



**Milwaukee
Children's Choir**
Building Noteworthy Character

2008-2009 Annual Report
(Released October 20 2009)

We are the Milwaukee Children's Choir!
A Message from our Board President:

We are pleased to announce that the 2008-2009 season of Milwaukee Children's Choir (MCC) was another year focused on mission and vision, a year filled with learning, a strong performance season, and an economically sound fiscal period.



It was also a year of transition. In the fall of 2008 founder and artistic director Emily Holt Crocker announced that after working with a generation of young Milwaukee musicians, MCC's 15th season would be her last as artistic director. Emily is also the Vice President of Choral Music at Milwaukee's Hal Leonard Corporation, and she graciously agreed to remain with our organization as an artistic advisor, where she can be available to provide valuable counsel.



The board recognized that over the past 15 seasons MCC had grown to a point where it needed a full-time artistic director. A national search began in October 2008.

On June 24 2009 our new artistic director was hired from within. MCC Prelude Choir director Carol Storck was selected from a pool of exceptionally qualified candidates, and a new artistic era was marked at the close of our 15th season. Carol's experience with our organization and the communities we serve coupled with her music skills, energy, and focus on education will further solidify our reputation as the premiere children's choir in Southeastern Wisconsin.



We ended our performance season by celebrating MCC's 15 years of performing beautiful music under Emily Holt Crocker's artistic leadership. Choir members gathered with family, friends and alumni for a special anniversary concert in Uihlein Hall. With the Marcus Center as our host for the afternoon, and with several corporate and individual donors, for the first time MCC was able to produce its own concert in the area's premiere performance venue.

We thank the entire Milwaukee community for supporting our young singers for 15 years, and look forward to many more years of song!

Sincerely,

Christine Burgener,
Board President

Milwaukee Children's Choir

158 North Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202

www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org • mcc@milwaukeechildrenschoir.org

Phone 414-221-7040 • Fax 414-221-7041

Our history. The Milwaukee Children's Choir began in 1994 as part of the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra. Founder and artistic director Emily Holt Crocker envisioned a choir that would serve Milwaukee youth through quality music education, and please Milwaukee audiences through artistic excellence. Ms. Crocker began with 35 musical novices simply wanting to sing. In 2000 MCC became an independent 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Today MCC is made up of hundreds of singers who hail from 63 zip codes and more than 150 schools. On December 20, 2008 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* music critic Tom Strini proclaimed MCC a "highly skilled and essential musical resource."

2008-2009 – A year filled with learning. Each year MCC helps young singers from Southeastern Wisconsin learn and grow through choral music, and inspires audiences everywhere with outstanding performances. MCC is dedicated to building an education and performance season that teaches valuable life skills to choir members and enriches the artistic, cultural and educational environment of the greater Milwaukee community and beyond. During 2008-2009 our choir members participated in one of five choir levels: Prelude (grades 1-3), Concert (grades 4-8), Cantorei (grades 4-9), Chamber Cantorei (grades 6-12 treble) and the Milwaukee Youth Chorale (grades 9-12).



Our program is designed to provide a rewarding experience for each child. Instruction is child-centered and age appropriate. Choirs rehearse after school and evenings weekly throughout the school year. Rehearsals introduce children to music theory skills and teach sight-reading, musical development skills and performance practice. Foundation elements are built into rehearsals, and insights are provided into the backgrounds of composers, the history of the compositions, and the impetus or inspiration behind pieces when appropriate. This helps bring the music alive for the children.

Repertoire is drawn from the classical masters, from more contemporary choral masters, and from diverse cultures and a wide variety of musical styles including classical, popular, folk, and patriotic music. Music instruction is based on recognized musical principles:

- Elements of Music: Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Dynamics, Form, and Style
- Musical Skills: Singing, Theory, Sight-reading, and Listening
- Vocal Development: Posture, Breath Control, Tone Production, and Diction



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Teaching through performance. All rehearsals lead to performance. During 2008-2009 MCC members from the various choir levels performed more than 40 times. We estimate that through these performances we reached more than 40,000 audience members.

Five performances were produced by MCC. MCC's other performances were guest appearances and community outreach. A complete performance list from 2008-2009 is listed in the text box on the right.

We served as Milwaukee ambassadors when we hosted the American Boy Choir, Jitro from the Czech Republic and the Platteville Children's Choir. We brought holiday cheer to many when we caroled all over town in December. And with financial support from the Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter of Signa Alpha Iota, we sponsored a special workshop featuring Ella Washington, Dr. Wallace Cheatham and Raymond Roberts teaching high school singers techniques and performance practice for spirituals, gospel music and other styles related to the African American music experience.

