



2023/24

Impact Report





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Message from our Artistic Director

Our 49th season was nothing short of abundant — brimming with performances, an international competition, and a surge of ambition and energy! As always, one of the core pillars of HCC's mission is to nurture a sense of belonging within our ensembles. We understand, as educators and individuals, that it is from this foundation of trust and acceptance that true growth and exploration flourish.

This season brought expansion on many fronts. In October, we introduced our first-ever HCC Fall Concert, *Spooks and Ghouls*, enchanting audiences with songs of mischief and adventure. December's *In The House With Nobody Else* reimaged a holiday classic with shadow puppetry, the iconic *Home Alone* soundtrack, and narration by the incomparable Tom Wilson. February's *Abundant Imagination* brought an interactive, family-friendly experience that highlighted the talents of our junior and intermediate ensembles.

Our annual Spring performance, *Howl Into the Moonlight*, explored Anishnaabe cultural symbolism through Danielle Daniel's *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox*, while also featuring music from the Filipino diaspora, shared by HCC Conductor Dion Flores. Ilumini's season culminated in a stunning June double-feature, first as guest artists with the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, then in their own showcase, *Begin Again*.

After a triumphant return to international touring in 2023, which saw Ilumini perform in Ghent, Belgium at Europa Cantat Junior, the ensemble took an exciting leap toward competition, participating in the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, where they earned multiple awards, including a first-place trophy.

This season also marked our reach into new communities, bringing fresh voices into our fold. We expanded two community programs: our week-long Summer Singing Camp and Sing As You Are, both of which allowed us to work with many children and youth that had never experienced HCC.

I am deeply humbled and grateful for the unwavering support of the HCC community. Our 49th season truly became a vibrant tapestry of growth and connection, weaving together a future full of promise for HCC.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Melanie Tellez
Artistic Director



Message from our Executive Director

Our 2023/24 season was one for the books! We expanded our Komenci and Esplori programs, introduced the low-commitment Lumo ensemble, and relaunched the Poka program for toddlers and caregivers. Thanks to the incite Foundation for the Arts, we offered our week-long Summer Singing Camp to 100 singers for just \$50 and will continue for four more years.

Illumini choristers embarked on two tours—an Experiences Canada Exchange with Cantilon Choirs of Edmonton, Alberta, and a wildly successful journey to the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales—providing invaluable musical and social experiences.

Rebuilding after the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging, and this year we faced our greatest financial strain, as is detailed later in this report. The rising cost of living has reduced giving across Canadian charities and has made it harder for families to afford extracurricular activities. To ensure all choristers could fully participate, we significantly invested in our Financial Award Program, supporting both regular programming and tour expenses. While this placed a burden on our finances, we remain unwavering in our commitment to accessibility, ensuring that no singer is excluded due to financial barriers.

This year, we had some changes in administrative staff. Most notably, in June we bid farewell to our first-ever Executive Director, Patricia LeClair, who began her well-deserved retirement after nearly 20 years of service with the organization. Patricia was instrumental in the growth of HCC and became a leader in the arts Hamilton community - we are forever indebted to her for her contributions. After both singing with HCC and working in the office for nearly a decade, I am beyond honoured to have taken over this position and look forward to continuing her great work.

The year closed with us preparing for a big year to come - our 50th Anniversary season. We look forward to sharing what we've got in store for you for this important milestone in April 2025.

With optimism,



Executive Director



Our Programs by the Numbers

12

Poka

20

Kolibro Eta

17

Kolibro Juna

21

Kolibro Kantisto

25Komenci
Tuesday**11**Komenci
Thursday**30**Esplori
Tuesday**18**Esplori
Thursday**8**

Lumo

27

Esprimas

34

Ilumini

224

Total Singers



Season Highlights



SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH, 4PM | CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAMILTON
TICKETS STARTING AT \$5 - HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



507
Audience

Choirs

Komenci
Esplori
Esprimas
Illumini



782
Audience

Choirs

Komenci
Esplori
Lumo
Esprimas
Illumini

Guest

Tom
Wilson



SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH - 4PM & 7PM | CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAMILTON
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | 2PM | CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAMILTON | ADMISSION BY DONATION



450
Audience

Choirs

Kantisto
Komenci
Esplori
Esprimas



Season Highlights continued...



