



Hamilton  
Children's  
Choir

2020/21

# OUR IMPACT



# STAYING CONNECTED



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# MESSAGES FROM OUR

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I really enjoyed last season! I was online last year for school so for me HCC, even over zoom, was a source of community, friends, stimulation, and new memories. Although zoom rehearsals are in no way the same as the elation experienced when singing together in-person, I believe HCC created the best possible online platform. I have incredible memories of guest conductors and composers from across the world, for example Michael Barret who gave us insight into South African compositions. I was also honoured to be a part of the Philippines Project that brought choirs from so many countries and cultures together in virtual song.

Throughout the entire season, the positivity and energy of all the artistic staff: Zimfira, Laura, Jamie, and Melanie pushed every chorister to do the best they could, to send in recordings, and to participate in two virtual concerts that embodied the adaptability of HCC.

Overall, I may have missed being able to hug my choir family and I may have rather been curled up in bed instead of at a zoom meeting on some cold winter days, but I continued to learn new choral skills, new repertoire, and engage in new experiences during the season.

HCC has been my life, my community, and my happy place for 10 years. Since I was 7 years old HCC has been teaching me all the skills I need to go through life. How to manage time, how to memorize (lots and lots and lots of songs), how to show dedication, how to always put my best self forward, how to have stage presence, and more. HCC has been responsible for developing all my leadership skills and the confidence I feel in myself. And I have no doubt that the memories of concerts, Supercrawls, treble-fests, tours to Newfoundland and Hong Kong will stay with me forever. I will always remember meeting choirs from across Asia in Hong Kong and the feeling in the closing concert as everyone around me was crying. I will always keep the friends I have made in choir. And I will always feel very grateful for all the happy years.

- Lilly R., Illumini



# CHORISTERS...

I have been a part of HCC for more than half my life. I've gotten to experience so many highs and lows along with my fellow choristers over the years all over the world. Being forced online was never something I saw happening with HCC, because how could you sing together if you aren't together?

Somehow we made it work. It came with many challenges, but also new experiences that we never would've gotten if we were still rehearsing in person.

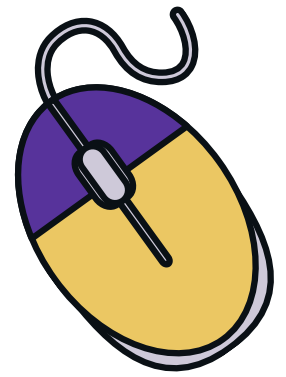
One of the bonuses of being online meant that we could have workshops with professionals from around the world; we could learn directly from the composer what they intended with the song when normally we don't have that opportunity. It allowed us to connect more authentically with each song and find special meanings within the piece to help keep us motivated.

I was able to take part in a global collaboration with choirs from around the world. Watching the final video was very moving seeing the way everyone blended together. While there were lots of positives to take away from the season there were so many times I felt unmotivated and lost sight of the big picture. Being online was a big adjustment, I had to focus harder and rid myself of the many distractions surrounding me at home. I missed talking to my friends and socializing because that sense of community is so strong at HCC. However, watching our final online concert and getting to see Illumini's final video put together as well as the other ensembles made it worthwhile.

