



**CANTARE
CON VIVO**
IN THE KEY OF LIFE

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

MISSION

Cantare Con Vivo seeks to foster a diverse community of compassion and understanding across generational, cultural, and economic boundaries through the beauty and power of choral music.



VISION

Inspiring people to live in harmony,
treating one another with dignity.

Through our work with our adult choirs, youth choirs, and more than 2,150 inner-city youth, Cantare is committed to advancing social change and cultural equity by building bridges where there is division.

Music is not an end unto itself, but an avenue to self-discovery that enables us to deepen our connectedness to one another and the world in which we live.



Appear and Inspire

CANTARE CON VIVO
2017-18 SEASON

www.cantareconvivo.org

LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

As I reflect back on our 31st season, I recall each concert, all 87 pieces performed with the adult choirs, along with the singers who participated. And then there are the thousands of children and youth that work with our highly-trained teaching artists, learning to express themselves through singing alongside one another. How lucky we are to have one another.

The following quote from Czechoslovakian singer Markéta Prochásková best captures my thoughts:

"Perhaps that is why music is within people: so they are not afraid, so they can be closer to one another, so they can find themselves in each other. Because music is not only a gift, but also a service; not only a work, but also a struggle; not only a mission, but also a message."

Through music we risk allowing our Self to surface, engaging the listener with that which the music has called forth from within us. Great music offers us such direct and personal mystical experiences, making it possible for us to move with a sense of aliveness and confidence that cannot easily be dismissed.

Thank you for your support this past season in allowing us to advance in achieving our mission of nurturing a more compassionate community across barriers that often divide through the beauty and power of choral music.

David Morales



"I am a musician from the very deepest part of my soul, and when I am singing, playing or hearing music, I am lifted and filled. Cantare gave me the perfect opportunity for to enjoy music-making, and also 'give something back' to a community where music education might not otherwise be available."

- Margaret, Chorale singer

"There are so many benefits of the Cantare program I don't know where to begin. Singing together and harmonizing really brings the class together and helps with group dynamics, it gives my students with learning disabilities a chance to feel successful and on equal footing with their peers and is something that all the kids look forward to."

- Casey, Lincoln Elementary Teacher

BETTER IS PEACE THAN ALWAYS WAR



Several years back, Artistic Director David Morales decided to program a concert to honor veterans in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. He shares, "I believe that it is essential to give voice to the issues of our time, recognizing that music is a profoundly effective mode of communication." *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins (b. 1944), serves to acknowledge the extreme violence of the 20th century

and look toward a more peaceful outcome. More than 100 singers performed this 75-minute work for chorus, soloists, and orchestra that depicts our descent into war, interspersed with moments of reflection. It shows the horrors that war brings and concludes with the hope for peace in a new millennium. During the performances, audience members had the opportunity to honor those veterans whose names they put forward at this concert; writing their names on cards to be placed on a platform. This gesture was a beautiful way to pay tribute to our loved ones who have served, while

MY HOMELAND IS FAR AWAY

Under the direction of Pauline Ma-Senturia, Chorale members Yvonne Chu, Cho Kwan, Teresa Leung, Frank Pong, Kai Shen, and Derrick Wu performed together for the first time during the October 2017 concert. The text of the piece performed, *Gan Lan Shu (The Olive Tree)*, by Qi Yu, and arranged by Ma-Senturia, expresses the sentiments of those leaving their homelands in pursuit of something better.



The text, relevant to current events, addresses the journey of immigrants in search for a better life; specifically in pursuit of peace, classically represented here by the olive tree:

"Don't ask where I came from, my homeland is far away, Why am I wandering in a faraway place? For the soaring birds in the sky, for the flowing streams in the valleys, for the sprawling green grassland...More over, for the olive tree in my dreams."

remembering them in our hearts throughout this magnificent concert. Cantare was honored to present two performances of this profound work last spring, alongside the projection of the corresponding film. Underwritten in part by the The City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs funding program, a second performance of *The Armed Man* was offered free of charge to concert-goers.



Heidi Hill, Executive Director, Betty D. Gadling Fine Arts Academy at Allen Temple Baptist, David Morales, & Lani Wilson, Cantare Board member

"This concert allows us to fulfill our mother's wish to acknowledge our father's service in the Philippines during WWII. They lived peacefully and always made sure to enhance our lives with an exposure to musical excellence."

- Thank you from Becky, Chorale singer, and Sky, audience member



Local community activist, Hassan Kareem, was Muezzin (the prayer leader)



Cantare Con Vivo in the Classroom



Cantare Con Vivo partners with Oakland public elementary schools Cleveland, Vincent Academy, Lincoln, Melrose Leadership Academy, and La Escuelita to offer choral music education in 73 classrooms during the school day to K-5 students, reaching approximately 2,150 students each year.