SATURDAY, MAY 4 | 4PM & 7PM | FAITH UNITED CHURCH, HAMILTON | TICKETS: HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



699
Audience

Choirs
Kolibro
Komenci
Esplori
Lumo
Esprimas
Illumini



225
Audience

Choirs
Illumini



ILLUMINI FEATURE CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: HAMILTON PHILHARMONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA

SATURDAY, JUNE 1 | 7:30PM | MELROSE UNITED CHURCH, HAMILTON | TICKETS: HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



200
Audience

Choirs
Illumini

Community Outreach



Sing As You Are

We expanded our reach with this season's Sing As You Are program and provided FREE community pop-up sessions with:

- A.M. Cunningham Elementary School
- Art Gallery of Hamilton
- Eva Rothwell Centre
- Imagine in the Park Arts Festival
- Kidstock
- Strathcona Elementary School
- Welcome Inn
- YWCA



Summer Singing Camp

Thanks to the generosity of the incite Foundation for the Arts, HCC was able to offer its week long Summer Singing Camp for the low price of \$50!

With that, we welcomed 100 campers for a week of singing and summer fun!

We are thrilled to say that incite has committed to funding this camp until 2028.

Touring

Experience Canada Exchange to Edmonton



Touring

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod



Class Placements

- 1st Prize, Children's Folk Songs
- 2nd Prize, Children's Open Choirs
- 3rd Prize, Open Choirs
- 4th Prize, Senior Children's Choir



Social Media Analytics


Hamilton Children's Choir
 Today at 6:00am · 🌐

It's time for Facebook Analytics! Here is a comparison between 2022/23 and 2023/24:

- Reach 137.4k (+120%)
- Content Interactions 7.6k (+92.5%)
- Page Visits 11.7k (+114%)
- New Followers 231 (+38%)
- Link Clicks 1.8k (+39%)

 Like
  Comment

👍 David and 4 others


Hamilton Children's Choir · 23w
 Hamilton, Ontario

Instagram Analytics

- Reach 14.6k (+114%)
- Content Interactions 402 (+100%)
- Page Visits 6.8k (+91%)
- New Followers 125 (-20%)






67 likes

Hamilton Children's Choir Woah, check us out!

[View all 8 comments](#)


Hamilton Children's Choir @HccListen · Aug 31, 2024

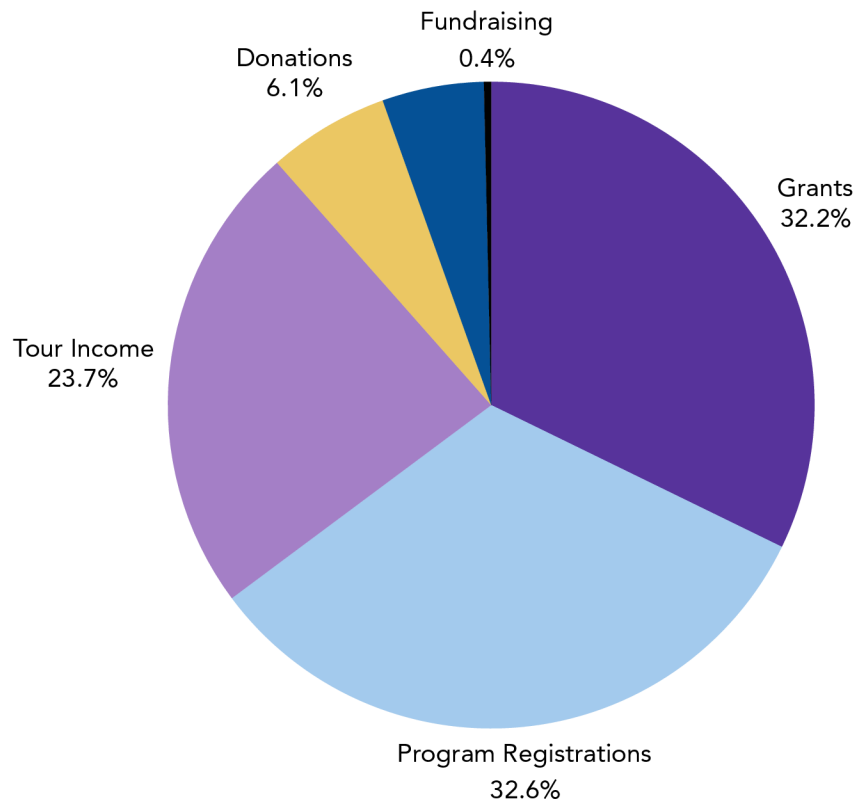
Can you believe that [@elonmusk](#) doesn't let you download analytics for Twitter/X anymore unless you pay for an account? With that, and the general decline of this platform, we are considering moving to Bluesky.

