322)

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The association, as part of its operations, carries a number of financial instruments. It is management's opinion that the association is not exposed to significant interest, currency, credit, liquidity or other price risk arising from these financial instruments except as otherwise disclosed.

9. LINE OF CREDIT

The Association has an operating line of credit of a maximum of \$40,000. The operating line of credit is due on demand, bears interest at bank prime and is secured by term deposits in the amount of \$15,121 (2023 - \$15,096). As of August 31, 2024 the line of credit used was \$nil (2023 - \$nil), and the prime rate was 6.70% (2023 - 7.20%).

MCA Programming Slate for 2024-25

Note that all programming listed below is subject to change depending on staff and volunteer capacity, participant interest/involvement, and other factors. 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.

MCA CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

August	September	October
Board Retreat Intra-provincial SIG	Membership Renewals Member 101 GATHER	INSPIRE Regional Youth Choir Concert TEMPO
November	December	January
ChoralFest	Board Meeting	MB Sings
February	March	April
AGM IDEA Corner	Sing-Along Event Board Meeting	Intra-provincial SIG Composition Workshop Awards & Scholarships
May	June	July
Music Month Performances IDEA Corner Run for Music*	Board Meeting Choral Reading Session	

*Contingent on staff and volunteer capacity

PROGRAM/EVENT DETAILS

Member 101

September 2024

The first time this event was held was September 2023 and we plan to make it an annual event to cover updated membership benefits each year. 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.

IDEA Corner Sessions

Various Dates starting Fall 2024

Our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Special Interest Group (IDEA SIG) will invite members from all segments of the choral community (conductors, educators, singers, enthusiasts, etc.) to come together in-person and/or virtually to explore topics related to IDEA throughout the year.

Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group

Various Dates starting Fall 2024

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.

GATHER

September 28, 2024

This day-long outdoor festival at the Lyric Theatre in Assiniboine Park (Winnipeg) will allow the public to celebrate choirs and group singing. This second rendition of the festival (originally held in 2022) will feature rotating choir performances and workshops throughout the day on stage, complete with food vendors, artisans, game booths, and creative spaces set up around the grounds to create a celebratory atmosphere. Choirs from around the province are invited to sign up at no charge for a 15-minute timeslot to perform 3-4 songs for the audience, which will include fellow choristers, friends and family, and community members.

INSPIRE

October 2024 (Dates TBD, possible Oct 11-12)

This two-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.

Regional Youth Choir Concert

October 20, 2024

MCA will partner with the four Regional Youth Choirs (Westman Youth Choir, Eastman Youth Choir, Central MB Youth Choir, and Interlake Youth Choir) for a joint collaboration and concert in Portage la Prairie. The concert will feature each choir's own repertoire selections and a mass piece that all will sing together. We are also exploring ways to support the participation of Northern MB youth in this project, to make the event as provincially focused as possible. Prior to the concert, the choirs will participate in a choral workshop with guest conductor Scott Leithead (guest conductor for EMYC 2024.)

TEMPO

October 25, 2024

The music portion of MB educators PD day conference, also known as TEMPO, is run by the Manitoba Music Educators' Association, of which MCA is a partner organization. The conference offers professional development and networking opportunities for choral music educators. MCA is involved in the planning of the event and up to 7 sessions are focused on the choral arts. For TEMPO 2024, we have invited session presentations by vocal jazz specialist Terrence Taylor (California) and choral specialist Vic Pankratz (Winnipeg), and have engaged Long & McQuade to offer choral music reading sessions for singers in early, middle, and senior years choirs.

ChoralFest

November 18-28, 2024

ChoralFest is an annual two-week, non-competitive festival that provides choirs and conductors an opportunity to work with choral specialists from across the continent. The festival invites all levels and styles of choral singing, including vocal jazz. Approximately 150 choirs and 6,000 singers participate each year. ChoralFest is open to all choirs; no matter a choir's level of experience, our clinicians work with each group at its own level. ChoralFest is comprised of several parts, targeting different segments of the choral community:

- **Senior Years Choirs (Grades 9-12)** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and then 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 + one 30-min clinic (at ChoralFest choral venue); or
 - 45-min clinic tailored to the choir in their school.*
- **Early Years Choirs (Grades K-4)** will receive a 45-min clinic tailored to their choir in their school.
- **Community Choirs** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and then 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 then receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians).

