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CHICAGO CHILDREN’S CHOIR IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT INSPIRES AND UNITES DIVERSE YOUTH TO BECOME GLOBAL CITIZENS THROUGH MUSIC. OUR MISSION IS TO INSPIRE AND CHANGE LIVES THROUGH MUSIC.
Dear Friends,

In 1956, Chicago Children’s Choir (CCC) was founded on a powerful idea: that young people from diverse backgrounds can change the world by raising their voices together in song. During a time of segregation, our founder, Reverend Christopher Moore, used music to empower young people to transcend the social barriers separating them and stand together as one.

As I reflect on our 60th anniversary, I am moved by the strength of this founding idea and what it means for our world today. CCC offers diverse young people a space where they are asked to imagine what is possible and encouraged to bring this vision to life. By learning how to express themselves through song, they begin to hear their inner voice. When singing with their peers, they forge connections that last a lifetime. Through their hard work and determination, they not only transform themselves, achieving something greater together than what they could do on their own, but also the lives of those who hear their song. This is what we mean by 60 years of change.

As we enter the next phase of our history, we are committed to upholding this legacy, and we thank you for joining us in all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Josephine Lee

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A Letter from Bob Fealy
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

Our mission at Chicago Children’s Choir is to “inspire and change lives through music.” One might think that the mission speaks only to inspiring and changing the lives of the 4,600 Chicago-area youth involved with our 100+ in-school choirs conducted in 85 Chicago schools, our 10 neighborhood choirs or in one of our world-renowned choirs like Dimension or the Voice of Chicago.

However, CCC’s mission extends far beyond our city. Our children learn the importance of acceptance and tolerance of all people, becoming emissaries for peace and social justice worldwide. Whether performing in one of our city’s neighborhoods or as the featured act at Ravenna Festival in Italy, their songs inspire unity and love among all people.

Six decades ago, a small group of people joined arms and committed to changing the world by combining the power of music and youth, and hence, Chicago Children’s Choir was born. Today, we carry forward that vision by making a real difference in the lives of thousands of additional youth, their families and friends, and all who hear and see the impact of CCC’s teachings.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our deepest gratitude goes out to our CCC leaders, conductors and team members who are responsible for shaping the lives of our children. And to our many generous friends and institutions providing essential philanthropic support to Chicago Children’s Choir, THANK YOU on behalf of the thousands of children who are beneficiaries of your commitment.

Respectfully,

Bob Fealy
Global Citizenship

CCC’s mission of inspiring and changing lives through music knows no borders. Throughout our history, our students have performed on five continents and for such dignitaries as former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama, former President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former Chinese President Hu Jintao, former South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have had to represent our city and nation around the world.

Inspiring and Changing Lives from Coast to Coast

Since the mid-1960s, we have taken our students on numerous tours throughout the nation. From California to New York and from Alabama to Alaska, our domestic tours have blanketed the country and given our students the opportunity to share the best of Chicago with the nation. To see where our students went during our 60th anniversary, check out page 8.

Bridging America Tours
Mid-1960s - Present

CCC students proudly represented the best of Chicago to the world during a performance at the 1967 International and Universal Exposition hosted in Montreal.

After the fall of Apartheid, CCC took over 40 students on a historic tour of South Africa. CCC had the privilege of meeting Nelson Mandela and visiting his former jail cell, where CCC students paid tribute to his fight for justice by performing anti-Apartheid songs.

CCC’s journey to India began the early 2000s, when we first commissioned Sita Ram, a musical work based on the Ramayana, an ancient Hindu epic. Following the fall 2012 production of Sita Ram at the Harris Theater, CCC traveled to India, performing pieces from the show and making meaningful connections with the people of India.

CCC brought over 50 students to Cuba during a pivotal moment in the history of U.S. and Cuban relations, fostering intercultural understanding through musical workshops and performances with Cuban artists and youth.

CCC’s performance in the DMZ was an important historic event for CCC and the world, as CCC was the first non-Korean civilian group allowed to enter the Yeolsei Observation Platform in the Demilitarized Zone.
During our 60th anniversary, our students performed over 170 concerts throughout Chicago. From singing back-up vocals for Chance the Rapper at his Magnificent Coloring Day festival to performing with Yo-Yo Ma at his Concert for Peace at St. Sabina, our students honored the legacy of our founding mission and demonstrated what is possible when diverse young people perform together at a high level.

**ANNIVERSARY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

To kick off CCC's 60th anniversary season, CCC hosted a Community Sing event at Navy Pier, featuring performances by Voice of Chicago and special guest speaker, Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Students from Voice of Chicago had the honor of performing at former President Barack Obama’s Farewell Address with Eddie Vedder at McCormick Place.

CCC's Target Community Concert Series, an annual concert initiative, showcased all levels of CCC's programs through concerts held in Englewood, Austin, Beverly, Pilsen, and Humboldt Park.

CCC's Black History Month Concert Series, an annual educational concert experience, provided over 3,600 students from the In-School Program with the opportunity to perform with their peers on stage at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and explore the national theme of Black History Month.

