



With Gratitude

JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2025



YOUR SUPPORT, *their song*

Because of your generosity, children across Northeast Indiana are discovering what it means to belong, to grow, and to express themselves through music.

This past year, the Fort Wayne Children's Choir served children ages 0-18 through high-quality music education, meaningful performance opportunities, and welcoming programs that meet families where they are. Your support made it possible—for every rehearsal, every class, and every young singer who walked through our doors.

Thank you for believing in children and in the lasting impact of music.



By the Numbers

**246 singers from 85 schools
across 8 counties**

**21% of singers identified
as children of color**

**50% of singers received
financial assistance**

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

Offered at 12 community sites
Serving 2,650+ children ages 0-5
Engaging 2,300+ caregivers

A photograph of three young musicians, two men and one woman, performing in a choir. They are wearing formal black tuxedos with white shirts and black bow ties. The background is a warm, wooden interior, likely a church or concert hall, with ornate carvings and a candle visible on the left. The text "A Year of Meaningful" is written in a white, cursive script, and "MUSIC-MAKING" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font below it.

A Year of Meaningful **MUSIC-MAKING**

Honoring a Lasting Legacy

Thomas and Cindy Henry Young Artist Concert

In March 2025, the Fort Wayne Children's Choir proudly renamed its Young Artist Concert in honor of Thomas and Cindy Henry, two cherished supporters whose generosity continues to shape opportunities for young musicians.

The concert featured advanced ensembles performing works by Mendelssohn, Delibes, Beethoven, Daley, and Hagenberg—celebrating both musical excellence and the enduring legacy of two individuals deeply committed to youth and the arts.

“This concert is not just a celebration of music, but of a legacy that continues to support young artists in our community.”

—Jonathan Busarow, Executive Artistic Director

COLLABORATION:

Violins & Hope

In partnership with the internationally acclaimed Ariel Quartet, the Fort Wayne Children's Choir presented a free community concert at the Pearl Street Arts Center. The program opened with a collaborative performance of Srul Irving Glick's *Psalm Trilogy*, followed by chamber works by Erwin Schulhoff and Beethoven—bringing together professional musicians and young singers in a powerful shared experience.



NEW MUSIC:

Peace Begins Here

Inspired by the Choir's core values, Paula Neale Rice commissioned a new choral work, *Peace Begins Here*. With text by Hannah Porter Deneke, developed alongside Concert Choir singers, and music by Daniel Schwandt, the piece premiered at the 2025 Spring Concert.

Peace Begins Here

*At some point we've all felt regret,
A sense of old pain we'd rather forget.
Sometimes we receive the forgiveness we need
By speaking with those we've upset.
When anxiety threatens our peace,
And racing minds long for relief,
A song or a prayer, a good friend who cares,
Can quiet our souls and bring ease.
Peace begins here—
It starts in our hearts,
Lives in our souls,
And helps us face every fear.*

Welcoming NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Allison McQueen

A Fort Wayne native and ten-year alumna of the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, Allison McQueen returns home as an educator and leader. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Wartburg College and brings experience in choral leadership, service-driven programming, and Kodály-inspired teaching. Allison is honored to continue the Choir's mission—both on and off the podium.



Mike Lilly

Mike Lilly brings extensive financial and nonprofit expertise to the Fort Wayne Children's Choir. A Garrett, Indiana native, Mike holds a degree in Accounting from IPFW and has worked in banking, public accounting, and nonprofit auditing. He currently works with Agri Stats in Fort Wayne and serves as the elected Keyser Township Trustee in DeKalb County. Mike and his wife, Tara, have three children, including Trinity, a current FWCC singer.

LOOKING AHEAD



Jonathan Busarow
Executive Artistic Director

As we look to the future, our commitment remains clear: to provide excellent music education, foster belonging, and ensure that every child who wishes to sing has the opportunity to do so.

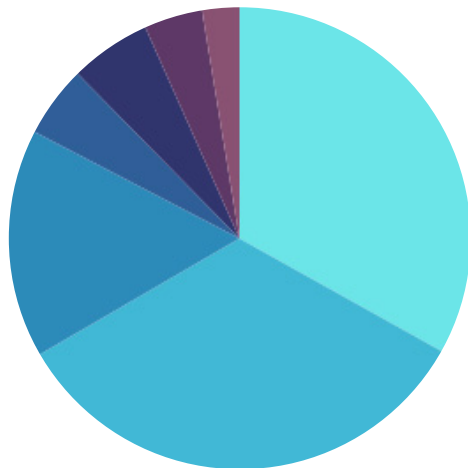
Your partnership makes this work possible. Thank you for walking alongside us—investing not only in music, but in children, families, and a stronger community.

With gratitude,

Jonathan Busarow

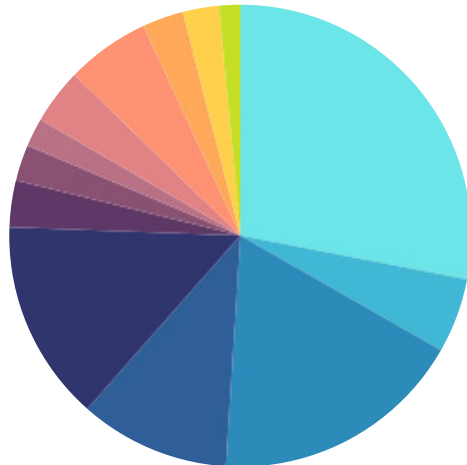
2024-2025 FINANCES

INCOME



Membership Registration	\$160,690
Contributions & Grants	\$158,603
Fundraising	\$76,747
Concert Revenue	\$27,179
Gift-in-Kind Space Rental	\$24,000
Miscellaneous	\$19,622
Fee for Service Income	\$12,400

EXPENSES



Payroll	\$342,647
Marketing & Development	\$64,047
Participation Assistance	\$40,524
Administrative	\$32,112
Gift-in-Kind Space Rental	\$24,000
Space & Venue Rental	\$13,381
Music Education Program	\$11,934
Technology	\$8,862
Logo Sales	\$7,490
Guests & Outside Artists	\$6,584
Utilities	\$5,767
Concert Production	\$5,739
Professional Development	\$4,581
Recognition Program	\$3,407

THANK YOU

To our **2024-2025** Board of Directors

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