

# YOUTH SINGERS OF CALGARY

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021 - 2022



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# ABOUT YSC

## MISSION

To provide an inclusive and engaged community which gives young people the opportunity to grow and express themselves through the performing arts.

## VISION

To be a vibrant performing arts company delivering exceptional comprehensive performing arts education and programming that encourages personal and artistic excellence.

## CORE VALUES

We are committed to:

- Artistic integrity
- Excellence
- Community building
- Inclusion
- Health and Safety
- Personal development
- Self-expression
- Life-long learning
- Leadership Development

# OUR IMPACT

YSC creates great performers on stage and in life. When a Youth Singer steps on stage, they give it everything they've got—their personalities, their dreams, their fears, and their excitement. Their true voices come tumbling out and their love of performing, of growing and succeeding shines through.

The tools we use to produce better performers allow us to develop people who feel better about themselves and who see that the sky really is the limit on their dreams. Every day, we create community leaders empowered by the experiences and personal growth they achieve through singing, dancing, and acting.

For more than 30 years, we have provided generations of young people with a chance to succeed through the performing arts. We nurture, mentor, guide, and celebrate every child who comes through our doors.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



This was another incredible year for YSC, during a very unusual time in the world. The Board recognized the multiple ongoing challenges faced by the performing arts community through the pandemic and the need to be adaptable to change. Like many organizations, YSC faced an abrupt interruption in all of our revenue streams in March 2020. Unlike many others, YSC has kept our programs going, kept our staff employed, provided stable and consistent hybrid and virtual programming for our membership and took a leadership position within the Calgary and Alberta performing arts community.

The Board has been fully engaged, from a strategic perspective, in supporting the work of the organization. Each member has remained committed to YSC operating with a balanced budget that supports the development and evolution of our artistic programs; to the continuous improvement of our management system and processes and to setting a strategic course that can be achieved through YSC's operational plans.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported the new CEO during the first year of her leadership
- Focused on fundraising with the first ever YSC Chief Development Officer; building naming celebration, creation of a funder recognition wall; re-launch of the Crescendo Campaign; and, support of the HEARTS OUT Gala
- Accepted recommendations from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Singers Council on how to create change and further inclusion, diversity, equality and accessibility
- Engaged Integral Org, a not for profit organization, to guide the Board through an update of the Bylaws and the Strategic Plan

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Departing Board members Tanya Sharma Moore and Audrey Tesarski, each of whom contributed much to YSC during their time on the Board. We are grateful for your service
- Karri Quan, Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, for her leadership with the DEI Singers Council
- Ernie Abbott, Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Policy Committee for leading the work on the by-law update
- Renee Fagnou for her leadership as Tour Director
- Eugene Beaulieu, Chair of the Fund Development Committee and Shirley Penner, Chief Development Officer, for leading the HEARTS OUT Committee
- Rod Garossino, Secretary, for recognizing the need for and for providing ongoing strategic support to the CEO on pandemic related operational matters
- All BOD members who took on extra roles – filling in at Bingos, supporting, financially and otherwise, the Jubilee Directors Receptions and countless other ways

The Board congratulates YSC for all they have accomplished this year. YSC shines due to the ongoing commitment of the leadership team, and the passion and excellence of each and every Director, Assistant Director, Choreographer, Arranger, Producer and Volunteer Manager and their teams. We are grateful for our sponsors, our donors, our volunteers, our amazing artistic and administrative teams, and for our audiences. We are grateful for our teachers and our singers. They worked hard this year, and learned so much – about singing and dancing, about being a teammate and about who they are, as individuals. They reached out to one another, persevered and created something special.

Finally, the Board offers its congratulations to Shirley Penner for receiving the Richard S. Eaton Award of Distinction from Choir Alberta, important recognition of all Shirl has done to contribute to choral singing and the performing arts in Alberta.

***Catherine Barclay, CHAIR, YSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

**CHAIR**

Catherine Barclay

**VICE-CHAIR**

Ernie Abbott

**PAST CHAIR**

Eugene Beaulieu

**TREASURER**

Shane Simmons

**SECRETARY**

Rod Garossino

**DIRECTORS**

Jason Bergeron

Catherine Clynch

Renee Fagnou

J.P. Hermano

Laura Hambley Lovett

Karri Quan

Megan Thomson

2022

Board of Directors



## MESSAGE FROM CEO



In the 2021-2022 season we achieved a welcome return to in-person programming while still dealing with the uncertainties of the pandemic. We are proud to have showcased our resiliency and being on the vanguard of implementing safe group singing measures—Youth Singers was one of few performing arts organizations who operated at full capacity. These decisions challenged all of us and were, at times, a daily consideration. Our community's strength prevailed, which speaks to the trust our members and community have in our staff and our organization.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion work took centre stage at Youth Singers, with the formation of a Singers Council to bring their voices to the table. Other actions and activities in this regard included:

- A transformational Indigenous Music Workshop with Cree educator and musician Sherryl Sewepagaham. She gifted our staff, with the knowledge, encouragement, and protocols to teach Blackfoot and Cree songs
- Part one of a workshop through the Skipping Stone Foundation held in the spring was a step towards becoming a more inclusive space for all singers
- The creation of a physical calming space for singers to decompress out of the old cloak room

Two pilot programs were launched this year: the Daytime Choir for singers in homeschool and alternative school settings; and the SHINE Collective - a way for more young people to participate in live performances.