- Emilie M., Illumini Chorister



# HOW OUR 166 SINGERS STAYED CONNECTED



20  
Kolibro

+

21  
Komenci

+

27  
Esplori

+

36  
Esprimas

+

50  
Ilumini

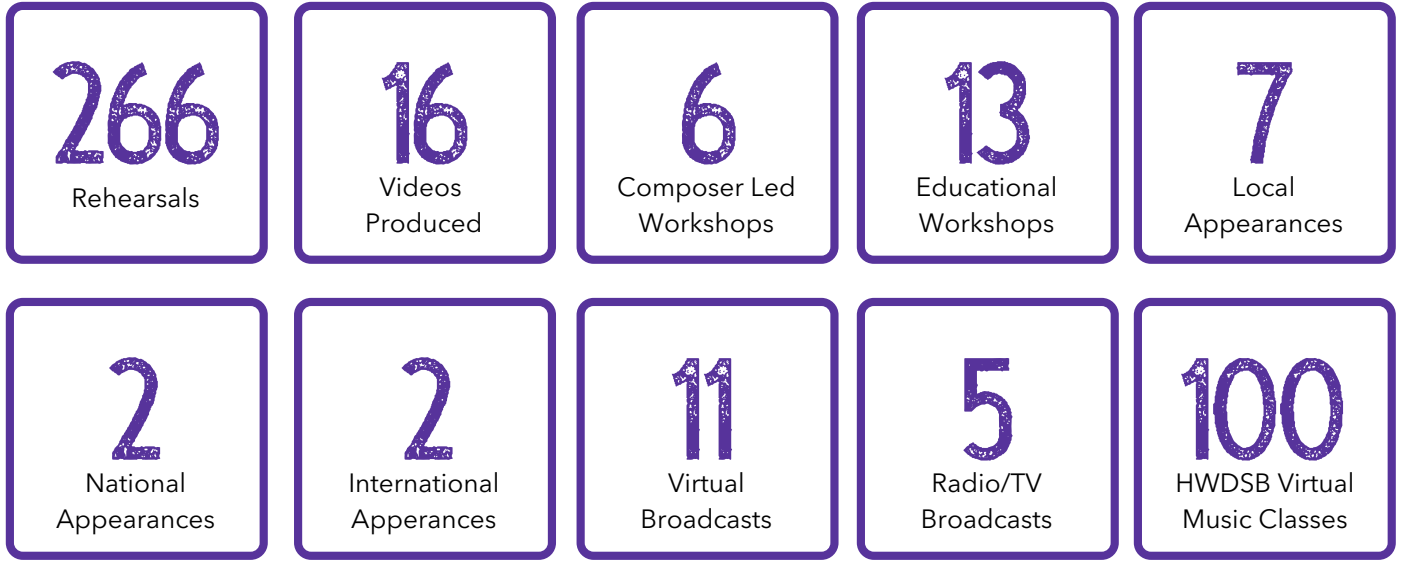
+

12  
Profunda

=

166 SINGERS

# SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



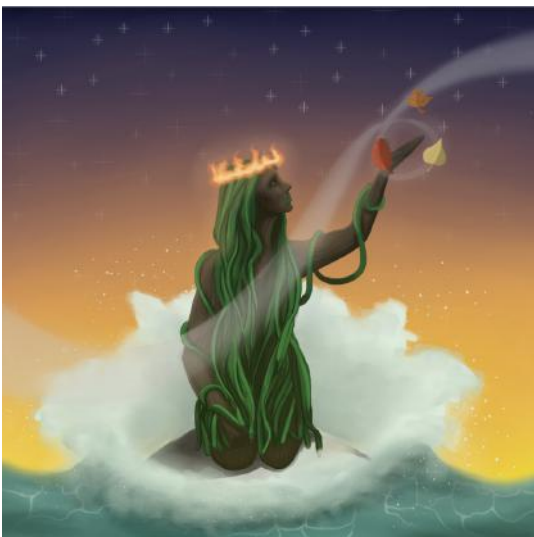
## ONLINE CONCERTS

TRADITIONS IN A NEW WORLD

4.7k views

ANCHORED

2k views



## NEW ALBUM RELEASE

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW - AVAILABLE ON ALL STREAMING SERVICES AND OUR ONLINE STORE!



Our first playlist: "Turlutte Acadienne Montréalaise" featured on Spotify's Classical New Releases playlist

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR..

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In 2020-2021, we continued to face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but our staff and singers managed to continue to learn, grow, and innovate together.

Thank goodness for technology. With the virtual capabilities available to us, choristers continued to enjoy unique music learning experiences from their own homes. Whether it was through having a composer join us from South Africa, singers learning how to record themselves and share video files for our virtual choirs, or attending a workshop about mental health and wellness: the world was at our fingertips, which allowed us to connect in new and different ways.

One of the important partnerships we developed was with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. With funding provided by the Hamilton Community Foundation, we provided over 100 instructor-led virtual music lessons. It reminded us how the simplest of activities can bring such joy to young people, especially when it has to do with singing.

Anyone who knows me understands how much I value that spirit of community. Building community means being open and honest with each other during difficult times. Taking care of one another and giving our singers hope helped make the 2020-2021 season better.

