



YOUTH SINGERS OF CALGARY

ANNUAL REPORT

22-23



www.youthsingers.org

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ABOUT YSC

VALUES

YSC, the place where learning, safety, and a sense of value come together to help you grow, both personally and as a performer. Our commitment to respect and kindness sets the stage for a supportive community where we hold each other to high standards.

Every rehearsal, workshop, and event is a chance to dive into hard work and unwavering focus. At Youth Singers, our classroom dynamic is built on collaboration, goal achievement, and a healthy dose of fun along the way.

OUR VISION

To be an innovative and inclusive performing arts company that fosters personal and artistic excellence, elevates Calgary's cultural fabric, and drives personal growth in youth.

OUR MISSION

To develop lifelong skills in leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and self-confidence through high-quality performing arts instruction and experiences in a safe and supported environment, where young people are given the opportunity to grow, express themselves, and develop their potential through singing, dancing, acting, and performing.

CORE VALUES

Excellence

- We provide an environment where the freedom to strive, fail, try, and persist leads to the fulfillment of each singer's highest potential.
- We bring experienced and credentialed staff, a strong foundation of music education, and professional teaching standards to every classroom and program.

Inclusion

- We provide a place that offers a path to unlimited opportunities for growth as a performer to children and youth with any skill or experience level in singing.
- We believe that every voice is worthy and valuable, and we strive to create and maintain a culture of belonging, safety, and acceptance.

Performing

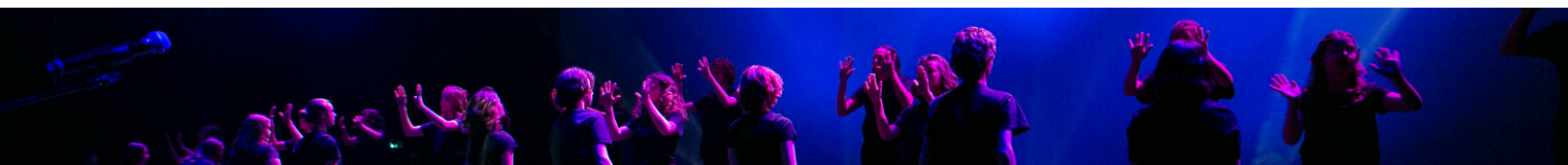
- We design performing opportunities that support children and youth to develop resilience, risk-taking, and confidence
- We value the process of creating, and prioritize the well-being and development of our learners as integral to this process.

Community

- We engage performers, families, volunteers, and staff to support each other respectfully in a shared sense of purpose and joy.
- We build leaders and engaged citizens who contribute to our city and beyond.

Collaboration

- By coming together and sharing our expertise with each other and the greater artistic community, we enrich our understanding, create as partners what we could not do alone, and expand the possibilities for artistic expression.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The 2022-2023 season felt like a relaunch for Youth Singers, with 100% of our rehearsals held in person as we continued our recovery from COVID-19. Registrations grew almost 40% from the previous season, with just under 500 participants registered across our programs and divisions. This was Megan Emmett's second season as our CEO, with Shirley shifting her full-time focus to Fund Development as our Chief Development Officer. We are thrilled with these 2 amazing individuals and their leadership in our organization.

In the fall of 2022, the Board and staff finalized our refreshed Strategy Plan, laying out our focus and growth areas for the next 3 years. Please take time to read the highlights of our Strategic Plan on page 09 of the Annual Report with details on the exciting ideas and actions we are taking to continue the growth of YSC across 5 focus areas. As you read the update, if you see areas where you could help, please contact the office.



Special Thanks

- In January of 2023, I took over from Catherine Barclay as the Chair of the Board for Youth Singers. I would like to thank Catherine for her time as our Board Chair and for the mentoring and guidance that she has provided over the past year.
- Thank you to Jason Bergeron, who will be leaving our Board, for his guidance and collaboration over the last 6 years.
- Shane Simmons, who has been our Treasurer for the last 2 years, has stepped down as Treasurer but remains as a member of our Board. Thank you to Shane for his oversight and assistance in the management of our finances.
- Thank you to all the Board members for their ongoing dedication, insights and leadership that they provide to our organization.
- Welcome to Teo Blackburn and Steven Weimer as new members of our Board in 2023, with Teo taking the role of Treasurer. We look forward to their leadership in our Finance Committee.
- Finally, a special thank you to the Office and Artistic Staff at Youth Singers who continue to go above and beyond to deliver an amazing program for all of our participants. Your tireless efforts and dedication are truly appreciated.