It has been a season of listening, thinking differently about singers' needs, and learning to make the changes our youth are looking to see. By centering the needs of youth, we continue to deliver on our mission to enrich the lives and opportunities for young people through the performing arts.

Youth Singers' vision and focus is strong, and engagement from our community and supporters is high. It is a privilege to work alongside such creative, dedicated, and passionate artists, administrators, and educators.

***Megan Emmett, CEO***

## MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & CDO



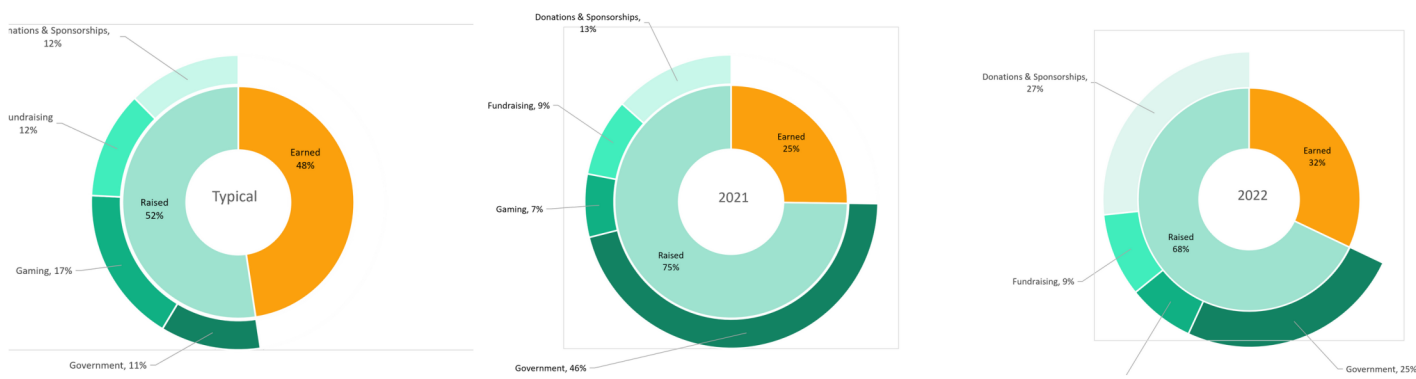
This is an ideal time to reflect, review and express how grateful we are for everyone's diligent work and collective accomplishments. We are all driven by a vision to develop strong, capable and contributing community citizens and leaders by empowering youth and giving them opportunities to grow and express themselves through the arts. Through nearly three years of pandemic disruption, we persevered through the numerous challenges, pivoted where required and stayed in operation. This unprecedented effort was led by our new and brave CEO, Megan Emmett.

Youth Singers of Calgary is a registered charity that depends on a huge volunteer force as well as funding from government, businesses, charitable foundations and individual support to keep its programs affordable. Typically, approximately 50% of its revenue comes from fundraising initiatives. This balance was completely disrupted in March of 2020, when earned revenue streams were cut in half. While our artistic, production, volunteer and staff teams demonstrated that with creativity and flexibility, program delivery could continue, the fund development team set to the task of ensuring sufficient revenue was secured to replace the sources lost due to the pandemic. This experience is an outstanding example of teamwork at its best! '21-'22 was a rebuilding season for all YSC funding challenges. Our fund development staff team met weekly to review, restart and rebuild whatever we could. While government pandemic funding was being phased out, typical earned revenue streams were still far below pre-pandemic norms. Our fund development team's over-arching funding goal was to make up for what we had lost so as not to end this season with a deficit. We were successful in our efforts by continuing to access pandemic Gov't grants, and through receiving a large individual donation from a long time alumni supporter. What a team!!

Our talented admin and artistic staff remained with YSC and we were able to meet all financial contracts. We ended the year essentially breaking even which leaves us with a strong foundation upon which to continue rebuilding. Our flexibility, stamina, perseverance and creativity was definitely tested! There was no time to stop and become discouraged, rather, only to positively find a way to move forward.

Raised Revenue for 2021-2022 was an all time high of \$914,737. Despite this record total, the sources of revenue remain altered from what was typical pre-pandemic. As illustrated in the charts below, we must be grateful for continued government assistance as gaming and fundraising slowly rebuild.

