

Celebrating 10 Years of Harmony



EADERSHIP bcc @ ten

As you read this, our tenth season is well underway and promises to be our most incredible year ever, with world-premiere commissions, collaborations with some of Boston's finest arts institutions, and a tour of southeast Asia.

Behind all of it are hours and hours of rehearsal and practice and hard work. It's not easy. Which makes it even more rewarding to know that we're accomplishing our primary goal: bringing people together through music.

We see it every day at BCC. Whether it's one of our younger singers just starting to hear the difference between a major third and a major fourth, or a member of our Premier Choir performing in front of a thousand people, music is a catalyst for change.

And after ten years, it's clear that the experience our singers receive does more than just make them great musicians. It turns them into leaders and mentors—not just at BCC but in the Boston communities and neighborhoods in which they live. These boys and girls come here, often with great challenges at home or in other parts of their lives, and metamorphose into bright, vibrant young men and women.

Our founder, Hubie Jones, knew that would happen. As someone who has founded, led, or shaped more than 30 civic organizations in Boston over his lifetime, Hubie was confident that music had the power to make a real difference in the lives of young people, their families, and their communities-and he was right. Since 2003, more than 500 young men and women have passed through our programs and gone on to do incredible things. You can learn about some of these amazing individuals in this annual report.

In many ways, we're just at the entr'acte. This past decade has been about establishing ourselves and getting up to speed. Only now are we fully formed and ready to do something truly great. Our best years are just beginning.

So what does the future bring? Certainly we remain committed to our mission of using music "to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change." Beyond that, we want to expand our programs, extend our touring schedule, and continue to be culturally and socially relevant in Boston and beyond.

During our tenth year, we salute all that has come before and look forward to all we will accomplish moving forward. For those of you who have supported us—either through donations or attending concerts or helping one of our singers—we thank you and look forward to another decade of harmony.

DAVID C. HOWSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANTHONY TRECEK-KING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



BCC) harnesses he power and joy of music to unite our city's diverse

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.





@ BCC

100% of BCC graduates have gone to college. This story of a performance at BCC's signature Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert went into a college admission essay by BCC singer, Jessica Newman



It was crucial for this concert to be spectacular because it was going to be on live television stations across the country, but it wasn't until I opened the doors that led into the intimate, dark-wooded hall at the New England Conservatory that I felt the real importance of our success.

Hanging above the stage, flooded with golden light, were banners: one with Martin Luther King, Jr. smiling, his arm around his wife, and one with him marching in the pouring rain, a newspaper covering his head as he protested. In another banner, he was waving from a balcony to a sea of people, and in the next one, he was marching again, a mile-long parade following his lead. Finally, dead center was a beautiful portrait of the man with his eyes glittering, serious and determined - the eyes of a visionary.

I gained a greater appreciation for the dreamer. It is because of MLK that my chorus strives to break down barriers in the Greater Boston area and around the globe and unite people of all different backgrounds. After my first MLK concert in 2011, I gained a greater appreciation for the dreamer – I formed a connection with him, and I finally could see the impact his vision has made on my life. This day was life-changing.



"...I gained a greater appreciation for the dreamer..."

Because I was new to the choir, it was the first time I truly made connections with my fellow singers, and it was the first time I could see the significance of King's actions. My best friends in the choir are black, Brazilian, white, Muslim and Asian. When I put on the performance uniform - a red jacket and black pants - I no longer see whether the person dressed like me is black or white; I see a person who has the same passion for singing that I do. When I look out at my conductor, Anthony Trecek-King, I do not see an African-American man. All I see is the embodiment of joy, exuberance, passion, and dedication.

We can come together in the common language of music.

The Boston Children's Chorus has opened my eyes to the power of music, and I will try to use that power to continue bringing people together.

JESSICA NEWMAN BCC STUDENT





"...the music is only the beginning..."

By any measure, it's clear that the BCC has been doing something right for a long time now. First of all, there's the music. The boys and girls who come through the BCC's programs learn how to be stellar musicians, capable of performing complex pieces brilliantly and beautifully.

But the music is only the beginning. Along with it—and perhaps even more important—is the confidence and focus and compassion that the singers develop during their time here. As David and Anthony always mention, there is a clear link between becoming a musician and becoming a leader. Indeed, it's a remarkable symbiosis, one which I know we all applaud.