By staying together and remaining connected, the HCC will return stronger than ever.



Handwritten signature of Zimfira Poloz in black ink.

Zimfira Poloz  
Artistic Director



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR...

---

During a virtual rehearsal toward the end of our 2020-2021 season, a chorister noted that our HCC choral groups are called ensembles, and how fitting it seemed because in French, the same word means 'together'. There's no doubt that this sense of consistent connection was a lifeboat to our singers, our staff, and our community during this unpredictable season.

When your mission statement involves life-changing experiences, and most experiences become limited to your home for much of the season, singing chorally must look and feel different. It would be dishonest to suggest that we didn't experience grief when our hopes for season-long hybrid rehearsals were dashed. But alongside that loss was a gratitude for what remained: our commitment to learning incredible music, developing musicianship, and performing from the heart... together.

Our two virtual performances captured the inextinguishable HCC spirit beautifully, from the singers' animated faces and voices, to the personal stories of our Traditions in a New World performance, and the spirited narrations recorded for our spring production, The Pirate's Bed.

I would like to thank our artistic and administrative staff for their flexibility and adaptability, our collaborators and supporters for their support and generosity, and more than ever, our HCC families for taking on a much more active role (as producers, recording engineers, IT support, and cheerleaders!) as their young artists continue to strive for growth with their full hearts.



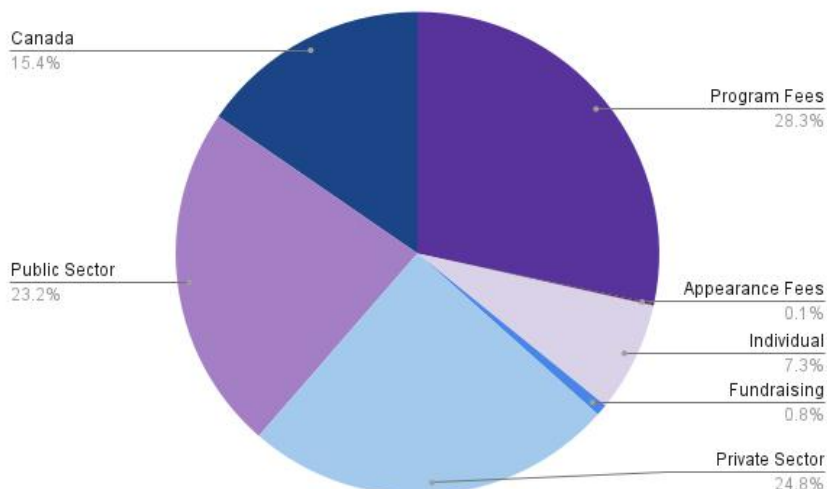
Melanie Tellez  
Assistant Artistic Director



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

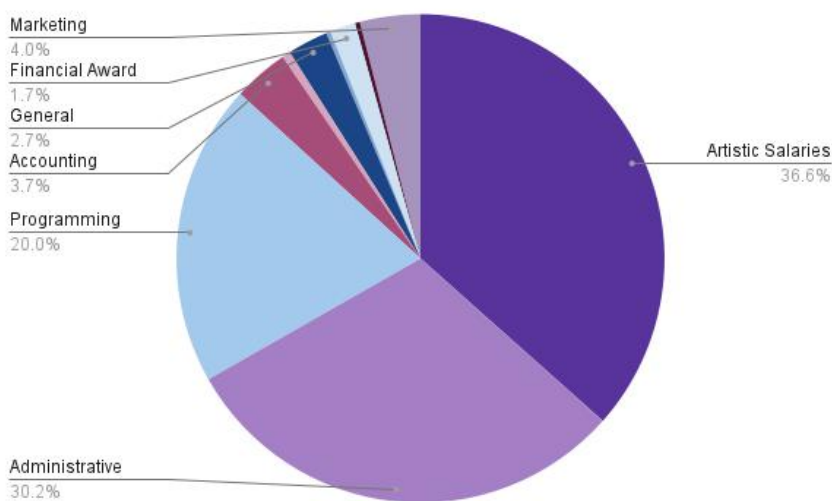
## REVENUE

Program Fees	\$132,541.00
Appearance Fees	\$450.00
Member Fees	\$325.00
Individual Donations	\$34,347.00
Fundraising	\$3,590.00
Private Sector Income	\$115,964.00
Public Sector Income	\$108,610.00
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	\$72,053.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$467,880.00</b>



