

ANNUAL REPORT  
2015 - 2016



ORANGE COUNTY



women's  
chorus

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first-ever annual report! We have much to celebrate this year, and we're happy to welcome you to the party.

Our 18th season began in the United Kingdom, with our first international tour that had been two years in the making. We sang at Great St. Mary's, the University Church in Cambridge; Bristol Cathedral; and Chepstow Castle as guests of the Chepstow Male Voice Choir. We competed at the International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales in the female choir and adult folk choir categories, placing third in the latter! Thanks to your generosity, every singer who needed financial assistance to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity received it.

We are well-known for our adventurous, thematic programming, and 2015-2016 was no exception. *O Mother, Where Art Thou?* opened our season in December, focused on the Virgin Mary, and featured Conrad Susa's "Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest." March 2016 brought our audiences a collaboration with Bel Canto, the chamber choir of MenAlive: the Orange County Gay Men's Chorus, for *American Anthems* with Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" as its centerpiece. We closed the season with *Sound Bites*, conducted by Assistant Director Sarah Hughes, featuring food, wine, and musical pairings.

We are led by an incredible artistic team, and a dedicated and talented Board of Directors who serve hundreds of hours as a working and governing board. We're excited about the ten-year and three-year visions and the strategic plan we developed and implemented this season, and can hardly wait to see its results as even now, we begin preparations for our 20th anniversary season. We are so grateful to our patrons and donors who make it possible for us to bring our music to life in this community. We are careful stewards of your investment in the Orange County Women's Chorus, and we hope you're pleased with all we've accomplished with the generous support you have provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary C. Langsdorf". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary C. Langsdorf  
President, Board of Directors

## FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



We began the 2015-16 season with a bad case of jet lag and a big dose of excitement and pride, as we returned in mid-July from our first international tour....and we ended it with the news that we'd be making our Carnegie Hall debut in June 2017. Those are some pretty impressive bookends for a pretty fantastic year! Along the way, of course, we've been "causing treble" here in Orange County, and we've never been more grateful to you, our friends and supporters, for sustaining us as we look toward our 20th anniversary season.

We're glad to look back at the amazing year behind us, but we're more interested in looking ahead—to this season's series of special programs on the theme of "home," and to next year's season-long party in celebration of two decades of making extraordinary music with extraordinary women. Thanks again for being part of our family and part of the song we began singing in 1997. Stick around, won't you? It gets even better from here.

Thanks!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliza". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eliza Rubenstein  
Artistic Director

# WHO WE ARE

The Orange County Women's Chorus creates and performs outstanding choral literature, engages and enriches our audiences, and celebrates women in music. We are women who believe in excellence, community, diversity, and leadership, the core values of the OCWC. We range in age from college students to retirees. We are educators, business leaders, social workers, pre-school teachers, anthropologists, artists, and so much more!

## ARTISTIC TEAM



### **Eliza Rubenstein, Artistic Director** since 2000

Eliza Rubenstein studied choral conducting and English at Oberlin College before moving to southern California in 1995 to earn her master's degree in conducting from UC-Irvine. Besides her work with the OCWC, she is the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities and music-department chair at Orange Coast College, and the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Chorale and Chamber Orchestra. She serves on the board of the California chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association as the editor of *Cantate* magazine, and has conducted performances and presented seminars at ACDA regional and national conferences. Eliza is a former animal-shelter administrator and dog trainer, and the co-author of *The Adoption Option: Choosing and Raising the Rescue Dog for You*. In 2006 she presented a seminar entitled "Sit! Stay! Sing!: What Choral Conductors Can Learn from Dog Trainers" at the ACDA's Western regional conference. She shares her home with Dayton, a yellow lab, and Wilbur, a grey cat, and she's passionate about grammar, Thai food, photography, and the St. Louis Cardinals.



### **Sarah Hughes, Assistant Director** since 2013

Sarah Hughes is a 2011 graduate of the Conservatory of Music at Chapman University in Orange. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music education with an emphasis in voice and recently completed her Master of Arts degree in teaching at Chapman University while teaching music in the Fountain Valley school district. Frequently invited to direct for high school summer choral camps, Sarah has taught styles ranging from Baroque classics to show choir pop arrangements. Sarah is also a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals!



