

Ways and Means

By Peter Robb, Founder & Artistic Director

When talking with colleagues from other arts organizations, the issue of funding almost always comes up.

For most organizations like OFC, participant fees cover only a small part of the budget. Of course, the arts have always relied on the patronage of royalty, an impresario, a benefactor or private and public funding.

There are four main sources for OFC funds: **fees** (tuition, ticket sales and tour costs); **donors**; **sponsors**; and **grants**.

“Fund raising” usually refers to the amount of money needed to fill the gap between fees and the amount needed to operate. At present, that gap for OFC is about \$50K a year, but to move forward with the growth needed to ensure our success the gap is closer to \$100K.

I was surprised to learn a few years ago that of the \$290 billion Americans annually contribute to all types of charitable organizations, 84% of all fund-raising dollars come from individual donors, 12% from foundations and 4% from corporations. And yet most non-profits spend most of their efforts going after corporate and foundation money and placing the least amount of emphasis on donor development.

At OFC we are working hard to create practices that are more in keeping with the actual percentages listed above. Connie Burden’s efforts as OFC’s Development Coordinator are almost entirely focused on donor development. As for corporate and foundation support, the key is finding the

right fit – identifying those whose philanthropic objectives are in line with our mission.

One difficulty is that most foundations want to provide start-up money for projects. Ongoing program support from those sources is a much smaller piece of the grant pie.

So far this season we have found three well-suited partners

For the second year in a row, OFC received a \$3000 grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. This is a milestone and bodes well for continued support. Having the endorsement of these two agencies is a signal to other potential supporters about the credibility of our programs. The grant targets our elementary school residency: the Choral Program Partnership. The grant will underwrite 3 school residencies this season.

We also received our 11th grant from the Lane Arts Council for general operating support. This year the amount was \$3200, up \$900 from previous years. This is also an important emblem for us to display. The combination of the Lane Arts Council (local), the Oregon Arts Commission (regional) and the NEA (national) creates an important profile that will help to attract other support.

The third granting partner is US Bank with a general operating grant for \$1000. It is the second grant from US Bancorp. We hope this is a sign that we will receive ongoing support.

While \$7200 is a step in the right direction, we continue seeking corporate and foundation partners whose priorities are children, arts education and early intervention. Often the most important part of the process is making these potential partners aware of Oregon Festival Choirs.

That’s where you can become involved. By helping introduce OFC to decision makers on foundation boards or corporate giving committees, you become a partner in changing the lives of young people.

As you know, I’m not talking about simply providing an activity to fill some child’s otherwise empty schedule.

OFC programs provide an anchor for many students who develop life skills as a result of being in a choir

For some it will be an additional enrichment to a life already filled with good things. But for many, it is the one place of acceptance, achievement, community, and beauty that they have in this world. And whatever ripples of wholeness flow through their lives are then passed on to others.

So please contact me or Connie Burden if you can introduce us to these decision makers. Your assistance in making that connection can be life changing for the young lives we are able to touch as a result.

Give a gift that grows this Holiday Season

By Pam Whyte, CPA/FOB

In the coming weeks, as we spend time with our families and friends enjoying seasonal performances, I am asking that you take time to make a donation to Oregon Festival Choirs.

DOUBLE THE GOOD

As a certified public accountant in Eugene and a supporter of Oregon Festival Choirs, I want to tell you about a program that will allow you to double your contribution to Oregon culture while supporting OFC.

When you make a gift to Oregon Festival Choirs, and make a subsequent matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you will be eligible to receive a 100% tax credit on your gift to the Trust. Investing in Oregon's culture has never been easier or more important. The process is simple: First, make a contribution to Oregon Festival Choirs. Second, make a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust. Third, when you file your Oregon State income tax return claim your tax

credit - up to \$500 for individuals, \$1000 for couples filing jointly or \$2,500 for corporations. That means you can double your contribution to Oregon culture! To find out more you can call the Trust at 503-986-0088.

Ask your employer to match your contribution

You can also increase your giving power in 2007 by asking your employer to match your giving. Many local businesses offer company matching grants. These programs allow individuals to make personal gifts to qualifying nonprofits that are matched by their employers. Matching programs encourage philanthropy and community involvement among their employees, while supporting a variety of local programs and services. This is another way to make your giving grow!

We invited Jay Moore, a great friend of OFC, to write an article on Why He Gives to OFC.

His response—short and to the point:

Why I Give to OFC

By Jay Moore

I contribute to OFC because I see it making a difference.

I see kids building character and friendships, and our local community being enriched through singing.

From the Board of Directors

by Rich Littlefield

Because music is important in all of our lives, I support the Oregon Festival Choirs. Music has been very important in my life—from church choirs, college choral groups, opera chorus, symphony chorus and gleemen—all have added color and greater dimension to my life.