New in 2008-2009
MCC's First Annual "Sing-a-Thon"!

2008-2009 Performances:

- ♪ Children's choir in Skylight's production of *La Boheme*
- ♪ Featured guests at the Children's Hope Network benefit
- ♪ Visit from and performance with the American Boychoir
- ♪ Visit from and performance with "Jitro" (Czech Republic)
- ♪ Justinian Society of Lawyer's Columbus Day Dinner
- ♪ Present Music's *Thanksgiving Concert*
- ♪ *Holiday Pajama Jamboree* with Festival City Symphony
- ♪ Holiday Arts Festival at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center
- ♪ City/County Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
- ♪ Midwest Vocal Express holiday concerts
- ♪ ***Winter Wonders (produced by MCC)***
- ♪ Caroling at Schwartz Bookshop, First Stage Children's Theater, the MSO Pops, the Rep, and Christmas in the Ward
- ♪ Michael Pink's *The Nutcracker* with Milwaukee Ballet
- ♪ Chinese New Year celebration at the Domes
- ♪ ***Sing-a-Thon at Bayshore Town Center (produced by MCC)***
- ♪ Performance practice workshop featuring African-American music (sponsored by MCC)
- ♪ ***River Child (produced by MCC)***
- ♪ Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Ace Concert
- ♪ ***Milwaukee Youth Music Celebration (with MYSO)***
- ♪ *Carmina Burana* with the MSO
- ♪ Milwaukee Wave Game
- ♪ Visit from and performance with Platteville Children's Choir
- ♪ St. Catherine of Alexandria community concert
- ♪ ***How Can I Keep From Singing - a 15th Anniversary Celebration! (produced by MCC)***
- ♪ Mahler's Symphony #8 with MSO
- ♪ Musical Mondays at Lake Park

On Saturday February 7, 2009, MCC took its show "out of the hall and into the mall." For the entire day MCC choirs performed favorite songs in the friendly come-and-go atmosphere of the Bayshore Town Center. Selected soloists, duets and small ensembles were featured. The Sing-a-Thon was also a fundraiser used to support



MCC's educational programming. Choir members obtained sponsors to support their efforts. Special valentines were created for donors. And at the close of a fun-filled day choir members raised more than \$10,000 to keep the choirs singing.



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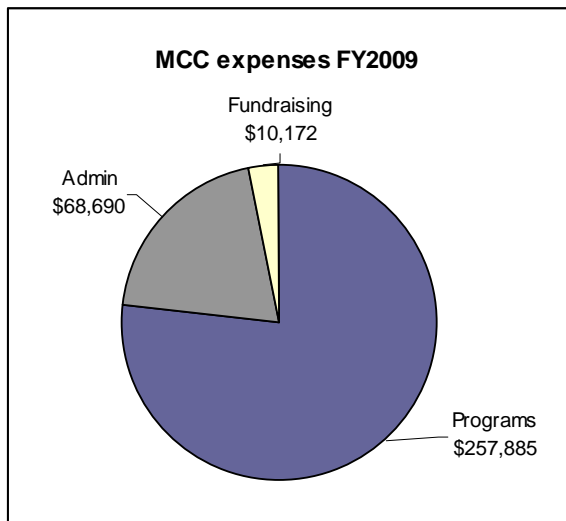
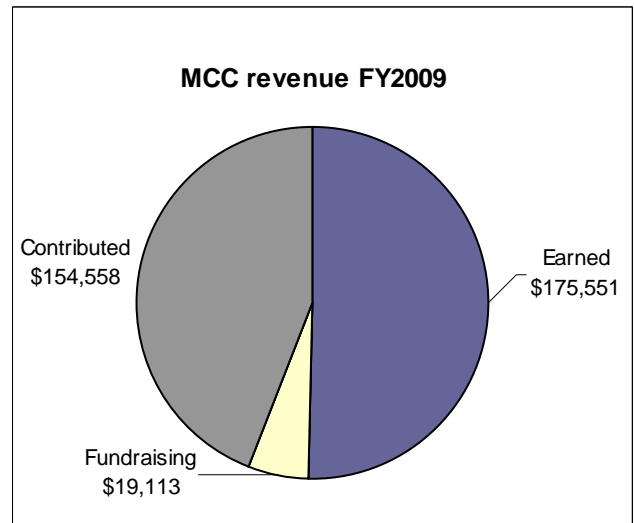
Phone 414-221-7040 • Fax 414-221-7041

Our financial year.

