



UNITING VOICES

CHICAGO

FORMERLY
CHICAGO
CHILDREN'S
CHOIR



WE ARE UNITING VOICES

OUR VISION

A harmonious world

WHAT WE DO

We are a nonprofit organization that empowers and unites youth from diverse backgrounds to find their voice and celebrate their common humanity through the power of music

OUR MISSION

Inspiring and changing lives through music

WHO WE SERVE

Diverse youth ages 6–18

OUR CORE VALUES

Education • Expression • Excellence



UNITING
VOICES
CHICAGO

AT THE DAWN OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT,

our founder Christopher Moore brought a small group of young Chicagoans together with a simple vision: unite youth from every background through music, and they'll discover their common humanity. This idea has guided us for decades. Through every change we've championed, we've held true to the belief that **music cuts through the noise**, brings us together and prepares young people to become the leaders of tomorrow.

We've grown into an internationally recognized organization that has prepared more than 50,000 young people to take on an increasingly complicated world and lead the way to harmony. We've captivated audiences from Chicago to Cairo, from Cape Town to Tokyo—and everywhere in between. We've evolved beyond a single choir, and our legacy deserves a name that honors our story.

So, **Chicago Children's Choir is now Uniting Voices Chicago.**

Our world today is unfortunately not too different from the world we started in. At times it seems we're so divided that we can't even hear each other anymore, let alone embrace each other with joy and openness and respect. But our work over the last 67 years is proof that music can transform our world into something better.

We hope you'll join us on this journey. **A harmonious world awaits.**



OUR HISTORY



1956

Founded by Christopher Moore in Hyde Park as the Children's Chorus of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago

1960

Launch transformative partnership with Chicago Public Schools



1963

The historic March on Washington takes place and Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech



1967

Embark upon first international tour to Montreal, beginning a decades-long commitment to uniting voices around the world

1975



We officially become Chicago Children's Choir

1989

The Berlin Wall is torn down



1994

Apartheid ends - Nelson Mandela inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected President



1995



Relocate to Chicago Cultural Center, which remains our HQ and home to our city-wide programming

1996



Travel to South Africa for historic five week tour during which singers perform for Nobel Prize winner and former South African President Nelson Mandela

2002

Stage our first original theatrical production, *Sita Ram*, which garners national acclaim



2017

The Raising Voices campaign fuels expansion to serve over 5,000 singers through 90+ school partners and 12 neighborhood choir programs



2022



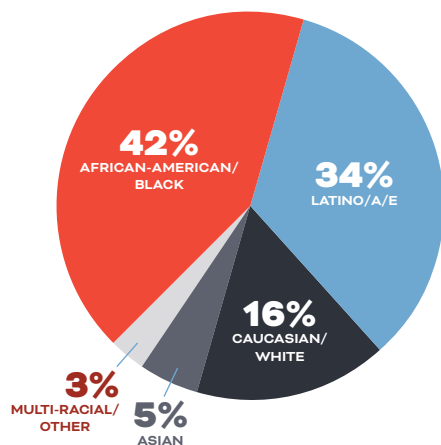
To better reflect our reason for being and reposition for future growth, we rebrand as **Uniting Voices**

Our evolution from Chicago Children's Choir to Uniting Voices Chicago introduced a name more reflective of our long-term commitment to empowering youth to find their voice and celebrate their common humanity through music.

We are more than Chicago. We are more than a choir. We are more than children.