## EXPENSE

Artistic Salaries	\$146,861.00
Administrative Salaries	\$121,262.00
Programming	\$80,301.00
Accounting	\$14,779.00
Insurance	\$2,219.00
General Administration	\$10,817.00
Bank Charges	\$1,155.00
Financial Award	\$6,800.00
Fundraising	\$1,294.00
Marketing	\$16,096.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$401,584.00</b>



## DEFICIT/SURPLUS: \$66,296.00

These pages provide a summary of the HCC financial activity for the 2020-2021 season. Financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year, audited by Vine & Associated, are available online at [www.hamiltonchildrenschoir.com](http://www.hamiltonchildrenschoir.com)

In October 2021, the HCC board of directors agreed to assign \$65,000 of the surplus towards the 2021-2022 financial year in anticipation of a potential deficit and the end of government pandemic relief funds.

# OUR FUNDERS



Hamilton

\$53,310



Providing funding in support of the visual and performing arts in Hamilton

\$40,000

HAMILTON  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

\$37,475



\$27,833



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

\$20,972

Ontario  \$20,000  
Small Business Grant

CAF \$10,525  
Canada



Government  
of Canada

\$4,329

PayPal \$130  
Giving Fund

# OUR DONORS

Thank you to our individual donors! HCC recognizes donors for any contribution during the 2020-2021 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.

Mikhail Adronov	Baiba Bredovskis	Margaret Dragan
Virginia Aksan	Ardyth Brott	Peter Drake
Helena Alexander	Susan Bulger	Andrew Drake
Sandra Alvarez	Ken and Marlene Burden	Maryann Dunn
Carole Anderson	Mary Burnett	Sarah Dutson
Catherine Anderson	Lily Burnett	Jane Earle
Neha Arora	Greg Burton	Jennifer Edgar
Mical Asulin	Connie Caccamo	Christine Elson
Amie Baker	Messalina Cadiz-Tostevin	Michelle Elzby
Jeff Ball	Pablo Cafiso	Gaya Embuldeniya
Sarah Barillaro	Kyley Cano	Jim Enright
Paola Barillaro	Pamela Carpenter	Jane Ernszt
Katherine Barnard	Blanche Cassel	Jacklin Falconer
Katherine Barr	Jeffrey Cassidy	Gabriela Farias
Sarah Barr	Nina & Bruxy Cavey	Shashi Fernando
Jean Ashworth Bartle	Shovan Chakraborty	Helen Fernando
Basheer Bawa	Olga Chernobab	Brent Fifield
Wayne Baxter	Chris Chow	Elizabeth Fifield
Linda Beaupre	Maureen Cochrane	Susan & David Flanagan
Mark Bell	Kenneth Coit	Thomas Fleming
Michelle Bender	Linda Comley	George A Fletcher
Derek Bender	Corporate Communications	Glenn Fletcher
Melissa Bennett	Katrin Conen	George J. Formandl
Andrew Berkeley	Margaret Connealy	Andrea Frolic
Victoria Berkeley	Tamara Crispin	Audrey Frolic
Colleen Bishop	Jenny Crober & Stephen Best	Marlene Gamble
Joanna Blackwell	Katherine Cuff	Simali Garach
Kadriin Blackwell	Theresa Davis	Gloria Gassi
Linda Blunsdon	Xenobia Delgado	Mary Gauld
Agnes Boghossian	Yuliya Desyatova	Carol Gideon
Fozia Boivin	Anthony DiGiacomo	Marta and Peter Gimon
Michael Bonini	Martha Dochuk	Maureen Gorloff
Robert Boose	Yekaterina Doktorovich	Bernard Goward
Eric Bosch	Andrew Donlan	Stephanie Green

