



ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2014-JUNE 30, 2015



Members of Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble perform at Radial System V in Berlin, Germany, during BCC's Liberation Tour

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
Liberation Tour	2
BCC Financials	4
BCC Family Spotlight: In Their Own Words	5
CROSS THAT RIVER: 12 th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert & Reception	6
BCC Funder Spotlight: Bloomberg Philanthropies	8
BCC By the Numbers	10
BCC Choirs	12
BCC Partner Spotlight: YW Boston Race and Ethnicity Dialogues	14
BCC in the Classroom: BPS Arts Expansion Initiative	15
Annual Fund Donors	16
Liberation Tour Donors	18
Parent Donors	20
2014-2015 Season Highlights	21
BCC Team: Board of Directors and Staff	22



From L-R, BCC Board Chair,
Tim Ferguson; BCC Founder, Hubie
Jones; BCC President and Artistic
Director, Anthony Trecek-King, D.M.A.

FOREWORD

Dear Friends of BCC,

How does a young person learn to be a good global citizen?

At Boston Children's Chorus (BCC), we take the above question seriously with our singers as they travel and perform throughout Greater Boston and the world. Fiscal year 2015 illustrates BCC's commitment to enriching young minds and breaking down social barriers. As you will witness in these pages, BCC singers are not bystanders, but young people who actively engage with their communities and the world to share their message of hope.

Our 2014–2015 season provided BCC with many opportunities to communicate our message here in Boston and abroad. Because of the work of BCC to promote social harmony in times of strife, BCC was invited to be among the presenters at TEDxBoston, during which Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble sang "This Land Is Your Land." Woody Guthrie's rarely heard original version is a critical response to the optimism of Irving Berlin's "God Bless America." BCC was also honored to sing in front of ambassadors and dignitaries, including President Barack Obama, at the inauguration of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. With the current political climate marred by prejudice and animosity, BCC is a proud partner in forwarding civil discourse across race, gender, and identity with these important institutions.

Throughout Greater Boston, BCC's performances shine a light on inequity in our society. BCC was even recognized nationally for our commitment to diversity and inclusiveness when we won the 2015 Chorus America Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award. As only the second annual winner of this award, BCC was chosen

for this honor because of our ongoing philosophy of promoting inclusiveness, as well as our commitment to seeking songs for performances that address themes of social justice and unity.

As our season came to a close, BCC embarked on the 2015 Liberation Tour to the Czech Republic and Germany. International tours are a critical element in achieving our goal of creating empathetic leaders who value differences and diversity. These types of learning opportunities bridge the static words of a textbook to the firsthand realities of our shared past and its indelible legacy on the world our singers are inheriting.

With your generous donations this past year, singers who otherwise would not be able to afford these types of experiences were able to travel abroad and witness history with their own eyes. Thanks to donors and volunteers like you, BCC is able to provide our singers with an active public voice through service activities, concerts, premieres of commissions, tours, and excursions. Our mission to create a world-class youth arts institution for the young people of Boston is as relevant now as it was at our founding 13 years ago.

Thank you for joining us in our belief that youth can drive and lead social change through the power of song.

Sincerely,

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

Tim Ferguson
Board Chair

Hubie Jones
Founder

LIBERATION TOUR

The Boston Children's Chorus biennial international tour is one of our most anticipated opportunities for singers and staff alike. Our tours provide our singers, many of whom may not otherwise be able to afford this kind of experience, a unique opportunity to celebrate relationships with each other.

This year's tour commemorated the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe and the closing of all the concentration camps on the continent. Seventy-eight singers traveled to Germany and the Czech Republic, where they were able to perform at celebrated venues such as the Spanish Synagogue and Lobkowitz Palace in Prague; tour Theresienstadt (also known as Terezín) concentration camp, which detained many musicians and composers during World War II; and participate in youth exchanges in Berlin, including the Auschwitz Youth Program and the German Youth Choir.

In preparation for the tour, BCC began the year with a collaboration with Terezín Music Foundation and the Boston Symphony Orchestra to perform music honoring the legacy of the artists who perished at Theresienstadt. This collaboration gave our singers a chance to engage with Holocaust survivors and compose music together based on their experience during the war. BCC was then honored to accompany musicians of the Boston Symphony Orchestra to perform the finale of the opera "Brundibár" with the Holocaust survivors—who had performed the same opera as children at

Theresienstadt. The performance with Terezín Music Foundation and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra was the beginning of a musical and educational journey, culminating in several moving performances and unforgettable experiences. BCC was privileged to present the world premieres of three remarkable choral works of the Terezín Music Foundation by composers Elaine Agnew, Sivan Eldar, and David Post.