WE ARE UNITING VOICES

UNITING DIVERSE VOICES



MORE THAN 75% of the students we serve come from **low-income households**

100% of our singers receive some level of subsidy

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

VOICE OF CHICAGO



85 Singers
Ages 14-18 • 4.5 - 9.5 hours/wk

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM, DIMENSION, and PRELUDE



670 Singers
Ages 6-18 • 2-3 hours/week

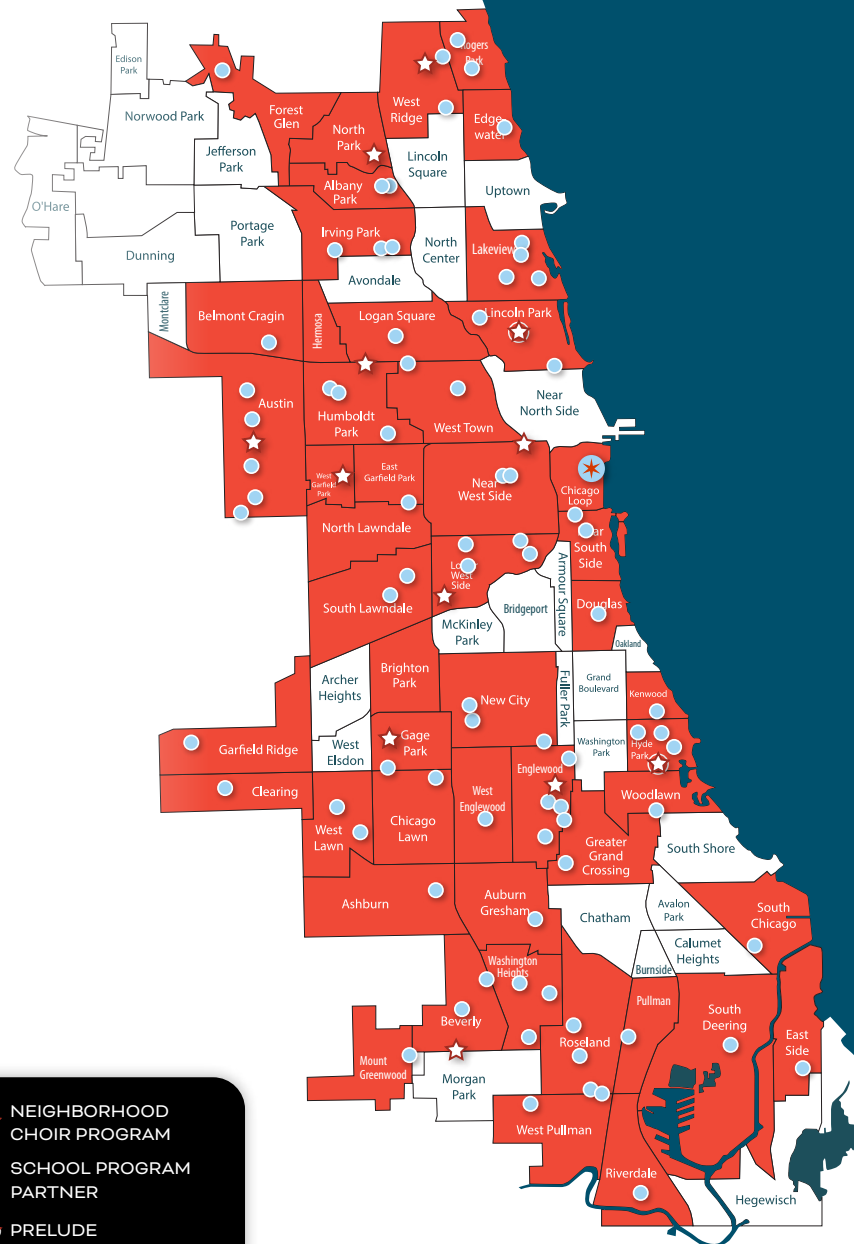
SCHOOL PROGRAM



2445 Singers
Ages 8-14 • 1-2 hours/week

6000 INSTRUCTION HOURS
3200 SINGERS
ONE SOUND

*numbers based on 2022-23 data



- ★ NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM
- SCHOOL PROGRAM PARTNER
- ☆ PRELUDE
- ★ VOICE OF CHICAGO & DIMENSION

WHERE WE WORK

OUR PROGRAMS

Through participation in our core programs, young people become global leaders.



THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, OUR PROGRAMS
GIVE SINGERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- ★ **Learn music** from a variety of genres, cultures and languages
- ★ **Discover** the **historical and social context** of music and its relevance today
- ★ **Gain musical literacy** through vocal technique, music theory and movement
- ★ **Feel a strong sense of pride** through high expectations and leadership training
- ★ **Build life-long friendships** with other youth they might not otherwise meet

SCHOOL PROGRAM

Uniting Voices Chicago offers world-class choral music education programming in schools. These year-long residencies provide a barrier-free space for self-expression and a meaningful opportunity to build community. Uniting Voices Chicago delivers an unparalleled experience, with high-caliber instruction, connections with peers around the city and incomparable performance opportunities, empowering students to reach their potential as musicians and as people.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

78 school partners

73% of students in our school program partners come from low income households

2445 singers

3500 instructional hours annually

*numbers based on 2022-23 data

“

“Uniting Voices brings my students opportunities to find their talents, get exposed to culturally oriented songs, stay engaged in school, and meet other children in the city.”

—GERARDO ARRIAGA
PRINCIPAL, ENRICO TONTI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NEIGHBORHOOD CHOIR PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Choir Program gives singers in 12 communities across the city the opportunity to bond over shared experiences. These community-based, after-school programs provide relevant and high quality musical instruction at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, empowering singers to embrace their role as creative ambassadors for their communities.

Albany Park est. 2008

Austin est. 2016

Beverly est. 1993

Englewood est. 2013

Gage Park est. 2021

Garfield Park/Off the Street Club est. 2003

Humboldt Park est. 2001

Hyde Park est. 1956

Lincoln Park/DePaul est. 1989

Pilsen/Little Village est. 2007

Rogers Park est. 1991

West Town est. 2019

CREATIVE AMBASSADORS

577
singers

8-18
ages

100%
of singers participate
at a subsidized rate

*numbers based on 2022-23 data

DIMENSION

Dimension is a trailblazing ensemble for singers whose voices are changing to a lower register. This ensemble offers many performance opportunities independently and with other programs. Singers learn to understand their own voices through ensemble singing, vocal technique, solo opportunities, music theory and sight-reading. Training and repertoire are specifically designed for this age and developmental level, including diverse styles and a special emphasis on musicality, movement and expression.

MUSICALITY
MOVEMENT
EXPRESSION

30+ singers

ages **12-18**

*numbers based on 2022-23 data

“

My favorite part of Dimension is getting to know everyone and getting to bond over our changing voices, while also being able to create really beautiful music even if we're going through an insecure moment in our lives. The whole environment is extremely supportive.

—OWEN, DIMENSION



“

My experience in Voice of Chicago has made me grow as a human being, not just as a musician, because of all of the languages that I’ve gotten to explore, the people I’ve gotten to meet—it reminds me why I love to make music.

—ISAMARY, VOICE OF CHICAGO

VOICE OF CHICAGO

Voice of Chicago is our most advanced ensemble, empowering high-schoolers across the city through an extensive performance schedule that includes touring and collaborations with Chicago’s finest cultural institutions.

This ensemble has toured more than 25 countries on five continents and performed for international leaders, such as former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, former South African President Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama. Additionally, they have collaborated with the likes of Karol G, Yo Yo Ma, Luciano Pavarotti, Chance the Rapper, the Eagles, Andrea Bocelli and Bobby McFerrin.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

85
Singers

Ages
14-18

100%
High school graduation and college acceptance rate

>98% of singers demonstrate personal strength and success in open-mindedness, acceptance, respect, collaboration and compassion.

*numbers based on 2022-23 data

OTHER PROGRAMS

Prelude

Prelude is an introductory choir program for singers in grades one and two. Over the course of an 8-week session, the program provides beginner's level vocal instruction and literacy. Through songs and games, singers are exposed to foundational musicianship skills, nurturing their appetite for singing to express themselves.

Currently available at the Lincoln Park/DePaul and Hyde Park Neighborhood Choir Programs.

Our Songs, Our Stories

Our Songs, Our Stories is a commissions program that generates original musical works by, for and with the young people of Uniting Voices Chicago, with a particular focus on untold stories, historically underrepresented voices and 21st century sounds. This consortium of composers and creators delivers fresh content relevant to the next generation of global leaders.

As part of this program, composer-in-residence W. Mitchell Owens III embraces a variety of musical styles and mediums and a universal spirit.

Future Music Educators

The Future Music Educators Program supports the academic, professional development and future success of music education students and career teachers who reflect the diversity of America and the Uniting Voices Chicago community.