ERNIE ABBOTT

CHAIR, YSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023

Board of Directors

Chair

Ernie Abbott

Vice Chair

Laura Hambley Lovett

Past Chair

Catherine Barclay

Treasurer

Shane Simmons

Secretary

Rod Garossino

Directors

Eugene Beaulieu

Catherine Clynych

Renee Fagnou

Jason Bergeron

J.P. Hermano

Karri Quan

Megan Thomson

Patricia McGauley

Steven Weimer

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The 2022-2023 season was one of incredible accomplishments and continued evolution at Youth Singers. Our programs are flourishing and thriving each in their own way, due to our outstanding staff, dedicated volunteers, and invaluable community support. Youth Singers has created a caring community, where we work alongside each other, care for each other, and put our youth at the centre of all of our decisions.

In May, we welcomed alumni and supporters to celebrate the legacy of our founder, Shirley Penner, at the SPARK Celebration dinner held in her honour. Messages of thanks and well-wishes poured in from Alumni all over the world, appreciative for the “spark” Shirley inspired in them.

On a governance front, the Youth Singers of Calgary Society updated our bylaws, and designed an ambitious and invigorating Strategic Plan which will take us to the 2026-2027 season. Outreach into the community continued with additional school tour performances, and a robust return of in-school residencies.

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, educators, and families, as we build confidence, leadership, and a lifelong community of belonging for the youth in our community. Thank you for your support!

MEGAN EMMETT

CEO - YOUTH SINGERS OF CALGARY



MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER & CDO

A big thank you to the YSC membership, alumni, staff, supporters, and leadership. The AGM is an ideal time to recognize the efforts of our growing community and thank them for their diligent work and collective accomplishments. How does one measure what really counts in Youth Singers? It is the changes that occur in our performers in terms of sensitivity, maturity, responsibility, loyalty, commitment, life-skill development, and musical and performing arts growth. Everything we do to accomplish our goals has financial implications.



Much time and effort was spent in public relations and stewardship, focussing on as many of our donors and significant sponsors as possible. I attended various social events, coffees, lunches, dinners, and meetings. Fund development staff hours were spent researching prospects, and following up with individuals and organizations who may be able to support YSC. Many applications for support were submitted. We empowered, monitored, and assisted volunteer leadership with YSC fundraising projects. Government relations were maintained and we made connections with alumni.

The organization's strategic plan focuses on accessibility. The Earned Revenue, comprised of tuition, performance, APAC rental revenue, and sales was approximately 50% of the total annual income which is approximately back to the pre-pandemic level. Once again, to keep our programs affordable, 50% of our Revenue was raised from fundraising initiatives including foundations, government, corporations, alumni, membership, community, gaming, HEARTS OUT fundraising gala, sales, and individual donations.

SHIRLEY PENNER FOUNDER & CDO



FUND DEVELOPMENT SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

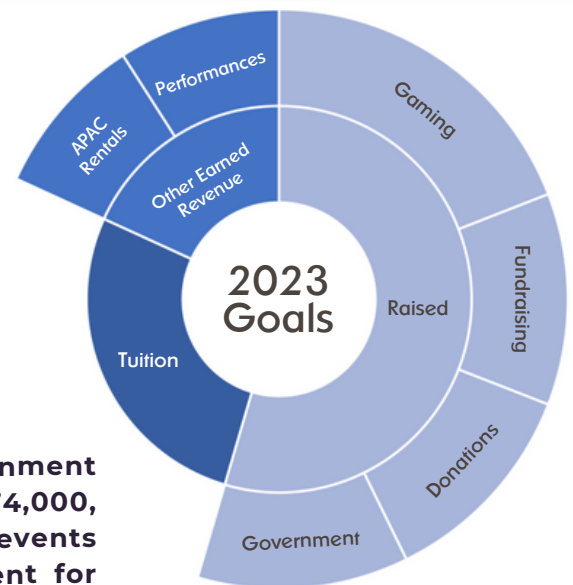
- Outstanding results in our grantsmanship efforts.
- Successful HEARTS OUT fundraising gala with net revenue of \$130,000. Thank you to our sponsors: Marquee - Spruce Meadows; Spotlight - Baytex Energy Corp, CHFinancial, Shaw Birdies for Kids; Limelight - Calgary Foundation, McDaniel, and PWC. Thank you to all supporters of YSC's Annual Gala.
- Strong Board of Directors with Catherine Barclay as Chair July 1, 2022 – Jan, 2023; Ernie Abbott Jan, 2023 – June 30th, 2023.
- Outstanding Mainstage Shows held at the Jubilee. Thank you to sponsors ATCO (Christmas mainstage show sponsor) and CH Financial, (Spring mainstage show sponsor) who enabled us to break even financially on both 2022-2023 mainstage productions.
- Bingo revenues increased under the leadership of Marge Rusnak.
- A studio naming event was held May 12, 2023 to honour the families who named the four studios in APAC: Tremblay, Penner, Thomson and Shaikh.

