

CELEBRATING

5 YEARS

2017-2018

# ANNUAL REPORT





# mission

The Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) harnesses the power and joy of music to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change. Our singers transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. Through intensive choral training and high-profile public performance experience (locally, throughout the U.S. and around the world), they learn discipline, develop leadership skills, and proudly represent the city of Boston as ambassadors of harmony.



Dear BCC Friends,

What a remarkable 15th Anniversary year for Boston Children's Chorus! From our first rehearsals in September to our new BCC Summer program, we happily celebrated BCC's 15 years of extraordinary achievements. Fittingly, we reached new heights in musical training and performance, focused ever more intently on issues of social justice, and stood in awe of the vibrant, essential organization BCC has become here in Boston, around the country, and around the world.

We speak through our music, and our singers' voices were never more powerful. Our annual winter concerts at Old South Church were standing-room-only spectacles highlighting cross-cultural holiday traditions. All thirteen choirs, along with our first-ever alumni choir, participated in this year's Tribute Concert to Dr. King, filling our iconic new venue, Symphony Hall, with emotionally compelling songs like *We Shall Overcome*. At the culminating performance of BCC's Weekend of Song and Professional Development for Boston's music educators, we showcased the world-premiere of *Spark*, a commissioned work by Dr. Andrea Ramsey. And our season finale, *Seeds of Change*, brought all our choristers together in a joyous presentation of the BCC anthem, *We Sing*, in nine languages.

Many of our singers also went on the road this year, with Central Intermediate Advanced Choir traveling to Princeton, New Jersey to sing in the Three Trebles Festival, Concert Choir traveling to Rochester, New York, and Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble making their way to New York City to perform in Carnegie Hall's Resnick Education Wing.

And to conclude our 15th year, we introduced BCC Summer, a fun and innovative program that provided 131 current and new singers with a combination of intensive musical training, performance opportunities, exploration of social justice issues, visual arts activities, and field trips.

In short, we took every opportunity rejoice in our 15-year history and to look forward to our exciting and hopeful future. I am immensely proud of all this organization has accomplished and unabashedly optimistic about where we are heading. Thank you for your enthusiastic support throughout this amazing journey.

On to the next 15!



**Anthony Trecek-King, D.M.A.**  
**President and Artistic Director**



### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

TOTAL ASSETS

JUNE 30, 2017

JUNE 30, 2018

1,500,492

1,573,561

TOTAL LIABILITIES

334,583

361,064

TOTAL NET ASSETS

1,165,909

1,212,497

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

1,500,492

1,573,561

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT

2,290,688

2,394,937

TOTAL EXPENSES

2,215,652

2,348,349

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

75,036

46,588

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

1,090,873

1,165,909

NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR

1,165,909

1,212,497



## A 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary To Remember

Our 15th anniversary season was jam-packed with remarkable performances, spectacular venues, special guests, commissioned works, new initiatives, and a palpable sense of excitement and energy. Here are a few of the highlights:

*Take My Hand*, our 15th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert, coincided with the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's death. To mark this significant milestone, we moved our performance from the intimate venue of Jordan Hall to the grand setting of Symphony Hall, where we featured all 13 choirs and hosted not just one guest performer, but many – our alumni! – performing in the inaugural Alumni Choir. One of the most gripping moments of this biggest-ever MLK Concert came when Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble delivered a stirring rendition of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" – Dr. King's favorite hymn, which he listened to on the eve of his assassination, and which Mahalia Jackson sang at his funeral five days later.



# 15

Soon after our MLK concert, we had the distinct pleasure of welcoming two renowned guest conductors: Dr. Andrea Ramsey, an award-winning composer, conductor, and educator, and Dr. Miguel Felipe, an esteemed musician, professor, and scholar. Dr. Ramsey led lively workshops and rehearsals and conducted Training and Intermediate Choirs in the world premiere of her commissioned work, *Spark*, during our 10th Annual Weekend of Song and Professional Development for music educators from Boston Public Schools. Dr. Felipe joined Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble at the magnificent Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, conducting our singers in *Coming of Age*, a performance featuring the unique and expressive music of the South Pacific.

