

**YOUR
CITY
YOUR
CHOIR**

**PRO
CORO
CANADA
2022.2023**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
PETITE MESSE
SOLENNELLE**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
MOONSHOT IV
THE DAYKING**

**#CONNECT.EAR SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
A THOUGHT
OF WAR**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
ALL-NIGHT VIGIL
WITH DA CAMERA SINGERS**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
THE TOWER &
THE GARDEN**

**SELECT SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
THE LITTLE
MATCH GIRL
PASSION**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
THE NIGHTINGALE
MATTHIAS MAUTE RECORDER**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
GOOD FRIDAY**

**EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
MISSAE IX**

**SELECT SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Pro Coro Canada acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community

Vision

Inspired hearts, minds and spirits in all who experience our world class professional chamber choir

Mission

- Pro Coro Canada, a not-for-profit arts organization, performs and commissions choral music in the Western-European tradition, with an affinity for works of the 20th and 21st centuries; employs professional singers, and provides internships for emerging artists
- Pro Coro Canada fosters and promotes Canadian talent and content, develops best practices in choral music through innovative programming, and maximizes channels to disseminate performances globally
- Pro Coro Canada engages with diverse artistic partners in the search for challenging and satisfying choral music experiences for audiences and performers, while continually striving for excellence

**YOUR
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YOUR
CHOIR**

PRO CORO CANADA.2022.2023

**MICHAEL ZAUGG
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

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Emerging ARTISTS

About the Emerging Artist Program

The Emerging Artist Program (EAR) is a multi-faceted project which includes the #connect choir, vocal interns, composers, and conductors, all working in an intensive mentoring and performance program alongside the professional singers of Pro Coro Canada, and Artistic Director Michael Zaugg.

During the 22.23 season, Pro Coro provided 10 showcase opportunities for over 70 emerging artists. 8 emerging composers from the MacEwan University composition program had their pieces work-shopped by Michael Zaugg and 12 members of Pro Coro Canada. Pro Coro welcomed 4 emerging conductors to the stage as they worked with Michael Zaugg and the choir in performance and rehearsal settings. This is a rare and valuable opportunity for up-and-coming conductors, as they get to work with professional singers rather than fellow students. 27 emerging singers in Pro Coro's #connect choir met with the Artistic Director and the choir members, and worked alongside Pro Coro's professional singers.

New this season, 16 members of the Growlers Choir from Montreal collaborated with Pro Coro on the performance of *The Dayking*. With the help of Pro Coro's graphic designer, Judy Armstrong, 15 design students from the University of Alberta created album artwork in the style of the Growlers choir as a professional development opportunity.



*Pro Coro Canada's #connect choir performing *Stomp on the Fire* by Andrea Ramsey at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Edmonton on November 6, 2022. The Pro Coro #connect Choir is a project-based choir that works together on a bi-annual basis, and brings together young singers from across the Edmonton area to work in a professional environment.*

Thanks to the ongoing support of the RBC Foundation, Pro Coro Canada was again able to fund its Emerging Artist Program in the 22.23 Season. The RBC Emerging Artists program helps bring the next generation of artists from emerging to established in order to help build vibrant communities and strong economies.



**Emerging
Artists**



22.23 #connect choir members pose outside of Pro Coro's rehearsal space at First Presbyterian Church in Edmonton.

#connect Singers 2022-2023

Soprano

Shanika-Marie Adamkewicz
Olivia Albert
Brontë Allegro
Jenaya Jones
Kathena Lin
Annie Randall
Caeleigh Warke

Alto

Helen Aquino
Emilia Grindlay
Naomi Lauren Jichita
Olga Kostenko
Mariia Kuzmenko
Abby Mendola
Franscesca Middleton
Louise Rust

Tenor

Aaron Addoriso
Rigel Rendon

Bass

Hendrick Baerends
Cole Dorchester
Josiah Maxfield
Rafael Tian
Tim To
Luke Wiebe

Quotes from #connect Participants

#connect is an opportunity to sing beautiful and challenging music with a group of excellent musicians and friends. I would recommend this experience to anyone starting out their journey into the world of professional choir.

-Emilia Grindlay

This choir pushed my singing like nothing else before!

-Raphael Tian

I had a great time learning from Michael and making amazing music with my peers!

-Josiah Maxfield

Singing in #connect has challenged and enriched me as a musician. It has helped to build crucial pieces in the bridge between my ensemble and solo singing passions.

-Kathena Lin



Pro Coro welcomed special guests the Growlers Choir from Montreal to perform The Dayking in two concerts in February, 2023 at the ATB Financial Arts Barns.

Growlers Choir: The Dayking

Composer & Manager

Pierre-Luc Senécal

High Voice

Yves Godbout
Maude Théberge

Medium Voice

Roxana Bouchard
Patrick Goyette

Low Voice

Jean-Charles Carrère
Philippe Langelier

Conductor

Pascal Germain-Berardi

Marie-Claude Fleury
Maxime Daigneault
Corinne Cardinal

Jeffrey Macdermott
Samuel Arseneau-Roy
Pascal Germain-Berardi

Mikail Standjofski-Figols
Estelle Martinez
Sacha Nahman-Lévesque
Laurent Bellemare

Narrator

Fortner Anderson

About the Growlers Choir Collaboration

Pro Coro Canada has cemented the place this new musical invention holds in the panorama of new classical music. The choir has given a fresh, modern breath to classical choir pieces (Amanogawa, Warning to the Rich) by integrating a growlers choir. Through this bold artistic risk, they've allowed music to take a new colour and heightened its dramatic potency. This new take on choral music could very well attract a new public, and bring a certain enthusiasm back to the classical concert.

This experience is especially true for the "The Dayking" composed for classical and growlers choirs. As its composer, I've heard this piece performed many times by the Temps fort choir (Montreal, Canada). With PCC, under the expertise of Michael Zaugg, the piece was brought to new heights. Never before had I heard the piece performed with such narrative poignancy. Zaugg's unique approach demonstrated that this piece, like any other from the canonical repertoire, can be performed differently by different choirs. A new musicality is brought forward each time by the conductor.

Without an intricate knowledge of growl, Michael Zaugg was capable of coaching non-classically trained growlers and getting a brilliant performance out of them. I thank him sincerely for the experience and knowledge he transferred to the growlers. It was an exceptional opportunity for them to work with a professional choir. It has better prepared them for many projects we're currently accomplishing with professional ensembles.

-Pierre-Luc Senécal, Manager, Growlers Choir

Collaboration with Da Camera Singers



Da Camera Singers joined Pro Coro Canada in two performances of All-Night Vigil by Rachmaninoff in March, 2023. The choir's conductor, Laura Hawley, shares her thoughts below.

Performing Rachmaninoff's All-Night-Vigil with Pro Coro last year was truly a highlight for Da Camera's concert season! Da Camera has performed this work in the past, and singing it with a professional choir brought the experience to a whole new level. From the thoroughness and focus of preparation, the rich fullness of the sound, Michael's depth of understanding of the work and interpretation, and the freedom and brilliance in the performance; it was a deeply rewarding challenge and artistic experience from start to finish. I know this performance will be remembered for years to come as a highlight in Da Camera's long history. A few words from two of our choristers:

"What a joy it was to raise our voices once again with our Pro Coro colleagues to perform Rachmaninoff's glorious 'All-Night Vigil'. Collaborations such as this truly celebrate the diversity and strength of Edmonton's choral community."

-Michelle Andrews

"The experience singing with Pro Coro for the Rachmaninoff Vespers was truly exceptional. Felt welcomed, supported and uplifted. The planning and forethought was remarkable - each singer's placement was obviously given serious consideration. This experience will not only be a highlight of 2023 but a highlight of my choral history."

-Timothy Wong



A performance of All-Night Vigil at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral.

Emerging Conductors



Emerging conductors Thomas Burton, Andrew Whiteside, and Laura Albrecht, were all welcomed as emerging guest conductors in three separate concerts this season.

I enjoyed the opportunity to do a conducting workshop with Michael and the #Connect ensemble, where I received constructive feedback and perfected a piece that I conducted in the Tower and the Garden performance. Everyone was very welcoming, friendly, and helpful. I'm looking forward to returning again in the summer of 2024 to get a complete experience as an Emerging Artist.