- We began the process of redesigning our Donor Recognition Wall in the Tremblay Studio. The Wall will recognize major YSC supporters through the years as well as including all the Notes & Stars donors. Everyone is encouraged to consider adding their family names to the memory wall.
- Thank you to Patti Pon and the team at CAD and City of Calgary for your increased level of support.
- Thank you to the Alberta Foundation of the Arts and the Alberta Government for your support.
- Thank you to the Calgary Foundation for ongoing support. In the fall of next fiscal year, we will apply to Calgary Foundation and our private investor to extend YSC's APAC loan for a 3-year term. Thank you to the Impact Investment team and Alex Laidlaw for their work on our behalf.
- Eugene Beaulieu, chair of the Crescendo Capital Campaign, and his team are in the process of reinvigorating the campaign.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

This fiscal year, our Fund Development staff team met weekly to plan and monitor all YSC fundraising activities. We brainstormed new ideas, continued rebuilding revenue, reviewed current funding initiatives, and rebuilt wherever possible. Eugene Beaulieu, chair of the HEARTS OUT Sponsorship and Donations Team, expanded their team's mandate to include more of YSC's broad organizational funding challenges.

Raised Revenue for 2022-2023 was \$827,000. Government \$205,000; Donations & Grants \$207,000 (Individuals \$74,000, Corporations \$51,000, Foundations \$82,000); Fundraising events & activities \$155,000; (See the audited financial statement for details).



We ended the fiscal year essentially breaking even. This was an awesome outcome given we were still in rebuilding mode and the fundraising goals for our team were higher than the norm. We have a strong foundation upon which to continue rebuilding revenue streams, enrolment, events, touring, programs, and volunteer and staff initiatives. Our flexibility, stamina, perseverance, and creativity were definitely tested! There was no time to stop and become discouraged, rather, only to positively find ways of moving forward.

YSC is very grateful to our sponsors, government, foundations, corporations and individual donors who faithfully supported us during this challenging season!

Thank you to YSC members, staff, families, friends, and more than 10,000 current and alumni performers of the YSC organization for your passion and commitment to this worthwhile cause.

Shirley Penner, Founder & CDO

On behalf of the YSC Fund Development Team

Janice Schneider, Fund Development Associate

Megan Emmett, CEO

Cathy Inglis, Director, Finance & Operations

Lauren Thompson, Director, Marketing & Fund Development Associate

Alida Lowe, Director, Program, Production & Touring

Jocelyn Smith, Special Events Liaison

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Spark Ignited!
One Life. A Million Dreams.

Thanks to our amazing Artistic Team, our incredible volunteers and our very talented singers, last year's celebration of the impact of a SPARK was ignited within our Company, Alumni, Staff and Families. Through recognizing the power of the dream of Shirley Penner, we were all empowered to take that step toward our dreams! As a creative team, we knew that the music and themes for this year would have an incredibly important effect on our community and the greater community. We are here. We are strong. We are moving forward in a good way!



Our first semester focused on the planning, preparation and performance of our December mainstage show, "Twas the Night Before Curtain!". A hilarious look at all the personalities that have to work together when putting on a show! Our singers had the opportunity to explore many musical genres including comedy!

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



YSC STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITMENTS 2023-2026 OVERVIEW



Our People:

YSC aims to value and maximize the skills of its board, staff, and volunteers. Key actions include formalizing HR policies, creating clear job descriptions, developing a volunteer engagement framework, implementing succession planning, and focusing on professional and personal development.

Our Programs:

With the challenges of reduced registrations and diversity gaps, YSC plans to enhance program relevancy and reach. Initiatives include developing an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) plan, leveraging technology, creating inter-divisional learning opportunities, expanding the Residency Program, and exploring strategic partnerships.

Our Finances:

To support program growth and facility maintenance, YSC focuses on diversifying revenue streams. This includes developing a comprehensive fund development program, engaging alumni in philanthropy, maximizing facility usage for revenue generation, and executing a long-term financial plan.

Our Profile:

YSC aims to enhance its community profile and position itself as a leader in the choral industry. This involves developing a communications plan, establishing consistent messaging, increasing public awareness of its facilities, and strengthening community partnerships.

Our Operations:

As YSC evolves, it will strengthen its operational foundation. Plans include adopting a governance model, developing a building plan for the APAC, implementing a program operations management system, conducting risk assessments, and enhancing IT systems.

2022-2023 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 2022-23 season was successful in every way we could have hoped.

Cast of Hamilton (Broadway Across Canada) visit YSC for a mentorship chat with SHINE Collective members (July 2022)



103

registered singers in SHOWBIZ KIDZ summer camps, including 28 singers in the half day camp for K - Grade 2



10 AWARDS

JUNIOR HI Tour to California May 18-24

- First place gold show choir
- First place gold concert choir
- Maestro Award for outstanding individual performer - Alex Michalak
- Outstanding Choir - top single choir of the whole competition across all categories (concert choir)
- Choral Sweepstakes - highest combined score for an organization with 2 or more choral ensembles.



