

2018/2019

annual report

The Promise of Living



Vision

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

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.

Work

Through our work with our adult choirs, youth choirs, and more than 2,250 inner-city youth, Cantare is committed to advancing social change and cultural equity by building bridges where there is division.



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Contents



03

Letter from Artistic Director

04

Messa da Requiem;
Integrity, Justice, Compassion, & Love

05

About the Children's Program;
Providing Access to Arts Education

06

Training for the Whole Student;
Cantare Children's After-School Choirs
Present OYE!

07

"Please Stay" Touches Us All

08

Nova Choir Attends Choirs of America
Festival

09

Celebrating 20 Years of Children's Music
Programs

10

Oakland Rotary Supports Move Choir;
An Honor and a Responsibility

11

Leave a Legacy; Fiscal Year 2018/2019
Treasurer's Report

12

2019-2020 Board & Staff;
Foundation Support



Letter from Artistic Director

Our 2018-19 season was a highpoint for Cantare as we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Chorale and Cantare Children's Choirs of Oakland. "The Promise of Living", our season title, came from a poem set to music by Aaron Copland. Librettist Horace Everett penned these words:

The promise of living with hope and thanksgiving is born of our loving our friends and our labor. The promise of growing with faith and with knowing is born of our sharing our love with our neighbor. The promise of ending in right understanding is peace in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor. The promise of living, the promise of growing, the promise of ending is labor and sharing and loving.

We celebrated the 75 concert programs Cantare choirs have sung over the years, encompassing over 2,000 diverse choral compositions representing some of the finest artistry that humankind has to offer. We celebrated the more than 15,000 Oakland youth that we have engaged, starting with 35 children in 1999. We can all take pride in helping to shape a stronger and more compassionate community and a better world. But we also recognize that those we have touched through our work have also reciprocated by informing and challenging our understanding of justice, service, and reprioritizing what is truly of value. Everett's poem is on the mark "...sharing our love with our neighbor, peace in our own hearts and peace with our neighbor...labor, sharing and loving."

Thank you for your generous support that enabled us to advance our vision, "Inspiring people to live in harmony, treating one another with dignity."

- David Morales

Cantare Con Vivo ("To Sing With Life") is a nonprofit choral music organization founded in 1987 that engages participants from ages 4 to 85 primarily from Alameda and Contra Costa counties. We provide tuition-free choral music residencies in Title 1 (socio-economically disadvantaged) Oakland schools. Our 100-voice symphonic Chorale and 24-voice Chamber Ensemble offer six different annual concert programs that are affordable and accessible. Our audition-free summer adult choir attracts 125 singers and performs in July.

Cantare's adult choirs have performed over 170 different concert programs, presenting more than 1,500 compositions, including numerous major choral/orchestral works. All of our choirs, children and adults, perform for more than 4,000 people each year.



Messa da Requiem Giuseppe Verdi

Watch on YouTube

Sanctus, Verdi Requiem,
Cantare Chorale

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=484eR1fNfNo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=484eR1fNfNo)

Requiem & Kyrie, Verdi
Requiem, Cantare Chorale

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=RTXK2WufzPs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTXK2WufzPs)

Liber Scriptus, Verdi Requiem,
Megan Berti, mezzo-soprano

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=FXMQorVvGoY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXMQorVvGoY)

The Chorale, 120 singers strong, presented a stunning performance of one of the finest choral-orchestral works ever written, Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem.

The liturgical text and soaring melodies remain relevant today in addressing personal loss, hope, grief, joy, sorrow, mercy, and acceptance. The singers were 100% committed not only to mastering the myriad musical requirements of this monumental work, but to becoming vulnerable themselves in order to convey its inherent power.

"I always appreciate the process of learning and teamwork that goes into singing a major work like Verdi's Requiem," says Chorale singer and board member Dominic Savant. "Bit by bit, rehearsal after rehearsal, and then the teamwork between the orchestra and the singers—all brought together by the Maestro

for the culmination of the performance."

Verdi had completed all 25 operas before writing his Requiem. He brings his genius to interpreting the drama within these texts like no other composer. Whispers, shouts, stammering, exquisite lyrical singing, uninhibited praise, double choir, four amazing soloists, eight trumpets with four up in the balcony, a giant bass drum that is louder than thunder...everything is in play in this masterpiece.