 2
  6
  15
  2.9K
 


Financial Statements

Revenue

Grants	\$223,713.00
Program Registrations	\$226,272.00
Tour Income	\$164,316.00
Donations	\$42,140.00
Concert & Boutique Sales	\$35,304.00
Fundraising	\$2,509.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$694,254.00



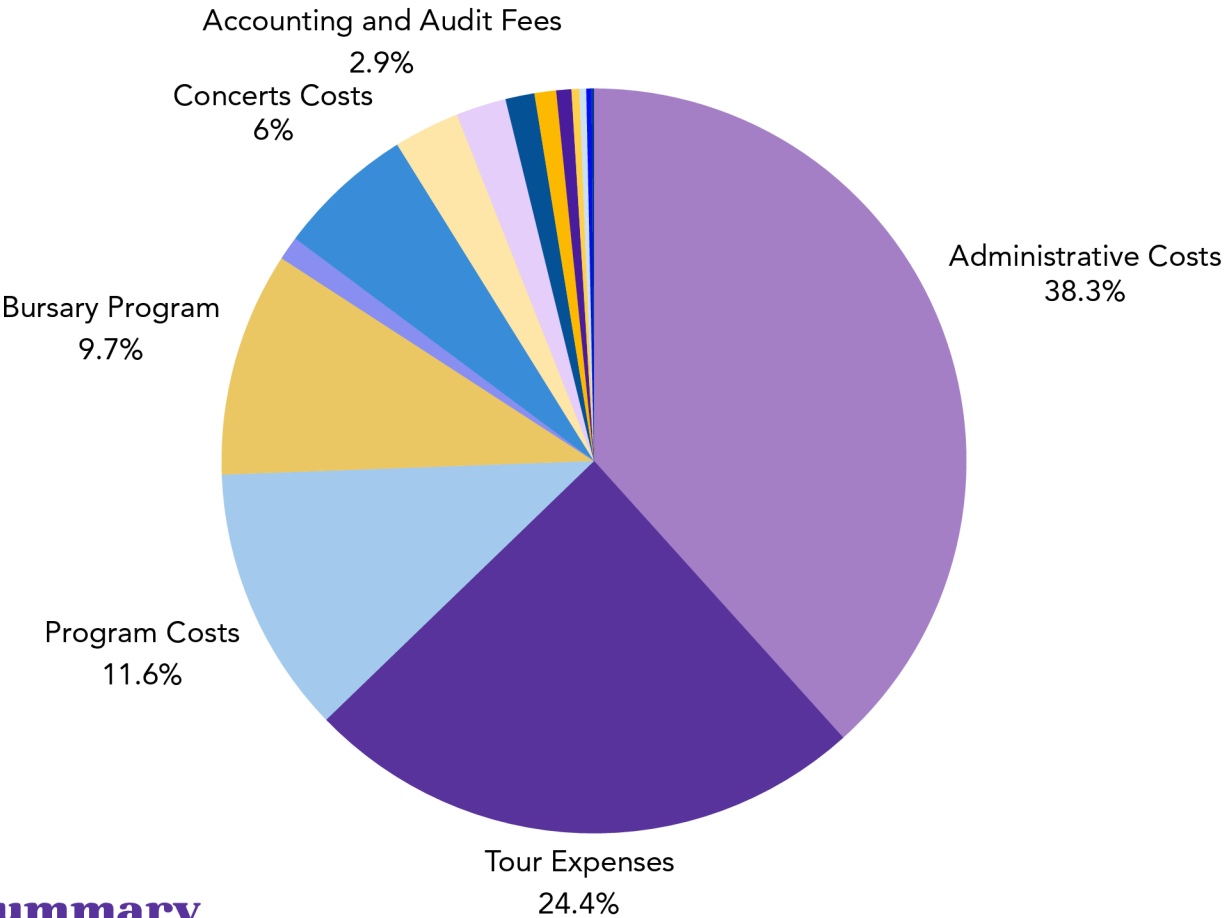
Financial Summary

Expenses

Artistic Fees	\$189,699.00
Administrative Costs	\$227,955.00
Tour Expenses	\$145,359.00
Program Costs	\$69,229.00
Bursary Program	\$57,948.00
Advertising and Promotion	\$6,140.00
Concerts Costs	\$35,397.00
Accounting and Audit Fees	\$17,002.00
Uniforms and Choir Bags	\$12,952.00
Music Purchases	\$7,491.00
Office	\$5,592.00
Interest and Bank Charges	\$3,894.00
Fundraising	\$1,997.00
Professional Fees	\$1,785.00
Amortization	\$1,394.00
Business Taxes, Licenses, and Memberships	\$561.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$784,395.00

Financial Summary

Expenses



Summary

Deficit	-\$90,141.00
Other Income (Expenses) Foreign Exchange	-\$1363.00
TOTAL DEFICIT	-\$91,504

A note from our Treasurer...