## OUR DONORS

John Guise  
Julia Guitman  
Ona Gutauskas  
Archi Habibi  
Tony Halman  
Erin Hamilton  
Jean Hamilton-Smith  
Ava Hammond  
Michaela Harris  
Elfrieda Heinrichs  
Maureen Henry  
Jamie Hillman  
Natalie Hiltz  
Ching-Tzu Ho  
Michael Hoblak  
Paul Hogeterp  
Shawn-Renee Hordyk  
Frances Houston  
Susan & Iain Howieson  
Caileigh Howieson  
Roman & Barbara Humeniuk  
Lisa Hunter  
Elizabeth Hutchison  
Sarah Irvine  
Andrew Irvine  
Orin Isaacs  
Fazilat Ishkanian  
Aivars Jekabsons  
Wendy Jones  
Rhea Jongema  
Laurence K  
Alexandra Kaempffer  
Deborah Kelch  
Donald Kendrick  
Sergey Khvoshchinskiy  
Jeonghee Kim  
Tetyana Klassen  
Pam Knowles  
Catherine Krasnik

Brian Kreps  
Hope Kubryn  
Suranganie Kumaranayake  
Tony Kupina  
Alyssa Lai  
Matt Lanktree  
Jean Lanktreee  
Henry Leck  
Patricia LeClair  
David Lee  
James Lefebvre  
Wei Lei  
Tiki Levgoren  
Kari Lindsay  
Robert Lindsay  
Heather Lindsay  
Shannon Little  
Kathleen Loveless  
Gaynor Low  
Zhen Hua Lu  
Julie Ludwig  
Judy Mabutas  
Lori Macnab  
Melissa Major  
Sue Majzik  
Peter Malysewich  
Kevin Marlin  
Timothy Marrie  
Judy Marsales  
Tabitha Marshall  
Paula Mataseje  
Michael Matthie  
Malgorzata McCarroll  
Sherry McCarroll  
Judith McCarthy  
Jennifer McConnell  
Kay McGovern  
J Barry McIsaac  
Steven McKay  
Jim McLaren  
James McLaren  
Margaret McLaren  
J Barry McIsaac

Steven McKay  
Jim McLaren  
James McLaren  
Margaret McLaren  
John McNally  
Jennifer McNally  
Jane McNally  
Janet McNally  
Sadie Menicanin  
Ran Mesterman  
Ronit Mesterman  
Ana Miguel  
Barbara Mihowich  
Nancy Millar  
Amber Mills  
Slavica Mobic  
Deborah Monahan  
Jennifer Mook-Sang  
Diana Moscu  
Avalon Mott  
Brad Mott  
Terrence Mott  
Janet Mowat  
Benjamin Muatha  
Adisa Mujacic  
Esther Muniu  
Diane Murray-Charrett  
Saule Narubayeva  
Ekaterina Neklyudova  
Victoria Newell  
Jacqueline Norton  
Brenda O'Connor  
Lashirna Ogarro  
Victoria Ohahuiro  
Julia Olesiak  
Catherine Oliver  
Vivian Olumide  
Rene Orantes  
Bruce Papky  
Lauren Peat  
Linda Pillinini  
Valerie Pitt  
Laura Pizzacalla

## OUR DONORS

Oleg Poloz  
Yekaterina Poloz  
Halyna Popenko  
Gail Posluns  
Robert Potocic  
Kelly & Jamie Purser  
Nancy Purser  
David Quinn  
Daniel Re  
Deborah Redwood  
Peter Reilly  
Jim Reilly  
Andrea Renzella  
Margaret Resney  
Martha Reynolds  
Margaret Richardson  
Bethany Ricker  
Jenn & Jeremy Roberts  
Susan & Robin Roberts  
Carole Rogler  
Peter Rosenbaum  
James Roy  
Anna Rozenberg  
John Rudolph  
Dan Ruiters  
Janice Rutherford  
Katie Ryan  
Unity and Phi Schmidt  
Franz Schmidt  
Martin Schmidt  
Wendy Schmidt  
Hubertus Seeliger  
Ewa Sekula  
Yvonne Sell  
Stephen Sell  
Julie Shea  
Steve & Hiroko Shepherd  
Nicholas Shkumat