-Laura Albrecht, Emerging Conductor

PCC's Emerging Artist Program was an incredibly valuable experience for me. Being able to work with a professional calibre chorus in a nurturing and relaxed environment greatly prepared me for the current work I do with professional singers and instrumentalists. The feedback and camaraderie from the singers made the week fun and fostered new friendships, while Michael Zaugg's guidance and instruction helped form a core part of my conducting and leadership philosophy. Programs like this are invaluable training opportunities for young conductors and I am so happy that the EAR program continues to thrive.

-Thomas Burton, Emerging Conductor



Laura Albrecht conducts Nystedt's "Peace I Leave with You" on June 10.

2022-2023 Season Highlights

42

Works performed

15

Canadian works performed

4

World premiers performed

75

Emerging Artists



Michael Zaugg was the recipient of the 2022 Con Spirito Award (Choir Alberta), presented annually in recognition of an individual's spirit, dedication, and commitment to choral music in their local community. Pictured above: Kimberley Denis presents the Con Spirito Award to Michael Zaugg.



In September, 2022, Michael Zaugg celebrated his 10 year anniversary with Pro Coro Canada.



*Pro Coro performed three run-out concerts in Camrose this season: *The Nightingale*, with Matthias Maute (recorder) and *All-Night Vigil* with Da Camera Singers (above) at the Faith and Life Chapel, and *The Little Match Girl Passion* at the Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre.*

Hand-Printed Season Posters



Pro Coro Canada was focused on craft in the 22.23 Season: the experience of real voices, live in concert and expertly hand-printed posters for each performance (right) by Pro Coro graphic designer Judy Armstrong (left).

Graphic Design Collaboration

As part of the curriculum for design students in the Department of Art and Design at the University of Alberta, students have been engaged in projects based on musical performances by Pro Coro Canada. This collaboration provides the opportunity to draw parallels between the process of design and other artistic processes, specifically musical composition. Michael Zaugg has shared his time and expertise as an in-class guest lecturer to provide background information for each project. Some examples of works students have researched and designed for are: artist book works using the lyrics from David Lang's *The Little Match Girl Passion*, large-scale expressive typography posters for Pro Coro's collaboration with The Good Woman Dance Company, and album covers for works performed as part of the PIVOT program. Michael Zaugg has provided design students with insights into the narrative and compositional structure of each work, engaged students in exercises in spoken word, and showed and discussed different types of musical scores, notations, and musical compositions. The works created by the students have been displayed at the performances for audiences to view. Students have also had the opportunity to attend live performances of the works.

-Judy Armstrong, Pro Coro's Graphic Designer

Album Release: We Breathe in Stars

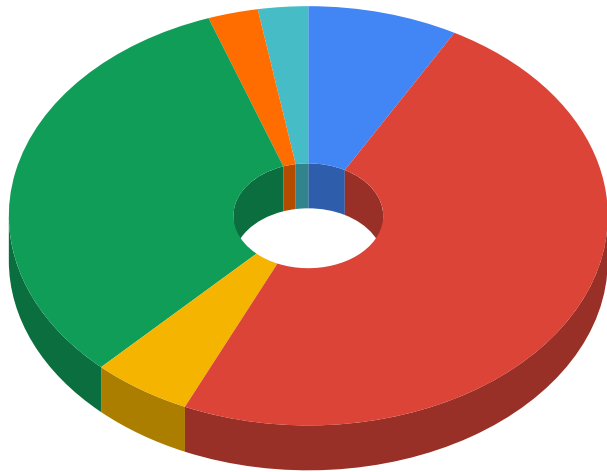


When the global pandemic brought life to a standstill in the winter of 2020, the performing arts, like many other industries and disciplines, suffered immensely. Pro Coro Canada commissioned 8 Alberta composers to each write a short four-part a cappella work that could be learned individually at home and eventually sung in small groups in large venues or outside.

Pro Coro Canada subsequently recorded these works in full and as individual practice videos in the summer of 2020, one of the earliest professional choral activities during the pandemic in Canada. The choir has since performed the compositions several times in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region. The full choir recorded these pieces in Autumn 2022, and released *We Breathe in Stars* on CD as a complete album in June, 2023.

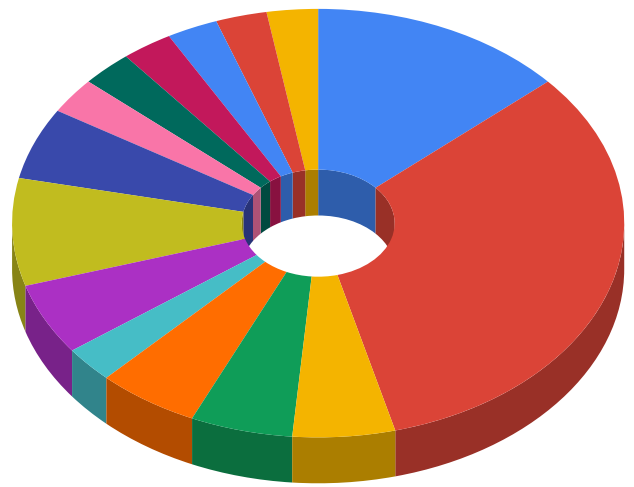


Musical Periods Performed in the 22.23 Season



- Baroque
- 21st Century
- Classical
- 20th Century
- Renaissance
- Romantic

Composer Nationalities Represented in the 22.23 Season



- German
- Canadian
- Filipino
- British
- Italian
- Danish
- Swedish
- American
- Norwegian
- Estonian
- French
- Latvian
- Russian
- Ukrainian
- Indonesian

World Youth Choir

“At the conclusion of this season, I traveled to Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary on a performance tour with an alumni session of the World Youth Choir under the direction of Hungarian conductor Zoltan Pad. The choir, normally offered to the best-of-the-best emerging singers ages 18-27, sought to bring together a roster of singers from those who participated in previous WYC sessions from 2016-2019. Myself (2019) and former PCC Bass David McCune (2016, 2017, 2018) were both offered spots in the ensemble to represent Canada, though David was unable to attend due to previous commitments. I was joined by Nova Scotia mezzo Elyse Delaney to sing on behalf of Canada joining the roster of 40 singers representing 34 countries.



I enjoyed being on this tour as a representative of Pro Coro and the Edmonton Choral Community and heard from singers all over the world who have been watching our performances on ProCoroTV from their home countries. Our voices and repertoire have had both an inspirational effect on those who could not sing during different periods of COVID shutdowns across the globe and offered a new venue for entertainment for the choral enthusiasts among the group. The continued expansion of our digital concert library has helped showcase our ever-expanding repertoire and reminds the world that Edmonton is a home for cutting-edge singing. I was extremely touched and proud to hear these stories from colleagues who I have a world of admiration and respect for, and thrilled to see that our international strategy is already bearing fruit. I think this is an important affirmation of our efforts to continue developing our streaming infrastructure in the future and continue building a global musical presence.” *-Graeme Climie, Pro Coro Singer Representative*

Edmonton Community Foundation Endowment Funds

Endowment Funds create a permanent legacy felt over generations. An endowment fund with **Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)** invests gifts through independent investment managers. Each year, a percentage of this family of funds is granted to Pro Coro Canada, to be invested according to their intended purpose.

The Pro Coro Canada Endowment Fund

Ensures the long-term prosperity of the ensemble. This fund directly assists the general operations of the choir on-stage and behind the scenes.



The Russ and Johann Mann Endowment Fund

Facilitates the creation and commission of new choral works by Canadian and International composers for performances by Pro Coro Canada, and choirs across Canada.

The Maria David Evans Memorial Endowment Fund

In the spirit of educating the leaders of tomorrow, the Maria David Evans Memorial Fund facilitates the educational work of Pro Coro Canada with emerging choral leaders, young singers and the local choral community at-large.