REVENUE SOURCE COMPARISON



**Fund Development season highlights include:**

- We raised the additional 25% needed to break even at the end of the fiscal year
- We received a generous individual donation from a faithful alumni donor
- Successful HEARTS OUT fundraising gala led by Eugene Beaulieu
- Growth in the early childhood KIDS & MUSIC Divisions
- We welcomed a new spring mainstage sponsor, CH Financial, with a three-year commitment. This with the continued commitment of ATCO as our Christmas mainstage sponsor enabled us to break even on both shows
- Bingo revenues are slowly increasing under the leadership of Marge Rusnak
- A successful naming event was held 10/21/21 when the Performing Arts Youth Centre became the ATCO Performing Arts Centre
- We began the process of redoing our Donor Recognition Wall in Studio A with all major supporters through the years including the 12 years of the Notes & Stars Capital giving opportunity. We encourage everyone to consider adding your family names to this new installation

In October 2019 we launched our Crescendo Capital Campaign (CCC) Oct 30th, 2019, raised \$1.9M, purchased our building, and then 4 months later the pandemic arrived. The CCC was put on hold. We hold loans of \$1.2M with the Calgary Foundation and a private investor and plan to relaunch the CCC next season to raise the funds to pay off these loans. On behalf of the YSC Fund Development Team; Thank you to our members, staff, families, friends, and more than 10,000 current and alumni performers of the YSC organization for your passion and commitment to Youth Singers. Major KUDOS to Eugene Beaulieu and Laura Hambley for always going above and beyond in the challenge of revenue generation for YSC. This was a difficult but also amazing YSC season.

**Shirley Penner, FOUNDER & CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

On behalf of the YSC Fund Development Team

Cathy Inglis, Director, Finance & Operations

Megan Emmett, CEO

Janice Schneider, Fund Development Associate

Lauren Thompson, Director, Marketing & Fund Development Associate

Alida Lowe, Director, Program, Production & Touring

Jocelyn Smith, Special Events Liaison



# MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Best. Season. Ever.

Thanks to our amazing Artistic Team, our incredible volunteers and our very talented singers, last year was the Best. Season. Ever. As a creative team, we knew that the music and themes for this year needed to be light and joyful. With that goal in mind, we created an uplifting and cheerful program for our singers and families.

Our first semester focused on the planning, preparation and performance of our December mainstage show, “Holly Jolly House Party”. We were all able to perform live on stage, but not yet all at the same time. The production team, together with our Artistic staff and volunteers worked together to make sure that all performers reached their goals with a combination of in person and an in person and video element performing simultaneously. The show was planned with few costume changes and with divisions performing their music in a carefully planned set. This structure gave us the most number of possibilities for success and it went off without a hitch. Our show mirrored what many of us were experiencing -- the return of friends and family gathering together!

Our spring season's goal was to bring JOY to all both on and off the stage. Using a park theme as our inspiration, we brainstormed all of the events, both personal and community, that might happen in a park. This inspiration connected with our singers, staff and audience in what was hands down, the Best. Day. Ever. After navigating the twists and turns of planning and performing through a pandemic, it was exhilarating to stage a show without restrictions.

We continue to create original arrangements, music, choreography, themes and scripts in order to inspire the creativity of our young artists. The production team is committed to support our Artistic team in providing our singers with relevant, meaningful and essential artistic experiences within our Youth Singer yearly program.

***Tricia Penner, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR***

# 2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the season, Youth Singers pivoted and turned on every occasion to bring a safe, engaging, and entertaining season to our singers. We carried on without skipping a beat, and the 2021-22 season was successful in every way we could have hoped.

**3** combined Christmas songs filmed by KIDZXPRESS and played alongside other divisions at the Jubilee

**3** Christmas songs performed live on stage in their own cohort



**8** weeks of summer camps, including 4 weeks of a brand new half day camp for K-Grade 2



Introduction of Youth Singers' new CEO, Megan Emmett

'Holly Jolly House Party" sponsored by ATCO was the first Christmas mainstage production back on the Jubilee stage since December 2019



**20**

minute performance presented as part of the Virtual Calgary Pride Family Day show

Held a workshop through the Skipping Stone Foundation with Artistic & Admin staff, volunteer managers and Board members

**45+**

youth enrolled & supported by the YYC (Yes You Can!) Bursary Fund

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Singers Council was formed. Led by Board member Karri Quan, Artistic staff member Jenhene Morgan, and made up of 7 singers from KIDZXPRESS, JUNIOR HI, SENIOR HI and ACT3 divisions



Welcomed local singer, songwriter & influencer Michela Sheedy to a SENIOR HI rehearsal



Celebrated the newly named ATCO Performing Arts Centre with a Naming and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in our front parking lot. We were joined by over 75 staff, board, donors, funders, alumni and dignitaries

Hosted an Indigenous Music Workshop with Cree singer/songwriter Sherryl Swewpagaham and YSC Artistic staff. Learned about local Indigenous music and protocols to teach and include songs in our classrooms

The SHINE Collective was reimagined into a supplemental performance opportunity for singers 14+ to represent YSC in the community and mainstage shows



**46** singers from JUNIOR HI, SENIOR HI & ACT3 embarked on a 5-day West Coast tour to Vancouver, Victoria & Nanaimo



Launched a brand new Youth Singers website with the redesign done by local Calgary company 'nerder'

**1000** students from 4 Calgary schools enjoyed performances by KIDZXPRESS during their June School Tour



**67** performances by all ages throughout the season including divisional shows & presentations, summer gigs and festivals, a school tour, Downtown Live, Bravo and more!