Our fiscal year ended June 30 with a surplus. During a year of national and local economic crises we increased our net assets by \$12,476.

Where MCC's money came from.

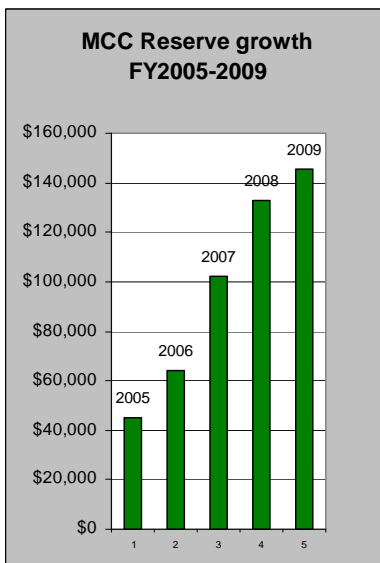
MCC's total income in 2008-2009 was \$349,222, from several sources: tuition and fees (\$136,060); special events and tickets (\$33,017); retail sales (\$5,935); contributions and grants (\$154,558); fundraising (\$19,113); and interest (\$539).



Where MCC's money went. MCC's expenses during 2008-2009 were \$336,747. Of that amount, \$257,885 was spent on programming, \$68,690 on administration, and \$10,172 on fundraising.

Schedule of functional expenses:

Salaries and benefits	\$62,821
Artistic salaries and fees	\$144,697
Recording and productions	\$47,310
Accounting and Audit	\$9,813
Advertising	\$16,989
Automobile	\$295
Bank service charges	\$1,963
Dues	\$1,207
Insurance	\$3,962
Internet	\$169
Office equipment and repair	\$406
Office and rehearsal rental	\$23,074
Postage	\$3,858
Printing	\$3,470
Supplies	\$6,119
Telephone	\$1,952
Other	\$6,038
Depreciation	\$2,604
Total	\$336,747



Growth in financial Reserve: Since 2005 MCC has been able to grow its financial reserve from \$45,281 (June 30 2005) to \$145,365 (June 30 2009). During 2009-2010 we project reduced foundation and tuition income, as well as increased need for tuition aid. We anticipate our 2010 fiscal year will be economically challenging, and are thus pleased to have ended the 2009 fiscal year financially strong.

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Governance.

Milwaukee Children's Choir is fortunate to have an active and balanced board of directors who are talented, dedicated, and very engaged. Our board members represent MCC parents, members of the

performing arts industry and teaching profession, local corporations and caring volunteers. Board members take their responsibilities seriously: they attend monthly board meetings; are stewards of the MCC vision, mission and strategic plan; review monthly financial statements; actively engage in fund development; and serve on board committees focused on the overall vitality of the organization. MCC staff report to the board through the executive and artistic directors for MCC's day-to-day operations.

Milwaukee Children's Choir closed its 15th year with a special anniversary concert in Uihlein Hall. As choir members and alumni stood on stage singing the closing songs, it was clear that the title of the concert reflects the sentiment of each individual associated with our organization:



“How Can I Keep From Singing!”

Sincerely,
Milwaukee Children's Choir

MCC's board of directors
as of June 30, 2009

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Thank you Donors!

Without substantial support from donors, MCC programming would not be possible. We would like to thank the following individuals, companies, foundations and governmental entities for making what we do possible. The list below reflects gifts received by Milwaukee Children's Choir between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Thank you for making all of the MCC moments possible!

\$20,000 and above

Greater Milwaukee Foundation
William and Alicia Schoeneich
Arts and Culture Fund
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\$10,000 - \$19,999

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We make every effort to publish accurate donor lists, and apologize for any omissions or errors. We encourage you to call 414-221-7040 with any questions or corrections – or to learn how you too may make a much-valued gift to MCC!