We would like to thank all families and individuals who are, in a sustainable way, generously supporting Pro Coro through the ECF endowment funds*:

Alexandra Schepansky
Alida Flynn
Carol Anne Kushlyk
Catherine Glaser-Climie
Doug & Mary Armstrong

John & Jennifer Maxfield
Leroy & Barbara Hiller
Mary Lynne Campbell
Patrick Kalita
Peter Malcolm
Peter Thut

Robert & Pamela Barrett
Russ & Johann Mann
Sandra Croll
Stan Climie
Susan Rockwood

For more information, visit procoro.ca/endowment

**Funds received in 2022*

YOUR CITY YOUR CHOIR
PRO CORO CANADA
2022.2023
EXPERIENCE SERIES CONCERTS

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

THE NIGHTINGALE
MATTHIAS MAUTE RECORDER

SUN. SEPT. 25. 2022 . 3:00PM

POLISH HALL
EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

SAT. NOV. 26. 2022 . 7:30PM

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

MOONSHOT IV
THE DAYKING

SAT. FEB. 11. 2023 . 7:30PM

SUN. FEB. 12. 2023 . 3:00PM

ATB FINANCIAL ARTS BARN
WESTBURY THEATRE, EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES

PRO CORO CANADA

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

WITH DA CAMERA SINGERS

SAT. MARCH. 11. 2023 . 7:30PM

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

GOOD FRIDAY

FRI. APRIL. 7. 2023 . 7:30PM

ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH
EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

MISSAE IX

SAT. MAY. 6. 2023 . 7:30PM

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

THE TOWER & THE GARDEN

SAT. JUNE. 10. 2023 . 7:30PM

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

YOUR CITY YOUR CHOIR
PRO CORO CANADA
2022.2023
SELECT & EAR SERIES CONCERTS

#CONNECT.EAR SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

A THOUGHT OF WAR

SUN. NOV. 6. 2022. 7:00PM
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
EDMONTON

SELECT SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL PASSION

SUN. DEC. 18. 2022. 7:30PM
ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

SELECT SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

NEW YEAR'S EVE

SAT. DEC. 31. 2022. 7:30PM

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL
EDMONTON

RUN-OUT CONCERTS

EXPERIENCE SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

THE NIGHTINGALE
MATTHIAS MAUTE RECORDER

SAT. SEPT. 24. 2022. 7:30PM
FAITH & LIFE CHAPEL
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY
CAMROSE

SELECT SERIES
PRO CORO CANADA

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL PASSION

SAT. DEC. 17. 2022. 7:30PM
JEANNE & PETER LOUGHEED
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
CAMROSE

EXPERIENCE SERIES

PRO CORO CANADA

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

WITH DA CAMERA SINGERS

SUN. MARCH. 12. 2023. 3:00PM

FAITH & LIFE CHAPEL
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY
CAMROSE

Contracted Singers 2022-2023

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Laura Albrecht	Sable Chan	Ian Bannerman	Andrew Bortz
Dawn Bailey	Erin Craig	Taylor Fawcett	Kyle Carter
Zoitsa Gotziaman	Kimberley Denis	Tyson Kerr	Graeme Climie
Jacqueline Hernandez	Lesley Dolman	Brett Ludwig	Rob Curtis
Catherine Kubash	Laura Hawley	Oliver Munar	Graham Fast
Annette Martens	Britney Huynh	Laren Steppler	William Ireton
Natalie Minczuk Prando	Shannon Kolotyluk	Charles Stolte	Michael Kurschat
Elaine Myhre	Jessica Robertson	Knut Ulsrud	Andrew Malcolm
Annie Randall	Adrienne Sitko	Andrew Whiteside	Peter Malcolm
Sarah Schaub	Amy Voyer	Nathan Willis	Christian Maxfield
Katrina Smith		Anthony Wynne	Josiah Maxfield
Jessica Wagner			Adam Robertson
			John Wiebe

Board of Directors & Staff

<u>Chair</u>	<u>Directors</u>	<u>Managing & Artistic Director and Principal Conductor</u>
Susan Rockwood	Robert Barrett	Michael Zaugg
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	<u>Graphic Design</u>	<u>Production Audio & Video Team</u>
	Judy Armstrong	Corey Haberstock
		Riverford Productions:
		Les Sereda and Steven Brese

*To AGM 2022

Our Guests



*Matthias Maute, Recorder
The Nightingale, September 24 & 25*



*Matti Pulkki, Accordion
Petite Messe Solennelle, November 26*



*John Tessier, Tenor
Petite Messe Solennelle, November 26*



*Jacqueline Hernandez, Soprano
Petite Messe Solennelle, November 26*



*Catherine Daniel, Mezzo-Soprano
Petite Messe Solennelle, November 26*



*Jin Yu, Bass
Petite Messe Solennelle, November 26*

"Many thanks to Pro Coro Canada for a wonderful performance of Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle. It was a great pleasure to collaborate on this project with you and the soloists from The University of Alberta. I found it particularly rewarding to be one of the performers as it was a chance to sing with my students. As a former singer in Pro Coro and guest artist on multiple occasions, I find the work you do to include the community in your projects very important. Not only do you provide excellent entertainment but also opportunities for community participation. I look forward to future collaborations between Pro Coro and the music department, let's keep making music together." -Prof. John Tessier, Tenor



*Kari Turunen, Conductor
Good Friday, April 7*



*Tammy-Jo Mortensen, Organ
Good Friday, April 7*



*Jonathan Velasco, Conductor
Missae IX, May 6*



*Vaughan String Quartet:
Vladimir Rufino, Violin I; Mattia Berrini, Violin 2;
Fabiola Amorim, Viola; Silvia Buttiglione, Cello
The Tower & the Garden, June 10*

"During Praulin's *The Nightingale*, while playing an at times rather tricky instrumental part, I kept thinking, what a lucky guy I am to sit there, wrapped in the sound of Pro Coro and being part of such a top notch team. Everything clicked, the inspired music, the energized choir, Michael's clear indications. One could not ask for more. May the *Nightingale* fly high!" -*Matthias Maute, Recorder*

Messages from Guest Artists



We collaborated with Pro Coro Canada for “The Tower and the Garden” on June 10th 2023 at All Saints’ Anglican Cathedral. This experience has been one of the highlights of our 2022-23 concert season. We were particularly impressed by the ability of Mr. Zaugg to conduct Pro Coro throughout a very demanding program. His attention to details, his clear musical vision and his leadership were key to a successful performance that has been enthusiastically received by the audience. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have worked with Mr. Zaugg and with Pro Coro Canada and we look forward to further occasion to collaborate with them.

-Vaughan String Quartet

I feel very fortunate to have been asked to conduct the exquisite music of the Pro Coro Good Friday concert in April 2023. It was wonderful to be able to meet the singers and create a bond with Pro Coro, the closest professional counterpart of the Vancouver Chamber Choir in Canada. Michael and I have been talking about the choirs coming together for some time and I felt this was a first step toward a closer, or, at least, a much more frequent cooperation between these two excellent choirs. There is much music that these combined choirs could perform in a hair-raising way and even lighter modes of cooperation, such as singer and conductor exchanges would give the musicians new possibilities and the audiences both in Vancouver and Edmonton fresh experiences.

*-Kari Turunen, DMA, Artistic Director,
Vancouver Chamber Choir*



I’ve been composing and arranging music for a long time, but to have an ensemble of high quality and calibre as Pro Coro Canada perform my original Missa Brevis is a dream come true. I never dreamed it would ever be performed so I’m sincerely grateful and indebted to Michael for trusting me, and to the singers for breathing glorious life into it. My parents and I really enjoyed the performance and it will be an experience that will stay with me for a lifetime. On a related note, I also applaud Pro Coro for programming my Missa Brevis alongside other established Asian composers as Ryan Cayabyab and Ivan Yohan. This kind of forward-thinking programming demonstrates the ensemble’s commitment to new compositional voices and the spirit of inclusivity, which sets Pro Coro apart from its peers.

-Oliver Munar, Composer

Message from Jonathan Velasco

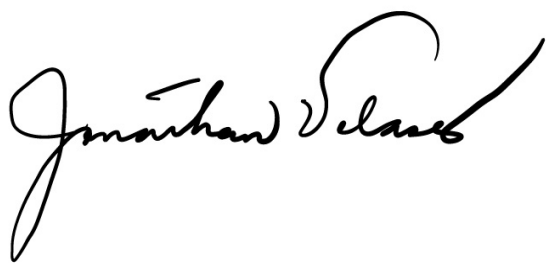
I was privileged to be invited to conduct Pro Coro Canada in a concert entitled MISSAE IX on May 6, 2023, at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton. The program featured Kyrie by Indonesian composer Ivan Yohan, Missa Brevis in E-flat Major by Filipino Canadian composer Oliver Munar, and MISA by Philippine National Artist for Music Ryan Cayabyab.