* 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 2024 choral and vocal jazz specialists include:

- **Senior Year & Community Choirs:** GiUng Lee (Winnipeg), Dr. Melissa Morgan (Regina), Vic Pankratz (Winnipeg), Becki Thiessen (Winnipeg)
- **Vocal Jazz Choirs:** Dylan Bell & Suba Sankaran (Toronto), Stacey Brown (Winnipeg)
- **Middle Years (Venue):** Amanda Ciavarelli (Winnipeg), Heather Neufeld (Winnipeg)
- **Early & Middle Years (In-School Clinics):** TBD

MB Sings

January 31 - February 2, 2025

MB Sings is MCA's longest-running program and draws nearly 300 singers from across the province every year for an inspiring weekend of music and community-building with accomplished and respected conductors from across the continent. Formerly known as Provincial Honour Choirs, MB Sings singers participate in two days of intensive rehearsals learning interesting and challenging repertoire, and then share what they've learned with families and friends in a finale concert. The MB Sings program has three choirs corresponding to age. There are no auditions to join the MB Sings Choirs and registration is open to all singers Grades 5 and up, regardless of experience or singing ability.

Guest conductors for 2024 will be:

- Junior High Choir (gr. 5-8): Justin Odwak
- Senior High Choir (gr. 9-12): Tracy Wong (Toronto)
- Adult Choir (ages 18+): Janet Brenneman (Winnipeg)

Junior/Senior High Choral Workshop

January 31, 2025

As in years past, we will offer a workshop to junior/senior years choirs with out-of-town MB Sings conductor Dr. Tracy Wong the day before MB Sings starts. We invite all junior/senior years choirs to attend the event, where they will perform for each other and learn a new piece of music with the guest conductor.

Sing-Along Event

March 2025

Inspired by open-mic nights and *Choir!Choir!Choir!* events, this event will engage the public in an evening of socializing and singing at a local coffee shop or brewery. A local conductor/accompanist or a cover band will perform popular music for attendees to sing along to while enjoying some refreshments in a relaxed environment.

Composition Workshop

April 2025

Since putting the Frances Seaton Choral Composition Competition on hold in 2023, MCA has been exploring ways to support and encourage the composition of choral music in our province. This workshop will feature presentations and discussions facilitated by local Manitoba composers. The first will target adult composers, but future initiatives will be planned to encourage participation by various segments of the choral community, including youth, BIPOC, and 2SLGBTQIA+ composers.

Awards & Competitions

April 30, 2025 Deadline

Manitoba Choral Association 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. In June, the winners and recipients are announced, and members of the choral community are recognized for their achievements.

Music Month

May 2025

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 Music Month by promoting the concerts and providing recommendations for choral music performances.

Run for Music

May 2025

If staff and volunteer capacity allow, MCA will plan this 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.

Choral Music Reading Session

June 2025

For this event, MCA will partner with Long & McQuade to offer one or more reading session around a specific theme, or target audience. Attendees will sing through music and explore new repertoire selections for their choirs. Among possible theme options are:

- Sacred music
- Music for early/middle years
- Music for senior years/community choirs