The deficit reported in 2024 is caused by lower grants and higher registration. Two major tours and higher bursary costs also contributed to the deficit. The Board and the administration are working together on strategies to reduce the deficit in the current year.

Our Funders



\$119,899



Hamilton

\$55,465



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

\$20,796



\$13,281



Government
of Canada

Canada Summer Jobs

\$11,589



\$3500

PayPal
Giving Fund

\$185



Our Donors

Thank you to our individual donors! HCC recognizes donors for any contribution during the 2023/24 season as we believe every contribution made, large or small, makes a difference. We are grateful for their support and honour them for their commitment to the choir.

\$10,000+

Lionel & Wendy Teed

\$1000-\$9999

Virginia Aksan
Anonymous
Roger Blaes

Peter Drake
Roman & Barbara Humeniuk
Servomation Inc.

RFI Trust
John Wheeler

\$500-\$999

Anonymous

Jennifer Hompoth

Judy Marsales Real Estate Ltd

\$250-\$499

Art Gallery of Hamilton
Beth Anderson
Marilyn G. Anderson
Canadian Tire
David Conen
Jamie Drake
Liz Foster

Bernard & Carolyn Goward
Janet Marlin
Kate Millie
OneZo Tapioca
Laura Pin
Victoria Robinson
Suzanne Shulman

Sheldon Smart
Jeremy Spies
Robert Van Wyck
Jason Walker
Elsje Zwart

\$100-\$249

Helena Alexander
Anonymous
Jean Ashworth Bartle
Terrie Banks
Caitlyn Beattie
Wendy Bodsworth
Celia & Robert Boose

Kate Boose
Eric Bosch
Bosch Solutions Corp.
Heather Briskin
Beverly Bronte-Tinkew
Peter Brotea
Ginelle Bucher

Katrin Conen
Elizabeth Corneil
Jaime and Ian Corneil
Kelly Cornish
Kathy Dallaire
Jacob Deboer
Andrew Drake

Dundas Valley Montessori School	Ana Marinic	Jonathan Richardson
Jane Earle	J. Barry McIsaac	Ken Richardson
John Evers	Martina McIsaac	Bethany Ricker
FTB Sports Cards Inc.	John McNally	James Roy
Caitlin Fralick	Mickey McGuire's Cheese	Ginet Segui Lines
Patterson Frances	Janet Milligan	Yvonne Sell
Maison Fritz	James Niebergall	Shawn & Ed Brewing Company
Walter & Audrey Frolic	Kelly Niebergall	Vanessa Simpliciank
Gelmoment	Lorna Niebergall	Barbara Southall
Louise Gingerich	Olde Town Properties	Lynlee Spencer
Piper Hayes	The Olive Board	Tafelmusik
Elizabeth Hutchison	Catherine Oliver	Melanie Tellez
John & Sally Hutchison	Westdale Optical	Toronto Concert Orchestra
Bob Jonkman	Lindsey Parry	Laura Turcotte
Kim Kierans	Elysia Peattie	Karen Turkstra
Marge Kloet	Chad Pilon	Marta Vandermarel
Becky & Richard Hollingsworth	Plexus 360 Communications	Evelyn Veale
Kim Houtmeyers	Dilia Portillo	Jonathan Waldman
Susan & Iain Howieson	Hua Qiao	Janet Wiebenga
Shirley MacDougall	Gauthaman Ravindran	James Wright
Laurence MacPhie	Deborah Redwood	Jeffrey Zhang
Karen Maerz	Marg Resney	
Peter Malysewich	Susan Riach	