CCC's sixth annual World Music Festival brought together over 500 students from the Neighborhood Choir Program, DiMension, and Voice of Chicago for a day of musical and cultural exploration at the Copernicus Center, culminating in a concert with guest artists Sousou & Maher Cissoko.

One Voice, a new CCC concert, featured solo performances by students from Voice of Chicago, DiMension, and the Neighborhood Choir Program. The event, held in the Edlis Neeson Theater at the Museum of Contemporary Art, sold out its two-show run.

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At the core of our mission is a steadfast commitment to inspiring and uniting diverse youth to become global citizens through music.

Touring brings this vision to life, allowing students to experience firsthand the richness of our country and the world and to connect with others through the common language of music. This past year, over 300 CCC students traveled both within and outside the United States, collaborating and performing with over 30 schools, venues, and institutions.

### Bridging America Tours

CCC’s Bridging America Tours provide students from the Neighborhood Choir Program and DiMension with the opportunity to spread CCC’s mission throughout the United States. Students are placed in a tour ensemble and spend a weekend performing, sight-seeing, and connecting with other young people.

### Italy Tour

In June, 69 students from Voice of Chicago performed throughout Italy, serving as ambassadors of CCC’s mission by making meaningful connections with those they encountered. Among these experiences were a collaboration and performance with students at the Cometa School in Milan and a day of hiking with West African refugees in San Benedetto in Alpe.

### Remembering Beth Kershner

For over twenty years, CCC had the great fortune of designing and implementing our tours under the expert guidance of our tour planner, Beth Kershner. Last fall, Beth sadly and unexpectedly passed away. Beth was as much a part of the CCC family as any staff or singer. She introduced us to new cities and countries. Her spirit is with us every time we assemble a tour book, every time we “count off” and every time we instruct singers to “travel in 3’s”—all systems we learned from her. She kept us safe and she nurtured our sense of inquisitive adventure. The tours she planned created memories that will last a lifetime.

“I cannot think of a better way to connect with people from around the world than with music. Everybody can feel music, regardless of language or style.”

—Marleigh Belsley, Voice of Chicago singer

### A VISIT FROM KATY PERRY

Katy Perry attended Voice of Chicago’s closing concert at the Ravello Festival, sharing inspiration and smiles with our students after the performance.

“We allowed ourselves to be vulnerable. Despite our differences, we all felt the music and were able to perform together, united...It is such a privilege to have a space where completely letting go is not only acceptable but encouraged.”

—Sofia Kouri, Voice of Chicago singer, on her experience singing with students from the Cometa School
Every October, CCC hosts Red Jacket Optional (RJO), an extraordinary evening of performances and fundraising in support of CCC’s choral programs throughout the city.

This year’s event was hosted at The Geraghty, an innovative event space in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, and raised a record-breaking $1.27 million.

CCC honored board member Priscilla Kersten and her husband Steven Kersten for their years of incredible support of CCC.

CCC students shared the stage with special guest artist Allison Semmes, an alumna of CCC and the star of the national tour of Motown: The Musical.
CCC Unplugged
CCC Unplugged, the Ambassadors Board's annual fundraiser, brought together over 350 young philanthropists in February for a night of cocktails, performances by current students and alumni, and dancing to the musical stylings of DJ Matt Roan, the Chairman of the Ambassadors Board. Hosted at 11th Ward, the event raised over $50,000 in support of CCC’s mission.

Choir Connect
At the start of the program year, the Ambassadors Board hosted Choir Connect, a networking event for Chicago’s brightest professionals and future leaders that raises awareness of CCC’s work throughout the city.

Since 1956, generations of young people in Chicago have participated in our programs. As adults, they become members of our alumni community, an extraordinary group of diverse individuals who are living proof of the excellence taught in our programs.

60th Anniversary Alumni Weekend & Celebration
Over Memorial Day weekend, CCC hosted a three-day gathering of alumni to celebrate 60 years of CCC. The weekend began with Paint the Town Red, where alumni performed with Voice of Chicago on stage at Pritzker Pavilion. They then enjoyed a “Throwback Rehearsal” on Saturday morning, where they sang CCC classics and new favorites, led by conductors from throughout CCC’s history. The weekend came to a close at the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park, the birthplace of CCC. There, alumni performed a special service in honor of the late Reverend Christopher Moore’s wife, Judy Moore, who passed away on December 16, 2016.
SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM: BRANCH LOCATIONS

Albany Park Neighborhood Choir Program
North Park Covenant Church
5250 N. Christiana Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Austin Neighborhood Choir Program
Austin Town Hall, Chicago Park District
5610 W. Lake St.
Chicago, IL 60644

Beverly Neighborhood Choir Program
Beverly Arts Center
2407 W. 111th St.
Chicago, IL 60628

Englewood Neighborhood Choir Program
Hamilton Park Cultural Center,
Chicago Park District
513 W. 72nd St.
Chicago, IL 60619

Garfield Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Off the Street Club
25 N. Karlov Ave.
Chicago, IL 60624

Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Casa Central
1335 N. California Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622

Hyde Park Neighborhood Choir Program
First Unitarian Church
5610 S. Woodlawn Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637

Lincoln Park/DePaul Neighborhood Choir Program
Daul University
2130 N. Kenmore Ave.
Chicago, IL 60614

Pilsen/Little Village Neighborhood Choir Program
Rauner Family YMCA
2700 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60624

Rogers Park Neighborhood Choir Program
Indian Boundary Park, Chicago Park District
2500 W. Lunt Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

VOICE OF CHICAGO & DIMENSION

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington St., 5th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60602
Chicago Children’s Choir is grateful to the many individuals, families, corporations, foundations and cultural partners whose gifts, which were received between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, are vital to the success of our mission.

