

Annual Report

Season 56

2020-21

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Lafayette
Master Chorale
& Children's Choir

Gioco | Michael Bennett, Artistic Director



Thank you! Thank you for helping us through this strange year. While not one note of sound was created together in person, there were some beautiful moments along the way amidst the prolonged silence. I am very proud that we have come through this mostly silent 56th season in a position to continue our mission of promoting, inspiring, educating, enriching and leading through song.

I was reminded of the importance of our mission while spending time in conversation last summer and fall with many people involved with our organization. I enjoyed spending time with current singer Alaina Orchard, former singers David Kubiak and Marylin Howland Ross, Managing Director Cindy Gerlach and former Artistic Director William Jon Gray. The time spent reminiscing about the organization's past successes, that which draws singers and patrons to our ensembles and audiences, and the excitement for our future, were most enjoyable and provided much needed visibility during a time we were otherwise not present in the community. Thanks to those and others who sat down with Cindy Gerlach and me to promote our continuing existence.

Despite not being able to sing together we were fortunate to have the means to produce two online performances. As for most choruses nationwide, this was a brand-new performance medium. With the assistance of an audio/visual professional, the chorale was able to record their individual voices at home and have them combined into a

beautiful, acoustically pleasant result with a delightful and engaging visual. In December a large number of singers performed "A Christmas Blessing" by Philip Stopford, which has over the last few years become the conclusion of the Candlelight & Carols concerts. The performance had over 7,000 views on Facebook and YouTube and brought joy to so many people in what was a very difficult time during the pandemic. In May a smaller group of singers performed "As If We Never Said Goodbye" by Andrew Lloyd Webber. This popular tune from *Sunset Boulevard* seemed apropos as we plan to return to a regular season this coming fall.

Despite the challenges of adapting to this new way of singing "together," there were several positive outcomes. As previously mentioned, our online viewership was not insignificant! Our presence reached so many people who were introduced to or reminded of the beauty we create. Another benefit was that we were able to include singers who have moved away since our last live concert. Additionally, some local singers were out of town when they submitted their recording! Thank you to everyone who participated in this daunting effort.

While there were fewer meetings and tasks to attend to this year, our dedicated leadership supported each other in new ways. Thank you to Colleen Green, Cindy Gerlach, Karen Goff and Kirs Seagraves for all that you did. As I said recently to a group of our donors, it's the people involved in various aspects of our institution that continue to make the Lafayette Master Chorale & Children's Choir a viable and respected entity. Thank you! ☺

Allegro | William McInerney, Board President



What a strange, strange year. Who could have guessed, as we stood in St. Boniface, basking in the enthusiastic applause from our packed house, that our brilliant production of *Messiah* would bring down the curtain on our performances? Through all of this most difficult of years I have been heartened, however, in many ways. First, our public has stuck with us. Fundraising has gone incredibly well for a group that has put on no concerts. We've stayed in the public eye with our two virtual performances, and our terrific series of video interviews (all of which are still available on our website!). Our social media presence

has remained strong. And now, as vaccinations become more widespread and society struggles back to something approaching normal, I am heartened by the people I encounter who tell me how much they are looking forward to our concerts again. For a group that doesn't sing, we've remained remarkably relevant!

How did we do that? Well, our board and committees have remained steadfast. Meetings have continued. Our conductors have continued to think and plan, especially Michael, who has sketched out several concert scenarios for the upcoming year, all of it dependent on the virus, of course. And we are becoming more and more confident

that a full season is possible. Our office staff and volunteers in the office have done yeoman work, as always. Thanks to Rick Lodde for work on the budget and finances, and to Vicki Bower, Hannah Gibson and others who keep our records up to date. Thanks to Kay Conner and her army of volunteers who make our Phone-a-Thon so successful year after year, and thanks to the committee members, board members, officers and staff who been so faithful in this strange time.

But above all, thanks to Cindy Gerlach, our Managing Director. Cindy is the glue that holds the organization together, and the fountain from which our good ideas spring. She is tireless in her efforts to build and promote the Lafayette Master Chorale organization. We are truly fortunate to have her steering the ship.

So: Who's up for some choral music? I look forward to seeing everyone at our first concert! ☺

Legato | Cindy Gerlach, Managing Director



When I stepped into the role of Managing Director back in January 2020, it is safe to say that no one — absolutely no one — could have predicted what lay ahead. The events of March 2020 and the continuing aftermath of this pandemic have reshaped the arts world as we once knew it. There was no playbook, no road map for how to move forward — not for us nor any of our arts colleagues.

So the question became, What happens in a season when we cannot perform? How do we stay relevant; how do we keep our name out there? We had to be innovative and inventive; we had to think of a way for a choral music group to continue when the one thing we do was possibly the most dangerous activity out there.