The 2015 Liberation Tour was a transformative experience that inspired our singers to become more informed global citizens and reaffirmed their belief in music's power to heal and transform lives. It was a moving example of how art can heal during times of struggle, a reminder of humanity's fundamental impulse toward the creation of beauty, even in the face of unthinkable evil.

"The Terezín Concentration camp visit and rehearsal was particularly poignant, too. To be in a space once occupied by those suffering and relying on the creation of art to keep them motivated, to keep them alive, was powerful."

—BCC singer



“As difficult as it was to fathom the atrocities that took place in Terezín, all the emotions that we felt translated into the music and changed how we sang and thought about the pieces. I felt connected to the music more than I had ever before.”

—BCC singer

RIGHT

BCC Premier Choir and Young Men's Ensemble perform at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague

BELOW

PC and YME explore the Czech Republic at Lobkowitz Palace and Strakonice





CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	JUNE 30, 2015	JUNE 30, 2014
TOTAL ASSETS	1,239,584	1,250,780
TOTAL LIABILITIES	56,856	51,519
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,182,728	1,199,261
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,239,584	1,250,780

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	2,006,826	1,852,637
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,023,359	1,784,293
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(16,533)	68,344
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	1,199,261	1,130,917
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	1,182,728	1,199,261

BCC FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



We are the Mejia-Guerrero family, Rocio Guerrero and Jose Mejia, parents of four BCC singers, Josie, Rocio, Jose, and Rolando, and one BCC alumna, Ana Mejia. We also have an older son who, unfortunately, is not a member of BCC but always attends concerts in support of his siblings.

Our family joined BCC in 2005 when Ana was in 3rd grade. Her music teacher referred her, as she showed an interest in music. I remember Ana's nervousness when she went to audition. But what we all remember the most was when she

“Having children and BCC staff with different cultural backgrounds coordinating beautiful music together leaves me speechless.”

received that red envelope with the BCC logo inviting her to be a part of this growing organization. Little did we know that Ana would not be the only one accepted—BCC would become a family thing! BCC welcomed our family as a whole, with Ana's younger siblings following in her footsteps to become ambassadors of harmony.

The mission of BCC is met every day through their concerts and other events. Having children and BCC staff with different cultural backgrounds coordinating beautiful music together leaves me speechless. It is not hard to believe but many times I have found myself wiping tears while listening to their concerts. Watching how kids can get together and perform without judgment and discrimination is very touching. Our hope as parents is that what they've learned in BCC, and the guidance they receive at home, can really help them contribute to social change. Our children are first-generation Americans. Now we can say that we are a Mexican-Salvadorian-American family.

Music has always been a part of our culture; we need music as much as we need food and soccer!

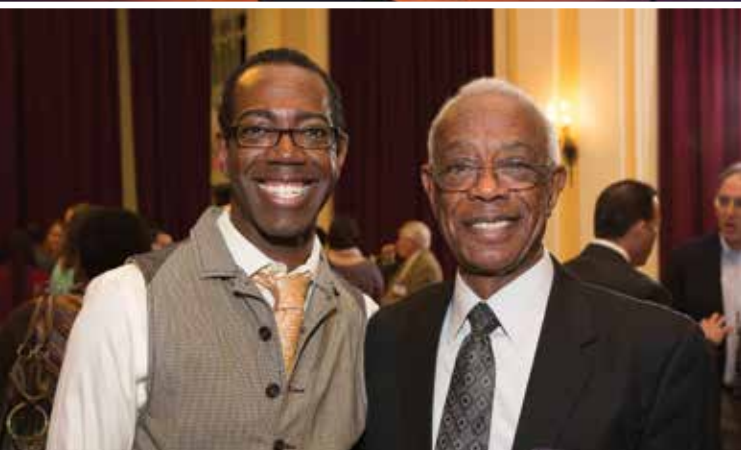
Our children have been exposed to many different religions, cultures, foods, regions, and many other things that they would have not otherwise been able to see or be a part of. We have seen how this wonderful organization has grown and we are delighted and proud to say that our children have contributed to this growth and are BCC singers.