### Foundation, Corporate and Government Donors

**$100,000 & Above**
- The Elizabeth Mona Charitable Trust
- North Avenue Day Nursery Target
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Chicago Park District
- The Crown Family
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Polsky Bros. Foundation

**$50,000 - $99,999**
- ComEd
- Harper Court Arts Council
- Garrett Brands
- Ann and Gordon Saddy Foundation
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- Lincoln Park Preschool & Kindergarten
- Polsky Rosenzweig Foundation
- Srigusa Family Foundation
- The Wege Foundation
- Burger's Anonymous

**$25,000 - $49,999**
- The Chicago Community Trust
- Lynn Family Foundation
- N° Degree Scholarship Fund
- The Smart Family Foundation Inc.

**$15,000 - $24,999**
- The Davee Foundation
- John R. Nallian Charitable Fund
- The Negaune Foundation

**$10,000 - $14,999**
- ConEd
- Harper Court Arts Council
- Garrett Brands
- Ann and Gordon Saddy Foundation
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- Lincoln Park Preschool & Kindergarten
- Polsky Rosenzweig Foundation
- Srigusa Family Foundation
- The Wege Foundation

**$5,000 - $9,999**
- Burger's Anonymous
- MZ Family Foundation
- Massa Foundation
- Peoples Gas
- The Wildlender Family Foundation

**$1,000 - $4,999**
- Michael & Meeghan Nemeroff
- The Jackson Foundation
- Robert & Rose Fealy
- Ed & Tracey Benford
- David & Lesly Koo
- Ann Kaplan & John Hatherly
- James & Karen Frank
- John R. Nallian Charitable Fund

**$500 - $999**
- Lincoln Park Preschool & Kindergarten
- First Unitarian Society of Chicago
- Golub Capital
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Choral Directors Association
- BMO Harris Bank
- First Unitarian Society of Chicago
- Golub Capital
- Human Resources Management Association of Chicago

**$100 - $499**
- Wilson-Thompson
- University of Chicago
- Shure Incorporated
- University of Chicago
- Shure Incorporated
- University of Chicago
- Shure Incorporated
- University of Chicago

### Individual Donors

**$100,000 & Above**
- John & Jacolyn Bucksbaum
- Bob’s Discount Furniture
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- First Unitarian Society of Chicago
- Golub Capital
- Human Resources Management Association of Chicago

**$50,000 - $99,999**
- Brent H. Crossman
- Chicago Park District
- The Crown Family
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Polsky Bros. Foundation

**$25,000 - $49,999**
- Elin Murphy
- Dr. Brian & Emily Cole
- The Lassar Family Fund
- Amy Tara Koch & David Kleiman
- Kate Kestnbaum

**$15,000 - $24,999**
- Virginia Smith
- John R. Nallian Charitable Fund
- The Negaune Foundation

**$10,000 - $14,999**
- Michael & Rosalind Keiser
- Monty Kehl & Craig Willbanks
- Falona & Ra Joy
- Paul & Marianna Ingersoll
- Kay Kettel

**$5,000 - $9,999**
- U.S. Department of Education
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- The Negaune Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Crown Family
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Polsky Bros. Foundation

**$1,000 - $4,999**
- Wynnchurch Capital, Ltd.
- Strides for Peace
- Chicago Children’s Choir
- Chicago Park District
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Kovler Family Foundation

### CCC Student Demographics

- **Across All Programs**
  - 42% Caucasian
  - 21% African-American
  - 5% Asian
  - 14% Hispanic
  - 9% Multiracial
  - 5% Latino

- **In-School Program**
  - 8,600 Students Across All Programs

- **Voice of Chicago**
  - 3,800 Students

- **Neighborhood Choir**
  - 700 Students

- **Total Enrollment**
  - 4,600 Students Across All Programs

### Over 50% of Our Students from Low-Income Households.

### Over 80% of the Schools with Whom We Partner Predominately Serve Students from Low-Income Households.

### CCC Supports Program & Dimension

- 4,600 Students Across All Programs
- 3,800 Students in School Program
- 700 Students in Neighborhood Choir

### Our Supporters

- Steve Kagan
- Robert Fippinger
- Mrs. Zollie Frank
- John & Christina Hatherly
- James & Karen Frank
- John R. Nallian Charitable Fund
- The Negaune Foundation
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Crown Family
- Lloyd A. Fry Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Polsky Bros. Foundation

### Foundation Contributors

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- Paul R. Smith
- Paul & Marcella Ingersoll
- Lawrence E. Strickling & Sydney L. Plans
- The Chicago Community Trust
- The Crown Family
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