Sing-a-Thon donors (in alphabetical order): Jonathon Aiuppa, June Albert, Shelli Albertson, Anonymous, Gwen Armbrust, Annette & Mark Arndt, Mom & Dad Arndt, Lindsey Atwood, Marci Baker, Basil & Terri Barlabas, Jodi & Paul Basta, Charlie & Amy Baumle, Chris Beaker, John & Cynthia Beiler, Kathleen Beiler-Gestl, Mark Bell, Mike Bell, Paula Bell, Vida Bendoritis, Eitan Benzaguen, Rob & Patti Beres, Shari Berman, Stewart & Sarah Berman, Tina & Frank Berman, Robert & Bev Betterton, Linda Bitar, Becky Blank, Jim Bors, Carolyn Bourdo, Arleen Braun, Ned Braun, Susie Brigg, Lys and Elizabeth Yoon Buck, Marsha Buck, Dan & Marilyn Bugenhagen, Chris Burgener, Shelley & Doug Burns, Charlie & Emily Burton, Mary Butke, Judy Camp, Joan & Richard Champion, Cathy Christensen, Sue Cieminski, J. Clark, Rita Clark, Jane Cohen, Beverly Coleman, Zoe Costomiris, Jenny Craig, Emily Crocker, Mary & Eugene Crossot, Andrea Cumberbaton, Lillian Cummings, Glenn del Rosario, Laurie Dellevar, Allen & Jane DeLoge, Matt & Bridget DeLoge, the Delugears, David Dorgan, Scott Duckworth, Milka Dupor, Donald and Irene Eaton, Judy Ebert, Amy Ehrlich, Michele Eiche, Donna Engler, Bradley & Abigail Engstrand, A.J. Erickson, Aidan Erickson, David Erickson, Faith Erickson, Josh Erickson, Karen Estrada, Lori & Mark Falci, Bennett Family, Clopton Family, Brad Feigles, Joanne Fischer, Jennifer Fleck, Beth Frassetto, Colleen Frassetto, Jane & John Frederick, Matt Freeman, Melissa Freeman French, Greg & Margaret Fritsch, Julie Fuller, David Galvasreig, Peter Gardner, Patty & Rick Gattoni, J. Gebeau, Richard & Mary Geldreich, E. & Son Gierach, Paul Gionfriddo, Celeste Giunta, Joe & Laura Goreki, Carrie Gott, Kaethe Grabenhofer, Charyl Granatella, Arturas Grazulis, Beverly Green, Mom Green, Gary Griffith, Julie Grochan, Matthew & Dawn Grulke, Ellen Grunwald, Maureen Haines, Mike Halloran, Mary June Hanrahan, Hansen, Tricia Harris, Denise Harron, Mr. Hartling, Carol Hasenyager, Kathy Hestekin, Hickson, Mom & Dad Hilts, Robin Hix, Jackson Hodel, Mom and Dad Hodel, Pat and Melissa Horne, Lee Horsman, Nikki Hubbard, the Hynsons, Tracy Jaglinski, Thomas & Patricia Jancoski, Carol Jansen, Jackie Jansen, Mary Cay Jansen, Kristie Jennerjahn, Ruth Jennerjahn, the Jileks, Ann Johnson, M. Joynt, Kathleen Jury, Kathryn Kaminsky, Steve & Kelley Karakis, Susan Karaskiewicz, Karmarkar Family, Ravi & Sharmila Karmarkar, Julie Karnes,

Sing-aThon donors (cont.):