Manitoba Choral Association

Budget 2024-25

Ordinary Income/Expense	2024-25	2023-24	NOTES
	Budget	Budget	
Income			
4020 · Province of Manitoba Grants	11,800.00	0.00	ACSC grant for INSPIRE, \$5000 from other grant amortized
4029 · Winnipeg Arts Council Grants	60,000.00	15,000.00	\$15,000 Program Support + \$45,000 COS
Misc grants through MCA	0.00	0.00	
4040 · MB Arts Council Grants	50,000.00	65,000.00	Operating grant
4045 · Winnipeg Foundation Grants	30,000.00	20,000.00	Community grant for programs
4046 · Other Grants	0.00	47,000.00	
4050 · Special Projects Revenue			
4454 GATHER Revenue	4,000.00	0.00	Rest reflected in WAC COS grant above
4457 · Run for Music Revenue	25,000.00	20,000.00	
4458 · Gala Fundraiser Revenue	0.00	25,000.00	
Singalong Income	1,500.00	0.00	
4460 · Choral Concerts Income	18,000.00	0.00	Regional youth concert - incl. FCMM grant
Total 4050 · Special Projects Revenue	48,500.00	45,000.00	
4055 · Endowment Fund Interest	17,600.00	16,500.00	
4110 · ChoralFest Revenue			
4111 · Admissions	3,500.00	2,500.00	
4113 · Registration Fees	18,500.00	25,000.00	
4115 · Grants	15,000.00	15,000.00	
4116 · Sponsorships	2,500.00	5,000.00	
Total 4110 · ChoralFest Revenue	39,500.00	47,500.00	
4120 · MB Sings Revenue			
4121 · Admissions	4,500.00	3,000.00	
4122 · Donations	2,500.00	5,000.00	
4123 · Registration fees	25,000.00	23,000.00	
4124 · Donations & Sponsorships	6,000.00	3,000.00	
Total 4120 · MB Sings Revenue	38,000.00	34,000.00	
4130 · National Youth Choir Revenue	0.00	2,000.00	
4170 · PD by MCA Income			
4171 · Choral Workshop Income			
4071 · Workshop Music Income	0.00		
4171 · Choral Workshop Income - Other	500.00	1,500.00	Composition workshop
Total 4171 · Choral Workshop Income	500.00	1,500.00	
4174 · INSPIRE - Sing to Lead Income	1,500.00	10,000.00	Does not incl. ACSC grant above
4175 · Choir 101 Income	0.00	1,500.00	
4176 · IDEA Programs	3,500.00	750.00	Accessibility grant
4177 · Other PD Sessions	500.00	1,500.00	Choral reading session
Total 4170 · PD by MCA Income	6,000.00	15,250.00	
4500 · Advertising Revenue			
4501 · ChoralFest Advertising Revenue	1,300.00	1,500.00	
4502 · Other Advertising Revenue	0.00	750.00	
4503 · MB Sings Advertising Revenue	700.00	750.00	
Total 4500 · Advertising Revenue	2,000.00	3,000.00	
4615 · Donations	20,000.00	17,500.00	
4845 · Bank Interest Income	2,000.00	1,700.00	
4850 · Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	
4852 · Merchandise Income	2,500.00	2,000.00	
4860 · Membership Revenue	18,000.00	18,000.00	
4870 · Choral Library Collections	500.00	200.00	
4880 · Photocopying for Members	1,500.00	250.00	
4885 · Rental Income	200.00	200.00	
Total Income	348,100.00	350,100.00	
Gross Profit	348,100.00	350,100.00	
Expense			
5008 · Special Projects Expenses			
5802 GATHER Expenses	14,000.00	0.00	
5804 · Run for Music Expenses	15,000.00	15,000.00	
5805 · Gala Fundraiser Expenses	0.00	12,500.00	
Singalong Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	
5806 · Choral Concert Expenses	14,500.00	0.00	Regional youth choir concert
Total 5008 · Special Projects Expenses	44,500.00	27,500.00	
5009 · PD by MCA Expenses			
5910 · Choral Workshop Expenses			
5920 · Choral Workshop Music Expenses	0.00		
5910 · Choral Workshop Expenses - Other	500.00	1,500.00	
Total 5910 · Choral Workshop Expenses	500.00	1,500.00	
5913 · INSPIRE - Sing to Lead Expenses	3,500.00	10,000.00	
5914 · Choir 101 Expenses	0.00	1,500.00	
5915 · IDEA Programs Expenses	1,000.00	750.00	
5916 · Other PD Session Expenses	100.00	1,500.00	