**\$110,000** was raised at the in-person, sold out HEARTS OUT gala at the Hyatt Regency Calgary.



Launched the Daytime Choir pilot program for students ages 8-14 in Alternative and Homeschool settings



**5** panelists took part in our first ever 'Men In Music' panel discussion



The Physicians Choir piloted in the 2020-21 season online, and was launched as a two-term program with weekly in-person rehearsals directed by Kathryn Parrotta in the Fall of 2021

"Best. Day. Ever." sponsored by CH Financial was a musical celebration of all that makes us happy. It was the first Jubilee mainstage show in two years where the entire company was back on stage together.

## PRODUCTION & PROGRAM

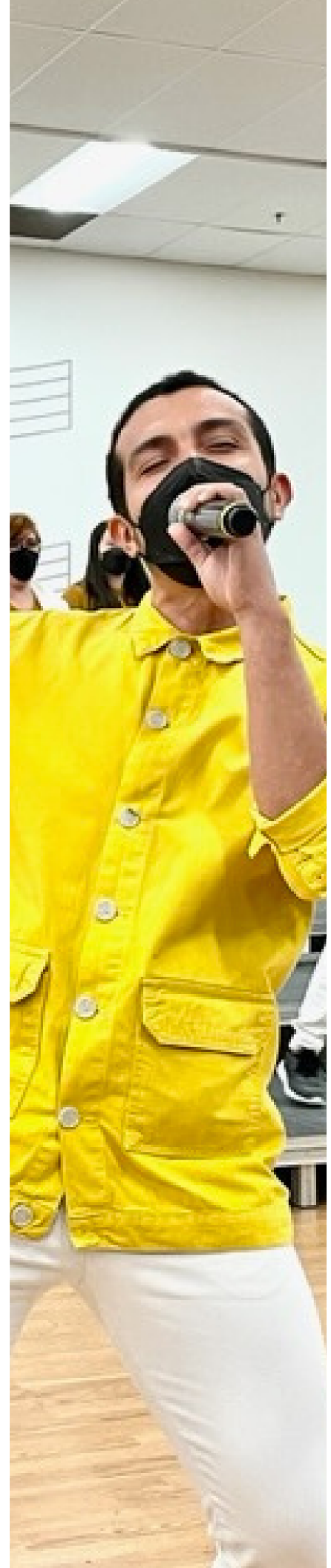
After a year and a half of severely impacted programming due to COVID, we began the 2021-2022 season with optimism and dreams for a season that looked much more like those we were used to producing.

Our first live performances in 18 months took place outdoors: ONCUE performed in Kensington in September and October, along with solo singers from SENIOR HI, and a group of singers from our core divisions performed at the building naming ceremony in October. From there, we were off! Rehearsals, workshops, gigs, and shows returned; as the year progressed, we celebrated every single return.

At Christmas, we triumphantly returned to the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium with "Holly Jolly House Party," our first mainstage show since Christmas 2019. The script was created to keep each division's music and theatre arts self-contained, and the pieces of the show could be performed in any order if needed. We worked with ColossoVision, a local company that provides large-scale LED screens, to virtually bring our under-12, still-unvaccinated singers into the company numbers. While health and safety decisions still had an impact on the artistic product, we were beyond thrilled to be back at the Jube, and the experience was exciting and emotional for everyone.

The 2021 Christmas season also saw every single division perform, and we logged 32 Christmas performances and presentations. In a "normal" Christmas season, that would be only slightly below average; emerging from the acute phase of the pandemic, it was incredible. Even though many of our annual clients were not booking performances yet, we worked with new partners, including the YMCA and the Calgary Public Library. The season also included many outdoor gigs for our carollers and ONCUE as the public looked for music and joy in safe spaces.

The new year brought a two-week delay in the start of rehearsals and required N95 masks in all rehearsals as Omicron surged, but those setbacks were relatively minor in the big picture of our year. Learning stayed on track, and workshops and shows happened as scheduled as we worked hard to prepare for the spring season.



In May, we were back at the Jubilee with "Best. Day. Ever.", marking the first time in two years that our entire company was onstage together. KIDZXPRESS was live in the company numbers, KIDAZZLE joined the fun for their annual debut on the Jube stage, and our choreographers and directors could teach and stage their songs without the restrictions that we had still seen at Christmas.