Luckily for us, it became clear that no one wanted to see us go away. From our singers, our audience and our patrons to local, state and federal resources, there has been abundant support. The message has been unanimous: We do matter. The arts — singing together — is critical for our survival as a species. And people have stepped up to make it happen.

So, while this season has been strange, odd, lonely and isolating, we have come through it. We took the time to work behind the scenes, doing some revamping of the Children's Choir, of how we manage our organization — changes that

you may not see but will make us more efficient. We created a series of videos to introduce you to people who have supported and sustained us for years, who were willing to share with us exactly why this organization is important to them, the meaning it brings to their lives. And even in a season where we could not perform a live concert, we did manage to produce two musical numbers, taking advantage of new technology.

I am deeply moved by the strong support we have gotten from all directions. Thank you to our arts colleagues, and to the granting organizations that have supported us financially for so many years: the Allen Whitehill Clowes Foundation, the Indiana Arts Commission, the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, and the Lafayette Life Foundation. Thank you to our board and committee members who have worked so diligently.

Thank you, too, to our donors. Your support has truly made the difference in this most offbeat of years. It is your generosity that will make it possible for us to start a new season. And for that we are more grateful than mere words can express.

And my heartfelt appreciation goes out to John Polles, Marcy Miller, Bill McInerney and Michael Bennett. These four have offered guidance and wisdom over the past year, as we made our way through uncharted territory. I look forward to beginning a new season when we will, once again, make beautiful music together. ☺

Leitmotif | Our Mission

Our Mission Statement

To promote, support and sustain interest in choral music by providing opportunities for singers of all ages to learn and perform under the direction of professional musicians.

To inspire the citizens with programs featuring great choral music performed at the highest artistic level.

To educate future generations by providing music education opportunities for youth in our community.

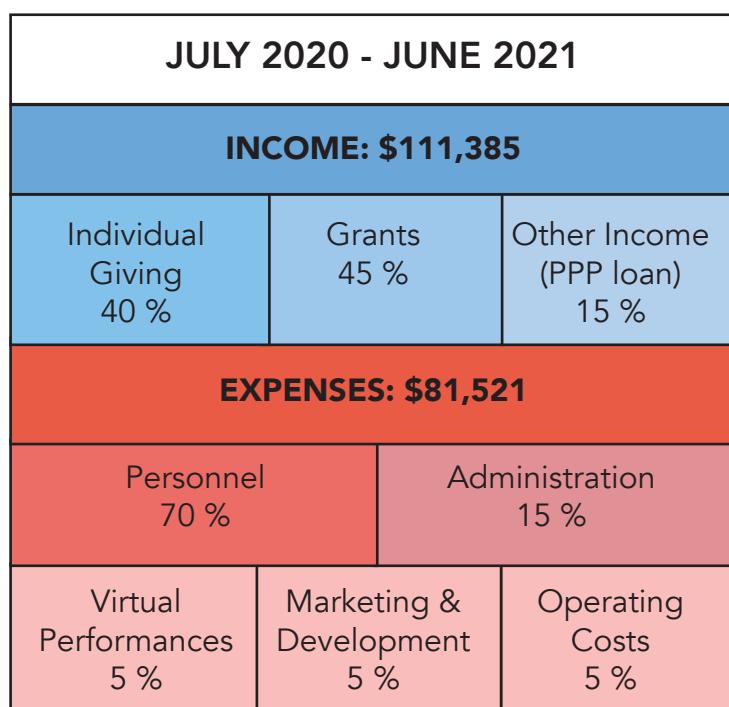
To enrich the lives of singers and audience by linking them to diverse musical heritages.

To lead the arts community by creating opportunities to incorporate various art forms in our performances and to collaborate with other arts groups.

Capriccio | Season 56 by the Numbers

9 videos in the Behind the Scenes series | **87** Crooked Branch cocktails sold at Bistro for the No-Show Gala | **2** Virtual Performances | **3** Appearances on WLFI in one evening | **7,000** views on Facebook and YouTube | **9** Grant applications submitted and approved | **1,400** calls made for Phone-a-Thon | **15** meetings over Zoom | **5** Takes to wrap the first video | **1** take for every subsequent video | **6** Concerts postponed until next season | **148** individual donors this season (an increase of 34 over last season) | **233** Donor acknowledgement letters signed and mailed

Obbligato | Financials



***as of June 8, 2021*

Ritardando

Behind the Scenes

with the



Lafayette
Master Chorale
& Children's Choir



Managing Director Cindy Gerlach interviews Artistic Director Michael Bennett.



Cindy Gerlach sits down with Rahul Durai, a member of the Lafayette Children's Choir, and his mother, Malathi Raghavan.



Michael Bennett and Cindy Gerlach invite patrons to participate in the "No-Show" Gala with a signature cocktail at Bistro 501.