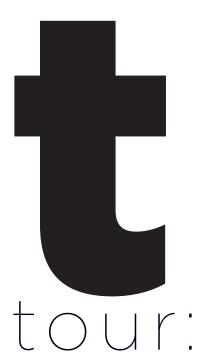
In this annual report, you will meet some of our singers, learn about our successes over the past year and past decade, and understand what we hope to accomplish moving forward. I hope you are as inspired by what BCC does as we are every day.

All of us on the BCC's Board of Directors are pleased and honored to be a part of such a special organization and eagerly await the next decade of excellence.

TIM FERGUSON BOARD PRESIDENT "Tour is a great opportunity to form and nurture relationships. When we are put in this situation, far from our families and our homes, singers understand that we are truly a family, and that family sticks together," said Marlon Matthews of the Young Men's Ensemble in 2011 when BCC toured the United Kingdom.

Requiring the hard work of traveling long distances and performing, tour succeeds upon teamwork, collective endurance and leadership. Tour is not about sightseeing for BCC, as it involves performances in new and exciting venues, while collaborating and building relationships with local groups, making them true "Ambassadors of Harmony."

"Tour is a great opportunity to form and nurture relationships."



LEARNING LEADERSHIP ON THE ROAD

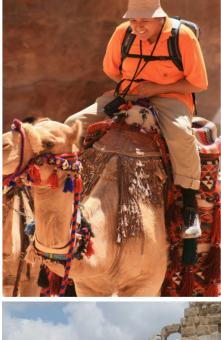


It began in Japan in 2005 when invited to perform at the international children's festival and to sing with Japanese choirs. A bold undertaking by a then very young arts organization, BCC turned tour into a core initiative in advancing its mission. Since then, the organization undertakes an international tour every other year. A tour to Mexico followed in 2007. Invited by His Majesty King Abdullah II, BCC then toured Jordan in 2009, winning praise from the US Ambassador. The last tour went to the UK in 2011.

When not touring internationally, BCC travels closer to home. In 2012, the singers went to Martha's Vineyard and performed at the renowned Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs. As has become the norm with Tour, impromptu concerts break out. This year some singers went and performed at an assisted living facility and then sat and talked with residents, showing again the essence of confident leadership.

The logistics and planning of an international tour is a huge undertaking. In 2013, 65 singers







open the next chapter of the BCC Tour story as they head off for a tour of Southeast Asia.

As BCC founder Hubie Jones put it: "You don't really understand what it means to be an American until you leave our borders and look back."

1 Simpressions



"...compassion, understanding, unity..."

[1]

In my 9 years of participating in BCC, I have heard our mission statement hundreds of times. It is important to me to try to take meaning from it - on Sunday, I felt that our mission was accomplished... Through song, we exemplified compassion, understanding, unity, and humility, and even if this message was only internalized by one audience member, it was worth it. BCC was a shoulder for Bostonians to lean on, and if that isn't social change, I don't know what is.

Isabel at September 11 Remembrance Concert at the Hatch Shell

2

It was a Thursday rehearsal when I presented a video of a day in my life with a visual impairment to the Central Intermediate Choir.

My video presentation contained scenes of walking outside using my cane, adapted card games, and other significant and valuable information that would guide the rest of the choir and staff to better understand my disability, capability, and accommodations which allow me to live a perfectly normal and regular life. Everyone was welcoming and honest, and I felt that my goal was achieved, that my goal of feeling that I am part of the choir as opposed to feeling special or different, which I am not.

All I am is visually impaired, and all that means is that my eyes do not work, but that does not keep me from doing the things that everyone else does and more, and as this presentation and its outcome show, all everyone needs is a little bit of education to surpass the assumption and misconception, and to expand their horizons with truth and reality.

Precious Perez Central Intermediate, 2010 - 2011





"these young kids are amazing"

[3]

Our rural neighborhood offers limited opportunities for our children to meet other kids with different family stories. I am so pleased to see my daughter flourishing in this unique environment, with the common language of music, and I am grateful to you and your staff for providing her with this rare opportunity for growth.

BCC Parent



Before and After

Day by day I see I see the differences in people In their culture In their physical appearance I see all of the personalities Before singing I saw in black and white I saw people who were different It scared me Now Now I see in color The colors of the rainbow Day by day I see I see the differences in people

Poem by Spencer Boisvert, BCC Singer

<image>

[5]

We attended the concert and were so engaged and floored. These young children are amazing and it was a wonderful experience. To see the passion of the kids and the passion of the adults that direct and teach them is phenomenal.

