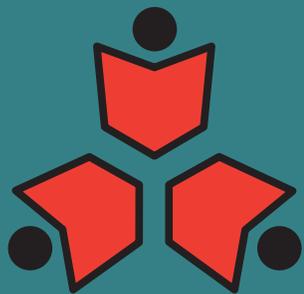




Conductor Lisa Kjentvet leading our touring girlchoir members at Ellon Parish Church near Aberdeen, Scotland.



MADISON YOUTH CHOIRS

2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT

On a misty autumn evening this past November, our singers took to the roof of the UW Space Place and gazed into the vastness of the night sky. As part of our fall semester theme, *Inquiry: Science, Music, Imagination*, they had been studying how to use scientific tools of observation and analysis to better understand musical compositions and details in their repertoire, and now, led by Dr. Jim Lattis of the UW Astronomy Department, they were getting the chance to apply their skills to the stars. As they learned about the orbits of the planets and the trajectory of comets millions of light years away, our singers eagerly wrapped their minds around these celestial wonders. Contemplating your place in the universe is no easy task for an 11-year-old, but our singers enthusiastically ask the kind of questions that go beyond facts and figures, seeking to understand how their young lives fit into the grand scheme of existence.



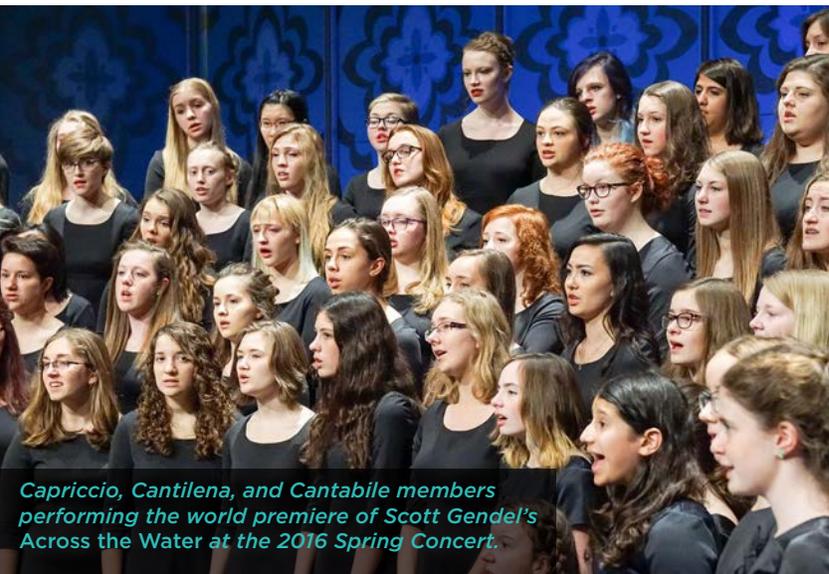
*Purcell and Britten members in rehearsal before their performance in Handel's Messiah with Madison Bach Musicians.
Kent Sweitzer Photography*

We once again saw our choristers' incredible capacity to tackle complex, nuanced ideas with maturity and intelligence during our spring semester, as we studied the music of cultural groups who have left their homelands. Ragazzi, Cantabile, and Con Gioia performed the music of Gideon Klein, a Czech pianist who composed even while imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp. Cantilena sang in Hungarian, Purcell in Hebrew, Choraliers and Capriccio in Arabic. Britten and Holst sang of the Babylonian Exile. Each choir engaged in thoughtful conversations about the experiences of the real people behind the music, those who strived to keep their traditions and history alive through song, amid profound challenges.

Inspired by our singers' fearlessness in confronting enormous concepts, we continue to set huge goals as an organization, and this year undertook a major [strategic planning project](#) that will help us create outstanding choral experiences for a diverse community of young people into the next decade and beyond.

The 2015-2016 season led us to several outstanding achievements:

- Over 100 boys enrolling in Purcell, Britten, and Holst for the first time
- Our girlchoirs' first international tour and our second invitation to the Aberdeen International Youth Festival
- Expanding our in-school choir program to a fourth location, Leopold Elementary School
- Receiving local, regional, and national coverage of our groundbreaking intergenerational choir project with Capitol Lakes retirement community
- Engaging in a record number of collaborations with fellow music organizations including Madison Symphony Orchestra, Madison Opera, Madison Bach Musicians, and Opera for the Young



Capriccio, Cantilena, and Cantabile members performing the world premiere of Scott Gendel's Across the Water at the 2016 Spring Concert.