We introduced our patrons to some of the people who help make our organization possible through a series of videos, *Behind the Scenes*. Featuring:

Michael Bennett
Marylin Howland-Ross
Colleen Green & Kirsi Seagraves
Sheila Klinker
Rahul Durai & Malathi Raghavan
LMC History/Gail Polles
Alaina Orchard
David Kubiak
William Jon Gray



Managing Director Cindy Gerlach sits down with State Rep. Sheila Klinker.



Michael Bennett visits with long-time supporter Marylin Howland-Ross.



A virtual invitation to our "No-Show" Gala this fall — we would have loved to gather in person, but alas, it was not possible.

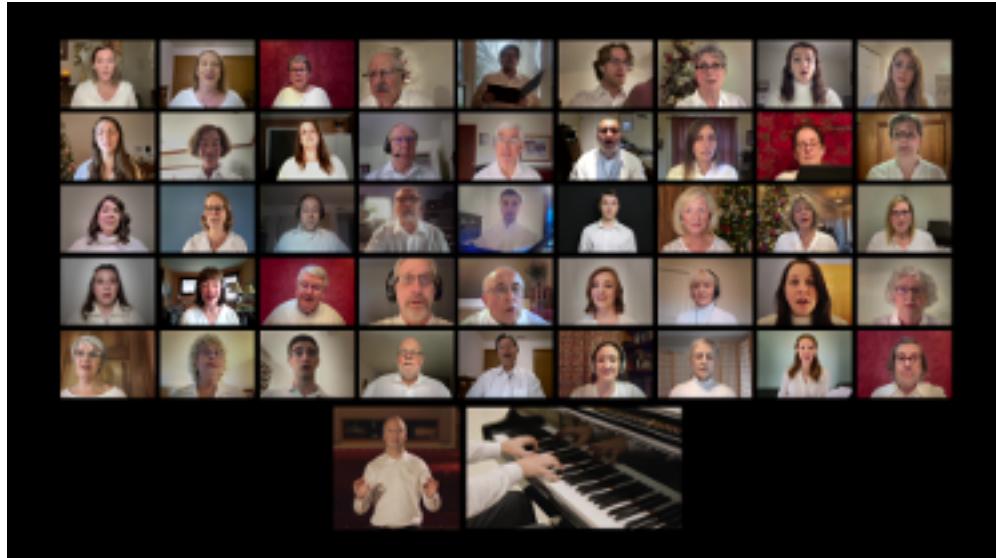
All videos are available on our website, lafayettemasterchorale.org.

a tempo | Virtual Performances

A Christmas Blessing

By Philip Stopford

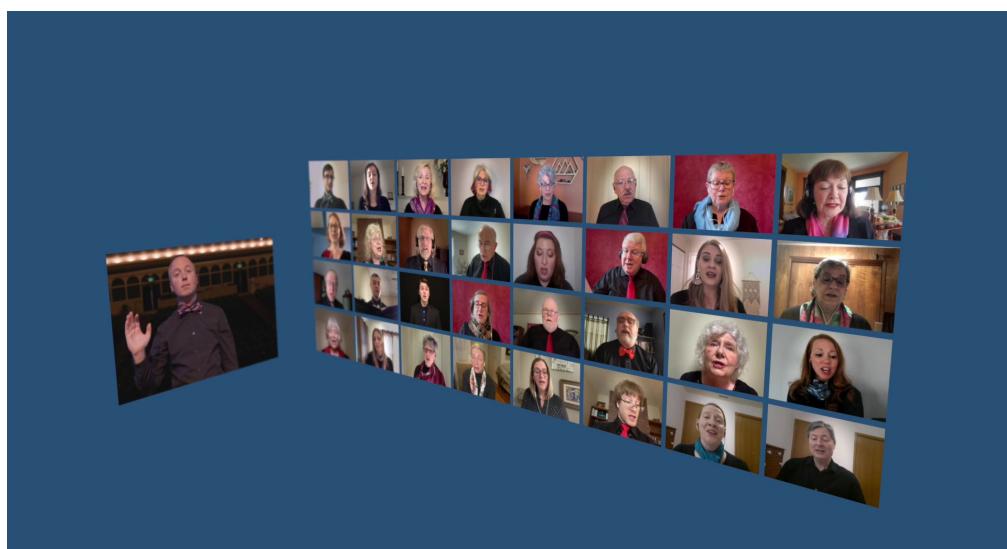
Virtual Performance | December 2020



As If We Never Said Goodbye

By Andrew Lloyd Webber

Virtual Performance | May 2021



forte | Season 56 Individual Donors

Director's Club (\$1,000 and up)