"The Verdi Requiem performance was a special highlight of my 50 years of conducting," said director David Morales. "It is uniquely special to be a part of times like these, even life-changing, as a first-hand understanding and appreciation for the emotional and informative power of art deepens for all of us."

Integrity, Justice, Compassion, and Love

In July 2018, David directed a concert centered on music from the Christian church tradition, partnering with former colleague Paul Fleckenstein organist and Choir Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Together they brought their shared decades of church music leadership experience to "Sing & Rejoice".

Over just 18 days, with four rehearsals plus a dress rehearsal, more than 100 singers came together to give voice to a dozen hymns and organ selections chosen for their inspirational power,

creatively intertwining text with melody, harmony and rhythm. Selections included Britten's "Jubilate Deo", Hawley's "Beautiful River", Smallwood's "Total Praise" and others.

Most choral music consists of what is labeled "sacred" music. In Western European countries, it is largely inspired by the Christian tradition. Some pieces were written for the church, others for the concert hall, but they are connected by themes of the compassionate and all-encompassing divine. As traditional church choirs become less common, particularly

Watch on YouTube

Total Praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN322jDSgTE>

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmN_f0HS-Uw

with organ accompaniment and particularly on the West Coast, hymn singing has shifted to simple songs sung in unison. At the same time, all faiths are being challenged anew to unite around themes of integrity, justice, compassion, and love. We asked our singers to join the old with the new and they didn't just rise to meet the challenge—their voices soared.

About the Children's Music Program

Cantare Con Vivo partners with Oakland public elementary schools Cleveland, Vincent Academy, Lincoln, Melrose Leadership Academy, Hillcrest, and La Escuelita to offer music education in 73 classrooms during the school day to K-5 students, reaching approximately 2,250 students each year. Our teaching artists employ age-appropriate materials across genres and cultures to build fundamental musical skills through a sequential curriculum complementing the National Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts. Special units are also included, namely Music from Around the World (3rd grade), Music of California History (4th grade), and Music of U.S. History (5th grade) in specialized sessions that pair with social studies curricula. Our teaching artists work closely with school staff to provide the highest quality music education to every child.



Watch on YouTube

Visit a kindergarten classroom here

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4y6fqhsjDMQ

Our highly-skilled teaching artists draw teaching methods from Kodály and other pedagogues and traditions, applying music-making through singing, creative movement, ear training, music literacy, instruments, social and cultural studies. These methods have been shown to improve cognitive reasoning and motor skills, and to build tangential skills in other academic areas, including math and reading.

Cantare's Nova ensemble is comprised of outstanding singers from our elementary choir programs, bringing together 6-12 graders from many schools across Oakland. Nova offers students the opportunity to take on more challenging choral music and part-singing and participate in choral festivals and performance tours. The students rehearse together weekly throughout the school year under the direction of Cantare's Director of Children's Choirs, Julie Haydon.

Classroom teachers and parents affirm the benefits of our program. "Cantare provides the students with the proper foundations of musical skills such as note reading, sight reading and ear training. These skills translate well to the strings program provided by the school district," says Alicia Fong, a third grade teacher at Cleveland Elementary. Teresa Au Yang, a first grade teacher adds, "They learned how to appreciate and love music at their early age. They were exposed to different cultures and their horizons were broadened through this music program."



Providing Access to Arts Education

In the last 20 years, generous donors have enabled us to serve more than 15,000 Oakland youths, 100% tuition-free. 73% of these children are socio-economically disadvantaged (qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch), and 91% are of non-white minorities, including students from Latino and Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Students in our music programs learn and perform music from diverse cultures and genres, instilling pride in their own backgrounds while gaining appreciation and respect for others. Classroom teachers regularly remark that our music programs promote academic achievement in math, reading, problem-solving and critical thinking.

In addition to academic gains, choir participation has been shown to help students develop socio-emotional intelligence. This includes discipline, self-esteem, respect for teamwork, self-efficacy and resiliency. By developing these essential skills, students enhance their college and career readiness. Our music programs provide valuable skill-building opportunities and increase accessibility throughout underserved Oakland communities.

Training for the Whole Student

"I believe music educators have the responsibility to not only teach appreciation for music, but also appreciation for wide range of beauty in humanity." - Conway Tan, Cantare's Director of Music Education.

Conway recently presented a workshop at the Organization of American Kodály Educators National Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on "Empowering Students with Social and Emotional Skills through Music Lessons." During the workshop, Conway shared his experience as a Cantare teaching artist in Oakland public schools, where he witnesses daily the power of music to overcome differences.