Thank you, BCC!

The Mejia-Guerrero Family

CROSS THAT RIVER

12TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
TRIBUTE CONCERT & RECEPTION



At our 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert, CROSS THAT RIVER, nearly 1,000 audience members experienced the magic of 100 voices singing songs that speak to hopelessness and hope, inequity and equality, and peace and urgency. Some of the most well-known American songs are about “crossing the river.” Enslaved Africans and African Americans used these songs not only to articulate a religious hope of crossing into heaven, but also to communicate information about heading North to escape slavery—a journey that meant traveling through water so dogs could not pick up their scent. One hundred years later, black civil rights activists and their allies attempted a nonviolent fifty-four-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Their point of departure: crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

To prepare for CROSS THAT RIVER, our singers thought of many metaphorical rivers that we still need to cross, such as crossing from economic injustice to universal economic security; from global conflicts to peace; from externally limited identity roles to self-directed experience and expression. And, of course, our society is still working to cross the river of intolerance once and for all.

Our annual MLK Tribute concert highlights BCC’s belief that the songs we sing are as important as the discussions those songs inspire. The lessons learned from these discussions help our singers approach their daily lives beyond rehearsal rooms and the stage with the essential tools of compassion and empathy. At BCC we teach, sing, and discuss songs of significance—songs that are chosen to help promote an environment where diversity isn’t simply imposed, but sought, and where our differences are not merely tolerated, but valued.

TOP

Premier Choir and Young Men’s Ensemble perform at Jordan Hall

CENTER

BCC President and Artistic Director Anthony Trecek-King, D.M.A., and his father, David King

BOTTOM

Guest Artist Don Flemons of Carolina Chocolate Drops performs with members of his band



TOP

Anthony Trecek-King conducts "Wading Deep Waters"

LEFT

BCC alumni recite Attorney General Eric Holder's remarks at NAACP convention about Trayvon Martin's death



"There are so many conversations that need to be had within today's society, whether they're about race, religion, or otherwise, and the first step towards being able to have these conversations is to understand where individuals are coming from to have empathy. BCC has taught me to have these conversations and to ask questions of society."

—Nafisa, age 17

BCC FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

Boston Children's Chorus is thrilled to be the recipient of a \$200,000 grant, over two years, from Bloomberg Philanthropies (the foundation that consolidates all of Michael Bloomberg's philanthropic giving). This is the first time that Bloomberg has expanded their support to cultural organizations beyond New York City; BCC was chosen to be one of only forty grantees in the city of Boston. Our participation has already greatly transformed the way we think and function as an organization.

In addition to being among the largest grants in BCC's history, the award is significant in that it includes a partnership with the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, founded by notable arts management guru Michael Kaiser. Through this partnership, BCC has the opportunity, over the next two fiscal years, to participate in DeVos's Arts Innovation and Management program, a unique training and consultation initiative.

The Arts Innovation and Management program offers in-depth, intensive group training in fundraising, marketing, artistic planning, strategic planning, and board development. BCC's executive, artistic, and board leadership are participating in a wide array of training that spans personal phone consultations and mentoring, group seminars, and online webinars. Homework assignments have already brought BCC new insights on long-range artistic planning and the importance of always linking artistic planning to development strategies and fundraising messages.