Total 5009 - PD by MCA Expenses	5,100.00	15,250.00	
5010 - ChoralFest Expenses			
5111 - Clinician Fees	15,000.00	16,000.00	
5112 - Meals & Per diems	3,500.00	3,500.00	
5113 - Accommodations	3,000.00	5,000.00	
5114 - Travel	3,000.00	7,000.00	
5115 - Venues	6,500.00	7,500.00	
5116 - Administration & Promotion	1,500.00	1,000.00	
5117 - Technical support	3,000.00	3,000.00	Includes in-kind sponsorships
5130 - Miscellaneous CF Expenses	500.00	500.00	
Total 5010 - ChoralFest Expenses	36,000.00	43,500.00	
FCMM Grants through MCA	0.00	0.00	
5015 - National Youth Choir Expenses	0.00	2,000.00	
5020 - MB Sings Expenses			
5221 - Honoraria - Conductors	4,800.00	4,800.00	
5222 - Honoraria - Accompanists	2,250.00	2,100.00	
5223 - Section Leads	1,350.00	1,250.00	
5224 - Musicians & Guest Artists	1,000.00	1,000.00	
5225 - Travel, Accom., & Per Diems	1,500.00	1,300.00	
5226 - Music	4,250.00	4,000.00	
5227 - Administration & Promotion	1,500.00	1,500.00	
5228 - Venue	4,000.00	4,000.00	
5229 - Technical Support & Rentals	2,300.00	2,250.00	Includes in-kind sponsorships
5231 - Tshirts	2,500.00	3,250.00	
5232 - Meals & Snacks	5,500.00	5,500.00	
5235 - Miscellaneous	750.00	750.00	
Total 5020 - MB Sings Expenses	31,700.00	31,700.00	
5023 - Fund Development Expenses	1,000.00	5,000.00	
5075 - Tempo Booth Expenses	200.00	0.00	
5165 - Merchandise Expenses	1,000.00	0.00	
5175 - External Memberships	1,000.00	1,650.00	
5190 - Choral Library Expenses	500.00	2,500.00	
5210 - Salaries & Benefits	170,700.00	157,800.00	1 PTE + 3 FTE (Prog Coord. Sep-Feb)
5276 - Web Hosting & CRM	2,000.00	2,500.00	
5295 Amortization Expense	5,000.00	0.00	Match with revenue
5300 - Rent	19,280.00	19,575.00	
5310 - Insurance	3,600.00	3,800.00	
5320 - Advertising & Promotions	2,000.00	3,000.00	Brochures, banners, other marketing materials
5500 - Phone Expenses	350.00	425.00	
5519 - Office Expenses	2,000.00	1,500.00	Office cleaning, water delivery, misc
5520 - Office Supplies	1,500.00	1,500.00	
5530 - Photocopies	750.00	500.00	
5550 - Office Equipment Rental	0.00	2,200.00	
5570 - Postage	500.00	500.00	Includes mailing campaigns
5600 - Accounting / Audit Services	5,700.00	5,500.00	
5610 - Bank & Credit Card Charges			
5620 - Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	
5625 - CanadaHelps Fees	0.00	0.00	
5630 - PayPal charges	0.00		
5631 - Square Charges	0.00		
5632 - Stripe Charges	0.00	0.00	
5610 - Bank & Credit Card Charges - Other	2,000.00	2,500.00	
Total 5610 - Bank & Credit Card Charges	2,000.00	2,500.00	
5660 - Miscellaneous Expense	500.00	500.00	
5670 - Advocacy Expenses	750.00	2,000.00	
5710 - Staff Expenses	500.00	500.00	
5720 - Board Travel & Expenses	1,250.00	7,000.00	Board retreat in Winnipeg
5740 - Meeting Expenses	750.00	2,500.00	Committee meeting snacks/meals
5745 - Staff Professional Development			
5745 - Staff Professional Development - O	2,000.00	5,200.00	PD allowance for staff
Total 5745 - Staff Professional Development	2,000.00	5,200.00	
5755 - Outreach Expenses	1,500.00	2,000.00	Attendance/displays at concerts/events
Total Expense	343,630.00	350,100.00	
Net Ordinary Income	4,470.00	0.00	
Net Income	4,470.00	0.00	

Manitoba Choral Association Annual General Meeting

Nominating Committee Report

Today we bid farewell **Katie Donnelly** (Outreach & Advocacy Director). A heartfelt thank-you for your contributions to our organization! It has been a true pleasure to serve with you. We appreciate your leadership, your ideas, your input, all your time and hard work, and your commitment to seeing our organization thrive!

PROPOSED MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2025-26

We are pleased to announce the following slate for the 2025-26 Board of Directors, including new directors, who are allowing their names to stand today for ratification to the MCA Board:

NAME	ROLE	TERM DETAILS
Naomi Russell	President	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
David Sawatzky	Past President	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
Katy Harmer	Vice-President	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
Robyn Stewart	Treasurer	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
Jorrel Camuyong	Programs Director	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
Crystal Kolt	Intra-provincial Director	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
VACANT	Outreach & Advocacy Director	n/a
Nancy Gomes Fast	Director / Communications & Marketing Portfolio	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term</i>
Philip Lapatha	Director / Member-at-Large	<i>In the midst of a 2-year term; transferring TEMPO portfolio to Larissa</i>
Vic Pankratz	Director / Library Portfolio	NEW 2-YEAR TERM
Larissa Hrabí	Director / TEMPO Portfolio	NEW 2-YEAR TERM
Caleb Rondeau	Director / Member-at-Large	NEW 2-YEAR TERM

Note: As per MCA's by-laws, the Board shall consist of no less than 8 and no more than 12 Directors. All directors standing for election at this AGM will be appointed for two-year terms.

The Vice-President and President assume the roles of President and Past President, respectively, at the end of their two-year terms, and do not need to stand for re-election.

In the event of a vacancy, Directors may, by majority vote, appoint a Member to serve as a Director until the next ensuing Annual General Meeting.