As Kodály prescribed, Cantare's teaching artists work to develop the whole student with a well-trained ear, a well-trained intelligence, a well-trained heart, and a well-trained hand. We want to share music that authentically portrays the community in which the music was created. When showing videos of professional performances, our teaching artists take care to include women and people of color as composers, conductors, and musicians. We teach students to sing and appreciate folk songs from all around the world.

"When students come to their music class, they sometimes bring hunger, homelessness, and other traumas. When children don't want to hold hands to play a circle game, or they make fun of a song from a different culture, it doesn't mean they are willfully 'being bad.' It just means there's something deeper to address," Conway says, "I believe that we are set out to teach students, not subjects."

Cantare Children's After-School Choirs Present OYE!

This year's children's spring concert took its title from a piece called ¡Oye! The words were written by children in an urban neighborhood in Mexico, and simply ask us as adults and leaders to listen to what they have to say. The young singers are also learning songs that come out of the Civil Rights movement and speak to the power of our voices when we are united.

Part of each afternoon class also involves playing singing games, to build community and connection between the students. Like many urban centers, Oakland is very pocketed, and children often do not have opportunities to travel or socialize outside their immediate neighborhoods. Each class is an important chance for students (and teachers!) to get to know one another, to discover common ground and to appreciate the bond we all share through singing.

Julie Haydon, Director of Children's Choirs, remarks, "I know it will make a difference when we take the stage together that we took this time not only to practice together, but also to laugh and play with our new friends."



“Please Stay” Touches Us All!

We celebrated our accomplishments over the last 20 years at our season closer There Is Sweet Music Here on June 1, with words shared by key spokespeople, a brief video highlight that recounted our journey, and songs by the Nova Youth Choir with All-Star alumni returning to the stage with us.

Members of the Cantare Chorale and Nova youth choir joined together for Jake Runestad’s “Please

Stay”, an emotionally charged selection that addresses the high rate of teenage suicide in our nation. With this song, we drew closer to one another in offering support through difficult times.

Julie Haydon, Director of Children's Choirs, commented, “The most important thing that I hope our students take away from their years in Nova is that their voice matters. Without their unique voice, our choir, our community and our world would not be the same. Collaborating with the Chorale on 'Please Stay' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone' gave our students a chance not only to affirm that, but also to use the power of their voices to send a message of hope into the community. They took great pride in practicing until every detail was just right, knowing that their words could literally change someone's life.”

Kira Walker, an 8th grade Nova singer, said afterward, "It was really important for me to share this message with my choir. The song had a very personal meaning for me that I wanted to share with people everywhere. I saw it as a way to reach out to others who might be struggling in a similar way."

We celebrate how our musical endeavors have drawn us together in strengthening our community and achieving understanding and acceptance of others across boundaries of race, age, and more.



Watch on YouTube

View “Please Stay” here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2d5h_3inAY

Nova Choir Attends Choirs of America Festival

Cantare's Nova youth choir spent an incredible day in March at the Choirs of America Festival in San Francisco. After performing for three adjudicators, Nova students participated in a private clinic with David Xiques, Professor of Music at San Francisco State University, and Tim Seelig, Artistic Director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The clinicians gave the young choristers invaluable instruction and ideas for taking their singing to the next level.

In preparation for performances such as that given at the Choirs of America Festival, the students rehearse together weekly throughout the school year under the direction of Cantare's Director of Children's Choirs, Julie Haydon.



Later in the day, the Nova singers joined with six other youth choirs from around the country to work with renowned choral composers Z. Randall Stroope and Deke Sharon. All choirs had learned the same pieces in common over the preceding months, and were given the opportunity to sing them together under the direction of the visiting composers. The day closed with a stunning concert, with each choir performing individually and all of the choirs performing en masse, featuring the premier of a new work by Z. Randall Stroope.

Julie Haydon reports, "It was an experience of a lifetime for our students to take in all of this knowledge, listen to other groups, and strengthen their own bonds of community. We will continue to build on this experience for years to come and I am so proud of each one of our singers for meeting the goals for preparation and for carrying themselves with such poise and with such open hearts and minds."

Celebrating 20 Years of Children's Music Programs!

In 1999, when arts education was in decline in Oakland schools, David Morales, Cantare's founder and Artistic Director, came together with educators and volunteers to address this disparity by providing arts access through choral music.