MUSIC IS GOOD FOR OUR SOUL

Musical training of young people brings out a sense of accomplishment, teamwork, personal growth, self confidence, greater music appreciation, and performance opportunities. All of this enhances and enriches the lives of OFC Choristers.

As you make your end of the year giving, please remember the youth of our community and the importance of music in their lives.

Choristers' Birthdays



DECEMBER

Tyler Metteer
Michael Williams
Silas Boyd-Mitcheltree
Amy Miller
Iris Young
Josiah Medina-Whaley
Marcella Sweeney

JANUARY

Tristan Bredweg
Taryn Woodman
Miranda Calhoun
Phoebe Wihtwol
Oona Schwanekamp
Sarah Sprague
Stephen Snyder

FEBRUARY

Cherish Monet Mask-Lassiter
Madison Casley
Alexander Davis
Anna Melamed
Zannie Peck

And belated Birthday Greetings to Peyton Brazell, who was inadvertently left off of the June Quarter Notes. Sorry about that, Peyton....

Best Wishes to All of You!

WELCOME TO NEW CHORISTERS JOINING OFC FOR THE 2007-2008 SEASON

Allegro

Edwin Farley
Justin Hambright
Josiah Medina-Whaley
Patrick Martin

Cantilena

Miranda Calhoun
Madison Casley
Sydney Claybaugh
Amanda Mortimore
Oona Schwanekamp
Madison Smith
Emma Strgar

Fiero

Andrew Kelso
Tyler Metteer
Tristan Sand
Michael Williams

Lyrice

Chelsea Blair
Aubrie Bush
Alexis Jeffreys
Anna Melamed
Zannie Peck
Briana Rodriguez
Adrian Young
Iris Young

EXIT 194

Jordan Salazar
Stephen Snyder

Aria

Iris Young

Congratulations to Choristers who have been promoted

From Cantilena to Lyrice

Ingrid Brandt
Ariana Carter
Jordan Claybaugh
Anneleissa Coen
Emily Renken
Mtima Richardson
Samantha Sibbald
Mackenzie Vignoul

From Allegro to Fiero

Taylor LaPrarie
Justin Wier

Lyrice members new to Aria

McKenzie Anderson
Amy Miller
Taylor Oliver

Quarter Notes Chorister Profile Writers

Thank you to Lyrice/Aria Chorister and writer, Peyton Brazell, for her OFC Chorister Profiles in the Quarter Notes for our 06-07 choir year. We appreciate her willingness and her abilities. A big HURRAH for Peyton.

This year's team of Chorister Profile writers will be:

Tyler Metteer, from Fiero
Joel Chapman, from Exit 197
Iris Young, from Lyrice/Aria

We look forward to their Profiles starting in the March Quarter Notes.

Why OFC Is So Important

By Patsy Watts

OFC Volunteer and Contributor

My reason for volunteering with Oregon Festival Choirs is very simple: to help children become more than they thought they could be.

As participants in this organization, young people find new friends and find a voice for themselves, which, in turn, gives them a positive self-image. This gives them the confidence to take on new challenges and develop new skills.

Today there are so many negative influences and options confronting young people. Becoming a member of the choir gives them a positive alternative to these things in a setting that builds character while working with others.

I hope all who learn about this great work become involved in some way with Oregon Festival Choirs.

I DREAM A WORLD

All choirs:

DREAMING AND BELIEVING

OFC annual holiday concert, December 9, 2 pm, Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E. 15th Ave.

Fiero and Lyrica:

Eugene Ballet's **Nutcracker** with orchestra, December 21-23, Silva Concert Hall.

Workshop with Anton Armstrong:

February 1, 2008. An afternoon master-class for area high school choirs

presented by Oregon Festival Choirs, followed in the evening by an inspiring concert by the renowned **St. Olaf Choir** in Silva Hall.

Allegro & Cantilena:

Tour Oregon 2008, May.

All choirs:

YOU MAY SAY I'M A DREAMER

OFC annual spring concert, May 19, 2pm, Central Presbyterian Church.

Pacific Int'l Children's Choir Festival: I DREAM A WORLD PICCFEST 2008

With guest conductor Bob Chilcott and 10 choirs from across the US and Canada, June 24 – 29. Gala Concert, June 29, 7:30 pm, Silva Concert Hall.

Tickets for Silva Concert Hall performances available through the Hult Center box office. Tickets for Central Presbyterian concerts available through OFC office.

OFC Staff and Additional Music Team

Peter Robb	Founder/Artistic Director
Matthew Svoboda	Operations Director/Choir Director
Sheryl Ohlsen	Enrollment & Financial Coordinator
Jeanie Neven	Director Training Choir Division/Recruitment Coordinator
Camilla Carter	Accompanist
Connie Burden	Development Coordinator
Jennifer d'Fonseca	Volunteer Coordinator
Hung-Yun Chu	Principal Accompanist (on leave 2007–2008)

OREGON *festival* CHOIRS

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