N Shkumat  
Shirley Sibiga  
Gwynneth Simpson  
Lindsay Sinclair  
Amanda Slade  
Gerald Smink  
Michelle Smith  
Mark Smith  
Alfred/Marianne Sollberger  
Barbara Southall  
Jessica Spence  
Adela Spence  
Helen Stacey  
Carol Stairs  
Amy Stevenson  
Gary Sugar  
Jocelyn Supsup  
Lisa Sweeney  
Kathy Syrett  
Karen Tamblyn  
Brian Tate  
Melanie Tellez  
Ian Thomas  
Kim Thompson  
Sara Traficante  
Marlene Traficante  
Vera Tseitlina  
Joanna Turchin  
Karina Turgulova-Loiero  
Andréa Tyniec  
Brenda Uchimarú  
Andrea Unger  
Klara Unger-Staniscia  
Ruth Van Horne  
Marta Vandermarel  
Paul Veter  
Kippy Violette  
Jacqueline Wakefield  
David Wakefield  
Juliet Wamatu  
Veina Wang  
Terry Wegemer


Katie Weresch  
Ruby Weresch  
Marie Wettlaufer  
John Wheeler  
Deb Wiebenga  
Gerri Windhorst  
Nicola Winstanley  
Heather Wlodarczyk  
Amy Wojtowicz  
Bob Wojtowicz  
Marni Wolfe  
Gail & Les Wolfe  
Sameth Wolfe  
Susan Worthington  
Donald & Jennifer Wray  
Sheryl Wu  
Jane Yuan  
Ying Yue  
Leslie Zahoruk  
Junyan Zhang  
Ellen B Zwart  
Anonymous (7)

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list and we apologize for any errors or omissions.



# SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



 **Hamilton Children's Choir**  
August 31, 2021 · 🌐

Audience: 2706 (+1.76%)  
New Followers: 93 (+13.4%)  
Reach: 45,892 (+12.7%)  
Page Visits: 3503 (+16.5%)

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

👤❤️👍 David and 4 others



 **Hamilton Children's Choir** ·

Audience: 1401 (+4.9%)  
New Followers: 65 (+1.44%)  
Reach: 7362 (-44.9%)  
Page Visits: 2736 (+17.2%)



❤️ 💬 🚩

Liked by john and 1,560 others  
**Hamilton Children's Choir** The numbers are in! ... more  
View all 20 comments  
5 MINS



 **Hamilton Children's Choir**  
@HccListen

Audience: 952  
New Followers: 9  
Reach: 36,846  
Page Visits: 1605

11:59 PM · Aug 31, 2021

10 Retweets    1 Quote Tweet    12 Likes

Twitter reporting is new as of 2020/21



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

---

What a wild rollercoaster ride year two of the pandemic has been! Hamilton Children's Choir programming was reimagined and transformed from virtual sessions, and when it was safe to do so, to hybrid, and then to in-person. To keep our choristers safe, we developed strict COVID-19 protocols and invested in special equipment.

Through it all, the indomitable spirit, agility, creativity and love of singing that are the cornerstones of the HCC endured thanks to the deep and unwavering commitment of Zimfira Poloz, Artistic Director, Melanie Tellez, Assistant Artistic Director, and Patricia LeClair, Executive Director and all the artistic and administrative staff. Their bold vision, practical leadership and superb attention to detail enabled us to remain steadfast to our mission to create life changing musical opportunities for young children. Highlights included an outdoor choir camp, participation in digital international choral festivals, and two sold out live concerts in early December.

The vital impact that HCC programs make was clearly demonstrated this year. Our choristers may be apart, but by enabling them to sing, make music together, and connect, they are never alone in these difficult times.

The HCC could not have accomplished what it did last year-- and be in the position of strength that it is today -- without the generosity of our friends and funders. To all our donors, your support means so much. We are especially grateful for the emergency pandemic-related funding from the federal and Ontario governments; to the City of Hamilton, the Ontario Arts Council and the Incite Foundation for the Arts for their continuing support; and to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Looking forward to brighter days ahead!

With gratitude,



Janet Mowat  
Chair, Board of Directors





# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR..

---

The greatest measure of a successful organization is how it responds and manages adversity. Adversity has not been a stranger to the Hamilton Children's Choir, but this pandemic has certainly taken the cake!

Our community members have made the real difference in how resilient the HCC has become. Due to the collective talents of both our artistic and administration team, the wonderful support of our singers and parents, the dedication of our board of directors, the generosity of our donors, and the backing by local and government funders, the HCC 2020-2021 has managed to thrive in so many different ways.

