



When we first began planning our 2020-2021 season theme, "Give Light," just weeks before the pandemic took hold in Wisconsin, we could never have imagined just how deeply we would be motivated by centering ourselves around these words by civil rights movement leader Ella Baker. Inspired by a phrase in Baker's speech at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee, "give light, and people will find the way," this theme focused on the many ways that music has illuminated the path out of darkness throughout history and led us to lively and fascinating conversations with our young singers from October 2020 through May 2021.



No matter what challenges we faced in the preceding week, our singers and conductors would eagerly log on to connect in a virtual world every Sunday, knowing they could still engage meaningfully with creative work spanning centuries and vast distances, alongside thoughtful choirmates who also longed to ponder the big questions of life, even from behind a screen. This experience was, in the words of one longtime MYC parent, "immense and sustaining" and led to an overwhelmingly joyful reunion when our choirs finally met in person again for two outdoor rehearsals in a variety of Madison parks in May 2021. We are bursting with pride thinking about all our singers accomplished this year, and more importantly, about the resilient, compassionate, contemplative people that they are.



Collaborating on a variety of virtual performances for our community, singing our season's theme song, "Give Light," for the UW Health Love Lights ceremony, performing "The Peace Carol" for *A Madison Symphony Christmas*, and hearing our singers voice characters for WPR's *Chapter a Day* holiday special.

Listening to young voices fill the studios of our magnificent new home, the Madison Youth Arts Center (MYArts), where every detail has been designed with kids in mind, for the very first time.

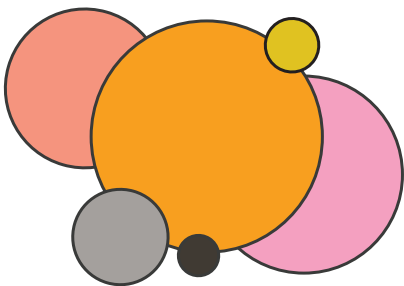
Reuniting with MYC alumna and Wisconsin State Representative Francesca Hong, who happened to be at Rennebohm Park with her son during Cantabile's outdoor rehearsal, and singing the choir's traditional closing song, "Sisters, Now Our Meeting is Over."

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Madison Boychoir in March 2021, when one of the choir's charter members from 1971 recognized himself in a group photo we posted and shared warm memories of his time in the ensemble led by founder Carrel Pray.

FAVORITE MOMENTS

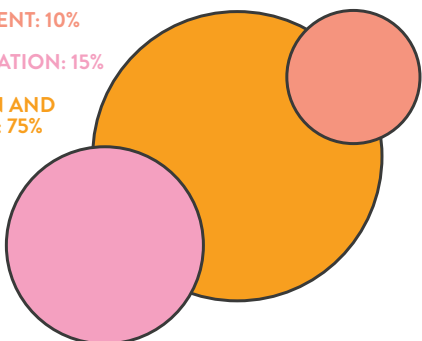
REVENUE & SUPPORT

- INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS: 34%
- MEMBER TUITION: 20%
- COVID RELIEF FUNDING: 32%
- GRANTS: 3%
- OTHER INCOME: 4%
- CORPORATE/ FOUNDATION SUPPORT: 7%



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- DEVELOPMENT: 10%
- ADMINISTRATION: 15%
- EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: 75%



We thank our lucky stars every day for the hundreds of wonderful singers, families, alumni, community partners, and contributors who invested substantial time and resources to keep MYC sailing smoothly this year. You are the reason we're able to keep singing this year, and for the next 50 years. We can't wait to express our gratitude in person and tour with you through the sunlit halls of MYArts, marveling at all the wonders that lie ahead.

To see a list of the champions who helped support this work through their contributions, visit: madisonyouthchoirs.org/support-us

To see a list of MYC board and staff members, visit: madisonyouthchoirs.org/contact

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