Students learn diverse folk songs from around the world while building fundamental musical skills through a sequential curriculum based on the National Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts. Special units are also included, presenting the Music of U.S. History and California History in specialized sessions that pair with OUSD's language arts and history lessons. Our highly-skilled teaching artists work closely with school staff to provide the highest quality music education to every child.

Our curriculum is based on the music education pedagogy of Zoltán Kodály, a 20th-century Hungarian composer and music educator who developed a systematic method of training young musicians. Kodály training has also been shown to improve cognitive reasoning and motor skills, and it builds tangential skills in other academic areas, including math and reading.

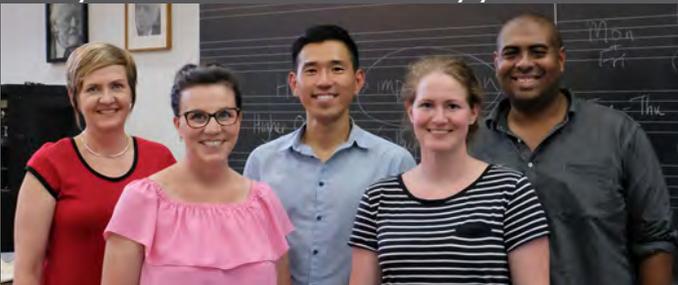
CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP WITH HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY

In September of 2017 we celebrated an ongoing partnership with Holy Names University's (HNU) Kodály Center. All HNU Master of Music (Kodály) pedagogy students are required to complete a year of student teaching in public schools. Cantare employs alumni of the HNU program and arranges student teaching placements for HNU graduate music students.

This year, we placed three of HNU's graduate music students as volunteer teachers in our music education program at Oakland's Cleveland Elementary School. Cantare's Music Education Director, Conway Tan, shares of the partnership:

"We know that quality music education is best achieved through well-trained teachers who are also outstanding musicians, and look to the exemplary training that the Kodály Center at HNU offers."

Maree Hennessy, director of the Kodály Center at HNU, adds, "The partnership with Cantare Con Vivo is a natural one, and forms part of the strong local and international music education community that the Kodály Center has fostered over many years."



Maree Hennessy (left) and Conway Tan (middle) with graduate music students placed in Cleveland Elementary School: Marni Strome, Kelsey Allen, Jonathan Napier-Morales

STEADFAST SUPPORT FROM KIWANIS OF MORAGA

In the fall of 2017, Director of Children's Choirs, Julie Haydon, attended a 7am breakfast meeting to provide an update to the members of Kiwanis of Moraga and to accept a funding gift for Cantare's Children's program. We are very appreciative of club members Steve Kinsey and Ed Beatson, who are also Cantare season subscribers, for coordinating this annual gift to Cantare. Over the years their gifts have exceeded \$10,000.



Steve Kinsey, Julie Haydon, Ed Beatson

CANTARE INVITED TO PRESENT AT CHORUS AMERICA CONVENTION

Director of Children's Choirs, Julie Haydon, was invited to serve on a panel to share the success of Cantare's award-winning in-school music education program with other choral music professionals at the 2018 Chorus America Convention in Chicago. Chorus America is the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that advances the choral field.

Julie shares about participating in this session: "It has been wonderful to learn about what other organizations are doing across the country. The process has reaffirmed my belief that our program is unique and our mission is bold. Many organizations are partnering with school districts to reach out to a small group, whereas our entire mission is reaching out and serving over a thousand children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to find their voice."

THE POWER OF MUSIC

In February, Cantare choir member Don Keeble began volunteering with one of our after-school choirs at Vincent Academy, a West Oakland Title 1 (federally-funded) K-5 charter school, where approximately a dozen K-2nd graders get their first exposure to making their own music with a professional teaching artist. Music Education Director, Conway Tan invited Don to take a more active role during his visits by playing the guitar to accompany a song the students were learning. The kids loved watching and hearing Don play. Making music together created a powerful bond, and Don noticed when everyone sang together, the group dynamic changed for the better.

The Vincent kids began to look forward to Don's arrival each Thursday, greeting him and telling him all about what they were learning and doing in other areas of their lives. Don considers showing up week after week to help provide a calming and steady presence in these students' lives to be a true labor of love. He now realizes that the work Cantare does in Oakland's schools is not just about making music. It's about trust, cooperation, and building a community that transcends barriers of age, race, and economics. "It's what we are about as human beings," he says.

If you would like to explore volunteer opportunities with Cantare's Children's Music program, please contact Julie Haydon at julie@cantareconvivo.org.



"Cantare Con Vivo provides a rare opportunity for the nearly 400 kids at our school to come together as one, despite their disparate backgrounds. Regularly singing and performing together helps form bonds between the kids by providing a common language and cultural reference point."