In an exciting collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, we jointly commissioned *Movement Art Is*, co-founded by cutting-edge dancers Jon Boogz and Lil Buck, to create *Have You Seen Me*. This multidisciplinary work showcased Boogz and Buck performing alongside Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble in an extraordinarily powerful exploration of the challenges facing missing and exploited children.





We also had the honor of hosting the African Children’s Choir during their Boston tour in the spring. This dynamic group of boys and girls, ages 7-10, visited our studios, shared songs with our singers, and demonstrated how to play South African drums. Homestays with our generous families provided a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and friendship-building among children from opposite sides of the world.

Always seeking ways to better serve children of all backgrounds and ethnicities, we reached out to Boston’s Hispanic/Latinx community with our first-ever “pop-up” training choir in East Boston. This successful eight-week initiative brought 21 young singers to the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library for twice-weekly rehearsals, skill-building, and cross-cultural sharing, followed by a performance with BCC’s core choirs in our season finale, and a smaller, local concert in East Boston.

Of course, we presented many other concerts throughout the year, including our season kick-off *It’s Been 15* at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; our winter production, *Fireplace Fables*, at the Old South Church, along with tree-lighting ceremonies throughout Boston; performances on the road at the 3 Trebles Festival and at Carnegie Hall; individual performances by every choir; and our season finale, *Seeds of Change*, at the landmark Strand Theatre.

Even after our whirlwind performance calendar came to a close, we launched a revitalized summer program, BCC Summer, in which 131 current and new vocalists sang, danced, made beautiful visual art, discussed social justice, toured the African American Museum, Arnold Arboretum, and Boston Harbor Islands, and performed at the end of every week-long session.

What a 15th year! Our celebratory joy and enthusiasm continue to motivate us, and we look forward to making BCC’s next 15 years even more extraordinary!

# OF NOTE

As we celebrate our 15th anniversary, the Boston Children's Chorus is extremely proud of our many achievements, milestones, and awards. Our remarkable growth and success would not have been possible without our singers, parents, donors, Board of Directors, collaborators, administrative and artistic staff — and so many others along the way. We extend our sincere thanks to all of you!

Here is a quick look at some of BCC's most noteworthy highlights over the years:

## 2003



- Founded by Hubie Jones, Dean Emeritus of the Boston University School of Social Work, Purpose Prize winner, and nationally-acclaimed and beloved Boston social justice advocate and leader

## 2004



- Named Boston's "Ambassadors of Harmony" by the Boston Globe
- Gives debut performance at the 1st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert in Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory Boston
- Performs in front of 20,000 delegates at the Democratic National Convention, just before then-Senator Barack Obama's famous speech
- Chosen as a 2004 Social Innovator by the Social Innovation Forum

## 2005



- Takes first international trip to Japan to participate in the International Children's Chorale Festival

## 2006



- Presented the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert live on television, the first of six such yearly MLK Tribute Concerts to be aired live on WCVB Channel 5 (ABC), with the 2009-2011 concerts syndicated nationwide to millions of viewers

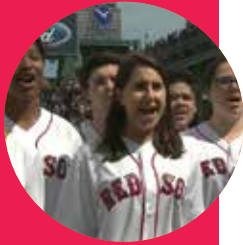


# 2007



- Performs at the inauguration of Governor Deval Patrick
- Deborah Roberts of ABC News hosts the live-televised performance of the 4th Annual MLK Concert, becoming the first of many well-known personalities serving as guest artists over the next few years, including Leslie Odom, Jr., Melinda Doolittle, and Patti Austin
- Travels on tour to Mexico
- Sings at the July 4th Boston Pops Spectacular at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade
- Sings for Jordan's King Abdullah II in Boston

# 2008



- Sings the national anthem at Fenway Park before a Red Sox game, with other Fenway performances to come in subsequent years

# 2009



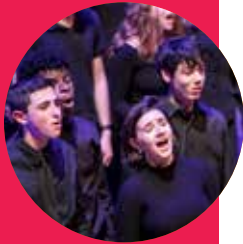
- Tours Jordan at the personal invitation of King Abdullah II
- Invited as featured performers on the National Public Radio program From the Top, an honor offered only to the best young classical musicians in the country

