



Art is how we decorate space, music is how we decorate time.  
-Jean-Michel Basquiat

Fall 2021

Dear friends of Spokane Area Youth Choirs,

Since 1987, SAYC has been an integral part of hundreds—no, thousands!—of singers’ lives. It is a comfort to know that the organization’s mission has remained the same: **to provide youth with a choral music experience where successive levels of high artistic achievement are fostered in each participant.** The power of this mission statement goes far beyond each singers’ time with SAYC. Frequently, we hear alumni share reflections on common themes they experienced here: commitment, friendship, confidence, integrity, and, of course, a deep love of music. It is clear that the pursuit of excellence through music has a lasting and meaningful impact—an impact that contributes beyond individual lives and into the community.

Today, at the start of the 2021-2022 season, I humbly step into the role of Artistic Director. Over the years, I have watched the SAYC program represent a thriving arts community on the state’s east side. I have seen collaborations with the Spokane Symphony, performances in the Pacific International Children’s Choir Festival, tours including the Prague Children’s Music Festival and more. The bar is high. The SAYC program is a landmark, having decorated the history of Spokane for 35 years.

The creation and continued development of this landmark comes with a price tag, and the Board of Directors is constantly conscientious of the SAYC annual budget. While tuition covers a percentage of the annual budget, this organization thrives and flourishes because of community support. Without a fleet of family volunteers and generous donors like you, we simply could not serve our singer’s needs at a level that matches student drive toward excellence. Our goal this year is to raise \$35,000, in honor of another 35-plus years of choral music distinction, positively influencing the Spokane community with lives changed. Help us, once again, share the joy of singing together.

Are you curious what big dreams might be in store for SAYC? Your dollar contributes in specific and meaningful ways to each of the goals we will undertake for the next few years. Here are just a few examples.

- \$150 **Larghetto** level giving covers the cost of a new uniform to match today’s student population.
- \$400 **Adagio** level giving could purchase sheet music for a choir for the whole season.
- \$500 **Andante** level giving buys an overnight retreat, setting a team-building foundation of excellence.
- \$1,000 **Allegro** level giving allows one student to participate in choir for the whole year.
- \$4,000 **Prestissimo** level giving will pay for one singer’s international tour, once travel becomes possible.

These targets may seem challenging, but the result will be tremendous. SAYC singers learn a myriad of essential skills that will ultimately improve our collective futures. The students who graduate from SAYC are leaders who listen first, then call each other to action and hold each other accountable with kindness. They understand time management and developing skills one small piece at a time, yet with great intensity and passion. Choristers experience other cultures, languages and traditions, becoming more empathetic to the world beyond their immediate circle. These singers can interpret code in little black dots and lines, leaving their audience in tears of joy at the end of a performance. What better impact on the future than these!

Your gift can be shared in a variety of ways. Perhaps your business offers donation matching. Maybe you’ll consider adding SAYC to your will. Would you commit a monthly gift to keep the giving on autopilot? You may even have a family member you could honor with your donation. Use the enclosed envelope to mail a check, or donate directly through our website by visiting [www.saychoirs.org/donations](http://www.saychoirs.org/donations).

Jaci Cummings  
Artistic Director

Gordon Ritchie  
President, Board of Trustees

P.S. Today impacts tomorrow. We know that the sun will continue to shine, yet difficult situations are ever present. But the choices we make can either provide or prohibit opportunity. **In honor of our 35th season, won’t you open the door and let the sun shine?**