45 IN 5 WEEKS!

Busiest Christmas Gigging Season in 10+ Years with 45+ gigs in Calgary



APAC Studio Naming Event on May 11th: Celebrating the naming of Tremblay, Penner, Thomson, and Shaikh studios

JSAYQ Ensemble perform at Music Conference Alberta Showcase (Oct 2022)



" 'Twas the Night Before Curtain" had the most costume changes for one character



SENIOR HI & ACT3 performance at Kantorei Choral Festival April 14-15 and workshop with Joshua Rist



Shirley Penner awarded Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her significant contribution to the lives of Albertans

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



956

Tickets Sold: SPARK Spring Show Shatters Sales Records!



40

YSC Alumni Take the Stage in Finale Performance



April 12th Showcase: SENIOR HI and ACT3 at APAC, featuring Les Petits Chanteurs de Laval from Quebec!

2000

Students entertained in 4 Calgary Schools with fun performances by KIDZXPRESS during 2 day school tour



67

Performances Across All Ages, Featuring Divisional Shows, Summer Gigs, Festivals, School Tours, Downtown Live, Bravo, and More!



Kinsmen supports STAR with a \$5000 donation



\$130,000

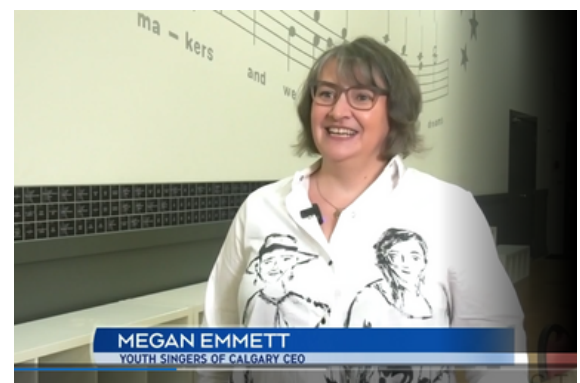
Raised by the HEARTS OUT Gala at the Hyatt Regency for YSC and APAC with bubbles, hors d'oeuvres, and spirited auctions!



YSC's Participation in Pride Parade with Singers, Parents, Staff, and Board (Aug 2022)

Choralfest Achievements

KIDZXPRESS wins Gold award
JUNIOR HI secures Platinum award



Inspired Albertan Spotlight: YSC's CEO Megan Emmett Celebrated for Leadership!

Eugene Beaulieu, chair of the Crescendo Capital Campaign, and his team are in the process of reinvigorating the campaign.

PRODUCTION & PROGRAM

Our 2022-2023 season was, in many ways, a celebration. This season marked a return to operating at our fullest capacity, using the momentum from having continued programming during the COVID-19 pandemic to launch us forward into our first full season without restrictions.

Starting the season strong, YSC headlined the Music Conference Alberta Showcase in Edmonton with singers across five divisions performing both live and in hybrid with one of the virtual performances from 2021. The performance was a celebration of youth, as well as a demonstration of the diversity possible within choral singing.

Our mainstage shows returned to their pre-pandemic production processes, and the Christmas show, “’Twas the Night Before Curtain” marked the first “normal” mainstage experience for many of our volunteers and singers. It was truly a delight to celebrate that experience with a huge new cohort of singers.

The spring mainstage show, “SPARK” was an incredible celebration of our community and an opportunity to honour founder Shirley Penner’s legacy. The planning process created opportunities for personal reflection as well as community and alumni involvement right from the inception through to execution. “SPARK” also involved a surprise ending, and the coming together of the whole community – staff, singers, and volunteers – to keep the secret was a tremendous feat.

Both the Christmas and Summer gigging seasons were wonderfully successful. Christmas was the busiest performance season we’ve ever had with 45 shows, gigs, or presentations in 28 venues over 5 weeks; we returned to many of our annual clients, who were booking performances again, and continued to develop new partnerships. The summer saw regularly scheduled shows and presentations by every single division, a hugely successful JUNIOR HI tour, a two-day KIDZXPRESS school tour, preparation for summer gigs, Downtown Live, and festival season.

This season also saw a major shift within the Production department. After a decade, Alida Lowe has transitioned out of the role, passing the department over to a new Production Team. We are so grateful to her and appreciate the immense amount of institutional knowledge that she continues to pass on.



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

"Our show theme "SPARK" was evident all season long in so many singer stories. It was overwhelming hearing and sharing these stories in our production meetings, the impact YSC or individuals from staff have had on the lives of so many. As a long-time artistic staff, I felt like I was in my sentimental era all year long! These stories, this feeling, shaped my year. A huge thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and singers for following your spark! You may never know the impact your spark will have in years to come, for those around you."

