



2024/25 Impact Report



50th Anniversary Season



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Message from our Artistic Director

Our 50th season became a year-long act of gratitude - honouring what has been entrusted to us while fully embracing the energy and possibility of who we are becoming. Throughout the year, we returned to a simple question: how do we carry something forward with care, without keeping it small? The answer was to sing both outward and together - to let the circle widen.

Our winter concert, *Ritual & Remembering*, held the past and present in the same breath. With harpist Rachel Nolan, Ilumini and Esprimas performed Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* - the first work ever sung by HCC under founding conductor Donald Kendrick. Returning to it 50 years later felt like a living conversation with our beginnings.

Spring brought a weekend that will long live in the choir's memory as *Hamilton Resonates* filled FirstOntario Concert Hall with sound, story, and reunion. Alumni gathered, and former artistic directors John Laing and Zimfira Poloz returned to the stage, with John conducting *Listen to These Rooms*, a newly commissioned work with text by chorister Emily Zhang, reminding us that young musicians are not only interpreters, but makers. Joined by six community choirs, nearly 500 singers filled the hall in a powerful expression of HCC as a gathering force, a sounding board, and a home.

Our summer began with our Ilumini program, from the candlelit, immersive *Echo Chamber* at the Cotton Factory, to performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, at CAMMAC in the Laurentians, and in Montréal with Petits Chanteurs de Laval, our senior singers developed resilience and confidence across multiple spaces and communities. Alongside these visible milestones, we continued the work of widening the doorway. Our Summer Singing Camp welcomed 100 children at a highly subsidized cost, and our no-cost *Sing As You Are* workshops offered many families their first experience of singing with HCC.

If this 50th season taught us anything, it is that legacy is something we move with, not admire from afar. We enter our next chapter with strong ensembles, deep partnerships, and a growing sense of possibility—the work ahead more spacious, generous, and alive.

None of this would be possible without our extraordinary community of choristers, families, staff, board, alumni, and supporters, whose care sustains HCC every day. I want to offer particular kudos to Gillian Alexander, whose first year as Executive Director coincided with this landmark season, and whose strength, clarity, and genuine heart helped guide HCC through a year of unusual scale with steadiness and vision.

With deep gratitude, and with eyes forward,



Melanie Tellez, Artistic Director



Message from our Executive Director

This year, the Hamilton Children's Choir celebrated our 50th anniversary: a milestone that invited both reflection and renewal. We welcomed new staff to our organization both administratively and artistically, as well as new board members, and of course, new choristers and their families. HCC continues to grow steadily in the years following the pandemic, and this year felt as though we've really begun to hit our stride again.

Our 50th season was, above all, a season of gathering. We welcomed alumni from our earliest years through to recent graduates, celebrated our musical legacy with *Throughout the Ages*, a compilation album spanning five decades, and felt the strength of community support through corporate sponsorships and generous in-kind contributions. Together, these moments affirmed the role HCC plays in Hamilton's cultural life.

Our administrative team took on the work of sorting through our archives—fragile programs, photographs, and memorabilia that reminded us how much care and creativity have always lived at the heart of this organization. That process generated new momentum, helping us imagine how our past can actively inform our future. In an increasingly digital world, we have felt drawn back to the traditions that bring people together—silent auctions, Singathons, social gatherings, and perhaps one day, even a return of the beloved spaghetti dinners of the 1990s. These moments of connection sustain us, celebrate our work, and strengthen the community that makes it all possible.

While I am only in my second year as Executive Director, I have been part of the HCC community for nearly half of its history. With that, I have had the privilege of witnessing many eras of leadership, artistry, and growth, which has shaped how I understand this organization and its purpose. Over the years, HCC has often navigated an essential tension: are we a community choir, or a renowned artistic institution with an international reputation? This anniversary season made the answer clearer than it's ever been: we are both. Accessibility and excellence are not competing values at HCC; they are one in the same. We believe deeply that every child who wants to sing should be able to find a home here, and that a strong, connected community is what allows artistic ambition to flourish.

As we celebrate our history, we now look towards our future, and how we can keep Hamilton's 'community-oriented renowned artistic institution' around for another 50 years. It's an honour to dig into this work alongside my co-leader, Melanie Tellez, and our incredible team of staff, board, volunteers, choristers, and families, and for them to share the excitement I feel towards our future.