One of the biggest staff challenges of the year came the week of the spring show, when 75% of the administrative team was out with COVID in the days leading up to the show, but numerous volunteers, former staff members, and other members of the community stepped forward to make the show day a success.

We wrapped up the season with regularly-scheduled show and presentations by every single division, a tour departing less than a week after the mainstage show, preparation for summer gigs, a KIDZXPRESS school tour, the beginning of festival season, and Downtown Live (which was moved indoors due to rain for the first time ever!) -- and capped off with a year-end Bravo talent night.

At Youth Singers, our people are our strength. We learned that in new ways during COVID, and it was no less true as we began to emerge from the heaviest impact of the pandemic. We are so grateful that we kept going, not skipping a beat. As many organizations have struggled to regain their footing, we have maintained a solid base of members, volunteers, and staff -- not to mention artistic momentum. The impact of our commitment to carrying on can't be overstated, and we saw that in spades as we moved through the 2021-2022 season that was successful in every way we could have hoped.



# OUR PROGRAMS



# PERFORMING ARTS FOR ALL AGES

YSC is a vibrant performing arts company and education program of choral singing, dancing, and theatre arts for children, teens, and adults. We offer year-round programming, musical theatre camps, and classes for those with cognitive delays.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Tricia Penner	ARTISTIC & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Alida Lowe	DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM, PRODUCTION, AND TOURING
Chris Thompson	ASSISTANT PRODUCER & ARTISTIC CONSULTANT
Jocelyn Jones	SCRIPT WRITER & ARTISTIC CONSULTANT

## KIDS & MUSIC (PRE-K TO GR 2)

PROGRAM DIRECTOR & INSTRUCTOR  
Kathy Neuland

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHER  
Lisa Ryan

ACCOMPANIST  
Juliana Jorge

KIDS & MUSIC staff led a record enrollment of singers through a year of singing, moving, games, and fun. Their year-end show, "Sunshine in my Shoes", was a glorious event with kids singing their hearts out for a full house. Bravo, KIDS & MUSIC!

## KIDAZZLE (GR 3)

DIRECTOR  
Deanna Henderson-McDade

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Megan Emmett

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER  
Lauren Thompson

ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER  
Julie Stiven

KIDAZZLE performed in their very own Christmas Show, "Lights! Camera! Christmas!", and rocked their year end set at Downtown Live, while also performing as guests at the KIDS & MUSIC show, and joining the core divisions on the Jubilee Stage for "Best. Day. Ever." They had a record breaking 24 keen and eager performers, and many new friendships were made.

## **KIDZXPRESS (GR 4-6)**

### DIRECTOR

Deanna Henderson-McDade

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Megan Emmett

### RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Lauren Thompson

### ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER

Julie Stiven

### CHOREOGRAPHY COACH

Jenhene Morgan

### ACCOMPANIST

Kathy Seibel

The spring performing season for KIDZXPRESS was incredible - they were guests at the KIDS & MUSIC Show, performed at HEARTS OUT, and entertained over 1000 students on their School Tour! New this year was Kathy's Keys, a chance to learn music theory with Kathy Seibel. Filming for the Christmas show was a unique experience for this division, and everyone made the best of the circumstance we were in. This year's KIDZXPRESS singers were all experiencing a full Jubilee show together for the first time, so there were new experiences all around!

Kirsten Williams spent the 2021-2022 season on leave, and Julie Stiven returned from two years of leave to assist in both KIDZXPRESS and SENIOR HI.

## **JUNIOR HI (GR 7-9)**

### DIRECTOR

Kathryn Parrotta

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dean Lauderdale

### RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Jessica Eckstadt

### ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

Alicia Ward

### CHOREOGRAPHY COACH

Nathan Snyders-Blok

### ACCOMPANIST

Kathy Seibel

JUNIOR HI singers enjoyed Kathryn Parrotta's original composition written for them, "Do Better". They embodied the positive message of this song by working hard, trying their best, and learning all year. Grade 9s took their leadership role very seriously and helped others. All of them were extremely proud to perform their songs on stage and on tour. At the end of the year the JUNIOR HI kids reflect on things they have learned and every year they say, "if we learned anything at all, we learned what a modulation is!"



### SENIOR HI (GR 10-12)

DIRECTOR  
Dave Morton

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & ACCOMPANIST  
Kathy Seibel

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER  
Donald Jones

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER  
Serena Mazil Term 1, Julie Stiven Term 2

One of the biggest accomplishments from this past year was the “Best. Day. Ever.” show and tour. It was an incredible experience and everyone worked so hard to make it a success. SENIOR HI was small and mighty this season, but that did not hold them back from working hard and sharing their excitement and enthusiasm.

### ACT3 (YOUNG ADULT)

DIRECTOR  
Jason Erhardt

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & ACCOMPANIST  
David Holoboff

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER & CO-LEAD  
CREATOR  
Jeffrey Diodati

CO-LEAD CREATOR  
Katherine Burrowes

From concert repertoire like “Count your Blessings Instead of Sheep” to show choir marathons like “Backstage Romance,” the versatility of ACT3 never fails to amaze. The first full in person year post-pandemic showed that this division didn’t lose their passion for music and performing.