I've known Michael Zaugg since our World Youth Choir days in 1996-1998. He was a singer in the WYC, and I was the invited conductor for the 1996 summer session in Tallinn, Estonia. At that time, I included Gloria from the MISA of Ryan Cayabyab in the WYC concert program, and I guess it made such an impact on Michael that it comes full circle now, with the entire MISA performed in Canada by Pro Coro Canada no less, and with me as invited conductor!

The performance significantly impacted the Philippines' cultural milieu, primarily because a major work by a National Artist for Music was performed abroad. The National Commission on Culture and the Arts chairman, Victorino Manalo, made sure to inform the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding the concert. The Foreign Affairs Department then sent the Philippine Consul General in Calgary to visit me during rehearsals in Edmonton. The Consul General could not attend the concert due to foreign travel, but he disseminated the information concerning the concert to the Filipino community in Alberta. They were also excited to hear short excerpts of Filipino love songs incorporated in Oliver Munar's Missa Brevis.

The concert was an artistic success due mainly to the excellent musicality of Pro Coro Canada's singers, led by musician and conductor par excellence Michael Zaugg. I was delighted with how they tackled the multi-layered complexities in rhythm and melody in Cayabyab's MISA and their ability to weave intricate sound fabrics in Munar's Missa Brevis and Ivan Yohan's Kyrie. The choir has excellent voices on its roster, and it was a joy to work with. I hope and pray that the choir can tour Southeast Asia one of these years.

Thank you for the invitation to make music with Pro Coro Canada, and I sincerely hope our paths will cross again.



Vida Soraya Verzosa, Vice-Consul, Philippine Consulate General (Calgary), Jonathan Velasco and Michael Zaugg.

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Canada Council for the Arts
City of Edmonton
Edmonton Arts Council
Edmonton Community Foundation
Government of Canada

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CanadaHelps
Choir Alberta
Choral Canada
RBC Foundation

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con somma passione (\$5000+)

Bridges, Ed & Leona

con bravura (\$2500 - \$4999)

Anonymous Donors

con forza (\$1000 - \$2499)

Barrett, Pam & Robert
Cairns, Debra
Head, Christopher
Heule, Mark
Jones, Kelvin
Mann, Russ & Johann
Valgardson, Donna & Lynass, Douglas

con brio (\$500 - \$999)

Burns, Rita & Charles
Gower, Neil
Phair, Michael
Rockwood, Susan
Romaniuk, Susan
Tonn, William

con amore (\$250 - \$499)

Fagnan, Laurier
Harper, Norma
Hiller, Leroy & Barbara
Muehlenbachs, Lelde & Karlis
Munar, Oliver
Segger, Joachim & Marnie

con moto (up to \$249)

Armstrong, Douglas & Mary
Buse, Adolf & Kathleen
Chan, Sable
Conrad, Mari Alice
Craig, John & Linda
Elvina, Bertita
Facundo, Carina
Firth, Devin
Grove, Karen
Henderson, Vicki
Holowaychuk, Donna
Hykawy, Holly
Janzen Pick, Louella
Kalita, Patrick

Katchuik, Riley
Katzmar, Kurt
Kitsch, Donna
Kobitowitch, Bill (in memorium)
Lambert, Jennifer
McMillan, Brian
Nielsen, Carolyn
Nielson, John
Rich, Sheila & Tony
Rouleau, Dana
Rudovics, Ena
Sadler Wells, Barbara
Samycia, Grace
Selin, Amy
Shanks, Arcana
Slater, Linda
van Hees, Henriette
Wankiewicz, Patricia
Whitson, Audrey
Wynne, Desmond

thank you!

Special Thanks

Pro Coro Canada would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the many people who have volunteered for our organization during the 2022-2023 season, and helped our staff during busy times of the year. From setting up stage equipment, to helping with our library, to sitting on our board of directors, our work would not be possible without your generous help and expertise.

Aaron Addorisio, Volunteer
Catherine Armstrong, Volunteer
Robert Barrett, Board Member
Wendy Boje, Board Vice-Chair & Volunteer
Samara Bortz, Administrative Assistant
Mary Lynne Campbell, Corporate Secretary & Volunteer
Graeme Climie, Singer Representative
Sandra Croll, Board Member & Volunteer
Maria David-Evans, Board Member
Caelyn Duffee, Board Member
Elize Erasmus, Volunteer
Werner Erasmus, Volunteer
Michel Marc Gervais, Honorary Lifetime Member
Clair Gibson, Volunteer
Gabriel Gomes, Board Member
Christopher Head, Board Member
Naomi Lauren Jichita, Volunteer
Paul Johnston & Team, Recording Engineers
Patrick Kalita, Board Member
Carol Anne Kushlyk, Board Treasurer
Katie Lam, Administrative Assistant
Madge McCready, Honorary Lifetime Member & Casino Chairperson
Reagen Osinchuk, Volunteer
Susan Rockwood, Board Chair & Volunteer
Sheila Savage, Volunteer
Alex Wesolowski, Board Member

thank you!

Thank you to our supporters:



Canada Council
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du Canada



Pro Coro Canada is a proud member of the following organizations:



Choral Canada
Association of Canadian
Choral Communities

Canada Choral
Association des communautés
chorales canadiennes



Report from the Board Chair & Executive Committee

Pro Coro Canada has had a busy 2022/23 fiscal year. Like most arts organizations, the year brought challenges of re-engagement of audiences and traditional community outreach. These are important as we strive for excellence as a professional choral organization, through ambitious artistic direction and choral music performance.

Pro Coro Canada continues to rely on grant funding through all levels of government, the generosity of donors and other key supporters to create and deliver on our artistic programming. During the fiscal year, we were fortunate recipients of federal government funding specifically directed to the arts to bring back audiences, for which we are grateful. While we have not reached pre-pandemic levels for audience attendance, we have a broader reach through live streaming our performances on Pro Coro TV and are recording a new CD both of which we anticipate will expand our audiences in upcoming seasons.

As an Executive, we rely on Board Committees and each board member for appropriate oversight and governance of the organization. At our November 2022 annual general meeting, we welcomed three new board members (Caelyn Duffee, Alex Wesolowski and Patrick Kalita) who have each brought to the board table a range of professional experience and, importantly, experience as singers in other choirs in our community. We also thanked outgoing board member, Laura McDonald, for her dedication to Pro Coro Canada throughout her term. We also, sadly, said good-bye to Maria David-Evans who passed away in September 2022. An endowment fund in Maria's memory was established at the Edmonton Community Foundation to recognize her commitment to Pro Coro Canada and the local arts community.

The Board also has the opportunity to hear perspectives from our choir through their representatives on the Board. Thanks go out to Peter Malcolm and Graeme Climie for fulfilling their responsibilities as singer representatives. We look forward to welcoming and working with newly appointed singer representatives Kimberley Denis and Tyson Kerr.

Pro Coro Canada continues to advance the goals of our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan. In 2022/23, the Board placed its focus on the strategic priority to Strengthen Stability and Sustainability. Thanks to grant funding from the Edmonton Community Foundation, we were able to work with Warick & Associates Inc. to develop a Fund Development and Stewardship Plan, foundational for this work, and to contract a part-time fund development specialist to lead implementing the plan and directing the Board on its stewardship activities. Our primary goal for this initiative is to achieve a sustainable and diverse funding base for the long-term sustainability of the organization as we explore new partnerships, expand our audience, and bring music to the world through Pro Coro TV.

We were fortunate to have the Honourable Ed Stelmach become an ambassador for Pro Coro Canada this year. Mr. Stelmach brings an understanding of the power of music and how it draws all of us together in community. We extend our thanks to him.

For 2023/24, the Board has placed its focus on the strategic priority to Advance Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. This will involve developing partnerships that promote, incorporate, and celebrate diversity of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. It will be an opportunity for learning and improving our policies, processes and working environment to the benefit of our staff, contractors, choir, and audience. We are committed to allocating the required resources as we navigate this learning journey together.