With gratitude,



Gillian Alexander, Executive Director



.....

Our Programs by the Numbers

14

Poka

17

Kolibro Eta

21

Kolibro Juna

21

Kolibro Kantisto

36

Komenci

37

Esplori

10

Lumo

37

Esprimas

35

Ilumini

227 Choristers

.....

Ritual & Remembering Annual Winter Concert

709 Audience Members



Guest Artist **1** Rachel Nolan

155 Choristers
Komenci, Esplori, Lumo,
Esprimas, & Ilumini



Hamilton Children's Choir's 50th Anniversary Winter Concert

Ritual & Remembering

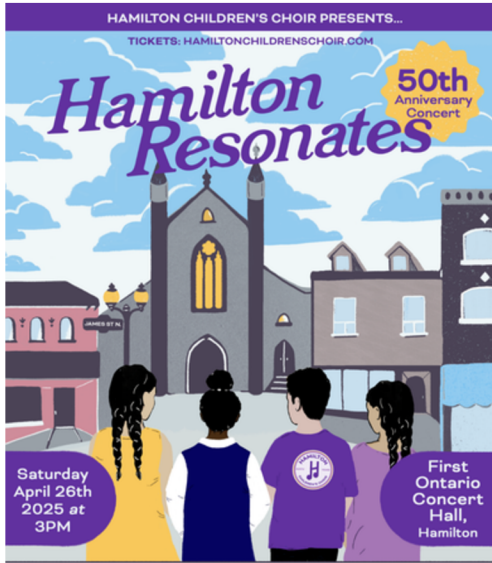
Featuring Benjamin Britten's iconic Ceremony of Carols
With special guest Rachel Nolan, harp

On Saturday
December 7th 2024
at 4:00PM & 7:00PM

Location
Faith United Church,
Hamilton

Tickets: hamiltonchildrenschoir.com

Hamilton Resonates: 50th Anniversary Annual Spring Concert



1089 Audience Members



213 Choristers
Kolibro, Komenci, Esplori,
Lumo, Esprimas, Ilumini




6 Guest Choirs



Echo Chamber Ilumini Feature Performance

Hamilton Children's Choir presents
Ilumini Feature Concert:



Echo Chamber

June 7th at 8pm at the Cotton Factory
Tickets: hamiltonchildrenschoir.com or QR code below

183 Audience Members



35 Ilumini Choristers



Touring

Ottawa and Montreal



HAMILTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER TOUR

JUNE 30 ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, OTTAWA
 JULY 1 NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE, OTTAWA
 JULY 2 CAMMAC MUSIC CENTRE, HARRINGTON
 JULY 3 BON-PASTEUR CHURCH, LAVAL
 JULY 4 CHAPELLE NOTRE-DAME-DE-BON-SECOURS, MONTREAL

Ottawa-Montreal

50 YEARS



MORE INFORMATION AT HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM

incite
 FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS
 Providing funding in support of the
 Ontario Ministry of Culture and Heritage

CAF
 Canada Arts Foundation

Hamilton

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

CAMERON WARD 2
 KROETSCH
 City Councillor

Fundraising



**Singathon 2024
5 Care Homes
\$9092 Raised**



YOU'RE INVITED
to the
HAMILTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR
50th
BIRTHDAY PARTY + FUNDRAISER

WHEN
FEBRUARY 22ND
11AM - 3PM

WHERE
BRIDGEWORKS
(200 CAROLINE ST. NORTH)

MUSIC, FACE PAINT, SILENT AUCTION, JUGGLING AND MORE!

ALL AGES WELCOME; KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE



**2025 Annual Fundraiser
\$10,087 raised**



Community Outreach



Sing as you Are

A FREE POP-UP CHOIR FOR KIDS!

**SATURDAY
MAY 24
10:00 AM
VALLEY PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

LEARN MORE AT
HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM



Sing As You Are

This year, we held six FREE Sing As You Are sessions across the city, including:

- Hamilton Public Library
- Strathcona Elementary's SAGE Program
- Pride Hamilton Celebrations



Summer Singing Camp

.....
JULY 21 - 25, 2025
DOWNTOWN HAMILTON
.....