David Holoboff and his family moved away in the fall and Brent Krawchuk took over as ACT3’s rehearsal accompanist. Jeff Diodati moved on from his position as the ACT3 resident choreographer after nearly 15 years in various positions on the artistic team.



## **SHINE & ONCUE (ENSEMBLES)**

SHINE CO-MANAGER & PRODUCER  
Donald Jones

SHINE VOCAL DIRECTOR  
Kathryn Parrotta

SHINE CO-MANAGER  
Serena Mazil

SHINE CHOREOGRAPHER  
Katherine Burrowes

ONCUE DIRECTOR  
Dean Lauderdale

ONCUE MANAGER  
Alida Lowe

ONCUE performed a full Christmas show with ENCORE, live-streaming the whole show at the last minute due to COVID restrictions. Their year-end show, “Unmasked and Unaccompanied,” was a full two-act event with no additional numbers or special acts – the group learned and polished enough songs for a full show. While ONCUE didn’t have as full a Christmas gig season as many years, there were performances in the community throughout the season.

SHINE expanded through the pilot program of the SHINE Collective - individual or small group talent acts that allowed for more opportunities and more exposure. Staff worked tirelessly to craft this initiative from the ground up, and the Collective spent the spring preparing for tour and a busy summer festival season.

## **ENCORE (ALUMNI & FRIENDS)**

DIRECTOR  
Jason Erhardt

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER &  
MANAGER  
Alicia Ward

ACCOMPANIST  
Brent Krawchuk

ENCORE enjoyed returning to a mostly full season! Performances included two successful Christmas concerts with ONCUE and the Core Choir as well as “Joy Abounds,” their year end show. These were great accomplishments coming out of the pandemic, with strong retention and new singers as well.

## **SECOND CHANTS (ADULT RECREATION)**

DIRECTOR  
Kathy Seibel

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lloyd Anderson

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER  
Alicia Ward

ACCOMPANIST  
Brent Krawchuk

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER &  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
Dez Jones

SECOND CHANTS staged a run of their year-end show, “Winds of Change,” featuring both a small choral ensemble and dance ensemble in addition to the whole choir’s repertoire. During the year, it was very important to create a sense of normalcy while still advocating for safety. Staff were able to structure the year so that everyone could feel comfortable in whatever capacities they needed.

## **STAR (SPECIAL TALENTS IN ARTS AND RECREATION)**

CO-DIRECTORS & INSTRUCTORS  
Dave Morton & Jen Morton

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS  
Ashley Miller & Jesse DeHaan

STAR enjoyed excellent retention, and staff were proud at how youth managed mask wearing and a hybrid in-person and online year. It was a thrill to manage everyone singing in person again in two performances. STAR provided a positive, collaborative and engaging program for our team, singers and families.

Ashley Miller moved on from her position in STAR after working with the division for 7 years.



## SHOWBIZ KIDS (CAMPS & SCHOOL RESIDENCIES)

DIRECTOR & INSTRUCTOR  
Dean Lauderdale

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER  
Alicia Ward

Like every year, kids from camps come up to teachers in the Fall with a "remember me?!" look on their faces, showing the positive lasting impression based on their summer experience. Summer 2021, campers suggested playing YouTube videos from the projector in Studio A. The song and music video of "Breakfast Burrito" was suggested and the kids went absolutely wild. It was one of the highlights of the camp, hands down - watching kids play and have fun together with music.

## THEATRE ARTS

THEATRE ARTS LEAD  
Jeffrey Diodati

THEATRE ARTS ASSISTANT  
Emily Dallas Term 1, Alicia Ward Term 2

SCRIPT WRITER  
Jocelyn Jones

The Theatre Arts team brought the scripts to life for our Christmas and spring mainstage shows, working with two casts. The Christmas show was created in divisional stand-alone modules for cohorting purposes, and the spring show used vignettes, a soundscape, and visual storytelling to develop the world of "Best. Day. Ever."

Emily Dallas moved on from her Theatre Arts associate position in January, with Alicia Ward filling that role for the second semester. Jeff Diodati moved on from his position as the Theatre Arts Lead after many years with this department.



# TOURING

Less than a week after the spring mainstage show, a touring company of singers from JUNIOR HI, SENIOR HI, and ACT3 boarded a plane for Vancouver, embarking on a historic tour.

**The first tour in three years:** After cancelling all tours in 2020 and 2021, we were beyond thrilled to be back on the road!

**The first company tour:** While SENIOR HI and ACT3 travel together regularly, this was the first tour incorporating all three of our touring divisions. This provided artistic opportunities to present combined and company repertoire and gave our younger singers the opportunity to learn from older singers who had toured before.