Spring of 2023 saw a first for Pro Coro Canada. Michael Zaugg, our Managing and Artistic Director and Principle Conductor, was granted a parental leave, welcoming a new daughter to his family. The Executive is grateful to everyone who stepped in to facilitate the leave including the administrative lead, the choir, the guest conductors, and the Board's HR Liaison. This would not have been possible without their full support.

We also celebrated Michael's 10th anniversary of artistic leadership with Pro Coro Canada through a special reception in September 2022. In October 2022, Choir Alberta honoured Michael with a CON SPIRITO Award for his involvement in the Alberta choral community. Thank you, Michael, for your continued artistic leadership of Pro Coro Canada as we strive to achieve our vision of inspired hearts, minds and spirits in all who experience our world class professional chamber choir.

I wish to thank my Executive Committee colleagues - Wendy Boje, Vice Chair; Mary Lynne Campbell, Corporate Secretary; and Carol Ann Kushlyk, Treasurer - for their wisdom and support throughout the past year. I also express my sincere appreciation to all board members for their dedication to the Board and their assigned board committees as we navigated another challenging year for Pro Coro Canada.

I also offer heartfelt thanks to you, our champions, donors, volunteers, and patrons, for your continued support of Pro Coro Canada, its choral music presented in the Western-European tradition by our outstanding choir, and your warm welcome of our guest conductors, musicians, composers, and other exceptional talent we have the privilege of introducing to our stage. As we continue to strive for choral excellence, we truly appreciate each and every one of you who contributes to and appreciates this artistic community.

As an organization, we value our Orchestra of Voices, each a professional, finely tuned, skilled and powerful human instrument contributing to the sound of Pro Coro Canada, proudly rooted in our Edmonton community.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rockwood, Board Chair



Pro Coro welcomed audience members to attend concerts in-person while maintaining a hybrid livestream production model.



Staff and volunteers welcome guests to The Little Match Girl Passion at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral.

Report from the Managing & Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

The 2022-2023 season was a milestone in the history of Pro Coro Canada, as it marked the start of the second decade of my artistic leadership. My first performance season being 2012-2013 meant that I had concluded 10 successful years with the choir, including three in a pandemic environment. The 22.23 season therefore had a celebratory feel to it, with some of my all-time favourite choral works, and with revisiting compositions that I introduced to Pro Coro Canada.

This season was not impacted by any restrictions, and we produced our 'regular' number of concerts, special events and workshops. Our production and administration team has now worked together for several seasons, and things run smoothly. We're also supported by a great board of directors who dedicate their time and expertise to govern the Society.

Artistic and Creative Management

Our 22.23 season featured the full ensemble of up to 26 singers, in 7 main concerts, 2 extra concerts, 3 run-out concerts and a CD recording. We had our #connect choir in a feature emerging artist concert and alongside Pro Coro Canada in a main concert. We had guest conductors for our April and May performances. The season release was accompanied with a video that featured the choir singing on the stairs at Edmonton's City Hall, while individuals introduced the musical programming. We moved our regular rehearsals to First Presbyterian Church (on 105 Street), which provides a great acoustic, free parking and ample space for breaks. Noteworthy is also that this is the venue where Pro Coro Canada rehearsed at the very beginning in the 80s. Performances took place in various downtown venues, while still keeping our ties to All Saints' Anglican Cathedral as our preferred venue.

Experience Series

The Nightingale, on September 24 in Camrose and on September 25, 2022, in Edmonton, with guests EAR Thomas Burton and recorder player Matthias Maute, took place almost to the day 10 years after my first official concert with Pro Coro Canada where the choir performed this fantastic work by Latvian Ugis Praulins. The choir also commissioned and premiered a work titled *A Boy & A Boy* (text by Matthew Stepanic) by long-time collaborator Stuart Beatch. The 10 year anniversary of my tenure with the choir (2012-2022) was also celebrated at a post-concert reception with speeches by Eva Bostrand, Laurier Fagnan, Michael Kurschat and Kim Denis, and Robert Barrett. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, staff and in particular the singers for a great weekend, and for the creation of many great new memories. I also would like to express my thanks for the creation of the portfolio book and posters, done by Judy Armstrong.

A Thought of War was our project with emerging singers. The 24 #connect participants performed an eclectic program with many styles and languages on November 6, 2022, at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. EAR Andrew Whiteside directed one piece.

On November 26, 2022, we performed the **Petite Messe Solennelle** by Rossini. In a collaboration with the voice department at University of Alberta, we featured Jacqueline Hernandez, Catherine Daniel, Prof. John Tessier, and Jin Yu. Matti Pulkki (Accordion) and Jessica Robertson (Piano) accompanied the ensemble.

The most unique and out-of-the-box event in years was **Moonshot IV: The Dayking**, on February 11 and 12, 2023, at the ATB Arts Barns. The choir collaborated with The Growlers Choir from Montreal, a group of Heavy Metal singers/growlers. The repertoire and resulting sounds were astonishing and challenged our, and the audience's, concept of choral presentation. The choir premiered two choral works, *Blood, Breath and Other Miracles* (text by Brandon Wint) by Pro Coro Canada member Jane Berry, and *Outer Space, Inner Peace* (text by Anna Marie Sewell) by Mari Alice Conrad

On March 11 and 12, 2023, Pro Coro Canada joined with Da Camera Singers to perform Rachmaninoff's **All-Night Vigil**. The 55-voice strong choir presented this masterwork at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, and in Camrose.

Pro Coro held its annual **Good Friday** concert on April 7, 2023, with guest conductor Kari Turunen, Artistic Director of the Vancouver Chamber Choir. This concert was presented at Robertson-Wesley United Church, and featured organist Tammy-Jo Mortensen.

On May 6, 2023, the choir presented **Missae IX** under the baton of guest Jonathan Velasco from the Philippines. The repertoire included music from the Philippines, plus the world premiere of the *Missa Brevis* by Pro Coro Canada member Oliver Munar who has Filipino roots. The performance was well received and also attended by the Filipino Vice Consul from Calgary.

The Tower and the Garden on June 10, 2023, was the season closer. A rich, challenging and exceptionally well-performed program which featured the full choir, the Vaughan String Quartet and our #connect youth choir. EAR Laura Albrecht (Montreal/US) directed the youth choir in a selection. The Honourable Ed Stelmach and his wife were in attendance.

Select Series

On December 18, a quartet performed **The Little Match Girl Passion** at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral. This was the 10th year in a row that we presented this work. The composer, Pulitzer-prize winning David Lang took note and wrote a new choral work for Pro Coro Canada (to be premiered in 23.24), dedicated in gratitude for our commitment to performing his music. The day prior, December 17, we presented the work at the Loughheed Centre in Camrose to a packed house.

Our New Year's Eve concert, December 31, 2022, was a great success, with an appreciative audience, and an impromptu homage to the late Ian Tyson as the choir performed *Four Strong Winds*.

Recording

In October 2022, the choir recorded 10 works by Canadian composers, 8 of which were commissioned from Alberta composers by Pro Coro Canada at the outset of the pandemic in 2020. The works had been performed on several occasions in previous years. The cover art showcases a starry-night Lake Louise scene, the work of an Albertan photographer. **We Breathe in Stars** was released at the June 10 concert.

Emerging Artists and Outreach

Our #connect choir was the largest component of our Emerging Artist program with a total of 27 singers in 2 concerts. We also worked with 4 conductors and with 9 composers in the Emerging Artist program.

Representing Pro Coro Canada, I was engaged in the community through workshops, coaching and presentations, i.e. with the Graphic Design Class at U of A (Prof. J. Armstrong), Composition at MacEwan University (Prof. E. LeBel), and with various community choirs (Lady Cove and Shallaway (both NFL), Grande Prairie Boys' Choir, Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir, Festival Chorus Calgary).

In September 2022, I attended the WorldChoral Expo and EXchange Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. The WorldChoral Expo was produced by the International Federation for Choral Music and EXchange by The Singing Network (NFL). I presented on Choral Pedagogy, and our EAR program, to an international audience. Canadians (and Albertans) were well represented at the International Event. I also attended the AGM of the Federation.

