

CCC 2020–21 – “Not Just Another Season”

8 December 2020

“If a choir is only about singing and performing there will be no choir for a while. If choir is about teaching and learning, growing, connecting, community, cultural exploration and transmission, and innovating, we will find a way to have choir.”

—Kellie Walsh, Choral Canada

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned our world upside down. Given all the rules around physical distancing and concerns about the safety of singing in groups, for the first time in over 50 years, the Canadian Centennial Choir (CCC) will not be performing live for Ottawa audiences.

That does not mean that we are inactive. Far from it! CCC is responding to the challenges of the pandemic with a combination of technology, creativity, energy, and good humour.

To chart a new path for this season and beyond, CCC created two committees: a Programming Committee and a Fundraising Committee. Both groups worked tirelessly over the summer to develop programming and fundraising ideas.

The Programming Committee focused on ensuring that the choir could continue to meet every Tuesday night (our usual in-person rehearsal night) via Zoom and developed a variety of learning and singing activities, including sight singing and ear training, sectional practices and singalong sessions, workshops on singing and breathing techniques, interviews with Canadian composers, virtual choir recordings, etc. We're proud that over 90 percent of our CCC singers are participating in our programming this year!

We have opened up some of our workshops to our patrons and other choirs to share the myriad of activities and the knowledge we are gaining. All of our workshops have been recorded and are available for free on our YouTube channel, [Canadian Centennial Choir – CCC](#). ***We will continue to make a number of our workshops available to the public. Check our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for the next available workshop.***

The CCC membership decided in May that we would honour all contractual commitments to staff and other continuing financial obligations for this season; hence the Fundraising Committee was formed to raise the necessary funds. While CCC does have a reserve fund, it will be needed to kickstart the choir when it is safe to start practising and holding concerts again—we anticipate there may be lower ticket revenues and higher costs at first (e.g., additional expenses related to physical distancing, and new cleaning and safety measures).

So, along with continuing our programming, we have expanded our fundraising efforts to cover our operating expenses.

Our Season Sponsor of the last number of years, Prospectus Associates, has already stepped up to renew their commitment (thank you, Prospectus!) and our Fundraising Committee has just introduced and run a new fall version of our ever-popular Frozen Berry campaign.

As we continue to navigate these new waters, we are grateful for the continued support of our choir members, our sponsors, our subscribers, our patrons, our donors, and our fans.

Working together, we can ensure that CCC keeps making music in Ottawa into the next year, decade and century!

Harry Bender

President
Canadian Centennial Choir