A year-long paid mentorship provides training on culturally responsive, empowering and sustaining teaching practices. This program changes the lives of a small group of future music educators through accessible, resonant and meaningful learning experiences.

Stream Our Music

Our youth shine on the global stage through frequent recording projects. Listen to original music as well as our fresh take on the classics on Apple Music, Spotify, Tidal, or your preferred listening channel.



 Apple Music

 Spotify

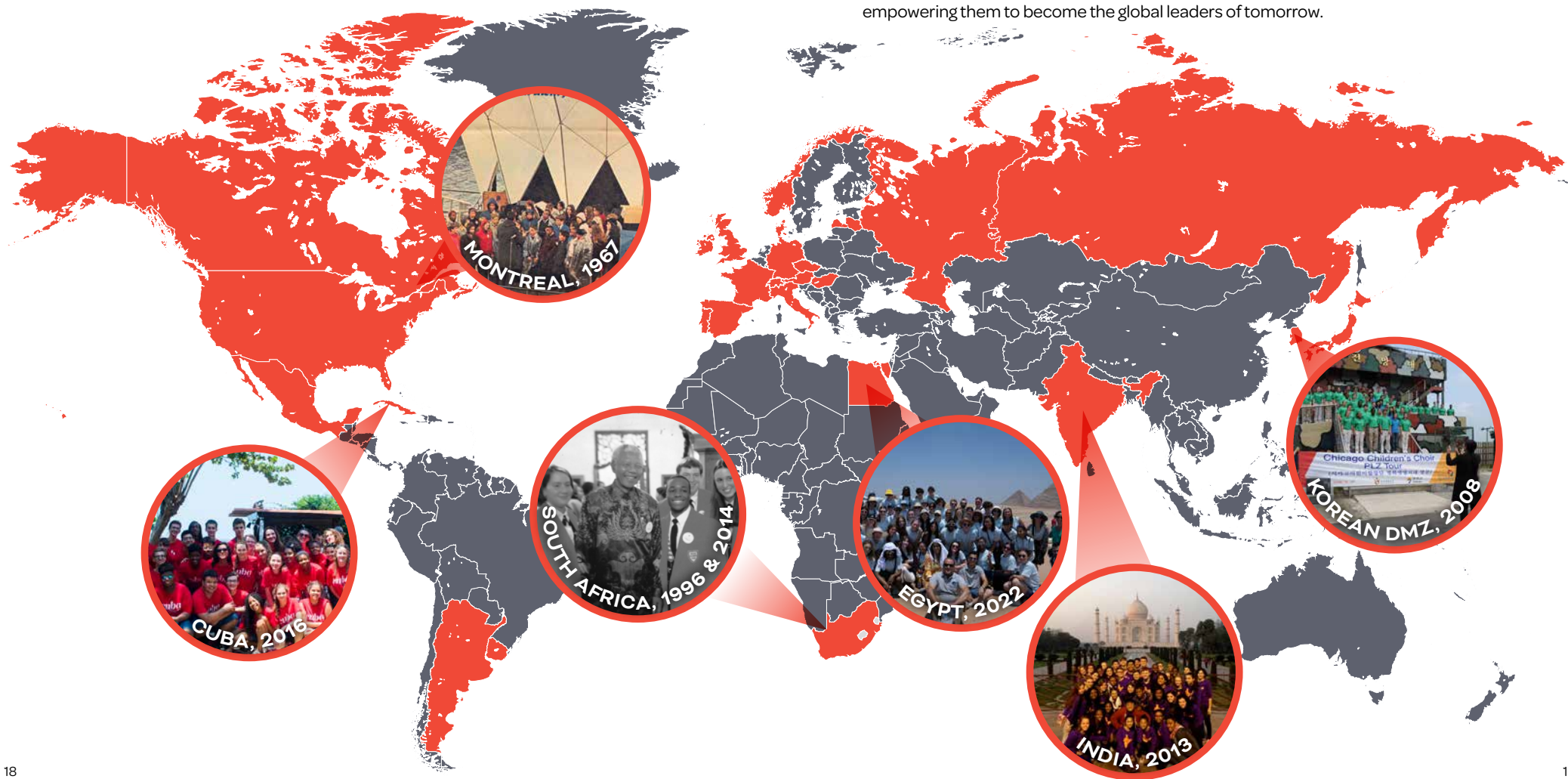
 TIDAL



MUSIC IS A PASSPORT TO THE WORLD

Uniting Voices Chicago has performed in
over 25 nations on five continents.