Executive Management

Human Resources

A main element this season was my **parental leave** from March 22 to May 22, 2023. All administrative matters were in the capable hands of the Business Operations Lead, Laura Ouellette, with administrative support by contractor Samara Bortz. Our HR liaison Sandra Croll and Chair Susan Rockwood engaged more hands-on with the administration during this period. There were no major concerns, and challenges were overcome successfully.

Our two positions (Marketing and Communications Lead, and Production Coordinator) were filled at the end of August 2022 by Riza Galang and Bimbola Adurogboye respectively. Laura Ouellette continued to work in her role of Business Operations Lead. Our graphic designer, our accountant and our video/audio team also remained in place.

As a new initiative, on September 10, 2022, in conjunction with the first rehearsal of the season, we had a one hour **singer orientation**. The singers were present in person or via zoom. We went through the on-boarding document which was created with input from board members, staff, singer representatives, and which reflects organizational knowledge, and lists roles and responsibilities.

Administration, Operations and Productions

On November 26, 2022, the society held its **Annual General Meeting** at the Shumka Centre in-person and online.

Our staff keeps a **hybrid work** approach, with presence in the office a couple of times a week, and upon request. We keep improving our workflow with online tools, and are doing a concerted effort to capture processes in templates to preserve knowledge and minimize risk.

Over the summer 2022, we put some systems in place to streamline internal process, including project software to capture timelines and communications, a new online ticket sales system for pre-sales of individual concert tickets (Ticket Tailor, which allows for touchless QR codes + automated guest list) and also updates to office computers (three full workstations, with audio/video software for post-production of concerts). In anticipation of the 10 year anniversary, we had a summer student collect and archive all concerts of the past decade, and create a **dedicated website archive**: procoro.ca/historyofprocoro.

Our **concert productions** have settled into a well-oiled process with the same front-of-house team made up of staff and volunteers. The livestream team has now worked with us for three full seasons, and the online presentation is consistent and receives positive feedback on a regular basis. We have not recorded in a studio for several years, and the post-production used up more resources than planned.

The dedicated **TV platform** is used to stream our concerts 'off the floor', share a collection of Canadian works under 'Canadian Voices', and provide practice tracks for select Canadian works. Each concert accumulated between 100 to 200 plays over the course of a season. Moonshot IV leads the charts, followed by All-Night Vigil and The Nightingale. Over the course of the season, we had 2270 plays, play indicates one household, not accounting for the number of viewers, in a mix of paid and unpaid access.

For our 22.23 **Season Passes**, we froze the prices, and the passes and single tickets have now been at the same price level for 3 years. The digital and student passes are more affordable than previous years. Unfortunately we can not report audience numbers similar before 2020, and various initiatives have not yielded results. A couple of times, we have found ourselves in the situation of having to compete with popular events that were announced and promoted after our season release. Based on conversations with similar and larger not-for-profit professional performing arts organisations, we all have this same challenge.

Grants

We received the annual installments of operational grants from the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), the Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA), and the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC). The annual RBC Emerging Artists Grant application was successful and we received the full amount of \$10,000.

We applied for several one-time grants:

- EAC Covid Recovery Fund for Live Presentations (\$10,000) - successful
- EAC Connections and Exchanges Grant Application (\$12,000) - not successful
- AFA Pluralism Project Grant (\$16,000) - not successful
- ECF Grant for Fund Development Specialist (\$50,000) - successful (partly deferred to 23.24)
- ECF Community Services Recovery Fund (\$32,000) - successful (deferred to 23.24)

Finances, Sponsorship and Fund Development

On the initiative of various board directors, and in communication with the family of Maria David-Evans, the organization established the Maria David-Evans Memorial Fund with the Edmonton Community Foundation, which was announced at our concert on November 26, 2022. Before the evening concert, we hosted a reception for the family of Maria David-Evans at the Edmonton Community Foundation.

As we were successful with the ECF grant, we engaged Elaine Warick and her partner Margo Buckley to develop a **Fund Development and Stewardship Plan**. With the funds distributed over three seasons, we implemented the first part (board workshop) in the 22.23 season. The plan by Warick & Buckley, and the remaining funds, have set up a fund development contract position for 18 to 24 months, starting August 1, 2023. As initially planned and budgeted for, we have not been able to secure any corporate sponsorship or donations for the season.

Unfortunately **we have to report a deficit for the 22.23 season** (see financial information). The contributing budget items are, on the Revenue side: 30% less in ticket sales, 77% short in Corporate Donations and Sponsorships, and, on the Expense side: 75% more for general productions (including guest travel, venues, and CD production), and approximately 20% more for general administrative and professional items. Artistic Expenses were on target with only a 4% difference, and donations by individuals came in 12% over target. The Society is in a good cash position, including \$88,000 in deferred sponsorship and grant money for the 23.24 season (see p. 46, note 5 in financial report).

We look forward to implementing the Stewardship and Fund Development Plan with a dedicated contractor.

Celebrating 10

It was an immense pleasure to celebrate 10 performance seasons with Pro Coro Canada, and do so with some of the same compositions we presented in 2012 at the Winspear. I am also happy that some of the same singers are still present in the choir, and have experienced this past decade together. As I recall, rehearsing and performing *The Nightingale* in 2012 was a daunting task, a moment that set up the virtuoso music making that was to come, that introduced the choir and audiences to the choral world of Praulins and the like, and that gave us a sense that much, if not all, is possible with our voices! 10 years later, we feel comfortable, almost cozy, in those musical scores, and our ensemble skill has grown and matured as we start a new decade together! My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to all the singers and their skill, talent and time invested, and their commitment to explore new sound worlds together!

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their expertise given and time invested, and I would like to highlight the efficient, productive and respectful working relationship with chair Susan Rockwood. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for approving and supporting my parental leave, and the work of Sandra Croll, HR Liaison, in that regard.

Thanks go to my colleagues Kari Turunen and Jonathan Velasco for their time and professionalism when leading Pro Coro Canada in performances during my leave. In the same spirit, my appreciation to all guest artists that shared the stage with Pro Coro Canada during the 22.23 season.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the team making it all possible behind the scenes:

Laura Ouellette, Business Operations Lead
Riza Galang, Marketing Coordinator
Bimbola Adurogboye, Production Coordinator
Steven Brese and Les Serada, Riverford Productions
Corey Haberstock, Audio Engineer
Nathan Dorval, Stage Manager
Paul Johnston, Audio Engineer
Judith Rayner, CPA
Judith Armstrong, Graphic Designer

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Zaugg

Michael



Members of the Pro Coro Canada shared their excitement about the 22.23 season in a series of Season Release videos, recorded at Edmonton's City Hall.

Report from the Human Resources Committee

The HR Committee provided 'just in time' advice for the Managing and Artistic Director during the past year. Advice was provided in the areas of;

- Recruitment, Selection and Contracting;
- General matters with respect to the employment of current staff;
- Specific advice that related to the respectful problem-solving of unique issues that arose.

The HR Committee stepped in with a higher- level oversight role during the Director's leave of absence in the spring of 2023. This provided the choir and the staff with consistency and advocacy (if needed) so that the people capital of Pro Coro Canada could work seamlessly and have the support of the organization when/if needed.

Discussions continue around the initiative to focus/re-focus on professional development for the choristers. This will be a renewed priority for the coming year.

The role of the HR Liaison continues to work well and the feedback from the singers has been extremely positive. The HR Liaison provides a supporting ear and voice for any matters that arise within Pro Coro Canada to ensure that the organization provides a respectful workplace and a culture that supports communication, problem-solving and a model culture for the choral community and the community at large.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Croll, Chair of the HR Committee



Emerging conductor Andrew Whiteside works with the #connect choir on Ravel's Trois beaux oiseaux du Paradis during a rehearsal.

Report from the Fund Development & Advocacy Committee

The Board enjoyed and appreciated the leadership of Mary Lynne Campbell in chairing the Fund Development and Advocacy Committee throughout the year and serving as Corporate Secretary during her tenure on the Board.