- Chris Thompson

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

PROGRAM DIRECTOR & INSTRUCTOR

Judit Szanto

SENIOR CHOREOGRAPHER

Lisa Ryan

ACCOMPANIST

Juliana Jorge

KIDS & MUSIC welcomed a new director, Judit Szanto, and they are thrilled to have her on the team. Judit is grateful to have such a large space in the Thomson Studio. For young children, it is essential to move and dance around frequently during the lessons, therefore they use the space upstairs to the fullest.

Highlights include the moments when children are sitting on their gray mats, pointing their little fingers on the notes following the melody and singing. They are happy for what they accomplished, the learning and the community of themselves - how they share the space and pick one another during circle games remembering who hasn't had a turn yet - these are lasting values!

KIDS & MUSIC's year-end show, 'Whistle A Happy Tune', was a delightful showcase of their musical growth and accomplishments.

KIDAZZLE - (GR 3)

DIRECTOR

Deanna Henderson-McDade

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Megan Emmett

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Lauren Thompson

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Kirsten Williams

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER AND VOCAL COACH

Jenhene Morgan

KIDAZZLE was an energetic and talented group this season. They staged 'Forty Winks' - a Christmas show that gave each singer a solo opportunity to perform speaking parts, and performed in SPARK, Downtown Live, and as guests at the KIDS & MUSIC show. KIDAZZLE showed a truly inclusive rehearsal environment this year. Having Youth Singers at the end of a busy school day can be hard for some, but all their KIDAZZLE singers finished their Thursdays with a smile!



KIDZXPRESS - (GR 4-6)

DIRECTOR

Deanna Henderson-McDade

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Megan Emmett

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Lauren Thompson

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Kirsten Williams

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER

Jenhene Morgan

ACCOMPANIST

Kathy Seibel

This was KIDZXPRESS' strongest season yet! They rocked a 2 DAY school tour schedule. They performed for over 2000 students - 8 shows, 6 schools, 2 lunches, 5 staff and numerous volunteers over 2 days. They celebrated a healthy open vocal production by end of season. Highlights include a first ever joint choreographed song with JUNIOR HI, the wonderful relationships built with singers and families, and the hard work the kids put into main stage shows and community performances.

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's acclaim at Choralfest and an award-winning tour in Anaheim underlines the effectiveness of their repertoire and training methods, with significant wins in all festival categories. 'Firebright!' notably elevated Junior Hi's profile in the global arena, with future international festival engagements planned.

The singers' exposure to varied concert music genres fosters an appreciation for all music, while the active involvement of colleagues and volunteers in rehearsals and events strengthens their community. The heartfelt comments from the singers and public commendation from a clinician affirm the transformative impact of their program on building confident and connected youth.

SENIOR HI - (GR 10-12)

DIRECTOR

Dave Morton

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR & ACCOMPANIST

Kathy Seibel

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Donald Jones

CO- RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Serena Mazil

YSC is bursting with pride over the achievements of SENIOR HI during the 2022-23 season. Witnessing their ability to host and deliver a spectacular concert in mid-April, featuring the Petit Chanteurs de Laval, was a high point. This event, coupled with the inaugural Kantorei Festival at Mount Royal University, marked a triumphant return to the vibrancy of pre-pandemic performances. The Christmas and Spring seasons were particularly notable, showcasing the benefits of their traditional, unaltered rehearsal practices.

A shining example of the joy and excitement SENIOR HI brings to its members is Sophia, their newest addition. She described her first performance at the choral exchange night with the Laval choir as "the most fun thing she's ever done!" Her eagerness to take the stage again was palpable. Another heartwarming sight was walking into rehearsals on a Wednesday night and seeing SENIOR HI passionately practicing their choreography during a break. Their dedication and enthusiasm are truly infectious.

ACT3 - (YOUNG ADULT)

DIRECTOR
Jason Erhardt

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER
Julie Stiven

CO-RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER
Donald Jones

LEAD CREATOR
Katherine Burrowes

ACT3 sang in 6 different languages this past year: Latin, French, Zulu, Portuguese, Elvish and English!

ACT3 is an amazing, generous community of young adults who beautifully welcome and integrate new singers into the family. They worked very hard to achieve their artistic goals, and continue to be outstanding leaders both in musical excellence and in citizenship.



STAR (SPECIAL TALENTS IN ARTS AND RECREATION)

CO-DIRECTORS & INSTRUCTORS
Dave Morton & Jen Morton

ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS
Shailah Aggarson & Jesse DeHaan

STAR had a tremendous season this year. Their performers were included in scripted introductions at the spring show. They welcomed a new team member, Shailah Aggarson, along with a number of new participants. Along with challenges, they experience unsurpassed accomplishment and joy. Meaningful social connections developed amongst participants, which was wonderful to witness. They all genuinely enjoy being there, creating a magical representation of reciprocal energy sharing. They are learning a great deal and are very proud of their progress.



