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

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 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

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

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

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

6000 INSTRUCTION HOURS
3200 SINGERS
ONE SOUND

*numbers based on 2022-23 data
Through participation in our core programs, young people become global leaders.

**OUR PROGRAMS**

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
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.

**School Program**

"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

**Empowering Students to Reach Their Potential**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>78</th>
<th>school partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73%</td>
<td>of students in our school program partners come from low income households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2445</td>
<td>singers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3500</td>
<td>instructional hours annually</td>
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*numbers based on 2022-23 data*
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**

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<tr>
<th>577</th>
<th>8-18</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>singers</td>
<td>ages</td>
<td>of singers participate at a subsidized rate</td>
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*numbers based on 2022-23 data*
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.

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

DIMENSION

30+ singers

ages 12-18

*numbers based on 2022-23 data
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.

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

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
**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.

**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.

**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.
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.

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*Dates are subject to change.*
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.

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.

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
74% Your Generosity
100% high school graduation & college acceptance rate
26% Tuition & Other Earned Revenue

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!

100%
$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

• Member of Voice of Tomorrow, which recognizes donors who have made planned gift commitments
Uniting Voices Chicago

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Uniting Voices Chicago

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