Over the course of 2022-2023 fiscal year, the 'Fund Development Committee' re-branded as the 'Fund Development and Advocacy Committee'. The Board refined the committee's Terms of Reference to clarify the distinction between the marketing responsibilities of the Administration and the role of the Board in fund raising and advocacy.

The purpose of the Fund Development and Advocacy Committee is to provide strategic advice to the Board for the future sustainability of Pro Coro Canada (PCC) that fulfills, in part, the mission of PCC. The Committee's advice will be to advance fund development and advocacy efforts and initiatives that could be taken up by Pro Coro Canada.

Focus of Committee Activities During Fiscal 2022-2023

The committee engaged in three major initiatives:

- Working with the Administration and the Edmonton Community Foundation to establish the Maria David Evans Memorial Endowment Fund to facilitate the educational work of Pro Coro Canada with emerging choral leaders, young singers and the local Choral community at large;
- Providing the key board contact to anchor Pro Coro Canada's participation in the Endowment Sustainability Program offered by the Edmonton Community Foundation; and
- Spearheading the development, with consulting support, of a Fund Development Plan for Pro Coro Canada.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Barrett, member of the committee

Report from the Governance and Board Development Committee

During the past year the Governance and Board Development Committee met periodically to implement the 22.23 work plan needs and to deal with other issues as required.

Matters reviewed and addressed included:

- Reviewing and providing advice on a number of Board policies (Code of Conduct);
- Undertook Board recruitment processes for 2023/24.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Wendy Boje and Patrick Kalita



Pro Coro on stage with Growlers Choir at the Westbury Theatre, ATB Financial Arts Barns, during Moonshot IV: The Dayking.

Report from the Finance and Audit Committee

Finance and Audit committee met on November 07, 2023, to discuss Q1 financial results for 2023-24 and the year end financial audit results for 2022-23 with VKO LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

Firstly, Q1 financial results did start of the year in a positive position due to recognizing our grant revenues early in the year. Pro Coro's due diligence forms for various financial reports are in good standing (WCB, business licence, etc.) and completed on a timely basis. The F and A committee has been assessing Pro Coro's insurance coverage and some adjustments may need to be made in 2023-24.

Secondly, we were presented an overview of the audit results for 2022-2023 as per the Engagement Letter with VKO Accountants. In conducting their audit, VKO did not identify any internal control weaknesses and did not identify any risk areas.

The following Treasurer's notes provide a high-level financial overview of the Pro Coro Society - Edmonton, and should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements of Pro Coro for the year ended June 30, 2023.

- Financial Statements – Basis of Presentation. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accepted accounting principles.
- For the current year, it has been determined an overall materiality amount of \$14,000. No unadjusted differences were reported.
- The operating reserve fund is an internally restricted fund established to stabilize the Society's finances. The minimum amount to be held in the operating reserve is \$100,000; it is currently at \$74,000, and the Society has a plan to reach that target by June 30, 2025.
- The audit noted that the society has developed a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage risk exposure associated with credit and liquidity risk.
- Deferred contributions are high, leading to a higher cash balance (manly due to timing differences), when revenues (i.e. grants) were received in the current year for the new year.
- Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses. There was a \$49,000 deficit, mainly due to lower ticket sales, higher concert production costs, and lower sponsorship revenues.

We look forward to Pro Coro's continued growth and a positive financial performance in the future.

Sincerely,
Carol Anne Kushlyk, CPA, CFE
Treasurer, Board of Directors

Report from the Singer Representative

Our 2022-2023 season was a year of great satisfaction for our singers who were thrilled to be returning to doing what they love. Our first "Normal" season, undisturbed by cancellations or performance restrictions since 2018-2019, provided the singers with a wide variety of programs to dig their skills into: We were able to show our ability to produce innovative and cutting-edge repertoire (The Nightingale [a longtime favourite among the singers], The Dayking, The Tower and the Garden) while commanding choral masterworks that thrill traditional audiences and show off the vocal prowess of the choir (Rossini, Rachmaninoff) as well as expanding our working environment back to include work with both guest conductors and emerging conductors.

Of particular note were our three more modern performances in the season. Michael's 10th Anniversary celebration, centered around Ugis Praulins' Nightingale, showed off the choir's ability to command jaw-droppingly complex one-on-a-part singing for a 24-voice ensemble that Edmonton audiences have come to expect from Pro Coro - you will never hear a complaint out of the choir when Praulins is on the program! All this while celebrating a decade of singing under Michael Zaugg with some of his favourite works distributed throughout the program, it was an incredible event! THE DAYKING showed the choir's ability to bend the choral art into other genres with an incredible performance of this new Canadian work. We were so thrilled to welcome our friends from the Growler Choir from Montreal, and I cannot wait to see what projects come to fruition after this success! The Tower and the Garden showcased the choir not only with the incredible Vaughan String Quartet as well as our emerging artist ensemble: #Connect!

I think the keyword of the year was FLEXIBILITY - Each production produced its own musical and logistical challenges that needed to be overcome. In these moments, we were reminded of the skills and resilience of this organization that has been heightened even more in these past few seasons. Where some choirs would stress or fold, we dig deeper - it's part of the job!

We leave this season with a great deal of momentum. I look forward to all of us working together to continue this momentum and build consistency into next season. The singers want to thank Michael, Laura, and the entire administrative team for their constant efforts to put the choir in the best position possible to succeed. I want to congratulate Michael once again on completing his 10th anniversary season with the choir! It's incredible to see where the choir has come in 10 years that feels like it has sped right by, cheers to the next 10 years of incredible music-making!

Respectfully submitted,
Graeme Climie

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON
Financial Statements
Year Ended June 30, 2023



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Pro Coro Society - Edmonton

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Pro Coro Society - Edmonton (the Society), which comprise the statement of financial position as at June 30, 2023, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society as at June 30, 2023, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations and fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Society in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Society's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Pro Coro Society - Edmonton (*continued*)

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Edmonton , Alberta
November 8, 2023

VKO LLP

VKO LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 382,035	\$ 226,303
Restricted cash (Notes 2, 5)	901	76,504
Accounts receivable	-	682
Goods and services tax recoverable (Note 3)	1,781	1,683
Prepaid expenses	1,613	1,892
	386,330	307,064
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	13,967	15,094
	\$ 400,297	\$ 322,158
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,090	\$ 9,965
Employee deductions payable	4,502	4,296
Deferred income	10,429	-
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	236,301	116,313
Current portion of long term debt (Note 6)	40,000	-
	299,322	130,574
LONG TERM DEBT (Note 6)	-	40,000
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 7)	4,674	5,843
	303,996	176,417
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	12,745	76,067
Operating reserve	74,264	60,423
Invested in equipment	9,292	9,251
	96,301	145,741
	\$ 400,297	\$ 322,158

LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 8)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Director

_____ Director

See notes to financial statements

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Canada Council for the Arts (Note 5)	\$ 175,750	\$ 210,950
AGLC gaming proceeds (Note 5)	76,566	2,476
Edmonton Arts Council (Note 5)	64,750	82,750
Concert productions	48,355	27,350
Donations and sponsorship	45,770	32,143
Alberta Foundation for the Arts (Note 5)	39,809	39,809
Edmonton Community Foundation (Note 5)	9,600	7,074
Interest	3,216	329
Other	2,165	75
Amortization of deferred contributions - capital assets (Note 7)	1,169	1,461
	<u>467,150</u>	<u>404,417</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Artistic	257,661	205,230
Administration (Schedule 1)	138,552	131,962
Production	76,077	43,561
Marketing and communication	29,774	29,736
Fundraising	10,000	2,892
Amortization	4,526	5,234
	<u>516,590</u>	<u>418,615</u>
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(49,440)</u>	<u>(14,198)</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)	-	6,322
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS)	-	1,857
	<u>-</u>	<u>8,179</u>
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ (49,440)</u>	<u>\$ (6,019)</u>

See notes to financial statements

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Unrestricted	Operating reserve	Invested in equipment	2023	2022
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 76,067	\$ 60,423	\$ 9,251	\$ 145,741	\$ 151,760
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(47,055)	973	(3,358)	(49,440)	(6,019)
Interfund transfers	(16,267)	12,868	3,399	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 12,745	\$ 74,264	\$ 9,292	\$ 96,301	\$ 145,741