Uniting Voices Chicago is built on the belief that, through music, we can forge meaningful, empathic connections with people from every background. Through our national and international tours, we embrace performance as a powerful means of expressing our unique experiences while learning about the lives of people different from ourselves. Neighborhood Choir and Dimension embark on national tours that connect singers to their peers across the country. National and international tours for Voice of Chicago make unparalleled global encounters accessible to our singers, expanding their horizons, encouraging them to build bonds far beyond their home communities and empowering them to become the global leaders of tomorrow.





EVENTS & PERFORMANCES

Performance is a crucial part of the Uniting Voices experience; it offers singers the unique opportunity to serve as ambassadors for their neighborhoods and city, and bring their authentic voices and identities to a broad, diverse audience. In addition to in-person performances, video and audio projects may be shared digitally.

Event calendars are available at unitingvoiceschicago.org/upcoming-events. The following performance events are planned as a part of Uniting Voices Chicago's 2023-24 program year:*

CANTO LATINO

September 30, 2023

Uniting Voices Chicago will kick off the year with Canto Latino, a celebration of the music of Mexico including all Neighborhood Choir, Dimension, and Voice of Chicago singers!

RED JACKET OPTIONAL

October 14, 2023

Chicago's most inspiring gala returns to The Geraghty, raising critical funds to unite thousands of youth through music.

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY SERVICE

October 22, 2023

To honor our founding, we return to the place where it all began in 1956, the First Unitarian Church of Chicago, for a musical birthday celebration.

WINTER GLOW

December 2, 2023

Voice of Chicago, Dimension, and all Neighborhood Choir programs will come together this holiday season to perform at the Chicago Symphony Center!

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Ongoing

Our Neighborhood Choir Programs host multiple performances throughout the season to showcase our mission and serve their local communities.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONCERT SERIES

February 22-23, 2024

School program participants and the world-renowned Voice of Chicago come together for a dynamic educational program and performance.

SOUNDBITES

April 18, 2024

An annual fundraiser hosted by the influencers and tastemakers on Uniting Voices Chicago's Ambassadors Board.

PAINT THE TOWN RED

May 23, 2024

Our annual citywide celebration at the iconic Jay Pritzker Pavilion features a free concert and thousands of singers from all Uniting Voices Chicago programs.

**Dates are subject to change.*

ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

As a cornerstone of our commitment to artistic excellence, Uniting Voices Chicago has performed with renowned artists, composers and institutions, from Yo-Yo Ma and Chance the Rapper to Ravinia Music Festival and Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

These unparalleled performances infuse our instruction with a level of exposure and expression that prepares our students to play a leading role on the global stage. The experiences make an indelible impression on singers, instilling in them the belief that they can truly achieve anything and that opportunities for their success are abundant.

Collaborations with World-Renowned Artists

Through frequent collaborations with world-renowned artists, Uniting Voices Chicago singers witness—at the highest level—the truly transformative power of music to inspire and change lives.



Coloring Book
Chance the Rapper (2016)



"God is Love"
Common (2019)



Saturday Night Live
with Karol G (2023)

Special Projects

As part of our commitment to artistic excellence, after-school program participants came together for special projects and collaborations with leading arts organizations and cultural leaders around the city.