**IMMERSE YOURSELF
IN VOCAL MUSIC
THIS SUMMER!**

- ♪ No experience necessary
- ♪ Daily music programming
- ♪ \$50 camp fee!
(Yes! You read that right!)



incite
FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS
Providing funding in support of the
visual and performing arts in Hamilton



SPACE IS LIMITED. BURSARIES AVAILABLE.
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT
HAMILTONCHILDRENSCHOIR.COM.

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 102 campers for a week of singing and summer fun!

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

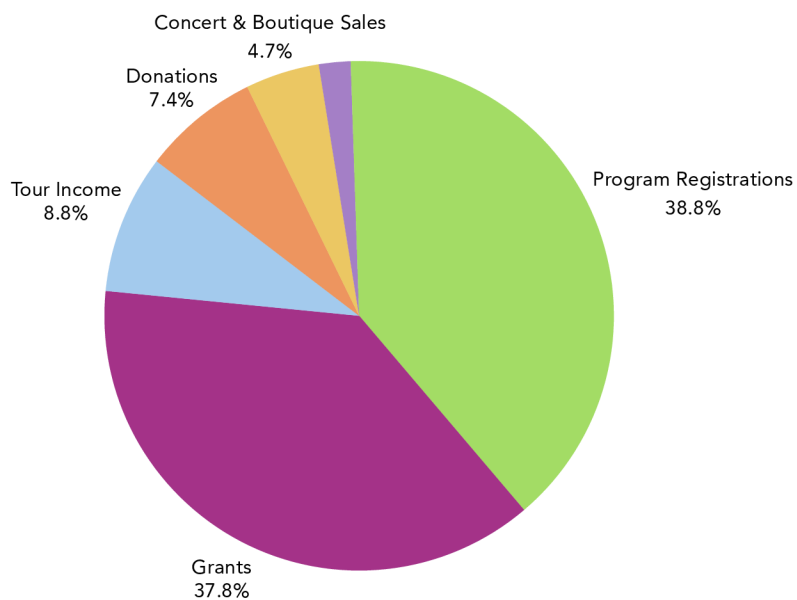
Social Media Analytics



Financial Statements

Revenue

Revenue	
Program Registrations	\$219,919
Grants	\$214,116
Tour Income	\$49,992
Donations	\$41,838
Concert & Boutique Sales	\$26,655
Fundraising	\$11,390
Interest and other income	\$2,993
TOTAL REVENUE	\$566,903.00