SHINE & ONCUE (ENSEMBLES)

SHINE CO-MANAGER & CO-PRODUCER

Donald Jones

SHINE CO-MANAGER

Serena Mazil

ONCUE DIRECTOR

Dean Lauderdale

SHINE CO-PRODUCER

Kathryn Parrotta

SHINE VOCAL DIRECTOR

Dean Lauderdale

SHINE CHOREOGRAPHER

Katherine Burrowes

ONCUE MANAGER

Alida Lowe

Last fall, ONCUE performed at the Choir Alberta Conference Showcase Concert on short notice, exemplifying the collaborative spirit and talent across all the involved divisions. Their Christmas season was bustling, with around a dozen performances, perfectly aligning with their goals. Despite some members being unable to participate due to work or illness, a dedicated core ensured the success of their daytime gigs for longstanding clients.

A standout moment for them was the Music Conference Alberta performance in October, where ONCUE sang 'When the Music Went Silent' alongside a virtual choir, creating an emotionally resonant full-circle experience. Their Canmore retreat weekend in January combined intensive rehearsals with a well-received impromptu performance at a seniors' residence. Participating in Downtown Live after several years and debuting new material was exhilarating for them, and their year-end show in June, along with the Christmas show with ENCORE, were enjoyable musical evenings.

Meanwhile, SHINE thrived through the new SHINE Collective pilot program, offering individual and small group talent acts, thanks to the tireless work of their staff and the leadership of Kathryn Parrotta and Donald Jones. The group expanded significantly, growing from 5 singers in January 2022 to a full roster of 16 by September, plus 9 SHINE Collective members joining for the summer.



ENCORE (ALUMNI & FRIENDS)

DIRECTOR
Jason Erhardt

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER & MANAGER
Alicia Ward

ACCOMPANIST
Brent Krawchuk

This past season was one of the very best for ENCORE! They had a very strong, well-balanced choir and produced some of the best singing in their over 10 years of history. The singers learned and owned a great variety of repertoire and performed exceptionally well this year. They are a hidden adult choral gem in the city and when more people hear about them and join in the fun, the world better look out! This is such a supportive community, where singers are encouraged to take risks, both vocally and with choreography.

SECOND CHANTS (ADULT RECREATION)

DIRECTOR
Kathy Seibel

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lloyd Anderson

RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER
Alicia Ward

ACCOMPANIST
Brent Krawchuk

ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER &
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Dez Jones

Their year-end show 'Moments In Time' was a resounding success. Their Variety / Karaoke Night was immensely enjoyable, attracting a packed house. They had a perfectly balanced choir, featuring 13 tenors/basses. They were also thrilled to welcome many younger members alongside their seasoned veterans.

PHYSICIANS CHOIR

DIRECTOR & ACCOMPIANIST
Kathy Seibel

The Calgary Physicians Choir performed at the Fall Showcase, Second Chants Variety Night and had two "family and friends" performances. They enjoyed singing at four seniors homes where our members are the physicians. The Calgary Physicians Choir continues to grow.

SHOWBIZ KIDS (CAMPS & SCHOOL RESIDENCIES)

DIRECTOR

Dean Lauderdale

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Alicia Ward, Jenhene Morgan

INSTRUCTOR

Jessica Eckstadt

Every week of camp was honestly an accomplishment. From the first day that had staff wondering 'how the heck are we going to get them to sing this by Friday?' to 'I guess we did it!' and applause at the creativity and accomplishment of the campers, it was always a rollercoaster each week they did camps!

Returning to their residency at Holy Name School was fantastic! It was great to see students and teachers who remembered them and were excited to engage in the programming once again. Even amidst a chaotic week, in the midst of many school end-of-year events, the energy and engagement was high!



THEATRE ARTS

THEATRE ARTS LEAD

Conrad Belau

THEATRE ARTS ASSISTANT

Alicia Ward

Theatre Arts welcomed Conrad Belau to the team to take over the helm directing. They were very proud of their work for SPARK! The spring cast included many newcomers to Theatre Arts. Being able to work intimately and collaboratively with such a varied cast of ages, personalities, and experiences was highly rewarding for them. They created a beautiful community, and the work they presented at the Jubilee was a source of great pride.



TOURING

May 2023 was JUNIOR HI's first trip back to Disneyland since 2018, and what a tour it was!

Heritage Festival:

First Place Gold Show Choir (Junior High Category), First Place Gold Concert Choir (Junior High Category), Maestro Award for Outstanding Individual Performer, Outstanding Choir - top single choir of the whole competition across all categories (Concert Choir submission) Choral Sweepstakes - highest combined score for an organization with 2 or more choral ensembles entered in competition

Music in the Parks Festival:

First Place Superior Show Choir (Junior High Category), First Place Superior Concert Choir (Junior High Category), Esprit de Corps - Best overall spirit and behaviour Outstanding overall junior high choir, Soloist Awards for Alex Michalak, Chance Dang, Zee Mann, and Ella Curran, Accompanist Awards for Kathy Seibel and Karri Quan.