**The first Canadian tour in over a decade:** Youth Singers is proud of our world-wide touring program, but it was incredibly special to perform in our own backyard. We toured to Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo; partnering with other Canadian choral artists, venues, and educators. The choice of destinations was a practical one (when we began planning the tour, we didn't know what travel restrictions would be like, so we planned a tour that didn't cross international borders and could be driven if necessary), but the benefits went beyond the practicalities.

A performance highlight of the tour was a show at the Port Theatre in Nanaimo, taking our spring 2022 show, "Best. Day. Ever." to a new audience. Singers also performed to the delight of public audiences in Victoria and at the Granville Island market in Vancouver. We enjoyed a choral workshop with Edette Gagne; visited the Olympic torch, Capilano Bridges, and WildPlay adventure park; and learned about Indigenous history in BC's unceded territory.

Special thanks to our long-time tour partners at Culture Path for their work in planning this first tour back, as well as our tour committee, staff, Tour Assistants, and the parents who came to support the singers in the audience.

As we return to regular touring, we announced that the next tour would be JUNIOR HI's Disney tour. The division began dreaming and planning in the spring of 2022 and can't wait to visit California again in May, 2023.



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The volunteer program here at Youth Singers involves parents and families supporting their singers by helping out with leadership on councils, gaming, fundraising, production and rehearsal support, special events, wardrobe, Zoom support, and much more. This year involved a return to in-person rehearsals and volunteers helping out in various ways. As we were navigating the return to in-person rehearsal with safety in mind, volunteers assisted in health screening during rehearsal check-in, Zoom support volunteers ensured other singers were able to join from home, and rehearsal chaperones were back in the studios supporting singers as well.

We had Carole Tsang join our staff as the Volunteer Manager and worked to rebuild and recruit volunteers for parent councils, logistics, wardrobe, and other departments as needed as other long-term volunteers moved up and on. Our amazing and committed volunteers helped with whatever was needed this season to be a success from helping out with silent auction and sponsorship drives to being backstage at our Jubilee shows and community performances, working bingos, and much more. Volunteers logged over 300 hours alone for our December 2021 show day!

Thank you to all the volunteers, council, and department leadership for all the help and supporting our singers as we navigated this season.



2021-2022 Season Image

# VOLUNTEER STAFF & MANAGEMENT TEAM

## PRODUCTION/PERFORMANCE

Director of Production & Program  
Technical Production Equip. Mgr  
Production Manager  
Hospitality Manager  
Music Library Manager  
Music Library Assistants  
Gig Support  
Set Design Co-manager  
Set Design Co-manager  
Wardrobe Manager  
Wardrobe Assistants  
Properties Manager

## DIVISION COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

YSC Volunteer Manager  
VSMT Secretary  
Lead Volunteer Coord. & New Family Liaison  
KIDZXPRESS President  
KIDZXPRESS Volunteer Co-Coordinator  
KIDZXPRESS Volunteer Co-Coordinator  
JUNIOR HI President  
JUNIOR HI Volunteer Coordinator  
SENIOR HI President  
SENIOR HI Volunteer Coordinator  
ACT3 President  
SECOND CHANTS Pres.  
ENCORE President

## HERITAGE & ARCHIVES

Heritage & Archives Manager  
Heritage & Archives Assistant

## GAMING

Director, Finance & Operations  
Bingo Captain Grey Eagle  
Bingo Co-captain Bingo Barn  
Casino Chair  
Raffle Chair

## APAC

Co-manager; Facility  
Co-manager; Rentals & Bookings  
Logistics Manager  
Facility and Shop Support  
Wardrobe Support

## FUNDRAISING/SPECIAL EVENTS

Chief Development Officer  
Sponsorship, & HEARTS OUT Lead  
Fund Dev. Advisor  
Fund Dev. Associate  
Fund Dev. Associate  
Special Events Liaison  
HEARTS OUT Event Lead  
HEARTS OUT Auction & Prizes Chair  
HEARTS OUT Ticket Chair  
Donor Recognition Chair

Alida Lowe  
Colin Lowe  
TBD  
TBD  
Jan Rubak  
Div. Coordinators  
Bryan Clarke  
Heath Kai  
Wayne Gosche  
Bonnie Inglis  
Div. Coordinators  
Kristin Miller

Carole Tsang  
Jennifer Bridle  
Cass Warren  
Heather Laubenstein  
Linda Peters  
Kim Watkinson  
Tamara Sampson  
Kim Bercsenyi  
Kara Johnson  
Tessa Mason  
Danica Strocen  
Eugene Beaulieu  
Jenn Gordon

Jennifer Bridle  
Div. Coordinators

Cathy Inglis  
Marge Rusnak  
Tracey Abbott  
Jennifer Bridle  
Shane Simmons

Keith Heilman  
Bryan Clarke  
TBD  
Lorne Lillico  
Vaughan Lillico

Shirley Penner  
Eugene Beaulieu  
Cathy Inglis  
Janice Schneider  
Lauren Thompson  
Jocelyn Smith  
Tara Lima-Coelho  
Stacey Schaub-Szabo  
Jody Weyman  
Brigitte Moore