- Nipa, Parent from Cleveland Elementary



"The multi-cultural, multi-language songs that our students sing with joy and verve have created a strong sense of community in my classroom and within the entire school."

- Susan, Cleveland Elementary teacher



"Choir is an important part of my life because it is something that calms me down and comforts me... I get stressed about school work, and choir is a place where I feel relaxed and safe... Besides that, what I like about choir is that everybody treats one another kindly and respectfully and makes me feel welcomed."

- Mary, 6th grader

SHARING OUR SONG



Cantare's Oakland-wide youth ensemble, Nova, performed last December at the Oak Center Towers, a senior community in Oakland. This experience provided us the opportunity to share the beauty of what we create with others. At the close of the performance, following a medley of holiday favorites, the children ran to exchange hugs and greetings with the many smiling and appreciative seniors. It was a moment of joy and recognition in everyone's eyes - that we are all connected. The arts are essential to increasing our awareness and appreciation of life around us.

NOVA

"I love seeing how kids 'are found' when they join Nova. Some kids immediately fall into friendships when they walk in the door, while others need a bit more time to feel connected to the group - but before long, the whole choir has become a family. These connections are what allow us to reach new heights artistically, because our young singers understand that they rise or fall together. That sense of shared responsibility is what causes them to commit to showing up every week at rehearsal and to working hard until every note is just right."

- Julie Haydon,
Director of Children's Choirs



A PLACE TO BELONG

During our season opener, *Who Loves You, Pretty Baby!*, the Chorale and our youth ensemble, Nova, performed the song "You Will Be Found." This song from the Broadway musical *Dear Evan Hansen* captures the emotional roller coaster teenagers experience as they struggle both to fit in with their peers while searching for their own unique voice. Amidst all of the heartbreak and uncertainty, the lyrics assure us "You are not alone/ Even when the dark comes crashing through/ You will be found/ When you need someone to carry you/ You will be found." These words identify the real gift that our after-school choir programs offer to our young people: A place to belong.

Thank you for showing this same commitment to our young singers with your financial support. You make it possible for them to have a place where they belong and can see the fruition of their efforts.

NOVA Graduates!

Cantare Con Vivo enjoyed a successful final concert of the season on May 20, featuring the Chorale, Ensemble and our advanced youth choir, Nova. In addition to sharing a rich musical performance with our audience, we had the privilege of acknowledging six high school graduates from Nova who will be moving on to universities and colleges across the state in the fall. My Pham heading to UC Davis, shares about her experience in Nova: "I've learned that my voice matters". It has been an honor and a joy to have shared this much of life's journey together through music. We are thankful to our supporters who made it possible for us to help our incredible young people find their voices. Your generous support enables more children to have the chance to build life-long skills and to realize their dreams.



FIRST PLACE! Last spring our most advanced youth singers participated in the Music in the Parks Festival, a two-day adjudication festival featuring choirs, bands and orchestras from across the state. After giving an outstanding performance, our singers took **FIRST PLACE** in the Junior High Mixed Choirs AAA category! Under the direction of Cantare's Julie Haydon, the group included singers from our citywide Nova choir, which brings together 6-12 graders from schools across Oakland, and fifth graders from our honor choir program, which recognizes outstanding singers in our elementary choir programs. "It was a thrilling moment for all of us! I am so proud of our singers," said Julie. "They really stepped up their focus and level of artistry and sounded just incredible."



"Moments like these are life-changing for our young singers. I am so appreciative to the many donors that made this day, and all of our youth programs, possible."

- Julie Haydon, Director



In order to carry out the amazing work described in this annual report, Cantare employs teaching and administrative staff, and incurs costs for concerts, transportation of students, and a variety of other things. Just like any other non-profit, Cantare relies on a number of income sources to cover these costs. Income includes tuition for adult choirs, foundation grants, individual gifts, and ticket sales from the concert season, among other sources. Some of these income sources are directly related to offsetting the costs of programs, while other sources support the overall organization. However, as is usual with a non-profit, the earned income of the programs themselves is substantially less than the total cost of running the organization. Our goal is to secure a variety of additional income sources that will be sufficient to cover all expenses, meeting the long-term non-profit objective of breaking even while contributing to our cash reserves.