### **Janelle Kim, Pianist**

Janelle Kim was born in Seoul, South Korea, but has lived most of her professional life in the United States. She began her piano studies at age 7, and won her first competition at age 15. Janelle received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in piano performance from California State University-Fullerton, where she studied with Eduardo Delgado and was invited to become a member of the honors society Pi Kappa Lambda. Janelle has been a featured soloist with the Orange Coast College Symphony and the Corona Symphony. Besides maintaining a busy private piano studio, she is a staff pianist, vocal coach, and music instructor at Orange Coast College.

## WHAT WE DO

### **Create and perform outstanding choral literature**

The Orange County Women's Chorus participated in its first international tour to England and Wales, with financial assistance provided to all who required it, and completed the trip as a prize-winner at the International Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales.

### **Engage and enrich our audiences**

Three programs and five performances in California reached 1,028 audience members!

### **Celebrate women in music**



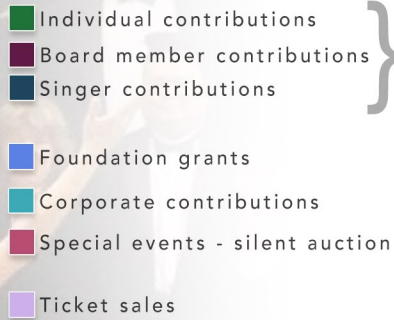
### **Jessica Cosley served as our 2015 – 2016 Conducting Intern**

Jessica Cosley grew up singing and playing piano, clarinet, trumpet, and percussion. She sang in the Colburn Children's Chorus in Los Angeles and studied voice at CSU-Fullerton, where she discovered her passion for choral music and choral education. In the summer of 2015, she earned her teaching credential and toured Paris with the CSUF University Singers, and she is now the director of the choral program at Valley High School in Santa Ana. Jessica lives in Downey with her husband, Matt, and their lovable shelter dog, Winston.

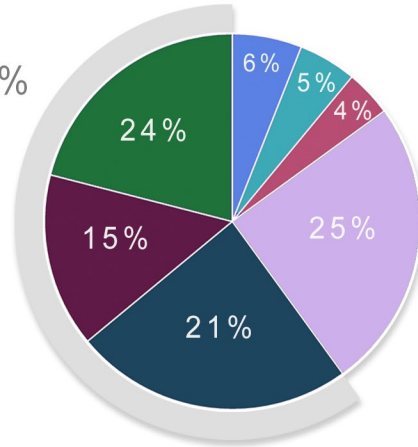
# FINANCES

## Where our money comes from

Only about 25% of our revenue is derived from our ticket sales. We rely on the generosity of our donors to bring our music to the community. Individual donors, including our board members and singers, provide 60% of our revenue. Thank you for helping us to achieve our mission. We couldn't do it without you!



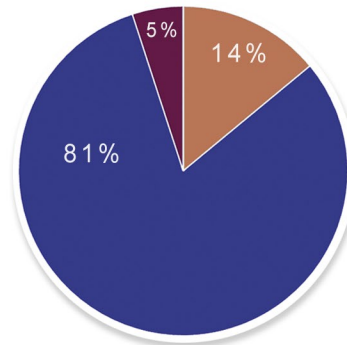
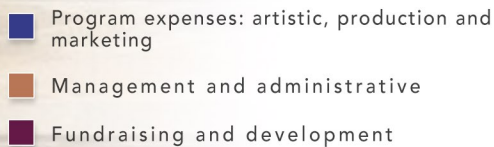
60%



### 2015-2016 Highlights:

- Donor base increased to 200 donors with an average donation of \$113
- Tripled the number of donors and total dollar amount raised in the second year of participation in the Orange County Community Foundation's i♥OC Giving Day
- In-kind donations of goods, services, and use of facilities totaled more than \$15,000
- More than 50 volunteers provided nearly 1,500 hours of administrative and concert production support; at \$25 an hour, this exceeds \$37,000 in contributed service