High school-level singers from across southern Wisconsin at our 6th annual Madison Boychoir Festival.

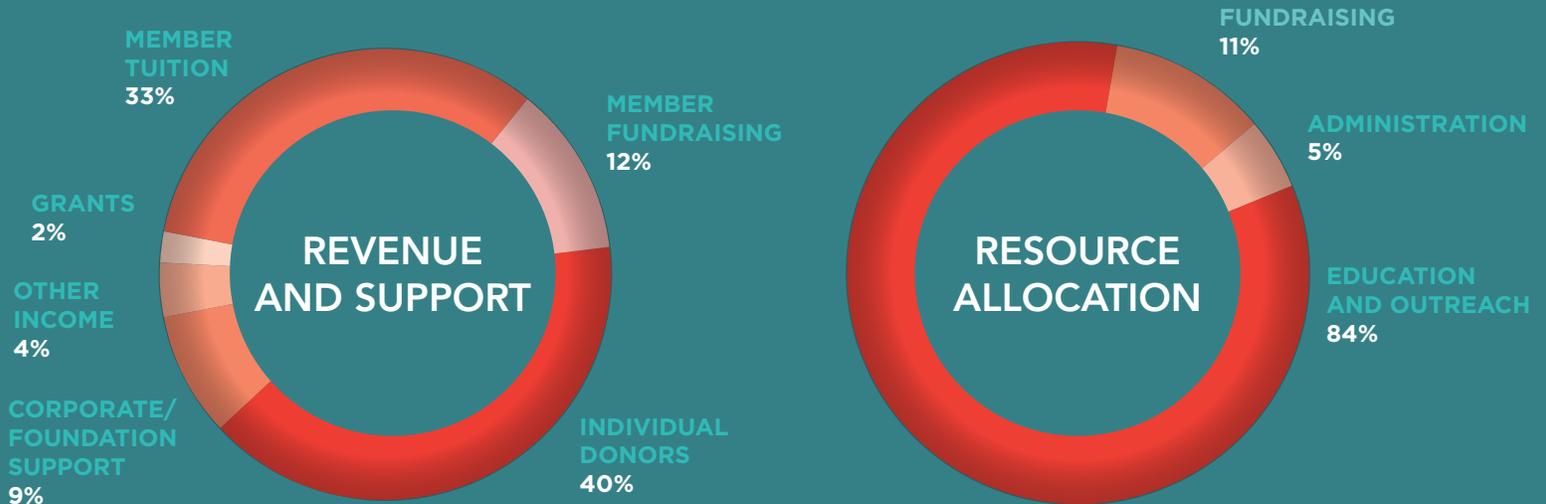
As we reach these new milestones and dream of ambitious new projects for the next generation of singers, we keep in mind the vision of Madison Boychoir founder Carrel Pray, who passed away this May at age 93:

"We hope that the choir will be for you a source of great pride and a thrill as you sense the history of the past, accept the challenge of the present, and enrich your life for the years to come."

—Carrel Pray (1919–2016)



Carrel Pray in rehearsal with Madison Boychoir, 1970s



This information reflects revenue and expenses from July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016 and is unaudited. Audited financials will be available later this year. See our full list of sponsors, donors, and supporters at madisonyouthchoirs.org.

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- Jingwen Fan
- Andrew Johnson
- Steve Radtke
- Jess Salek

Photos by Elizabeth Odders-White, Kent Sweitzer Photography, Ed Grindle, Cassie Krueger, and M.P. King of the Wisconsin State Journal.





4th grade students in our In-School Choir Program at Leopold Elementary School.



Lincoln Elementary In-School Choir singers performing at St. Mary's Hospital.



The tenor and bass sections of our Intergenerational Choir in rehearsal at Capitol Lakes. M.P. King, Wisconsin State Journal



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