Awards aside, this was a successful return to U.S. touring with a group of singers who were all doing this for the first time. More than the accolades, it was the whole journey that resonated most deeply with our young performers. The tour became a remarkable chapter in their lives where countless friendships were solidified, and unforgettable memories created. Even now, they fondly reminisce about their experiences, a testament to the enduring magic and impact of the touring program at Youth Singers.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Program at Youth Singers is powered by volunteers at all levels, with participating member families forming the bulk of our volunteer force. Volunteers support the artistic staff and performers in a variety of ways, including chaperoning rehearsals, performances, and tours, fitting wardrobe, building sets, moving equipment to ensure a safe performance space, leading Parent Councils and HEARTS OUT committees, and supporting other fundraising activities, among many other tasks. All of this enables YSC to provide professional experiences for the singers, positively impacting them.

We started our season with Casino volunteers filling 36 shifts over two days in August, raising much-needed funds. As we continued our return to normal programming at YSC, so did our volunteer departments. The hospitality team was rebuilt with a manager and divisional coordinators, working alongside other volunteers to ensure our singers were well-nourished during Jumpstart weekends, workshops, and backstage at the Jubilee. Our logistics department also welcomed a new team lead, and logistics volunteers were continually recruited to join this team. This year, our JUNIOR HI division embarked on the much-anticipated return of the California tour, supported by their hardworking tour assistants. Our amazing and committed volunteers provided support throughout the entire season, contributing to another successful year.

Thank you to all the volunteers, council, and department leadership for all the help and support this season.



VOLUNTEER STAFF & MANAGEMENT TEAM

PRODUCTION

Production Manager	Alida Lowe/ Brianna Rudolfsen
Technical Production Equip. Mgr	Colin Lowe
Hospitality Manager	Kara Johnson
Hospitality Assistants	Div. Coordinators
Music Library Manager	Jan Rubak
Music Library Assistants	Div. Coordinators
Set Design Co-manager	Heath Kai
Set Design Co-manager	Wayne Gosche
Wardrobe Manager	Bonnie Inglis
Wardrobe Assistants	Div. Coordinators
Properties Co-Manager	Kristin Miller
Properties Co-Manager	Gillian Webber
Wardrobe Support	Vaughan Lillico

GAMING

Director, Finance & Operations	Cathy Inglis
Bingo Captain Grey Eagle	Marge Rusnak
Bingo Co-captain	Tracey Abbott
Bingo Barn	
Casino Chair	Jennifer Bridle
Raffle Chair	Megan Thomson

ATCO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (APAC)

Co-manager; Facility	Keith Heilman
Co-manager; Rentals & Bookings	Bryan Clarke
Logistics Manager	John Wang
Facility and Shop Support	Lorne Lillico

FUNDRAISING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events Liaison	Jocelyn Smith
HEARTS OUT Co-Chair	Megan Emmett
HEARTS OUT Co-Chair	Shirley Penner
HEARTS OUT Event Lead	Tara Lima-Coelho
HEARTS OUT Sponsorships & Donations Coordinator	Eugene Beaulieu
HEARTS OUT Auction & Prizes Chair	Stacey Schaub-Szabo
HEARTS OUT Volunteer Coordinator	Danica Strocen
HEARTS OUT Marketing Chair	Kendra Nemeth
Donor Recognition Chair	Brigitte Moore

HERITAGE & ARCHIVES

Heritage & Archives Mgr.	Aicee Hagel
Heritage & Archives Assist.	Div. Coordinators

DIVISIONAL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

YSC Volunteer Manager	Carole Tsang
VSMT Secretary	Jennifer Bridle
New Family Liaison	Heather Laubenstein
KIDZXPRESS President	Karen Burke
KIDZXPRESS Volunteer Coordinator	Kim Watkinson
JUNIOR HI President	Tamara Sampson
JUNIOR HI Volunteer Coordinator	Linda Peters
SENIOR HI President	Jennifer Bridle
SENIOR HI Volunteer Coordinator	Kim Bercsenyi
ACT3 President	Danica Strocen
SECOND CHANTS President	Betty Powers
ENCORE President	Jenn Gordon

*Staff positions in bold



YOUTH SINGERS ADMINISTRATION & PROGRAM STAFF MEMBERS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Megan Emmett	CEO	
Shirley Penner	Founder & CDO	
Tricia Penner*	Artistic Director	
Cathy Inglis	Director; Finance & Operations	
Lauren Thompson	Director; Marketing & Communications, Fund Development Associate	
Alida Lowe	Production Manager - till March 2023	
Brianna Rudolfsen	Production Manager	
Jocelyn Smith	Executive Assistant/Registrar/Marketing & Special Events Liaison	
Carole Tsang	Volunteer Manager	
Keith Heilman*	APAC Co-Manager; Facility	
Bryan Clarke*	APAC Co-Manager; Rentals	
Janice Schneider*	Fund Development Associate	
Colin Lowe*	Manager; Technical Production & Equipment/Music Coordinator ALL	
Dez Jones*	Production Assistant	
Chris Thompson*	Marketing & Communications Associate/Art Design	
		*Part-time