David believes in the power of music as a language to unleash life-changing possibilities in children. "Kids are most receptive in singing alongside those placed next to them, making friends, and together creating something special. They often show more vulnerability than adults do in their willingness to create art. That beauty shines through in their music, and more importantly, it is displayed in their very being."

In 1999, David worked with choir director John Thomas to lead a weekly after-school program of 30 children at the Samaritan Neighborhood Center in West Oakland. In 2019, we served more than 2,250 students weekly at six different schools, through both in-school and after-school choral music programs.



Cantare models what it means to foster a nurturing and compassionate community that supersedes boundaries that too often divide us. Our students learn songs from around the world, learning about each other's communities and cultures. Our teaching artists receive special



training to help support children with special needs, ensuring that every child has a place on the stage and in the classroom.

Nova graduate Ryan Chen, now a freshman at UC Irvine, is the first to have sung with Cantare for 13 consecutive years, from kindergarten through 12th grade. He writes, "A large part of my life has been dedicated to Cantare Con Vivo. They have given me countless opportunities to explore the world around me through music. They have given me endless support in my educational studies, extracurriculars, and passions. Most importantly, they have given me a family who has helped me find my voice."

Watch on YouTube

Our 20th Anniversary video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TByFt68kUu8>.

Through the gracious giving of our donors, thousands of young people have found the courage to share their voices with one another in creating an immense, compassionate community through the power and beauty of choral music. Shared investment in our shared vision is the reason for our success now and into the future.



Oakland Rotary #3 Supports Nova Choir

Oakland Rotary member and Cantare Chorale singer Merlin Edwards visited a recent rehearsal of our youth singers from our citywide Nova choir. "For the last 100 plus years, Rotarians have committed to making Oakland a better place and are proud of this legacy to put "service over self", explained Merlin as he presented a check of \$3,000 to help support the choir's participation in the 2019 Choirs of America Festival in San Francisco. To date Oakland Rotary has contributed more than \$8,300 to support our after-school youth choirs.

Reflections on Nova: An Honor and a Responsibility

Nova alumnus Shizhou Chen started her senior year at the University of Pennsylvania on a full ride scholarship through the Quest Bridge program. When Shizhou was in 9th grade, she shared the following reflection about singing in Nova: "The songs we sing ask for peace, love and awareness. Also, they express hope for future improvements despite the issues they have raised. To be a part of a group that spreads these ideas is a great honor."

"It is both an honor and a responsibility to spread these ideas of hope," says Director of Children's Choirs Julie Haydon. In 2018-2019 we focused on ways to ensure our student singers were both heard and understood by introducing a theme in our curriculum called "Lift Your Voice." During weekly rehearsals and concerts, our teaching artists focused on choral singing principles of beautiful tone, expressive singing, and precise choral diction to empower our young people to use their voices effectively. We want our audiences to understand the powerful texts of each song we perform and to be moved by the way in which we sing them.



Developing these skills not only helps our young people grow as choral singers, it also helps them garner respect when they speak up for justice as citizens in our community. Most of the young singers we work with each week come from communities that do not get an equal voice in our world.

"I'm proud that our tuition-free youth choir programs offer young people a place to cultivate courage and compassion," adds Julie, "and to develop the skills to be heard and respected. I look forward to hearing the change they'll make in the world."

Cantare's music education programs have touched the lives of over 15,000 individual students, providing a safe and nurturing community of inclusivity where individual voices are shared and heard. Choir offers our students the opportunity to develop self-esteem, resilience, discipline and a respect for teamwork, essential tools for living successful and productive lives. We are proud to see that many of our alumni are already using the power of their voices to speak up in our community and to pursue careers in education and public service.

Leave a Legacy

Embrace the opportunity to secure Cantare's future, while ensuring that every year thousands more Oakland youth have access to the arts, and with that, the opportunity to find their voice as compassionate social change leaders. For more information about how to create your legacy gift, please contact Linden Young, Cantare's Executive Director at, 510.836.0789 or linden@cantareconvivo.org.



"I support Cantare with my time and my dollars because I believe the arts are something that children should experience. Every child needs to enjoy a range of activities that include the arts. As a young child, I was blessed to have a very rich arts experience. It's given me a profound sense of the world around me and I want to offer that same opportunity to our youth".