## How we spend our money



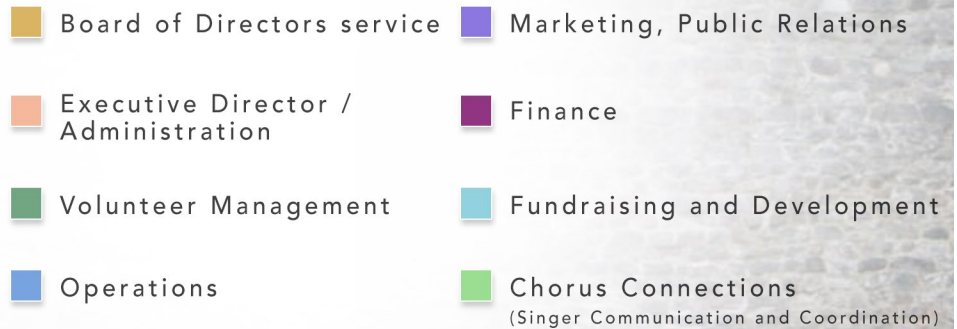
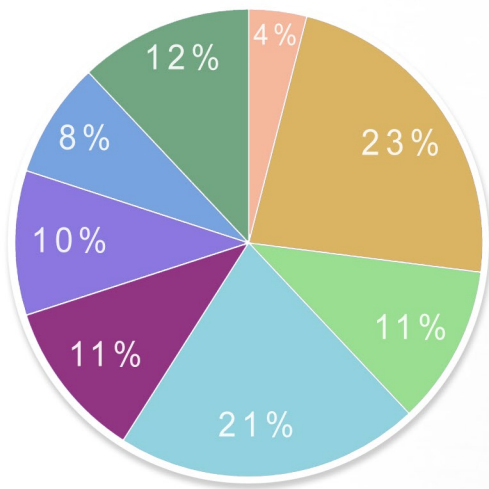
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You cannot imagine how wonderful it was to see this group perform in Wales this past summer and to know they are right here in our area to enjoy! I am purchasing a season ticket this week. Please take the time to experience our Orange County talent.

”

# VOLUNTEERS

## How our volunteers spend their time



## WHAT LIES AHEAD

We reached a new threshold this year, with more than \$100,000 in earned and contributed revenue, and nearly 1,500 volunteer hours. We look forward to continuing to bring you the very best music for women's voices, collaborating with the best artists in the area. Our strategic plan includes important goals for the next two seasons:

We'll bring you the world premiere of a newly commissioned work from Joan Szymko in the spring of 2017.

We'll join Eliza's other choirs for a performance of Kirke Mechem's *Songs of the Slave* at Carnegie Hall in June 2017.

We'll launch an updated and refreshed website that is easier to navigate and mobile-friendly.

We'll take our next OCWC tour to...? We aren't sure yet, but we're gearing up! Don't worry, we'll keep you posted as soon as we know the details!

We'll celebrate our 20th anniversary of "causing treble" in Orange County!

We are grateful for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you in the coming season.



The Orange County Women's Chorus has been presenting fantastic concerts for 18 seasons. The music spans the globe, often featuring new work by women composers as well as quality music for women's voices from Hildegard of Bingen to Brahms to Poulenc. The artistic director and singers really connect with their audiences!



ORANGE COUNTY



# women's chorus

## 2015 – 2016 Board of Directors and their Affiliations



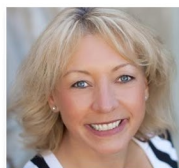
**Mary C. Langsdorf**  
President  
*Retired, Senior Vice President  
of Finance, PacifiCare Health  
Systems, Inc.*



**Allison Hieger**  
Chorus Connections  
*Independent Arts Education  
Contractor, Pacific Symphony*



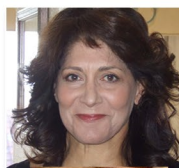
**Kathryn J. Baldasari**  
Chief Financial Officer  
*Retired, Engineering Manager,  
ThalesRaytheonSystems US*



**Chardette Jameson**  
Marketing and Public Relations  
*Category Marketing Director,  
Metagenics*



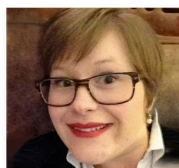
**Marjorie A. Beale**  
Fundraising and Development  
*Executive Director of  
Development, Foundation  
Relations, and Principal Gifts,  
Caltech*



**Laurie Soderberg**  
Volunteer Management  
*Perioperative Educator, Kaiser  
Permanente Medical Center*



**Janet A. Bratton**  
Operations  
*Retired, Senior Software  
Engineering Manager, Raytheon*



**Heather Spickard**  
Fundraising and Development  
*Educational Technologist, Apple,  
Inc.*



**Shauna Eheler**  
Legal and Administration  
*Independent Business  
Administrator*



**Mary Watson Bruce**  
Fundraising and Development  
*Immediate Past President,  
Innovative Housing Opportunities,  
Inc.*