# 2010



- Featured in Opera Boston's world premiere of the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera Madame White Snake, receiving critical acclaim and an invitation to attend the Asian premier at the Beijing Music Festival
- Partners with From the Top to co-produce an MLK national radio special
- Founder Hubie Jones awarded the prestigious 2010 Purpose Prize for his work with BCC, one of only 10 recipients selected from 1,400 nominees nationwide

# 2011



- Tours Scotland and England
- Receives the Margaret Hillis Award from Chorus America for artistic and organizational excellence and commitment to outreach, education, and culturally diverse activities
- Invited to perform at Boston's commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks

# 2012



- Reaches the milestone of serving 500 children in 12 choirs in five locations
- At 2012 TEDxBoston, Dr. Anthony Trecek-King explains his unexpected career path in A Conductor's Journey, accompanied by BCC singers
- Mayor Menino proclaims September 16, 2012 to be Boston Children's Chorus Day

# 2013



- Accompanied by cellist Yo-Yo Ma for "Up to the Mountain" at the Interfaith Service at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross following the April 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, with President and Mrs. Obama, Governor Patrick, Mayor Menino, and many other officials, first responders, and victim's families in attendance
- In partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Art, performs the world premiere of A Boy Called King, a choral/dance composition by Daniel Roumain commissioned especially for BCC's 10th anniversary
- Embarks on 10th anniversary tour to Viet Nam and Cambodia
- Wins prestigious 2013 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, distinguishing it as one of the top arts and humanities programs in the nation, with First Lady Michelle Obama presenting the award at the White House

# 2014



- For the second time, sings at the annual July 4th Boston Pops Spectacular at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade
- Opens TEDxBoston at the historic Great Hall at Boston's Faneuil Hall, showcasing rarely-sung verses of Woody Guthrie's This Land is Your Land

# 2015



- Invited to perform at the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, with city, state, and federal officials in attendance
- Receives the Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award from Chorus America in recognition of commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and furthering African-American choral traditions
- Performs the world and North American premieres of choral works by Elaine Agnew, Sivan Eldar, and David Post, commissioned by the Terezin Music Foundation, at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague and Symphony Hall in Boston

# 2016



- Featured in Ouroboros Opera Trilogy

# 2017



- Sings at the Boston Women's March on Boston Common in front of 175,000 marchers
- Represents North America at the International Youth Choir Festival at Royal Albert Hall in London
- Performs the Dominican national anthem at Fenway Park during the number retirement ceremony for Red Sox slugger David Ortiz
- At the Terezin Music Foundation "Do Not Forget Me" concert at Symphony Hall, collaborates with Holocaust survivors Michael Gruenbaum and Ela Weissberger to sing the finale from Brundibár, a children's opera performed in 1940 by prisoners including Gruenbaum and Weissberger at the Terezin concentration camp

# 2018



- Performs MLK Concert at Symphony Hall for the first time with all 13 choirs and an alumni chorus



# DEMOGRAPHICS

BCC's demographics reflect intentional recruitment and retention of children ages 7-18 across differences of race, ethnicity, culture, and class.

