

President's Report - Mary Bella - Mimico Children's Choir
Annual General Meeting - Saturday, September 30, 2017 10am
Mimico Baptist Church

2017-2018 is our official 10th Anniversary Season! It is a great time to celebrate our achievement in keeping this organization thriving and serving our community. The Board and conductors are considering what special programming the Choir might do to commemorate this milestone.

We gratefully welcome several amazing volunteers to our Board of Directors this season. Dana Beatson is joining us as Secretary while Michael Sobanski will be Treasurer. Gwyn and Michelle will continue as Board Members and resident grant experts. Judy Verseghe, having worked professionally for the Choir as our Community Engagement Manager for two years, has now volunteered to Chair the Board. Judy has seen (and helped run) this organization from every perspective - Choir parent, lead volunteer, manager, even singer in the Local Vocals! As such Judy is uniquely qualified to take on the role of Chair. I couldn't be more pleased to know the Choir is in such good hands going forward - a huge thank you to all of you.

We are also excited to welcome a new Choir Manager, Tania Krishnan. A former choir parent, Tania has been Fundraising Chair at John English for several years. Organized, friendly and with lots of experience recruiting and organizing volunteers, she will be a wonderful asset to the Choir.

My last year as President of this organization was very positive. We had a respectable 38 children enrolled and three GOLD Sponsors - realtor Milana Ciizmar, Rec Room and TD Bank at Parklawn all contributing \$1000. A couple of new initiatives brought us additional financial stability: 1) The "Mom Choir", subsequently dubbed "Local Vocals" to be more inclusive, was very popular, with over 40 participants for the first 7-week session. 2) For the first time, we sold tickets to both the Christmas in Mimico concert and the Spring Concert. In total these initiatives resulted in approximately \$4500 additional revenue for the Choir's operating budget, allowing us to worry less about the Choir's viability, and plan for a future of growth. The Local Vocals had the added benefits of fellowship for women in the community, Children's Choir recruitment potential through awareness with these women, and additional ticket sales through the adult performers. I am looking forward to continuing to conduct, with two more rounds of Local Vocals in the Fall and Spring of this season.

Our financial stability enabled the Choir to continue community performances like the Mimico Tree Lighting, the Tulip Festival and occasional Mimico Baptist Church services, which spread goodwill and gave us positive exposure in the community. We were also able to offer full bursaries for 4 choristers, fulfilling our mandate to welcome and support all income levels in our neighbourhood.

Looking forward, the Board has made a couple of changes to the Choir's framework this season. First, we have removed the provision of snack to address the chronic lack of volunteer resources

and our administrative limitations. Second, in hopes of further expanding our "catchment" and also to accommodate Kim's availability, we have moved the rehearsal start time to 4pm (from 3:45pm) with an option for parents to pay an additional \$25 for pre-choir supervision after school.

So far, Choir enrolment for the coming season is low, with a total of about 21 choristers at the second rehearsal. It's unclear as yet how the changes will affect enrolment over the long term, but there is already an increase in participants from areas beyond John English and Mimico. The goal is 40 - 45 choristers total. There may well be some transitional challenges with the changes to rehearsal timing, a new Chair and a new Choir Manager. Fortunately the Choir has a financial cushion from the last two seasons to take it through a period of transition if necessary.

As the saying goes, what doesn't kill us makes us stronger. I am confident the Choir will survive and ultimately grow through these challenges. I believe that by staying the course and taking a long view, the Choir will remain viable and beneficial to the community for the next ten years. I'm truly looking forward to seeing the Choir continue to evolve, as it has in so many ways over the last decade.

MIMICO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Bringing community children together with music.



September 2017

Welcome Choir families !

We are just beginning, but already so excited about choir potential this year! I am so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and willingness to sing out. We have already made great progress on 5 songs.

Each week we start with a vocal warm up and have learned a partner song. These, and rounds, help us introduce the kids to singing in harmony, building their confidence in holding their own tune. A partner song is where each choir learns a different short song which can be sung together. Some of my Seniors are really keen to be split into Soprano or Alto sections. For the fall, we will mostly sing in unison as we become familiar and confident singing as a group and add more harmony after the first concert is under our belts . We are learning to use/read/follow music in the senior choir. Each chorister is given a folder of sheet music to use during rehearsal. We will post music tracks and lyric sheets on the website after camp day for practising at home.