From producing our first two major video productions, 'Traditions in a New World' and 'Anchored' were watched by 6.7K online viewers improved our ability to share our musical talents with the world, delivering over 100 online music classes for Hamilton-Wentworth District School students improved awareness of the HCC program, and developing a stronger partnership with the Hamilton Public Library has improved our ability to reach more families within the community. These are just a few of the many significant accomplishments the HCC will benefit from in the future.

Working together, staying connected, and supporting one and other has proven to be a real asset of HCC.

*Patricia LeClair*

Patricia LeClair  
Executive Director



# ARTISTIC STAFF

Zimfira Poloz	Artistic Director, Conductor: Ilumini
Melanie Tellez	Assistant Artistic Director, Conductor: Esprimas, Komenci
Kate Boose	Conductor: Esplori
Leslie Kent	Conductor: Kolibro
Brent Fifield	Conductor: Profunda, Collaborative Pianist: Esprimas & Komenci
Laura Pin	Collaborative Pianist: Ilumini & Esplori
Jamie Drake	Percussionist & Online Instructor
Tom Corken	Rehearsal Assistant: Profunda & Ilumini
Melody Aslan	Rehearsal Assistant
Caroline Cummings	Rehearsal Assistant
Katie Simmons	Rehearsal Assistant
Lucy Forderer	Rehearsal Assistant
Tennyson Mandelker	Rehearsal Assistant

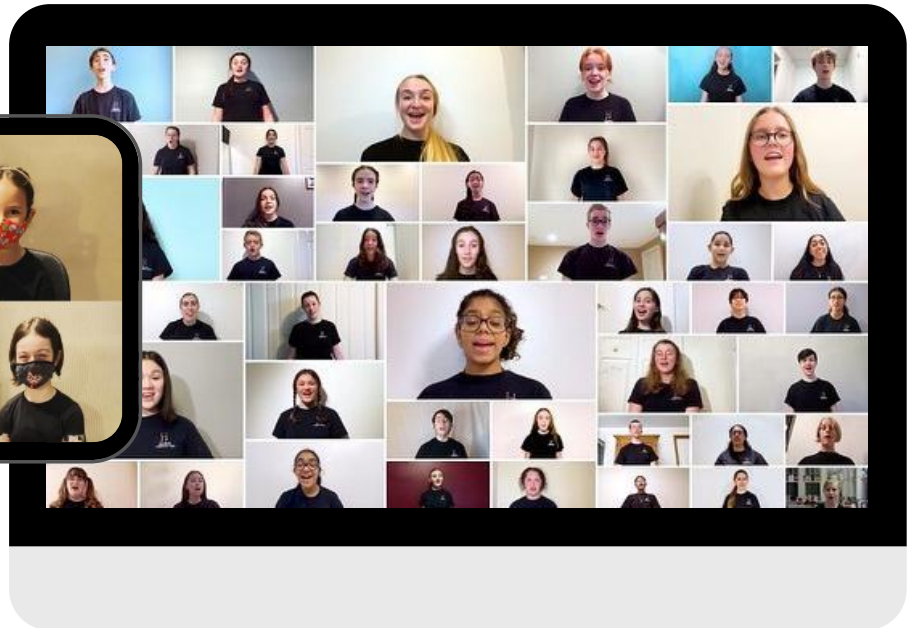
# ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Patricia LeClair	Executive Director
Gillian Alexander	Office & Account Manager
Xenobia Delgado	Program & Data Systems Manager
Melanie Tellez	Marketing & Communications Associate
Lucy Forderer	Choir Administrative Assistant

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Mowat: Chair	Julie Shea
Leslie Zahoruk: Treasurer	Katie Weresch
Victoria Newell: Secretary	Matthew Pickfield
Beverly Bronte-Tinkew	Marnie Wolfe
Elsje Zwart	Virginia Aksan
Erin Pettit	Patricia LeClair (Ex-Officio Member)
Heenkenda (Don) Perera	Zimfira Poloz (Ex-Officio Member)
Julie Ludwig	

# STAYING CONNECTED



Hamilton  
Children's  
Choir