Jane & Roger Bennett
Kay Conner & Dick Walton
Christy & Jeff Denault
Cindy Gerlach & Gary Mueller
Sue Green & Ray Dubea
Jocelyn & John Grutzner
Judy Hamilton
Susan & Mark Hermodson
Caryl Matthews & Don Nead
Olynn & William McInerney
Gail & John Polles
Marylin Howland-Ross & James Ross
Mary & Gilbert Satterly
Cynthia Stauffacher
Patti & Bob Truitt

Patron (\$500-999)

Lloyd & Steve Brewer
Harriet & Gordon Coppoc
Polly & Patrick Egan
Carolyn Jones
Kerry & Scott Kiphart
Thomas Ruzicka
Catherine & Ken Sandhage
Joseph Venable

Benefactor (\$250-499)

Elizabeth & John Barrett
Sandy & James Bodenmiller
Vicki Bower
Nancy & Karl Brandt
Hilary Cooke & Greg Buzzard
Jan & Richard Dilley
Tracy & Andy Fristoe
Phyllis & Michael Hunt
Sheila Klinker
Harrison Kiwanis
Susan & William Lapcheska
Melanie Manges
Elaine & Kenley McMIndes
Suzanne & James Paine
Roger Pattison
Ann & Louis Pellegrino
William Peugeot
Jane & Charles Rutledge
Elizabeth & John Schneider
Jean Tyner

Associate (\$100-249)

Cathy & Jack Barron
Reed & Paul Benhamou
James Buescher
Mary Campbell
Faye Cole
Nancy & Stephen Cook
Jane Creswell
Beth & Mike Dana
Gail Dodge

Sandra Donahue

Charlotte Erdmann

Janie & Ephraim Fischbach

Suzanne & Patrick Fletcher

Tanya & Kevin Foster

Renée Gaarder

Michele & Richard Goebel

Sally Goeke

William Gorman

Leslie Wineland Goss

Susan & James Gothard

Sherri & Vincent Guido

Kathy & Theodore Heise

Paul Helgerman

Jo & Jurgen Honig

Julie Huetteman

Sallie & Kirk Janowiak

June & Neil Knobloch

David Kubiak

Marilyn & Randy Leigh

Nancy & Clayton Lein

Deb & John Lindenlaub

Paulette & Richard Lodde

Carol & David Luhman

Shirley & Jim Marciniak

Linda Martin

Jonnie & Kenny McCleary

Carolyn & John McGlone

Marie & Peter Meckl

Marcy Miller

Connie Million

Margaret Moffatt

Emily Ohland

Michael Parks

Jean & Reuben Peterson

Donna & Dave Peterson

Debra & Rick Pettry

Betty & Tim Polles

Linda L. Prokopy

Patti & Dale Purcell

Josette Rolley

Margaret & Stewart Saunders

Cecil Shoemaker

Jillaine & Orlo Shoop

Bryan E. Smith

Ralph Smith

Shelley & Michael Macdermid Wadsworth

Dan Weerts

Ashley & Stephen Wien

Carol & Bob Williamson

Harold Woodman

Connie Workman

Lucy Wyatt

Friend (Up to \$99)

Marilyn Barnard

Gail & Alan Beck

Kelly & Dan Berger

Janice Brennan

Gail Brickler

Philomena Daly

Rebecca & Michael Dunn

Char Elle-En

Beth Galbreath

Sheena Gaskell

Sue Gibson

Charlotte & Steve Gray

Catherine Hatvani

Diane Hebert

Ludmila & Merwyn Jacob

Roberta Keirce

Grace & Vic Lechtenberg

Kathryn & John McGraw

Ann Mitchell

Kathleen Mitchell

Marilyn & Van Neie

Christine & Jim Pitoukkas

Karen & Christopher Plantenga

Patti & Dale Purcell

Rachel & Jeffrey Ravellette

Dania Remaly

Jane Rinehart

Patricia Rosen

Amanda Rumba

Debra & Louis Sherman

Sara & Wesley Shoop

Barbara Sondgerath

Jo & Joe Sullivan

Amy Sweet

Jennifer & Thomas Talavage

Ann & Arthur Taylor

Emily Ulrich

Julia Verville

Ann Williams

Rosemary Young

Donation to Goodson Endowment

Lynn & Carl Griffin

In-Kind Donations

Ted Fondak

Ronald Marhling Jr.

Foundation Support

Allen Whitehill Clowes Foundation

Indiana Arts Commission

Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette

Lafayette Life Foundation

Acknowledgments

Bistro 501 No-Show Gala

Karl Brandt Gift acknowledgments

Kay Conner Phone-a-Thon

Jack Klink Virtual Performances

Sylvia Mueller Video Production

Gail Polles Office volunteer

**as of June 10, 2021



Lafayette
Master Chorale
& Children's Choir

Board of Directors

William McInerney, President
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LCC Co-Director

Kirsi Seagraves
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Chorale Accompanist

Lisa Johnson Mott
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LCC Accompanist