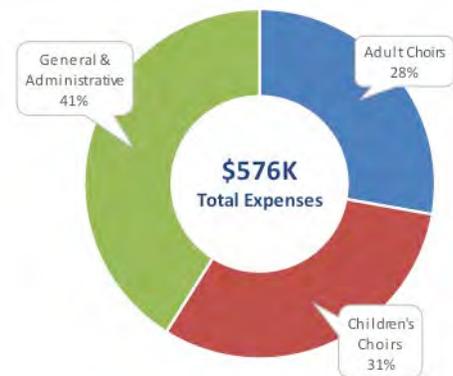
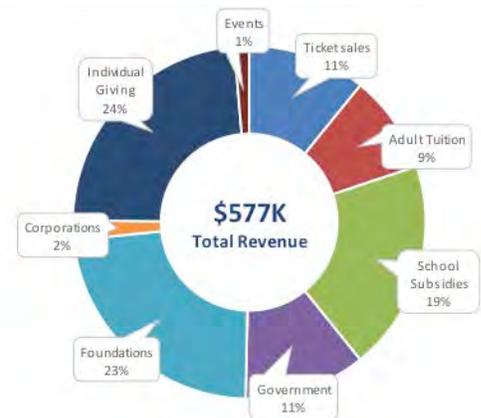
2017-18 Performance

We are thankful that the past financial year saw Cantare return to the desired break-even financial condition. This break-even was in part achieved by lower expenses, largely due to unsustainable staffing shortages. However, overall income increased by 5%. Receipt of a delayed grant from the previous year, in addition to new grants, meant that Foundation income rose substantially to \$133,000. In addition, individual giving was up by 7% at \$141,000. Together, these account for nearly half of the total income for Cantare. This increase in community recognition, and growing commitment from individual supporters, is a very encouraging trend for which we are very appreciative.

Cash flow for most non-profits is an ongoing challenge because receipt of income generally lags the incurring of expenses. Cantare utilizes a \$45,000 line of credit to manage this gap. We ended the year with positive net cash (bank balance minus line of credit drawdown) of just under \$7,000. At the right are two charts that break down 2017/18 income by source and expenses by area.



2017/18 Income and Expense Breakdown



Meet Graham Seel, Cantare Treasurer



Graham Seel grew up in London, England and moved to California in 1985 while working as a technology manager for Bank of America. Graham has extensive leadership experience in commercial and non-profit settings. His career has been largely focused on technology and business strategy, particularly in the banking industry. He has worked for very large to very small companies, bringing creativity, vision and structured thinking to play in the development of technology and business strategy.

In his non-profit roles, he served on the Board of a private Christian K-12 school for nine years, four of them as President. He currently serves on a key working group for the global relief and development NGO World Renew. Graham has been active in church life for more than forty years. His main passions are for music, for children and youth, and for those who are disadvantaged or marginalized.

Graham was educated at Latymer Upper School in London and the University of Essex, where he received a BA (Hons) in Mathematical Economics.

CANTARE CON VIVO

2018/2019 Board & Staff

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Heather Paisar, Lani Wilson

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Mark Roberts, Assistant Choral Director
Linden Young, Executive Director
Julie Haydon, Director of Children's Choirs
Conway Tan, Music Education Director
Amy Bruhmuller, Development Associate

Children's Program Staff

Teaching Artists

Katerine Carmona Arbelaez, Rhonda
Crane, Masumi Hayashi-Smith, Julie
Haydon, Emily Ryan, Conway Tan
Accompanists
Annie Hargraves, Robert Lee



The arts are essential to increase our awareness and appreciation of life around us. Your gifts are not only providing tuition-free music education but preparing the leaders of tomorrow. You are part of the story, to which we are most grateful.



FUNDERS

\$25,000 and above

California Arts Council
Crescent Porter Hale
City of Oakland Cultural Arts Fund
Quest Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

The Clorox Company Foundation
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The Barrios Trust
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Bill Graham Memorial Foundation
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The Benevity Community Impact Fund
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Up to \$999

Berkeley Chinese Community Church
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Thank You

A DEVOTED SUPPORTER



The Cantare family was saddened to lose faithful supporter Andrew Wong last fall at the age of 94. Andrew believed in Cantare and our mission to employ the power of music to change young people's lives. He began making financial contributions in 2005, his gifts enabling Cantare to offer summer children's music camps in downtown Oakland for several years. In July 2008 he established the Andrew K. C. Wong Fund, with a \$100,000 endowment in support of Cantare's music education and outreach programs. Andrew's commitment to serving those in need, coupled with his generosity, has allowed Cantare to make a positive impact on more than 14,000 Oakland school children. A great man who understood a world in which we are so very connected to one another, and who lived out this belief by serving others.

JOIN CANTARE'S

Circle of Compassion

The Circle of Compassion is Cantare's group of donors who have committed to supporting us monthly in our efforts to foster a diverse community of compassion and understanding across generational, cultural, and economic boundaries.

Members of the Circle of Compassion have partnered with Cantare to ensure the continued success and growth of our artistic and education programs. Please contact Executive Director, Linden Young, at linden@cantareconvivo.org to learn more.