PROGRAM STAFF (SUPPLEMENT TO DIVISIONAL STAFF LISTED ABOVE)

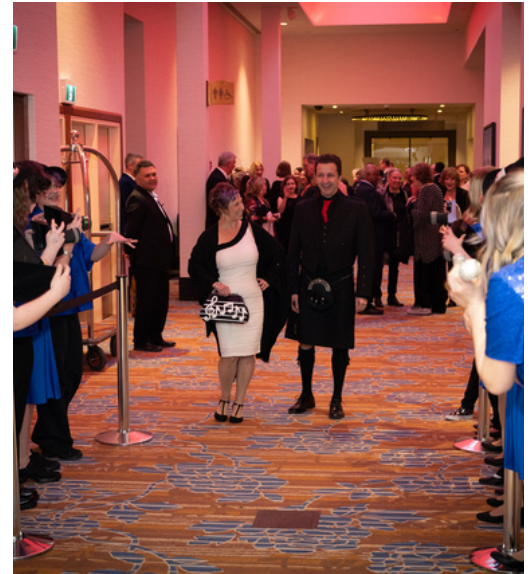
Reid McLean Wiest	Arranger ALL
Kristian Alexandrov	Arranger ALL / Sequences ALL
Joe Slabe	Arranger ALL
Dave Morton	Arranger ALL
John Hildebrand	Technical Director / Recording Engineer ALL / Sound Designer ALL
Kris Mish	Lighting Designer ALL



HEARTS OUT 2023

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW, IS JAZZ HANDS

HEARTS OUT 2023, our annual gala held at the Hyatt Regency on March 11th, was a night of celebration and generosity. This sold-out event was a resounding success, raising over \$130,000 to benefit youth, Youth Singers, and our beloved home, the ATCO Performing Arts Centre.



The Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency was transformed into a glamorous red-carpet experience, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening. Guests met, mingled, and enjoyed complimentary bubbles and delicious hors d'oeuvres, creating an engaging atmosphere from the start.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of HEARTS OUT 2023. Honourary Chair Jeremy Clark provided invaluable support, while our emcees, Ken Lima-Coehlo and Donovan Jones, and the enthusiastic red-carpet welcome by JUNIOR HI created a warm and engaging atmosphere. JUNIOR HI performers aged 14+ with SENIOR HI & ACT3 added a touch of magic with their incredible performances.

Our appreciation also goes out to the entire HEARTS OUT executive committee, their dedicated teams, the numerous volunteers behind the scenes and on the floor, and, of course, our sponsors, supporters, and attendees. Your contributions have had a profound impact and have made this event an extraordinary success.

We look forward to continuing this journey, driven by the generosity and commitment of our incredible supporters. Thank you for being a part of our story.



ATCO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The ATCO Performing Art Centre stands as a cornerstone of our organization. This year, we are proud to highlight some significant developments and acknowledgments related to this vital cultural hub.

APAC Studio Naming Event

On May 11th, we celebrated a significant milestone as we dedicated our well-equipped and beautiful studios to four extraordinary families: the Tremblay, Penner, Thomson, and Shaikh families. Their support will have a profound and lasting impact on young artists who use these studios for years to come.



Refreshed Recognition Wall

At our Studio Naming event, we unveiled a newly designed vision for a recognition wall for the Tremblay studio. This wall will pay homage to all our major supporters over the years, including those who have participated in the 13-year Notes & Stars Capital giving appeal. When individuals or families purchase a Note or Star, they continue to be instrumental in our Crescendo Capital Campaign, ensuring APAC is an available and affordable arts space for the hundreds of people who use it now and in the future. We encourage everyone to consider adding their family names to this installation, solidifying their legacy in our ongoing story.

Paving the Way for Accessibility

In the spring, we received funding support from the Alberta government through the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP). This funding allows us to pave our gravel parking lot and repave our front lot. The introduction of paved parking makes a significant difference in the availability and accessibility of parking for all at the ATCO Performing Art Centre.

The ATCO Performing Art Centre remains a central pillar in our mission to inspire and empower Calgary's youth through the arts. We look forward to continuing our journey, supported by the remarkable contributions and partnerships that have made this vibrant space possible.



THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS



SPONSORS - \$10,000+

ATCO

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

Government of Alberta, Community Facility Enhancement Program

Calgary Arts Development

The Calgary Foundation

Werklund Foundation

Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink

CH Financial

Prosser Charitable Foundation

Kinsmen Club of Stampede City



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