See notes to financial statements

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenues over expenditures	\$ (49,440)	\$ (6,019)
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization	4,526	5,234
Amortization of deferred contributions - capital assets	<u>(1,169)</u>	<u>(1,461)</u>
	<u>(46,083)</u>	<u>(2,246)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	682	7,939
Goods and services tax payable	(98)	502
Prepaid expenses	279	(1,691)
Accounts payable	(1,875)	(752)
Employee deductions payable	206	(16,746)
Deferred income	10,429	-
Deferred contributions	<u>119,988</u>	<u>76,322</u>
	<u>129,611</u>	<u>65,574</u>
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>83,528</u>	<u>63,328</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(3,399)</u>	<u>(2,409)</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	80,129	60,919
Cash - beginning of year	<u>302,807</u>	241,888
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 382,936	\$ 302,807
CASH CONSISTS OF:		
Cash	\$ 382,035	\$ 226,303
Restricted cash	<u>901</u>	<u>76,504</u>
	\$ 382,936	\$ 302,807

See notes to financial statements

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2023

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Pro Coro Society - Edmonton (the "Society") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Societies Act of Alberta. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Society's purpose is to develop and maintain a professional choral ensemble of international caliber as well as to promote and support choral education and excellence.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

Fund accounting

The financial statements have been classified into the following funds:

The unrestricted fund accounts for the Society's program delivery, support and administrative activities.

The operating reserve fund is an internally restricted fund established to stabilize the Society's finances. The minimum amount to be held in the operating reserve is \$100,000; accordingly the Society has a plan to reach that target by June 30, 2025.

The invested in equipment fund reports the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures related to the Society's capital assets.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a declining balance basis at the following rates:

Equipment	20%
Computer equipment	55%

Capital assets acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until they are placed into use.

Library

The Society maintains a library of written and recorded music. The value of this library is not recorded in the accounts as the costs related thereto are expensed in the year incurred.

(continues)

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

Revenue recognition

Pro Coro Society - Edmonton follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributions received for the acquisition of capital assets are deferred and recognized on the same basis as the related capital assets are amortized.

Season ticket subscriptions and concert production revenues are recognized as revenue when the related performance occurs.

Other revenues are recognized in the period it is earned and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributed services

The fair value of contributed or volunteer services cannot be reasonably determined and are therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Significant items subject to such estimates and assumptions include the estimated useful lives of property and equipment and allowance for doubtful accounts.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

2. RESTRICTED CASH

Restricted cash is comprised of proceeds distributed by Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) raised from regulated gaming activities. The use of these gaming proceeds is restricted to the approved use by AGLC.

3. GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The Society is a qualifying non-profit organization for purposes of claiming a rebate of a portion of the goods and services tax that it pays on its purchases. The Society has applied for a rebate of goods and services tax paid during the year. The rebate which totals \$1,781 (2022 - \$1,683) is included in current years operations.

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2023

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2023 Net book value	2022 Net book value
Equipment	\$ 35,279	\$ 24,138	\$ 11,141	\$ 13,082
Computer equipment	12,717	9,891	2,826	2,012
	\$ 47,996	\$ 34,029	\$ 13,967	\$ 15,094

5. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	Balance, beginning of year	Received during year	Recognized to revenue	Balance, end of year
AGLC gaming proceeds	\$ 76,504	\$ 963	\$ (76,566)	\$ 901
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	39,809	37,900	(39,809)	37,900
Canada Council for the Arts	-	175,750	(175,750)	-
Edmonton Arts Council	-	174,250	(64,750)	109,500
Edmonton Community Foundation	-	82,600	(9,600)	73,000
Edmonton Latvian Society	-	5,000	-	5,000
Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir	-	10,000	-	10,000
	\$ 116,313	\$ 486,463	\$ (366,475)	\$ 236,301

6. LONG TERM DEBT

	2023	2022
Canadian Western Bank Canada Emergency Business Account ("CEBA") loan bearing interest at 5% per annum; not bearing interest until December 31, 2023. Repaying the loan on or before December 31, 2023 will result in loan forgiveness of 33% of the highest amount drawn; up to a maximum of \$20,000. The forgivable portion of the loan has been included in income.	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Amounts payable within one year	(40,000)	-
	\$ -	\$ 40,000

Principal repayment terms are approximately:

2024	\$ 40,000
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PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended June 30, 2023

7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 5,843	\$ 7,304
Recognized to revenue	<u>(1,169)</u>	<u>(1,461)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 4,674</u>	<u>\$ 5,843</u>

Included in the ending balance is \$2,315 (2022 - \$2,894) for Alberta Culture and Tourism and \$2,359 (2022 - \$2,949) for Alberta Swiss Choir.

8. LEASE COMMITMENT

The Society has a long term lease with respect to its premises that expires on March 31, 2025. Under the lease, the Society is required to pay a base rent of \$6,300 per annum. In addition to the base rent, the Society must pay for its proportionate share of operating costs of the leased premises. Future minimum lease payments as at June 30, 2023, are as follows:

2024	\$ 6,300
2025	<u>4,725</u>
	<u>\$ 11,025</u>

9. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The Society is economically dependent upon Canada Council for the Arts. During the year, the Society received 38% (2022 - 52%) of its funding from Canada Council for the Arts.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Society's risk exposure and concentration as of June 30, 2023.

(a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a third party to a financial instrument might fail to meet its obligations under the terms of the financial instrument. The Society's financial assets that are exposed to credit risk consist primarily of cash and accounts receivable. The Society's cash is maintained with a large federally regulated financial institution. The Society, in its normal course of operations, is exposed to credit risk from its customers.

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Society is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its customers and other related sources, long term debt and accounts payable.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Society is not exposed to significant other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

PRO CORO SOCIETY - EDMONTON

Administration

(Schedule 1)

Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
Salaries and wages	\$ 80,509	\$ 80,090
Rental	14,061	12,741
Office	11,273	6,697
Contractors	7,248	7,802
Professional fees	6,250	7,000
Workers' Compensation Board	4,078	2,907
Employee benefits	3,703	3,454
Insurance	2,697	2,507
Office equipment rentals	2,460	2,460
Goods and services tax	2,394	1,983
Interest and bank charges	1,947	2,391
Telephone	1,932	1,930
	\$ 138,552	\$ 131,962

See notes to financial statements

I wrote a little piece of thanks for you and for your singers. Thanks again for your support for my music. I really appreciate it.

and be well!

xo

David Lang

northern light

*dedicated, with gratitude,
to michael zaugg and pro coro canada*

floating, dreamy
gentle and timeless

words and music by david lang

♩ = 90

The musical score is for a choral piece in 3/4 time with a tempo of 90. It features eight vocal parts: soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, alto 2, tenor, baritone, bass 1, and bass 2. The lyrics are "your light your light your light". The score is written in treble clef for soprano, alto, and tenor parts, and bass clef for baritone and bass parts. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are distributed across the parts as follows:

Part	Lyrics
Soprano 1	your light your
Soprano 2	your light your
Alto 1	your light your light
Alto 2	your light your light your
Tenor	your light your light
Baritone	your your
Bass 1	your light your light your light
Bass 2	your your your

To be officially premiered at Light Always Returns Light on June 9, 2024.

EXPERIENCE SERIES

16 SEPTEMBER 23
PATH OF MIRACLES

15 OCTOBER 23
SHADES OF LOVE

09 DECEMBER 23
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

29 MARCH 24
**GOOD FRIDAY WITH
PRO CORO CANADA**

27 APRIL 24
SING INTO THE SILENCE

09 JUNE 24
**LIGHT ALWAYS
RETURNS LIGHT**

SELECT SERIES

17 DECEMBER 23
**THE LITTLE MATCH
GIRL PASSION**

31 DECEMBER 23
**NEW YEAR'S EVE
WITH PRO CORO CANADA**

EAR SERIES

28 JANUARY 24
**HEAVEN-HAVEN
#CONNECT**

25 FEBRUARY 24
**FROST & FIRE
MENTORING MEN**

SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES
DONATIONS AND TICKETS

PROCORO.CA



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thechoir@procoro.ca

PROFESSIONAL
CORO CHAMBER
CANADA CHOIR

23.24
23.24