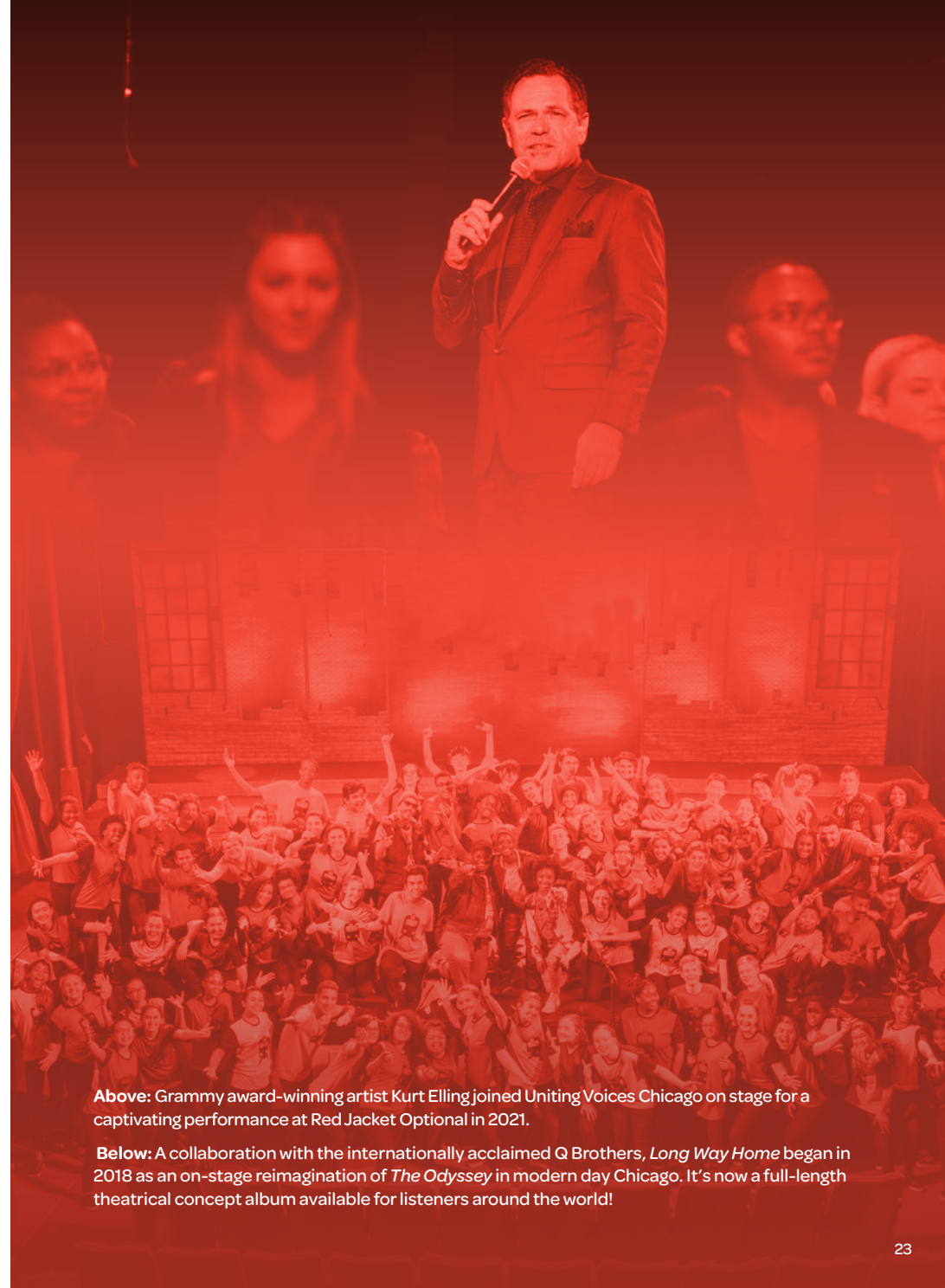
Bernstein's *MASS*
Ravinia Festival with Chicago
Symphony Orchestra (2019)



King Roger
with Chicago Opera Theater
(2022)



Carmen
with Lyric Opera of Chicago
(2023)



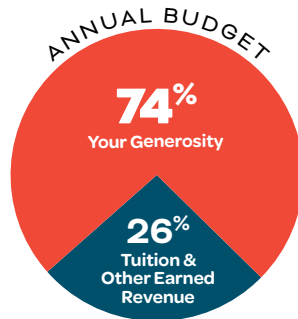
Above: Grammy award-winning artist Kurt Elling joined Uniting Voices Chicago on stage for a captivating performance at Red Jacket Optional in 2021.