**58%**

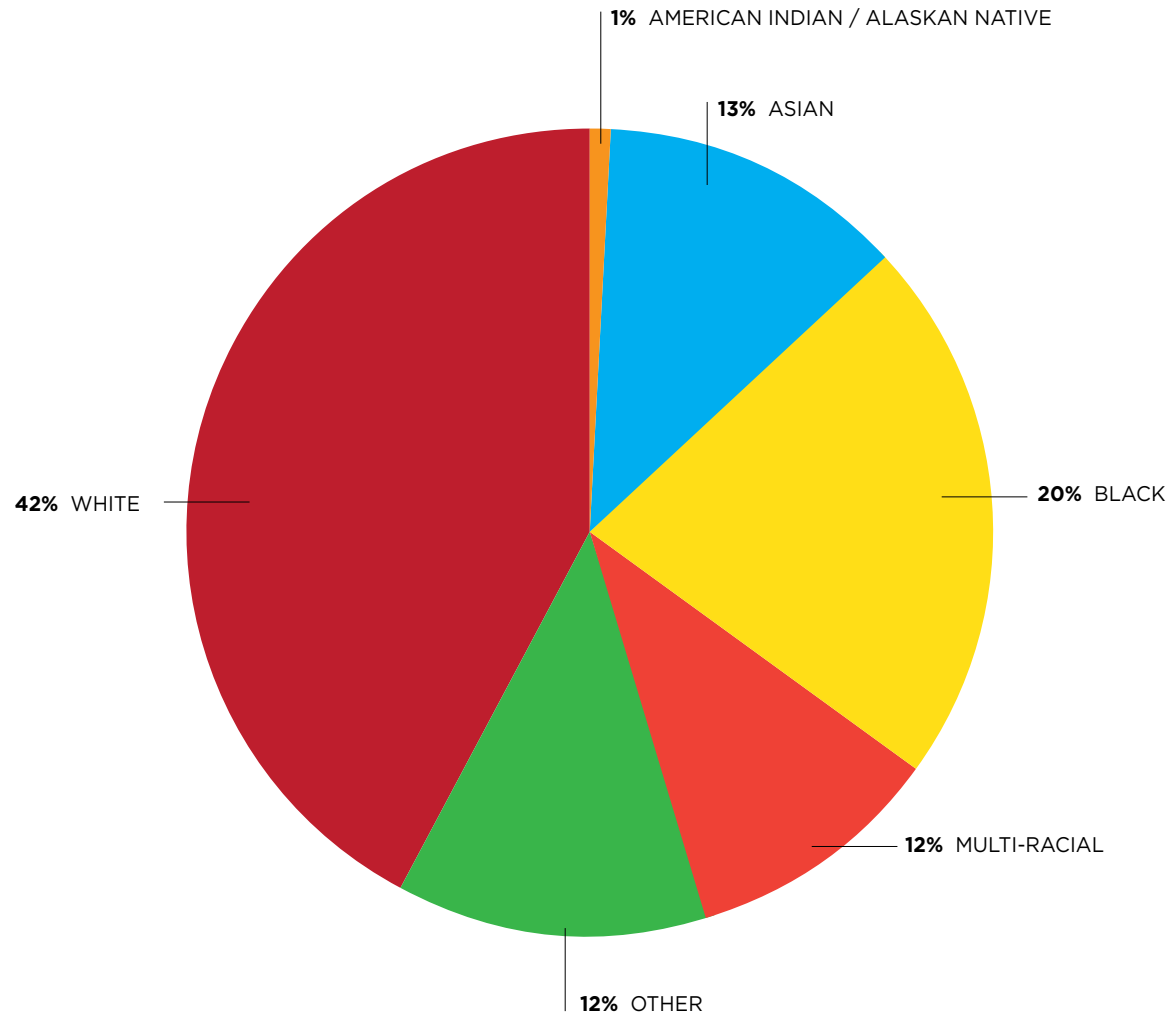
of 450 singers ages 7-18 are non-white.