the Kavanaghs, Megan Kearns, the Kenneys, Mohahamad Ali Khan, Christina Kilcoyne-Grazer, Mary Jo Klein, Linda Knutson, Steve & Denise Koenig, Maria Koester, Rick & Kim Korinek, Marie A. Korinek, the Hencsiks, Eric & Michelle Kortbein, Mary Krager, Pat Kreil, Kathy Kropidlowski, Barbara Kroupa, Tom & Marge Kuchnicki, Penny Laferriere, Dr. Lamers, Adrienne Laubenstien, Scott Lawrence, Jennifer Lee, James & Ann Leigh, Scott Leigh, Debbie Lemont, the Linzers, Augusto & Leonila Liongson, Karla Lowry, Lucia Lozano, Elzbieta Lulewicz, Kathy Lusky, Kyle MacLeod, Marian & Jon MacLeod, Sandy & Pamela Madigan, Lisa Maglio, A.J. Magoon, the Magoons, Dale Majinski, Jeff Majinski, Ann & Scott Manning, the Marcheses, John Markey, Josef Markovits, Martin Family, Tim & Kathy May, Helen McLellan, Ruth Meidl, Ruth Messnick, Mary Jo Meyers, Susan Miller, Anita Misien, Celia Misovy, Ed & Linda Mordy, Adam Moreno, Kenneth & Sara Moss, Steve & Jenny Moss, Bradford Mundy, Margaret Mundy, Cynthia Musickant, Donald & Loretta Musickant, the Nagaos, Pamela Nosbusch, Mike Nyland, the O'Connells, Tom & Pat O'Connor, Oak Creek Profession Fire Fighters, Ogden Construction, Mike Oleszek, Brian Olson, Oliver Olson, Richard & Mary Olson, Brian O'Toole, Sioli Paea, Janice Palmer, Debbie Patel, Jim Peavler, Michele Peters, Cheryl Peterson, Cindy Peterson, Kevin Horvath and Mary Petsch-Horvath, Karen Poellmann, Andrew & Nancy Porter, Kate Puls, Margie Puls, Brian & Laura Putnam, Jill Putnam, Sean & Nancy Quinn, Afton Radomski, Mom & Dad Rakowiecki, Kate Rasman, Gary Rauch, Carol Rehorst, James & Diana Repetti, Donna Retberg, Heather Retberg, Laurie & Jeff Rhody, R. Ricci, Robert Ricci, Joseph & Corinne Rivas, Raymond Roberts, Julie Rock, Louise Roepke, Betty Rokicki, Virgil Rokicki, Wayne Rokicki, Alexandra Ruzell, Chloe S., K. Saver, Denise Saviano, Michael & Patricia Savitt, Tricia Savitt, Ervin & LaRae Schauer, Richard & Suzie Schmidt, Vicky Schneider, Dulcie Schoener, Jeanne Schramka, Joan Schramka, Faith Schreiber, Brian Schulteis, Chris & Thomas Schumacker, Elaine Schweitzer, Betty Seil, Gordon Seil, Natalie Singer, Skonecki Family, R. Skonecki, Helen Slupesky, Dorothy Smith, Jerry Smith, Michael Smith, Steve & Liz Smith, W. Smith, Nancy Smith-Watson, Greg Smrz & Lorinda Liongson, Doris Snyder, Cheri Sobel, Zan Song, Craig & Kathryn Spoerl, Randy Steinberg, Steinert Family, Janet Stella, Lynda Stephany, Carol Storck, Gertrude Suckow, Ellorie Sumner, Valerie Swanson, Melissa Tanel, Bill Thiel, Cheryl Thompson, Terri Thompson, John & Jean Thur, Mel & Mary Lou Thur, Dave & Darla Tilton, Trettin Family, Mike Trudeau, Natalie Ullenberg, Sue Valenti, Steve & Dawn Valle, Nicole Van Bendegon, Susan Van Lith, Sara Van Loon, Ellen & Bob Venable, Emily Waldoch, Virginia Wanla, Dennis & Barbara Wanless, Jamie Ward, Alis & David Wasserman, Toby Wasserman, Eleanor Watson, Julie Watson, Aaron Weiss, Jenny Weiss, the Weisses, Brenda White, Joy Wienczek, Lee Wiensch, Ann Williamsen, Bern Williamsen, Scott G. Winter, Nancy Wolf, George & Martha Wolz, Denise Wright, Nancy Wright, Diana Yegge, Bennett Yme, Chong & Jan Yoon, Ellis & Karen York, Cory Zamora, Stephanie Zanowski, C. Zauner, Aunt Jean & Uncle P., Aunt Linda & Uncle Jack, Megan, Aunt Rose, Grandma Jan, Grandma Pat, Grandpa, Nana & Granddad, Traci & Amber, Uncle Tom & Aunt Jodie, and plain old "Grandma" (several times over!).

In-Kind Auction Donors:

Holiday tree and wreath auction: Kristen Durant, Kori Eisch, Penny Fichtner, Margaret Fritsch, Jennifer Girard, Emily Goodrum, Debbie Groth, Susan Hessner, Mary Jo Klein, Mary Koch, Steven Koenig, Denise Koenig, Kathy Kropidlowski, Janet Leslie, Lorinda Liongson, Jennifer Llanus, Mr. and Mrs. Mihelich, Charlie O'Brien, Debbie Patel, Eunice Plieseis, Lesley Scheibach, Robert and Sarah Schreiber, Janet Stella, Sue Valenti, Tricia Veenedaal, Hailee Wachowiak. **Spring auction:** American Girl Doll, Bel Canto Choir, Mark and Paula Bell, Mark and Sherry Cummisford, Festival City Symphony, Godfrey & Kahn, Korinthia Violins (Korinthia Klein), Paul and Karylmary Lucey, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C., Rockwell Automation, The Skylight, Steinway Piano Gallery (Barb Wanless).



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