Below: A collaboration with the internationally acclaimed Q Brothers, *Long Way Home* began in 2018 as an on-stage reimagination of *The Odyssey* in modern day Chicago. It's now a full-length theatrical concept album available for listeners around the world!

YOUR SUPPORT

Nearly 80 percent of Uniting Voices Chicago's operating budget is funded through charitable donations from generous individuals, corporate partners and foundations. This critical support fuels accessible music programs in schools and communities across Chicago, helping thousands of youth strengthen their voices to become the next generation of global leaders. *Join our donor community!*

100%
of our singers participate
at a subsidized rate



100%
high school graduation &
college acceptance rate

MUSIC EDUCATION OUTCOMES

45%
more likely to
vote

20%
more likely to secure
gainful employment

2X
more likely to
complete college

UNITING VOICES CHICAGO AMPLIFIES THE IMPACT

When Faculty Reflect Student Diversity:
32% more likely to
enroll in college

With a Culturally Responsive Curriculum:
21% increase in
school attendance

*numbers based on 2022-23 data



**YOUR GIFTS MAKE AN
IMMEDIATE IMPACT**

Donate today!



\$20

Provides a meal for a
singer while in our care



\$50

Year's worth of sheet
music for a singer



\$100

Pair of performance
shoes to make a singer
look and feel good



\$500

Workshop with artists
& culture bearers from
across the globe



\$1500

36 weeks of enrichment
and safe spaces after
school for one singer



\$2500

Domestic tour
experience
for two singers

Special thanks to our Lead Philanthropic Partners



Anonymous (2)

Ellen-Blair Chube



Damico
Family Foundation

Richard L.
Duchossois Memorial
Foundation



Rose & Bob Fealy ♦



The Hatherly
Family

Jean-Paul
Spire Trust

David & Lesly Koo



The Elizabeth Morse
Charitable Trust



Michael & Meeghan
Nemeroff and
VedderPrice

Matt & Carrie Parr
and
PJT



Mridu & Chandra
Sekhar

♦ Member of Voice of Tomorrow, which recognizes donors who have made planned gift commitments

UNITING VOICES CHICAGO STAFF

Liz Baker Conductor	Amaranta Flores-Gualtieri Program Assistant
Will Barnard Associate Director of Individual Giving	John Goodwin Principal Pianist
Kevin Beerman Director of Marketing	Stephanie Gregoire Conductor
Dewey Bolz Conductor	Judy Hanson Senior Director
Alex Bravos Conductor	Gavin Harper Associate Conductor
Farlanda Buchannon Conductor	Bailey Haynes Conductor
George Cooper Program Assistant	Cece Hill Senior Neighborhood Program Director
Sara Coral Director of Institutional Partnerships	Nana Jenkins Conductor
Tiffany Crawl-Vaval Program Assistant	Jackie Johnson City-wide Program Director
Magdalena Delgado Conductor	Elinor Keener Program Assistant
Ashley Dingle Manager of Special Events	Josephine Lee President
Kell Fahey Multimedia Designer	Rachel LeFevre-Snee Executive Vice President
Kelly Fekety, CPA Vice President, Finance	Karley Mayomi Program Associate
	Georgie Morvis Digital Marketing Specialist
	Aubry Nelson Operations Associate, Program Assistant
	Lonnie Norwood Conductor, Director of Africana Studies

Sebastian Ortiz Program Assistant
Charlotte Ostrow Program Assistant
Kyla Paguyo Steman Development Associate
W. Mitchell Owens III Composer In Residence
Regina Robinson Program Assistant
Veronica Roman-Meyer Conductor
Shoumi Roy Manager of Systems & Analytics
Kevin Rudzinski Program Assistant
Maria Sanchez Senior Manager, Donor Services
Drew Smith School Program Director
Jocelyn Smith Head of Programs
Heather Stewart Conductor
Amy Tinucci Vice President, Development
Tina Villapando Program Assistant
Toni Ward Production Coordinator
Amanda Wolff Conductor
Sara Zimmerman Production Manager