TOP

Training choir singers learn more about each other at a weekend retreat

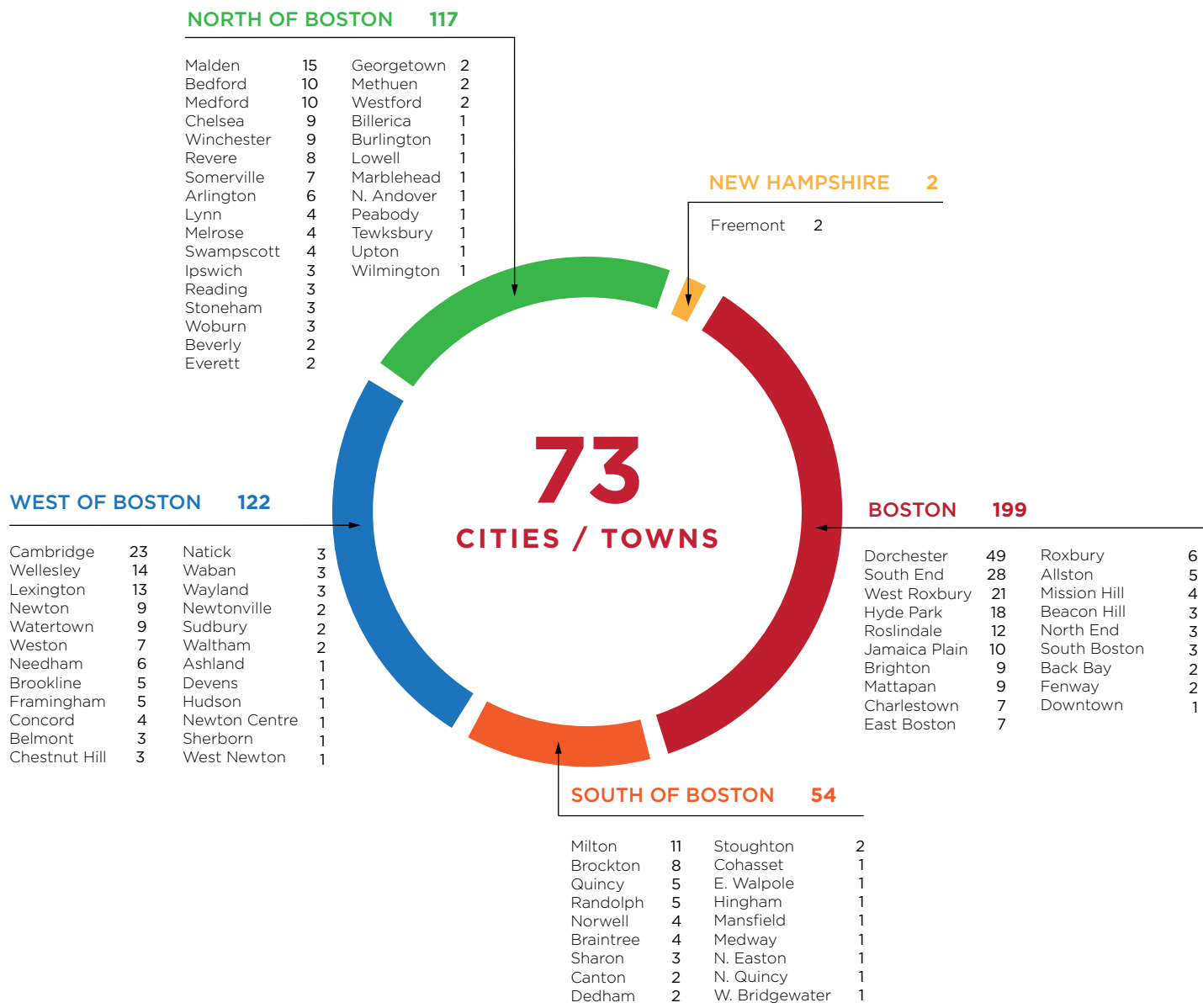
RIGHT

Training choir singers enjoying some post-rehearsal activities

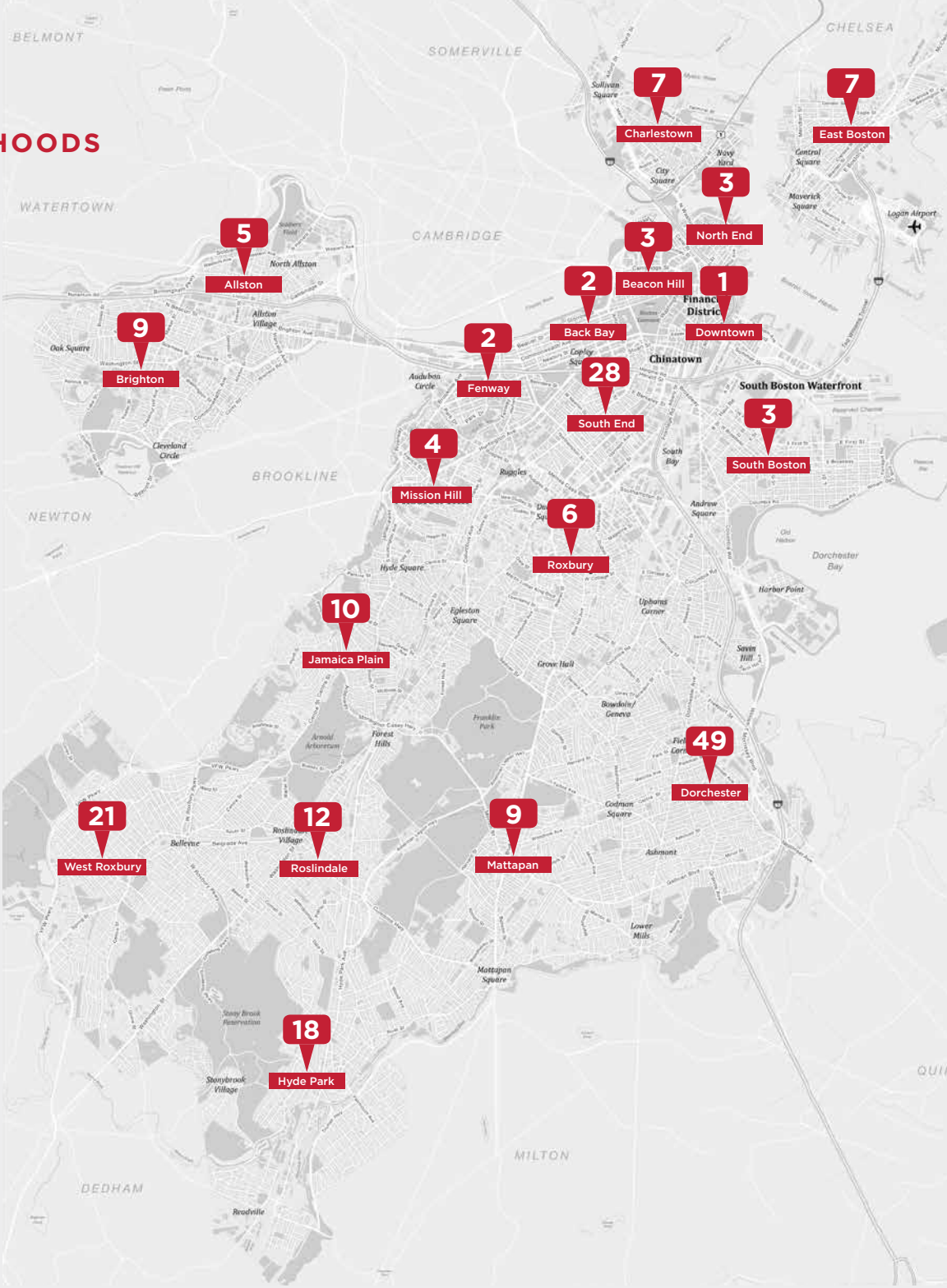
“BCC is a place where I feel safe and I know I can trust the individuals in my choir... Not only is BCC a safe singing place, but it is also a place where I can laugh and enjoy the people around me. A place where I am not just part of a choir, but part of a family.”