First Time BCC Audience Member





[6]

Know that you're going out into the world with the best possible preparation for it. Not the specific knowledge of the three types of minor scales but the ability to empathize with your fellow human beings, no matter who they are; a burning desire to reach new heights in everything you do; the joy of collaboration and interdependence.

BCC Alum

[7]

It is a pleasure to be part of something so uplifting and fundamental to humanity. Thank you on behalf of all of us from the Celtics for highlighting the importance of spending time honoring Dr. King and continuing to push to make his dream an everyday reality.

Steve Pagliuca, co-owner of the Boston Celtics

8

Last night with you and the several hundred wonderful young people at Jordan Hall was one of the four most wonderful artistic/ humanistic experiences of my life!

David Ford, Former Executive Director, Smith Family Foundation

"..you're going out into the world with the best possible preparation for it."

9

A Brockton resident who makes the long commute to and from Lexington every day to attend the Lexington Christian Academy, Allana gladly adds to her already hectic schedule by attending BCC rehearsals in Boston's South End."Twice is the least we're here, but I love it. I would not change it for anything."

What makes BCC so engaging that a busy teenager would choose to be part of it year after year? "Some of my very best friends, life-long relationships, have been fostered here. The amazing experiences that I've been granted from BCC are unlike any other place. I would never have gotten these kinds of experiences, these opportunities, doors would not have been opened like they have been with BCC."

"I'm definitely gonna miss, definitely gonna miss this place," says Allana, wistfully. "I'm dreading it right now. I've been thinking about it. I'm like, oh my gosh, it's over. But my hope is that BCC is truly a microcosm of what the world will one day be. That would be beautiful. Who wouldn't want a world like that?"

BCC Alum Allana (pictured above on the left)

"...my hope is that BCC is truly a microcosm of what the world will one day be."



[10]

The Boston Children's Chorus is one of the finest examples of a youth arts organization I have encountered. The Chorus' achievements in a short amount of time are impressive and the children themselves take my breath away whenever I hear them. The future of Greater Boston's children is brighter because of the Boston Children's Chorus.

Senator Edward Kennedy







2012 brought BCC to TEDxBoston for a memorable experience as Artistic Director Anthony Trecek-King gave a stirring talk at this forum celebrating creative vision and innovation. "You have to invest in people by trusting them" was the message put across by the BCC visionary.

Local luminaries filled the program and BCC charmed a captive audience as they accompanied Mr. Trecek-King with a rousing rendition of "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around" and "Pride." The performance was watched by a sell-out crowd who took to Twitter to tell the world about experiencing something special, and created a BCC viral buzz. One Tweet read: "The BCC gives me goosebumps. Amazing conductor. Amazing kids. Amazing music."

The performance was also broadcast by WBUR, and across the TEDxBoston channel.

innovators



To mark the milestone 10th Anniversary season, songwriter Jim Papoulis was commissioned by BCC to write an anthem to be performed at every self-produced BCC concert.



We Sing

There is a sound that's calling me A sound that brings us all together

There is a way that we can change One by one we will join as you Hear our voice

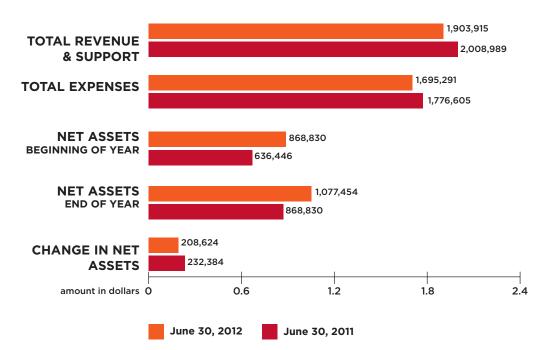
Refrain:

We sing the hope of tomorrow Our time, this is our call We sing as we stand together, Voices calling out for change

We're gonna stand for peace We're gonna sing for joy We will unite for hope and freedom We sing the hope of tomorrow, Our time, this is our call We sing as we stand together, Voices calling out for change Sing the hope of tomorrow Our time, this is our call

We Sing as we stand together, Voices calling out, Hear us calling out We sing the hope of tomorrow Voices calling out for Change.

financials



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