BOARDS & COUNCILS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellen-Blair Chube - Chair	Suzanne EL-Moursi	Melissa Kibler	Renee Sabo Salomon
Brian Egwele - Treasurer	Theo Epstein	David J. Koo	Joe Shanahan
Donielle McCutcheon - Secretary	Bob Fealy	Erin Lane	Kanwar Singh
Himal P. Agarwal	Jude Fernandes	Deneese Walia Levin	Jeff Steele
Eric Ashworth	Ebba Gebisa	Ann Marie Lipinski	Laura Stern
Tracey Benford	Jacqueline Griesdorn, M.Ed., PhD	Jimmy Meyer	Mike Teplitsky
Heiji Black	Christina Hatherly	Kala Moynihan	Eduardo Valdes
Patrick Boehmer	Richard Hawwa	Suzanne Muchin	Brian Vandenberg
Erin Brown	Jeff Haxer	Michael Nemeroff	Ron Weiss, M.D.
Monica Carney	Yusef Jackson	Matt Parr	Steven Won
Caroline Dettman	Rob Katz	Diane Pearse	
		Matt Roan	

AMBASSADORS BOARD

Katie Ashcroft, Chair	Conley Pollard, Co-Chair, Development & Events Committee	Allison Burman	Yannek Nikodimos
Lauren Abney, Vice Chair		Waters Cahill	Shelby Parnes
Guy Rozentsveig, Vice Chair	Pat Waite, Chair, Community Engagement Committee	Cindy Chang	Mike Pope
Morrie Bossen, Co-Chair, Membership Committee		Madeline Dowling	Jackie Pruitt
Sarah Fader, Co-Chair, Membership Committee	Adam Adelstein	Victor Draine	Neil Shah
	Bailey Appleton	Scott Fetters	Elizabeth Smith
Lauren Carey, Co-Chair, Development & Events Committee	Mallary Barr	Lizzie Guynn	Mykel Vandenberg
	Michael Boyas	Dana Kuehn	Nicholson
	Erin Broderick	Lisa Laws	Tyler Vandenberg
	Karena Brown	Sean Mansfield	Mike Walker
		Jennifer McConnell	Zach West
		Shannon McGhee	John Whiting
		Raymond Melencio	

ALUMNI TASK FORCE

Monica Carney*	Terry Henderson	Allie Kersten	Nikita Sekhar
Sima Cunningham	Cece Hill	Alexa Moster	Courtney Ward
Madeline Dowling	Jackie Johnson	Kala Moynihan*	Ayanna Woods
Christina Hatherly*	Caroline Kagan	Wylene Patterson	

CREATIVE COUNCIL

Samantha Saifer Berngard	Mark Kelly
Angela Brantley	Azeeza Khan
Hebru Brantley	Rob Lewis
Nick Cave	GQ & JQ Qaiyum
Rhea Fernandez	Monica Royer
Welz Kauffman	Marie Whitney
Tom Kehoe	

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Scott Ahlman	Dan Moore
Gerardo Arriaga	Ashaki Reed
Dr. Natasha Buckner-Pena	Bill Riddle
Kathleen Finke	Dr. Erin Roche
Anjie Lipsett	Dr. Wanda Withers

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Lonnie Norwood	Kelly Fekety
Alex Bravos	Regina Robinson
Bailey Haynes	Veronica Román-Meyer
Jackie Johnson	Matt Roan*

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Renee Salomon, Chair	Anna Gonzalez
Rachel Lefevre-Snee	Nancy Barraza
Jocelyn Smith	Steven Carlson
Cece Hill	Kate Woltzen
Margarita Rena	Laura Maheshwary
Stacy Wilson	Annalee De Ramos
Antoniya Reed	Ladonna Freidheim
Benjala Cotten	Leah Talmers

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Susanne Baker	Angela T. Ingram	Josephine Robinson	Angela Sedeño
Jonathan Brooks	Abigail Muldoon	Michael Strautmanis	Tanya Woods

* Board Members



WE ARE
UNITING
VOICES



* FORMERLY CHICAGO CHILDREN'S CHOIR *



Uniting Voices Chicago



@unitingvoicesorg



Uniting Voices Chicago

UNITINGVOICESCHICAGO.ORG

Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington Street, Floor 5
Chicago, IL 60602