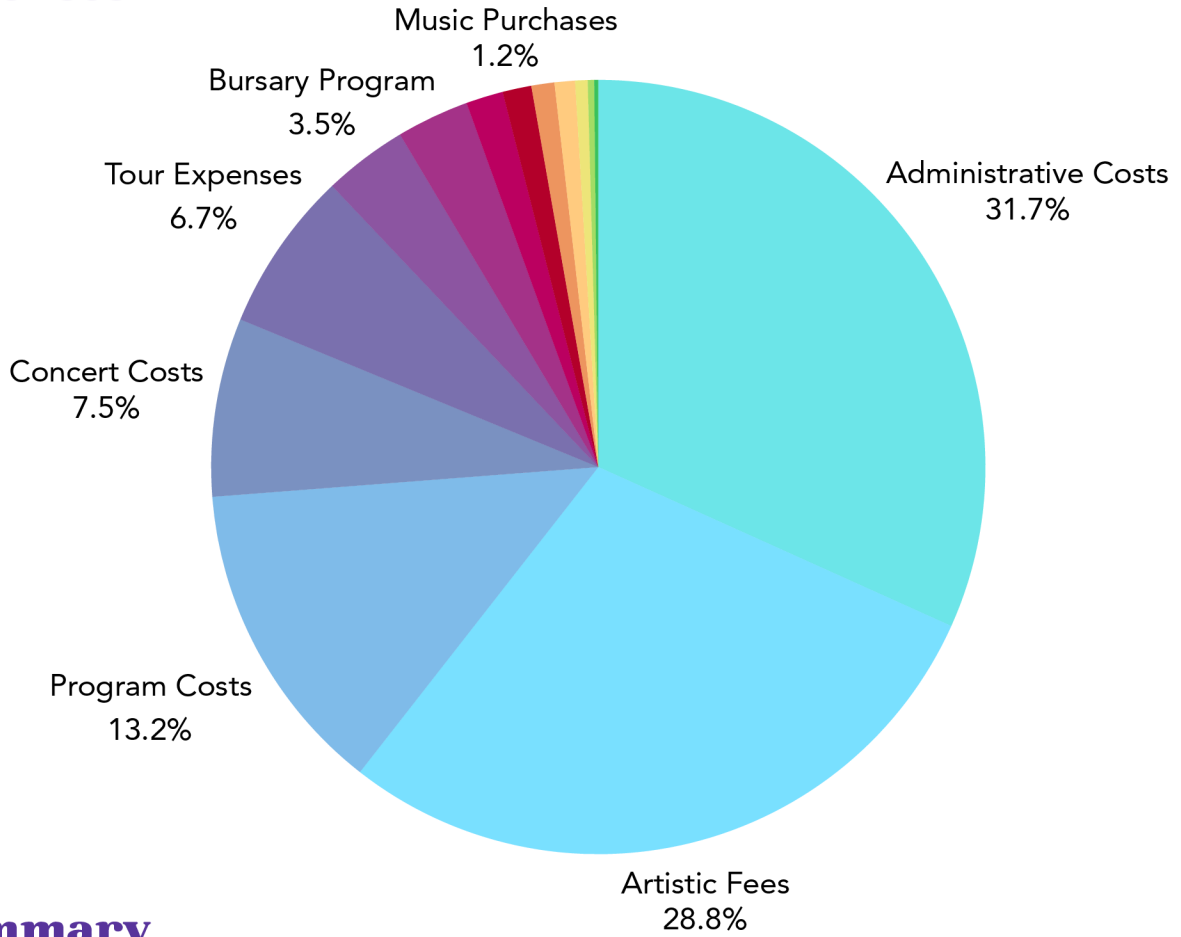
Financial Summary

Expenses

Expense	
Administrative Costs	\$186,146
Artistic Fees	\$169,047
Program Costs	\$77,513
Concert Costs	\$43,703
Tour Expenses	\$39,354
Bursary Program	\$20,583
Accounting and Audit Fees	\$17,781
Fundraising	\$9,093
Music Purchases	\$7,057
Uniforms and Choir Bags	\$5,631
Advertising and Promotion	\$5,008
Office	\$3,061
Interest and Bank Charges	\$1,571
Amortization	\$976
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$586,424

Financial Summary

Expenses



Summary

Deficit	-\$19,521
Other Income (Expenses) Foreign Exchange	-\$7
TOTAL DEFICIT	-\$19,528

Our Funders



\$125,796



Hamilton

\$52,265



\$19,756



\$12,290



Government of Canada

\$3394

Canada Summer Jobs

PayPal

Giving Fund

\$213



Our Donors

Thank you to our individual donors! HCC recognizes donors for any contribution during the 2024/25 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+

Anonymous
Lionel & Wendy Teed

\$1000-\$9999

Anonymous
Donald Kendrick
Jaime Corneil

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
Caitlin Fralick
Dorothy Greenwood

Dr Diane Dent
Gather Montessori

John Wheeler
Suzanne Shulman

\$250-\$499

Anna's Hair Salon
Anonymous
Chocolat on James
Dave Fish
De La Sol Yoga Studios
Dr. Disc

Emily Copps
James Lefebvre
Marilyn G. Anderson
Melanie Tellez
Niagara Parks

Private Giving Foundation
Sarah Trend
Stella Ogundipe
The Ten Spot
Waterdown Music Academy

\$100-\$249

Amanda Slade
Ana & Mike Kardalos
Anabelle Ragsag
Andrew Syrett
Anna Rozenberg
Ayethida Walker
Barbecue's Galore
Becky & Richard Hollingsworth

Brenda Mills
Catherine Oliver
Cecile De Medeiros
Cellar Door Wine Experience
Christina Y Yin
Deborah Redwood
Donald Wray
Dorothy Gruggen

Dundas Valley Montessori School
Elizabeth Corneil
Elizabeth Hutchison
Elyse Reynolds
Erik Dokic
Evelyn Veale
Gillian Alexander
J .G. Wakefield

J Barry McIsaac
James Hetmanek and
Christianna Facey-Crowther
Jamie Allen
Jamie Drake
Jane Earle
Janet McNally
Jason Walker
Jeff McIsaac
Jennifer Hompoth
Joann MacLaughlin
Joanna Sue
Joel Hilchey
John McNally
Jonathan Richardson
Joon Kim