Up to \$99

Anonymous	Betula	Baiba Bredovskis
Mikhail Adronov	Serena Bilich-Ramos	Sara Brice-Elion
Rya Adronov	Diane Blackburn	Darren & Jessica Brouwer
Gillian Alexander	Devan Bobiak	Richard Bull
Dom Almeida	James Bobiak	Jose C
Steve & Anabel Almeida	Julie Bobiak	Thirsty Cactus
Ancaster Village Nails & Spa	Ginny Bodsworth	Doug Caldwell
Andrew Syrett & Meghan	Cecilia Boss	David Campbell
O'Leary	David Boss	Sarita Campbell
Anonymous	Jonathan Boss	Xochitl Caridad
Anonymous	Michelle Boss	Seneka & Enrico Caruso
Anonymous	Rhonda Bott	Edwina Ceonin
Bardō	Greg Braun	Laura Chan
Eileen Berger		Betty Cheeseman

Danielle Cheeseman	Grandview Retirement Living	Judith Kivinen
Paul & Barb Cheeseman	Dawn Grant	Mike Lahie
Roxanne Cheeseman	Stephanie Grant	Alyssa Lai
George Christian	Augustin Grigorescu	Veronica & Mark Lambert
Collective Arts	Dorothy Gruggen	Sheldon Lewis
Copper Kettle Café	Patricia Gruhl	David Lindeman
Michael Cormier	Henriqueta Guagliano	Gloria Lines Cabrera
John Cosgrove	Matthew Guagliano	Lilibeth Litang
Susan Cosgrove	Mike & Cindy Gulcher	Chris Lloyd
Thema Crooks	Jean Gut	Russ Lloyd
Bridget Croyle	Jaime Guy	Tricia MacDonald
Tim D	Kristen Hamer	Johann MacLachlan
Cecile De Medeiros	S. Harkness	Theresa Macmillan
Renata Dean	Maria Harvey	Gisela Maerz
Richelle Demers	Stephanie Hicket	Melissa Mancini
Paul Dolhai	Adrian Hodgson	Dorothea Manson
Durand Coffee	Ann Hogan	Kevin Marlin
ellénoire	Emily Hogeveen	Stacey Martinson
Emma & Thomas	Michael Hogeveen	Joey McIntyre
Ivania Erazo	Michelle Hollihan	Lynn McLaughlin
W. Fairbairn	Joan Horlings	Andrea McMurray
Teresa Falbo	Kimberley Horlings	Jane McNally
Tina Falbo	Christian Hornby	Janet McNally
Quinn Farewell	Grace Hornby	Mixed Media
Ron Ferroni	Wendy Howick	Katherine Millie
Cecily Field	Carol Hutchings	Robynne Millie
Glenn Fletcher	Maria Isabel Isla	Brenda Mills
Sheila Flis	Liz Jackson	Greta Mills-Rode
John Fournier	Andrea Jennings	The Move Room
Simon Frank	Hugh Johnson	Helen Moolten & Sean
Mike Gallant	Jenn Johnson	O'Leary
Melissa Gardner	Jo-Ann Johnson	Frances Morgan
Josh Geyer	Debbie Johnston	Sandy Mutton
Girl on the Wing	Robert Jonkman	Rosemarie Nangle
Alzira Goncalves	Ramsin Kamo	Stella Ogundipe
Ilana Goodman	Kari's of Ancaster	Abbie Olajide
Mindy Goodman	Ana Kardalos	Sonia & Donny Oliver
Ellen Goward	Kristi Kemp	Mary Panopoulos
Heather Goward	Benjamin Kersey	Maria Perez
Grain & Grit Beer Co.	Denis Kierans	Shelagh Peterson

Picone Fine Food
Linda Pillinini
Pinbones Fish Market
Salvador & Blanca Portillo
Amoris & Lisa Pozeg
Josefina Puig Fontbona
Rosie Quinteros
Judy Redmond
Sharon Rodger
Emma Russell
Ted Russell
Rustic Succulents Hamilton
Sinfonia Ancaster
Beckett Schefold
Derek Schefold
Holly Schefold
Joyce Schefold
Sawyer Schefold

Rod Shantz
Maria Shin
Terry Sigquin
Gwynneth Simpson
Lindsay Sinclair
Amy Smith
Gerald Smith
Robert Smith
Myrtle Sobers
Amanda Standidge
Charles Steel
Brad Stewart
Strata Montessori Adolescent
School
Patrick Sue
Robert Sutton
Kathy Syrett