# YOUTH SINGERS STAFF

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Megan Emmett (FT)	CEO
Shirley Penner (FT)	Founder & CDO
Tricia Penner (PT)	Artistic Director
Cathy Inglis (FT)	Director; Finance & Operations
Alida Lowe (FT)	Director; Program, Production & Touring
Lauren Thompson (FT)	Director; Marketing & Communications, Fund Development Associate
Jocelyn Smith (FT)	Executive Assistant/Registrar/Marketing & Special Events Liaison
Carole Tsang (FT)	Volunteer Manager
Keith Heilman (PT)	APAC Co-Manager; Facility
Bryan Clarke (PT)	APAC Co-Manager; Rentals
Janice Schneider (PT)	Fund Development Associate
Colin Lowe (PT)	Manager; Technical Production & Equipment/Music Coordinator ALL
Chris Thompson (PT)	Marketing & Communications Associate/Art Design

## PROGRAM STAFF (SUPPLEMENT TO DIVISIONAL STAFF LISTED ABOVE)

Reid McLean Wiest	Arranger ALL
Kristian Alexandrov	Arranger ALL / Sequences ALL
John Hildebrand	Technical Director / Recording Engineer ALL / Sound Designer ALL
Kris Mish	Lighting Designer ALL





# HEARTS OUT 2022

## WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW, IS JAZZ HANDS

On April 30, we gathered together for a night full of singing, dancing, laughing, delicious food and generosity. With over 250 guests joining us at the Hyatt Regency Calgary, this spectacular and sold out evening raised more than \$110,000 for our youth, Youth Singers, and our home, the ATCO Performing Arts Centre!



Attendees walked the red carpet into the Imperial Ballroom where they enjoyed complimentary bubbles and hors d'oeuvres, and mingled together at the first in-person HEARTS OUT since April 2020. Mystery envelopes were sold out in record time, and the silent auction had bids right up until the last minute from both in-person attendees and supporters from home.

A huge thank you to our Honourary Chairs Brigitte Moore and Claudette Tremblay, our event emcees Ellen Parker and Ken Lima-Coehlo, KIDZXPRESS and ONCUE for their incredible performances, the entire HEARTS OUT executive committee and their teams, all of our volunteers behind the scenes and on the floor, and of course to all of our sponsors, supporters and attendees.

An event of this scale would not have been possible without everyone who attended, donated silent auction items, and our amazing staff and volunteer teams! Thank you!



# ATCO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

## IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE INTRODUCE THE ATCO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (APAC)!

On October 21, 2021 we unveiled the new name of our performing arts centre with a Building Naming and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. We could not have asked for better weather, and enjoyed an incredible performance by a Youth Singers ensemble.

ATCO and the Youth Singers of Calgary have had a wonderful partnership since the beginning of Youth Singers. ATCO has been the title sponsor of our Mainstage Christmas Productions at the Jubilee Auditorium for 30 years. Mrs. Margaret Southern, co-founder of ATCO and Spruce Meadows, is a founding patron of YSC and has been a supporter ever since. Her generous gift launched the purchase of our building, newly renamed the ATCO Performing Art Centre.

With a shortage of affordable community arts spaces in the city, this donation will help ensure the facility becomes a permanent arts and culture asset for the Calgary community. Thank you to ATCO and Mrs. Southern for being champions for Calgary youth in the arts.

We had raised \$1.7M of our \$3.1M campaign goal when the pandemic hit and regrettably the campaign activity was put on hold. We are now relaunching the Crescendo Capital Campaign and need the support of many to raise the \$1.4M balance over two years.



APAC Building Naming & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Images



## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



### EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS (\$25,000+)

Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Anonymous  
Calgary Arts Development  
Calgary Foundation  
Government of Alberta (Stabilize, CIP)  
Government of Canada (ECBA,  
CEWS & ECSF)  
John & Lyn Thomson  
Werklund Foundation

### DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

ATCO  
CH Financial  
Howard & Janet McLean  
Prosser Charitable Foundation  
Shaw Birdies For Kids presented  
by AltaLink  
Margaret Southern  
TELUS Friendly Future Foundation

### CREATIVE COMPOSERS (\$5,000+)

Anonymous  
Margaret Bawden  
Baytex Energy  
Calgary Children's Foundation  
Kinsmen Club Of Stampede City  
Dr David M. Langelier  
McDaniel & Associates  
Shirley Penner & Don McLean



Youth Singers of Calgary  
ATCO Performing Arts Centre  
1371 Hastings Crescent SE  
Calgary, AB T2G 4C8  
[youthsingers.org](http://youthsingers.org)  
403-234-9549

Charitable Registration #12709 6030 RR0001