Ken and Margaret Richardson
Longhui Zhao
Lynda Beard
Lynlee Stern
Malivoire Winery
Marg Resney
Martina McIsaac
Martinus Geleynse
Mary Gingerich
Mary Hart
McIntyre Performing Arts
Center
Mirela Boskovic
Nikolaos Fine Foods
Peter Malysewich
Reg Good

Richard Bull
Robert Van Wyck
Roger Blaesz
Ruby Weresch
Rustic Succulents Hamilton
Sharmeen Jacobs
Shawn & Ed Brewing Company
Stoneridge Insurance Brokers
Sue Dunlop
Thom Weresch
Tom Fleming
Tracy McDonald
Wendy Bodsworth
Wink Glass Studio
Yvonne Sell

Up to \$99

Adele Pierre Landscape Architect
Alexa Jayatunge
Alexe Bernier
Andre Hladio
Andrea Ferretti
Anna Gusenbauer
Anna Walsd
Anne Macios
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anwar Qureshi
Architect Hair Design
Aron and Brittany Berger
Ashley Gillis
Baiba Bredovskis
Barry Shepherd
Beth Carey
Beth Mackay Reilly
Bill Blackborow
Bill Pickering
Brennagh Burns
Carel and Irene Geleynse
Cecilia Boss
Chris Eckart

Christi Hodgson
Christina Chmilenko
Christine Sandor
Christine Tiller
Claire Wiersma
Clara Theiss
Claude Dallaire
Cynthia Sun
Dan Wang
Dana McKechnie
Danielle Cheeseman
Danny Tang
David Geleynse
Dawn Grant Artistry
Debbie Corcoran
Denise Pinto
Dennis Kehler
Derek & Ingrid Stevens
Dianne Wiersma
Donna Barber
Donna Tulhurst
Eileen and David Berger
Eric Bosch
Erin Mahabir

Eva Hegedus
Frank van der Veen
Gessie Stearns
Gilbert Le Oal
Ginet Segui Lines
Glen Kennedy
Glenn Fletcher
Gloria Lines Cabrera
Goodman-Wise Family
Gordon Muise
Greta Mills-Rode
Heather Ley
Heather Osler-Beard
Heather Plewes
Heidi Nelson
Hema Sickand
Henriqueta Guagliano
Hong Li
Ilona Spleit
James Bobiak
Jane Fish
Jeannie Wilson
Jenn Roberts
Jennifer Hamilton

Jennifer Kreidl Real Estate
Jennifer McNally
Jennifer Stearns
Jeremy Spies
Joan and George Jahn
Joan Horlings
John & Debbie Damaia
John Livesey
John Singh
Joshua Weresch
Judy Matthews
Judy Redmond
Julie Bobiak
Julie Brown
Kady Sumner
Karen Camporese
Karl Wald
Kathy Warrick
Katrysha Gellis & Andrew White
Keith Dechert
Kimberley Horlings
Kristel Forcier
Kristina Beifuss
Lara Bowditch
Laura Turcotte
Laura Wilson
Laurie O'Neill
Linda Kolol
Linda LeBaron
Linda Pillinini
Linda Rogers
Lisa Allen
Liz Foster
Lolkje Greidanus
Lori Johnston
Lukaya Cafe
Lynn Allan
Lynn Kaufman
Maila Villarica
Manisha Hladio
Marcus Scholtes
Margaret Bernier
Maria Geleynse
Marion Power
Marsha Desjardine
Marta McCarthy
Martin Saichios
Mary Jo Morrison
Matt Skinner
Matthew Guagliano
MayLynne Emiry
Melissa Cortez
Millie Butler
Mindy and Howard Goodman
Na Yang
Nina Geleynse
Ontario Royals Baseball Club
Patricia Stearns
Patti Stefanovic
Patty McNiven
Paul Grimwood
PayPal Giving Fund Canada
Prachi Gupta
Rebecca Comley &
Christian Finley
Riccardo Fontani
Rob Stringer
Robert Pawliw
Robynne Millie
Rosemary Olivier
Roxanne Cheeseman
Royal Botanical Gardens
Ruth Calanoga
Ruth Church
Sam Colaiacovo
Sandra Wilson
Sara Traficante
Sarah & Steve McNiven-Scott
Sarah Shallwani
Sean Bienhans
Sean Fuller
Shawn Mooney
Shinyang Kim
Sid Bakker
Siobhan Lynch
Sophia Kehler
Stan Sheeler
Stephen Singh
Strathcona Market (MRKTBX)
Susan and Iain Howieson
Susan McNally
Susan Welstead
Suzanne Filice
Tabinda Khan
Tamara Kwapich
Tammy Lowe
Tania Pidlysnny
Teresa Sandhu
Teri Trewolla
The Keg
The Move Room
Tina Falbo
Trudy Burnside
United Way Halton & Hamilton
Vaishali Vajpayee
Val Reilly
Wayne Stearns
William Hrycenko