- Melody Herder-Jimison

Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Treasurer's Report

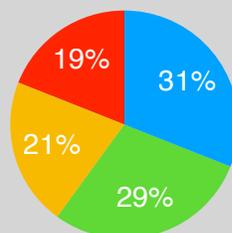
In order to carry out the amazing work described in this annual report, Cantare employs teaching and administrative staff, and incurs costs for concerts, transportation of students, and a variety of other things. Just like any other non-profit, Cantare relies on a number of income sources to cover these 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.

2018-19 Financial Results

We are pleased that Cantare closed the 2018-19 fiscal year with income exceeding expenses by approximately \$12,000 or 2% of revenues. Cantare is unique in that it has programs for both adult and youth choruses. It receives significant revenue from tuition, ticket sales, and foundation and government funding but together these revenue sources are inadequate to cover expenses. Both adult and youth choruses are thus dependent on the continuing and generous support of individuals, which collectively contributed 27% of the total revenue for the year. Cantare has talented and dedicated employees. Their compensation represents 76% of this year's total expenses. Program costs and office rent make up a significant portion of the remaining percentage. Both revenue and expenses increased about 8% over the prior year. The addition of an adult non-audition choir added revenue as did an increase in government funding. Expenses increased primarily due to hiring of replacement staff to carry on the mission of the organization.

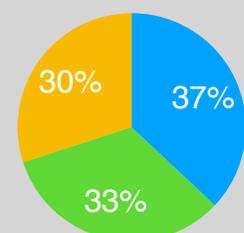
Cash flow for most non-profits is an ongoing challenge because receipt of income generally lags the incurring of expenses. Cantare utilizes a \$45,000 line of credit to manage this gap.

- Al Peters, Treasurer



Income = \$628,311

- Foundations & Government
- Individuals
- Adult Tuition & Ticket Sales
- School Subsidies



Expenses = \$616,440

- General & Admin
- Children
- Adults

2019-2020 Board & Staff

Board of Directors

Graham Seel, President
Al Peters, Treasurer
Roxane Foster, Secretary
Mercedes Harrison
Katie Kleinberg
Jeffrey Lau
David Morales
Dominic Savant

Staff

David Morales, Artistic Director
Linden Young, Executive Director
Conway Tan, Director of Music Education
Julie Haydon, Director of Children's Choirs
Toni Bermudez, Administrative Coordinator
Treva Obbard, Development Associate

Children's Program Teaching Artists

Katerine Carmona-Arbelaez
Rhonda Crane
Marie Haws
Julie Haydon
Rebecca Kleinmann
Conway Tan

Children's Program Accompanists

Annie Hargraves
Robert Lee
Geoffrey Torres



The value of your gift of support

Early on, parents and educators saw the important role that music could play in shaping a school environment culture where students learn songs from a variety of cultures, value their differences and learn to interact with their peers in a healthy way through singing games. Together we had the opportunity to change the lives of students from low-income backgrounds by providing opportunities that inspire, encourage, and educate. By providing access to the arts, these opportunities can be a turning point for many students, opening up possibilities for their future. Won't you help us? To learn how, please contact Executive Director, Linden Young at linden@cantareconvivo.org

Foundation Support

Maestro's Circle - \$25,000 to \$35,000

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

Conductor's Circle - \$10,000 to \$24,999

The Clorox Company Foundation
Walter & Elise Haas Fund
National Endowment for the Arts
Neil & Amelia McDaniel Charitable Fund
Trio Foundation

Director's Circle - \$5,000 to \$9,999

Arts for Oakland Kids
The Barrios Trust
Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation
Nicholson Family Foundation

Benefactors - \$2,500 to \$4,999

Alameda County Arts Commission
Bill Graham Supporting Foundation of the
Jewish Community Federation and
Endowment Fund
Chevron Humankind Δ
Mechanics Bank
Oakland Rotary Endowment
United Lutheran Church

Patrons - \$1,000 to \$2,499

Bank of the West Δ
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
GainOps
Kiwanis Club of Moraga
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Δ
Murphy Foundation
Perforce Foundation

Shell Oil Company Foundation Δ
Gary and Caroline Chin Yee Charitable
Fund of the East Bay Community
Foundation

Sponsors - \$500 to \$999

Berkeley Chinese Community Church
Google Matching Gift Fund Δ
Harvey Rose Associates Δ
Oracle Corporation Δ
Superprint

Δ A special acknowledgment to these
matching gift donors