—Bailey, age 12





NEIGHBORHOODS

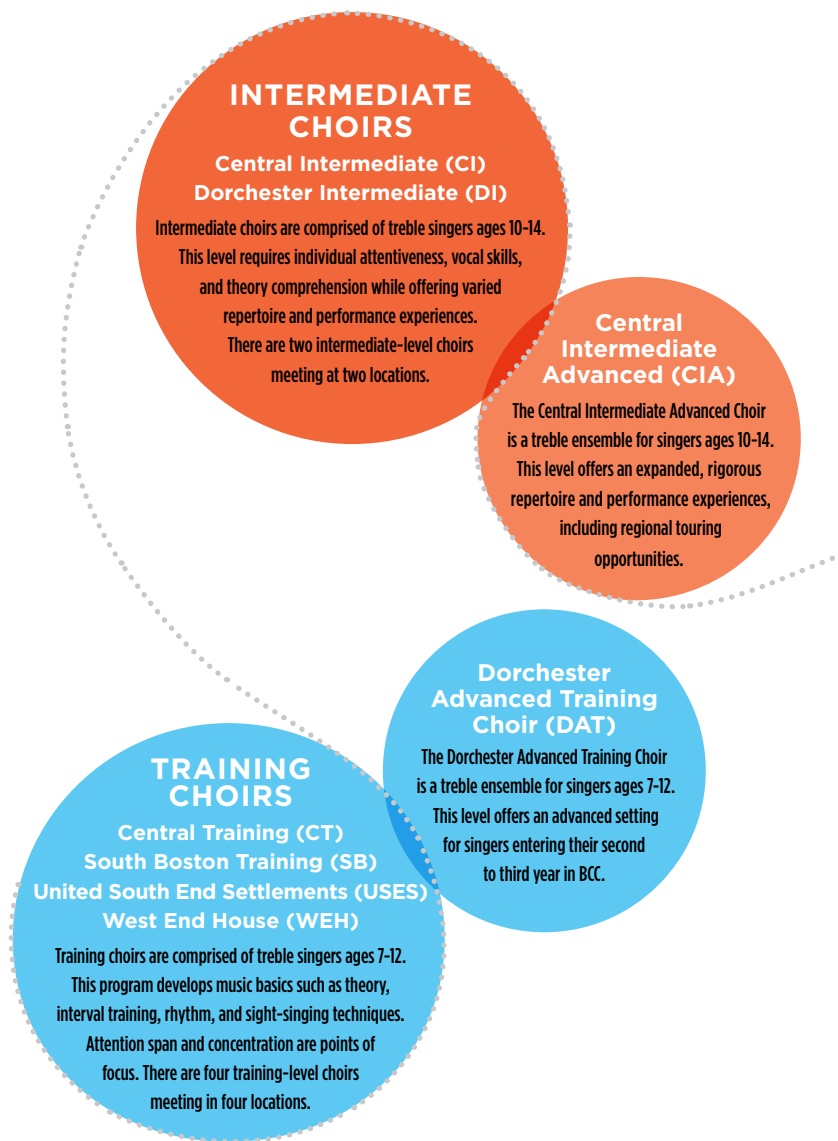


BCC CHOIRS

BCC envisions a city defined by meaningful relationships among its community members. Through participation in a rigorous choral curriculum supplemented with lessons to foster compassion, BCC singers use the shared experience of music to create a better understanding of their part in the world around them. BCC is in pursuit of musical excellence, which we believe can be used as a tool to create dialogue around difficult issues. By creating a safe and nurturing environment and encouraging conversations around these issues, our singers pave the way for a more connected Boston.

At BCC's core is the Choir Program, a multi-tiered music education and performance program involving approximately 450 students ages 7-18 in thirteen choirs at five levels of ability. BCC is an innovator with its replicable, sequential curriculum for sustained mastery in music theory and ear-training—teaching the fundamentals of music, as opposed to teaching songs by rote.

We invite you to follow the dotted line and learn how the journey to become a BCC singer begins!



Jr. Men's Ensemble (JME)

The Jr. Men's Ensemble is a program created to meet the unique needs of boys ages 10-18 with changing and recently changed voices who might not otherwise have a place to sing in a treble-only choir program.

Choral Union (CU)

Choral Union was created in 2010 for treble singers ages 12-18 who demonstrate enthusiasm for singing. The ensemble focuses on intensive vocal and music theory training.

Concert Choir (CC)

The Concert Choir is a treble ensemble of advanced singers ages 10-18. These singers receive intensive training in music theory and performance skills. Concert Choir performances include regional tours and symphonic works.

Premier Choir (PC)

The Premier Choir is an ensemble for the most advanced treble singers ages 12-18. Our premier performing group offers a stimulating, comprehensive, and demanding choral repertoire requiring an advanced level of musical skill.

The Premier Choir participates in local, national, and international tours.

Young Men's Ensemble (YME)

The Young Men's Ensemble is comprised of advanced singers ages 12-18 with changed voices. Our premier performing group offers a stimulating, comprehensive, and demanding choral repertoire requiring an advanced level of musical skill.

The Young Men's Ensemble participates in local, national, and international tours.

"I think that all the songs we have sung bring us all together and make us feel connected even if we are different from each other."