**19%**

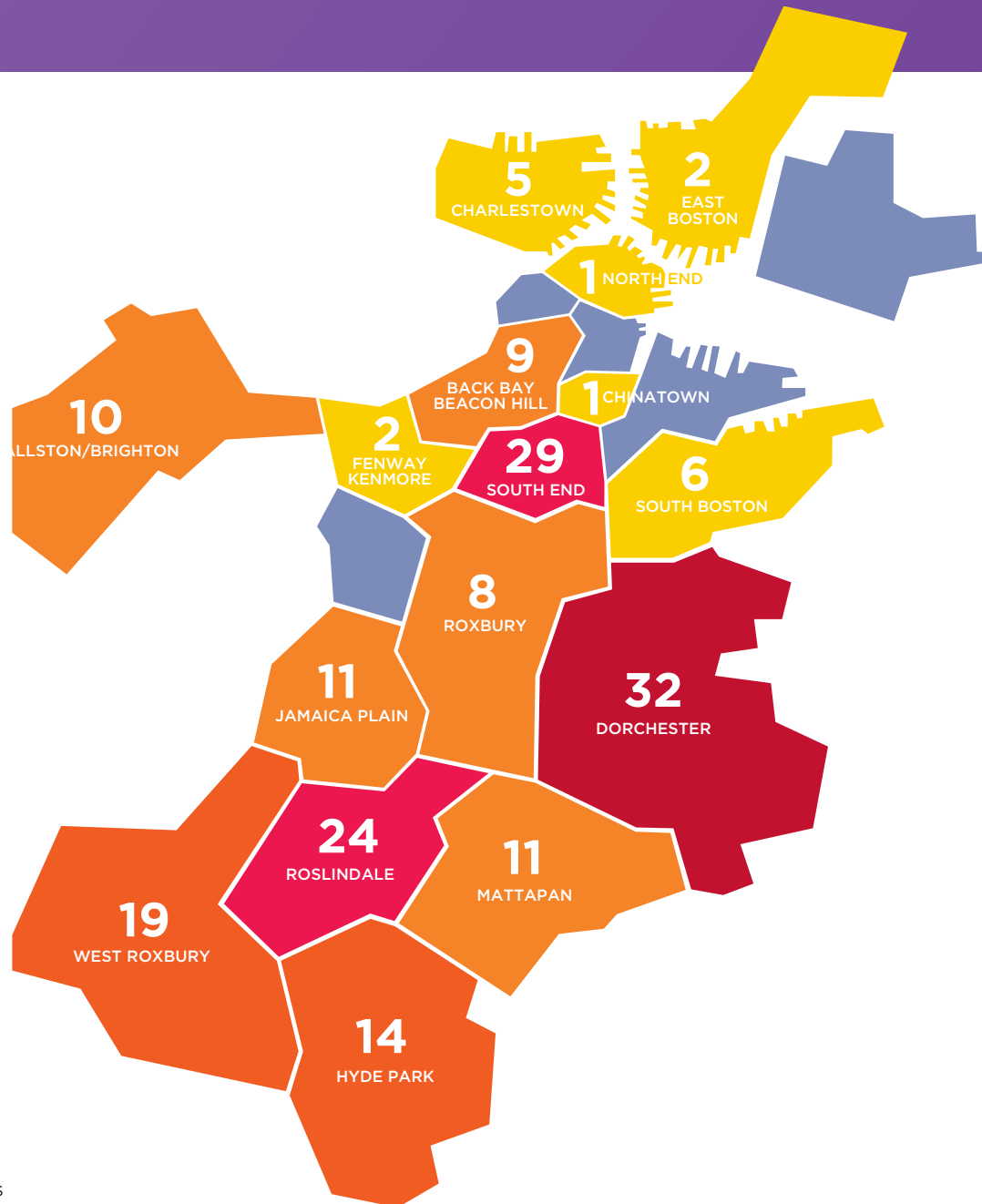
are Hispanic / Latinx

**54%**

of singers are from households with an income below the Boston median \$75,548 a year



# BOSTON DEMOGRAPHICS



## SCALE

- 1-7 singers
- 8-13 singers
- 14-23 singers
- 24-28 singers
- 29-32 singers

# 41%

of singers live in the City of Boston

# ANNUAL DONORS

## 2017-2018

### INDIVIDUALS

The Boston Children's Chorus is grateful for the generous support of the following individuals who gave \$1,500 or more to BCC's annual fund during the season.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Members of the Conductor's Circle are donors who contribute \$10,000 or more annually.

#### PLATINUM \$50,000 +

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Kate & Tai Sutliff and the Grossman Family Charitable Foundation ●  
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Anonymous (2)

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Anonymous (1)

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We extend our gratitude to foundations, corporations and government entities for their gifts.

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### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Boston Cultural Council

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The Klarman Family Foundation ♦  
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The Manton Foundation ♦

### \$75,000 - \$99,999

The Hearst Foundations

### \$50,000 - \$74,999

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### \$10,000 - \$24,999

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We gratefully acknowledge the gifts of all BCC parents. Their participation strengthens all aspects of the BCC community throughout the season.

Susan Adams  
Bridget and Akin Akinc  
Rhoda Alani and Philip Cole  
Julia and Scott Allen  
Joelle and Serge Auguste  
Andrew and Michelle Ayer  
Amy Bayer  
Patrick Belizaire and Marjorie Saintil-Belizaire  
Philip and Joanna Bereaud  
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The grants and contributions listed were received between July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

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  - ▲ **Honorary Members of the President's Circle**
  - ◆ **Multi-Year Pledge**

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+ In Memory





CELEBRATING

5  
YEARS



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