Steve & Sarah Szabo
Janice Taylor
Kim Thompson
Michelle Tomkin
Joanna Turchin
United Way Halton &
Hamilton
Janette Unknown
Sonic Unyon
Shaina Vellone
Dan Wang
Dianne Wiersma
Chris Wigham
Christine Wigham
Dirk & Gerri Windhorst
Melanie Wolf
Susan Wray Toogood

Our Team

Artistic Staff

Melanie Tellez	Artistic Director
Caitlyn Breukelman	Conductor, Esplori, Esprimas
Brent Fifield	Collaborative Accompanist, Komenci & Lumo; Choral Coach, Illumini
Dion Flores	Conductor, Komenci
Leslie Kent	Conductor, Poka, Eta, Juna, Kantisto
Greer Schatz	Conductor, Esplori
Phillip Darley	Collaborative Accompanist, Esplori
Jason Lee	Collaborative Accompanist, Esprimas
Brie-Anne Meyer	Collaborative Accompanist, Kantisto
Laura Pin	Collaborative Accompanist, Illumini
Isabela Antunes	Rehearsal Assistant - Kolibro, Esprimas support
Hannah Bailey	Rehearsal Assistant - Esprimas, Komenci
Owen Bortolin	Rehearsal Assistant - Esplori
Mary Kokoski	Rehearsal Assistant - Kolibro
Chiara Malatesta	Rehearsal Assistant - Esplori
Anja Kane	Rehearsal Assistant - Esprimas
Cecilia Wong	Rehearsal Assistant - Komenci, Esplori
Vicky Robinson	Rehearsal Assistant - Illumini

Administrative Staff

Patricia LeClair	Executive Director (until June 30, 2024)
Gillian Alexander	Marketing & Development Associate, Executive Director (as of July 1, 2024)
Xenobia Delgado	Program Manager (until March 6, 2024)
Courtney Porch	Choir Administrative Assistant, Program Manager (as of April 1, 2024)
Aghadir Sassi	Financial Administrator
Hannah Bailey	Camp Coordinator (Canada Summer Jobs)
Olivia McIsaac	Special Event Coordinator (Canada Summer Jobs)
Vicky Robinson	Music Librarian (Canada Summer Jobs)

Board of Directors

Katie Weresch, Chair	Matthew Pickfield, Director
Emily Copps, Vice-Chair	Wade Poziomka, Director
Mark Lee, Secretary	Katerina Simmons, Director
Tabinda Khan, Treasurer	Sara Traficante, Director
Caitlin Fralick, Director	W. Ian Walker, Director
Nina Geleynse, Director	Robert Wakulat, Director

Message from our Board Chair

For 50 years, the Hamilton Children's Choir has remained a consistent choral presence: locally, nationally and internationally. This year has been one of incorporating and valuing the past while making room for new experiences and traditions; there is so much to applaud.

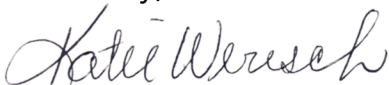
We are so thankful for the leadership of Artistic Director, Melanie Tellez and Executive Director, Gillian Alexander, who we were thrilled to welcome to this role earlier this year. They each guide an incredible artistic and administrative team to deliver wonderful opportunities such as sharing music with friends and families at a number of concerts, guest appearances, and festivals. For Ilumini, this year included an Experiences Canada exchange with the Cantillon Choir of Edmonton and an international choral competition in Wales. These opportunities would not be possible without the countless volunteers who help at rehearsals and performances, as well as our families, who, together, help to facilitate these enriching opportunities. One of the areas we are most proud of is our Financial Award Program. We believe that every child who wants to join has a place in the HCC, despite financial barriers. The need in Hamilton is great, and I am so proud that we are able to serve so many in our community with the opportunity of belonging.

Our organization now offers more programs than ever, including successful early childhood music classes and Lumo, a flexible option for older kids. This year, our registration has returned to pre-COVID levels. HCC has also expanded its reach through a subsidized downtown summer camp, citywide Sing As You Are pop-ups, and collaborations with local arts groups.

Being able to live out our mission would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. The financial support we receive from individuals - friends and donors - foundations, and government funding, is truly a gift. Thank you to all of our champions for recognizing the significance, and believing in the work of the HCC. incite Foundation for the Arts, City of Hamilton, Ontario Arts Council: thank you.

HCC has been influencing the young people of Hamilton for 50 years - what an achievement! As we celebrate 50 years of making music, we look back in pride and forward in hope to extend our reach and impact in Hamilton.

Sincerely,



Katie Weresch
Board Chair