—Evelis, age 13



BCC PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

YW BOSTON RACE AND ETHNICITY DIALOGUES

Believing that our impact on our young people will be greater with support from their families, BCC collaborated this past fall with YW Boston to facilitate group discussions for BCC parents about race and social justice. Nearly 20 participants volunteered to meet in BCC's Social Innovation Lab for five weeks during their children's choir rehearsals. Participants reported feeling a great amount of trust during meetings; more ease talking with their families about race and inequality at home; greater awareness of others' perspectives; and more hesitancy to make snap judgments about other people. Group members are working with BCC to expand the program this fall so that more families can participate.

“We shared stories about raising our children and families, while sharing hardships about struggles and personal tragedies. BCC became a safe space to talk about contemporary issues affecting our community, including race and class. My daughter’s BCC community helped to broaden my perspective on humanity.”

—Chris, BCC Parent

1 Big social justice idea

2 Organizations committed to eliminating racism

14 BCC parent attendees

18 Hours of sharing personal stories of unconscious bias and societal archetypes based on race and ethnicity

16 Small group activities displaying the contrast of opportunity

BCC IN THE CLASSROOM

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARTS EXPANSION INITIATIVE

The Boston Children's Chorus collaborated with the Boston Public Schools Arts Office in implementing an intensive, multi-tiered professional development program for BPS music teachers. This initiative gives educators, district-wide, an opportunity to earn professional development (PD) points as they gain curriculum and instruction tools that will make an impact on their students. Participants join the group with district colleagues. The students who benefit from this instruction include those in both kindergarten through eighth grade and high school classrooms.

The teachers attended four sessions facilitated by Michele Adams, Director of Choirs, from October to May. In addition, they observed a master class with BCC's training and intermediate choirs led by Dr. Susan Brumfield, a renowned professor of music at Texas Tech University. Mid-year, BCC and Boston University College of Fine Arts co-hosted a two-day professional development (PD) weekend free of cost, open not only to the Boston Public Schools study group but to all educators. Music teachers do not often have the opportunity to interact with music educator colleagues, and hands-on PD work with kids is uncommon. This format gives the cohort a chance to witness best practices and learn further choral rehearsal techniques.

Senior artistic staff including Dr. Anthony Trecek-King and Michele Adams conducted classroom visits throughout the year. Each teacher was encouraged to visit BCC to observe rehearsals and witness BCC's model with children of all ages. At the end of the school year, each group member developed a project most relevant to his or her needs. BCC is able to offer professional development points, as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of Massachusetts, to the teachers for their attendance in the study group. Over the past six years, BCC has been able to share its music education framework with over thirty Boston Public School teachers.

15 Boston Public School teachers

2,000 Boston Public School students

28 Schools

2,035 Hours of BCC music education support

1 Professional Development Day Weekend

8 Months of BCC supporting Boston Public Schools

2 Boston Public School teachers who are now on BCC's artistic staff

“The weekend reassured me that I am thinking the right things around developing voices. I look forward to the study group sessions and participating in more enlightened conversations that rattle my thoughts.”

**—BPS Teacher, Dever-McCormack
K-8 School**

ANNUAL FUND DONORS 2014-2015

The Boston Children's Chorus is grateful for the generous support of the following individuals who donated \$1,000 or more to BCC's annual fund during the fiscal year.

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

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

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Anonymous (1)

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The grants and contributions listed were received between July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

LIBERATION TOUR DONORS

We sincerely thank the supporters of BCC's Liberation Tour to Prague and Berlin. These gifts provided scholarships to our singers who would not have otherwise been able to travel abroad due to lack of funds.

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Hillary Yates DeMello
Anonymous (3)

A special thank-you to Joel and Sue Sherman for their generosity of spirit and leadership. Their extraordinary efforts in securing support for the 2015 Liberation Tour are greatly appreciated.

PARENT DONORS

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

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2014-2015 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

We offer our deepest gratitude to all the patrons and audience members of BCC's 2014-2015 season. BCC's thirteen choirs collaborated with over 50 local and national organizations for performances that entertained thousands and spread the mission and vision of this organization. Performances included artistic collaborations, galas and conferences, community events, and local and international tours. We are honored to have partnered with these organizations to promote social harmony in Greater Boston and beyond.



ABOVE
PC and YME perform at the
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

BELOW
CIA at the Three Trebles Festival
in Princeton, NJ

American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Choral Directors Association Children's Honor Choir Festival
Au Bon Pain
Auschwitz Youth Program
Barr Foundation
Bayer
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Boston Symphony Brass Ensemble
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