We are still finalizing repertoire for the year, but have a few nice things lined up. Our annual musical theatre medley will be **Wizard of Oz** for the spring concert. We also have chosen a few favourite pieces from past seasons to share. We have been invited by the Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra to be the guest choir for their Kidz Konzert in February. We will sing at least 3 selections and are considering a Bach piece, selections from the Polar Express, Armistad and/or the Rutter favourite, 'for the beauty of the earth'. It was fun in the spring having the Local Vocals (Mom choir) join us for a piece or two and we plan on doing that again this year at our main concerts in December and May.

We will be running a camp day again this year. It is an important day to get a real head start on Christmas music and the pieces for the February concert (It will creep up really fast after the holidays!) it's also a chance to get to know each other, learn new music and have some fun! It runs from 10am -2pm. We divide the kids into 4 groups and have 4 stations. They will learn new songs and possibly do some Orff with Kim, have a group singing lesson with me, either learn music or play a music game with Tanya, and have some fun making a craft with Dana. We will break for a Pizza lunch and outdoor play (weather permitting) and then have a full choir rehearsal.

I look forward to a wonderful year making music with your children,

Jennifer Robinson ~ Senior choir

**Mimico Children's Choir
Income Statement
2016/2017 Season**

| | 2016/2017 Budget | Actuals YTD | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| All figures in CDN dollars | | | | |
| Income | | | | Notes: |
| Registration Fees - \$175 to \$250/chorister | 8,500.00 | 7,805.00 | 41.4% | Registration fee lower for Early Bird sign-up, siblings. |
| Registration Fees for Mom Choir (\$60 each) | | 2,520.00 | 13.3% | New for 2017 |
| Grants | 2,000.00 | | | No grants confirmed. |
| Fundraising/Gifts from Corporations | 4,000.00 | 3,300.00 | 17.5% | |
| Fundraising/Gifts from Individuals | 1,000.00 | 1,397.16 | 7.4% | Conservative estimate for this year-see Note 4) below. |
| Performance Fees | 500.00 | 300.00 | 1.6% | <i>Mimico Tree Lighting, Tulip Festival</i> |
| Concert Collections (Donations & Ticket Sales) | 1,500.00 | 3,550.52 | 18.8% | <i>Christmas Ticket Sales - \$1350. Donation Jar - \$257. Spring Ticket Sales - \$1620. Donations - \$323.52</i> |
| Total Revenue | <u>17,500.00</u> | 18,872.68 | <u>100%</u> | |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Conductor #1 | 5,500.00 | 5,075.00 | 30.2% | 2016/2017 budget = 44 wks x \$125 |
| Conductor #2 | 5,500.00 | 4,200.00 | 25.1% | 2016/2017 budget = 44 wks x \$125 |
| Administrator | 3,300.00 | 3,300.00 | 19.7% | 2016/2017 budget = 11 months x \$300 |
| Pianist | 2,200.00 | 1,900.00 | 11.3% | 2016/2017 budget = 44 wks x \$50. Invoice rec'd November 2016 for previous season and year-end figures adjusted. |
| Insurance | 950.00 | 864.00 | 5.2% | |
| Snacks, events | 350.00 | 327.68 | 2.0% | |
| Church Rental | 300.00 | 450.00 | 2.7% | Mimico Baptist (\$300) St Margaret's (\$150) |
| Music Supplies/Tshirts/Advertising/Misc. | 400.00 | 442.64 | 2.6% | |
| Fees/Memberships/Donations | 225.00 | 200.00 | 1.2% | Paypal(charges vary), Choirs Ontario(\$100), Lakeshore Arts, Arts Etobicoke. See Note 7) below. |
| Total Expenses | <u>18,725.00</u> | 16,759.32 | <u>100%</u> | |
| Net Income | -\$1,225.00 | 2,113.36 | | |