Our Team

Artistic Staff

Melanie Tellez	Artistic Director, Conductor: Ilumini
Kate Boose	Conductor: Esplori
Caitlyn Breukelman	Conductor: Esprimas
Brent Fifield	Conductor: Komenci
Dion Flores	Conductor: Lumo
Leslie Kent	Conductor: Kolibro
Anjanette Bailey	Collaborative Accompanist: Esplori
Jason Lee	Collaborative Accompanist: Esprimas
Brie-Anne Meyer	Collaborative Accompanist: Kolibro
Laura Pin	Collaborative Accompanist: Ilumini
Bohdana Liashko	Collaborative Accompanist: Komenci
Isabela Antunes	Rehearsal Assistant: Esprimas
Hannah Bailey	Rehearsal Assistant: Ilumini
Tracy Cai	Rehearsal Assistant: Komenci
Kanzy Elmaghraby	Rehearsal Assistant: Kolibro
Mary Kokoski	Rehearsal Assistant: Kolibro
André Lorenz Feria	Rehearsal Assistant: Esplori
Michaela Segreto	Rehearsal Assistant: Kolibro

Administrative Staff

Gillian Alexander	Executive Director
Annie Horton	Marketing & Events Specialist
Courtney Porch	Program Manager
Aghadir Sassi	Financial Administrator
Hannah Bailey	Program Coordinator (Summer Position)
Vicky Robinson	Program Coordinator (Summer Position)

Board of Directors

Emily Copps, Chair	Nina Geleynse, Director
Caitlin Fralick, Vice-Chair	Steve McKay, Director
Mark Lee, Secretary	Wade Poziomka, Director
Tabinda Khan, Treasurer	W. Ian Walker, Director
Catherine Anderson, Director	Robert Wakulat, Director
Nate Broughton, Director	

Message from our Board Chair

This year marked a truly extraordinary milestone for the Hamilton Children's Choir as we proudly celebrated our 50th season. Our golden anniversary featured a number of events that focused on reflection, connection, and celebration. In April, we presented Hamilton Resonates, our 50th anniversary concert at FirstOntario Concert Hall, featuring cherished alumni alongside several outstanding local guest choirs. To commemorate the occasion, we created special 50th anniversary merchandise and released a compilation album, Throughout the Ages, highlighting the rich musical legacy of HCC across five decades. These initiatives required immense dedication from our staff and volunteers, and we are proud to share that each was met with tremendous enthusiasm and success.

Over the past 50 years, HCC has grown into a vibrant organization serving more than 200 singers annually, from toddlers through high school. Our programs build strong musicianship while fostering joy, belonging, and access to choral music; none of this would be possible without our exceptional artistic and administrative team, whose passion and expertise ensure the continued excellence of our programming.

Throughout our anniversary year, we were proud to continue longstanding collaborations with valued partners, including the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Telling Tales Festival, and Supercrawl. We also expanded our artistic network by forging new connections with two Quebec choirs, the Petits-Chanteurs de Laval and École de musique Vincent-d'Indy. A particular highlight of the year was Illumini's performance with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa on Canada Day, an unforgettable experience for our singers and a moment of national recognition for HCC.

Accessibility remains central to our mission. We are deeply grateful for a significant anonymous gift that will strengthen our Financial Award Program at a time when the need for support continues to grow.

Despite ongoing challenges facing arts organizations, we remain committed to our work thanks to the generosity of donors and funders. We thank the incite Foundation for the Arts, the City of Hamilton, the Ontario Arts Council, and our broader community for helping ensure HCC's continued impact for generations to come.

Emily Copps

Emily Copps
Chair, Board of Directors



