



2020

AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY

# ANNUAL REPORT

# The Ambassadors of Harmony



# Message from the AOH President

The Ambassadors of Harmony® (AOH) is the St. Louis area's premier men's a cappella chorus of more than 100 voices known for powerful and musically masterful performances. Its repertoire includes Broadway classics, barbershop, jazz, pop and a wide selection of holiday favorites.

AOH earned its fourth gold medal at Barbershop Harmony Society's July 2016 international contest in Nashville. AOH has sung for audiences across the United States and has also performed in England, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden.

The chorus represents the St. Charles, MO, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was founded in 1963 in St. Charles as the Daniel Boone Chorus. As the chorus improved and began winning competitions, it rebranded itself in 1991 as the Ambassadors of Harmony. Since then, the chorus has won dozens of competitions hosted by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Ambassadors of Harmony® chorus seeks to change the lives of audiences worldwide through artistic and emotionally-driven a cappella performances. AOH also strives for musical excellence and to promote the barbershop style.



The Ambassadors of Harmony is happy to share this annual report for 2020. As is true for all parts of life, 2020 was challenging. The last time the chorus was able to sing live

together was in March of 2020 for the Annual Foundation Gala. The next day, the quarantine was put into place and we have been virtual ever since. As an organization that thrives on live music and sharing with our audience, this has been a rough year. Even so, we have found a way to persevere and are very excited for what lies ahead in 2021. We can't do it without you, our patrons, our friends, our fans. Thank you for your support over the years and here's to a bright future together.

Tim Myers - President  
The Ambassadors of Harmony

# 2020 Excellence in the Arts Award

The Ambassadors of Harmony have long considered ourselves an arts organization--seeking to hone our voices to reach as close to perfection in the music we perform so that we share 'gold medal moments' with our audience. We have long sought to foster a love of singing barbershop and a cappella with youth, and to be a shining example of the vibrant creativity of the St. Louis area as we travel the USA and the world. In 2020, the St. Louis Arts and Education Council recognized that and presented us an 'Excellence in the Arts' award.



## Singing Valentines



In 2020 the Ambassadors revived a tradition of going out into the community to deliver Singing Valentines. We created our own site ([singingvalentines.net](http://singingvalentines.net)) specifically to streamline the process, and delivered over 30 valentines throughout the St. Louis metro.

THE  
AMBASSADORS OF  
HARMONY FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL GALA

**MARCH 7, 2020**  
SILENT AUCTION 6PM  
DINNER & PROGRAM 7PM

AT THE  
**CORONADO  
BALLROOM**  
3701 LINDELL BLVD  
ST. LOUIS MO 63108



The Ambassadors of Harmony  
**FOUNDATION**  
*Gala Evening*

The 2020 AOH Foundation Gala was the last live event for the Ambassadors before the lockdown, taking place in early March. It was an elegant affair in downtown St. Louis featuring Vocal Spectrum, The Recruits Chorus, and the Acappellooza Summer Chorus in addition to AOH.



# Message from the AOH Foundation President



I need not tell you the pandemic and its consequences have hit all of us very hard, in ways we had no way of anticipating. For those of us involved with live music performance, the past year has been particularly challenging.

Last year's AOH Foundation Gala was, for many of us, the last opportunity we had to gather with a large group and celebrate the pleasures of vocal music. As a singer myself, it has been frustrating not to be able to participate in rehearsals and performances, all of which occupy such an important part of my life.

We have witnessed a year in which both the Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus and the affiliated youth chorus, the Recruits, have suffered disappointment in not being able to travel for the yearly barbershop events that serve as such great rewards for the hard work they put in all year long. We were especially sorry the Recruits were unable to make their planned trip to Germany.

Nonetheless, the AOH Foundation has continued its efforts to support the organizations we value so dearly. And those organizations have done their part to keep the music resounding. The large virtual audience that reveled in the beauty of the Ambassadors of Harmony's virtual Christmas Show this past December can attest to the enduring satisfaction that comes with hearing music performed with skill, precision, and heart.

Meanwhile, the Foundation has added a terrific, talented, and energetic new member, Roy Kramer. Roy, whose professional qualifications include most of the letters of the alphabet (CPA/PFS, CDFA, CDS, NSSA), is a partner with the highly respected St. Louis based accounting firm Brown Smith Wallace. Roy, whom I happily shared board duties with when we were both members of the board of Kids In The Middle, has a long commitment to the arts, having served on the boards of Cinema St. Louis and Art St. Louis, and has also lent his expertise to the community through St. Louis Volunteer Accountants & Lawyers Association. On top of that, Roy is an accomplished guitarist. We look forward to a long association with Roy.

I write this having just received my second dose of vaccine, which gives me hope we are finally on the downslope of this wretched scourge, and that we will soon be able to gather and bask in the flow of great music-making. We are so pleased so many people are taking advantage of this year's virtual Gala. Your continued support will allow us to help the AOH and its educational outreach enrich the Greater St. Louis community with all of the smiles and positive feelings that go along with performing and listening to music.

Thanks. We couldn't do it without you.

Alan Freed - President, Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation

# AOH Youth Outreach Initiatives



## Acappellooza

Acappellooza Summer is an overnight a cappella music Summer camp held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis [UMSL] for students in grades 9-12. During the four day camp, students are immersed in singing led by some of the world's most prominent names in a cappella music, including two-time gold medalists Dr. Jim Henry and Debbie Cleveland. In 2019, 148 coed students attended the 6th annual camp.



For several years, AOH has been working with students in various St. Louis-area schools to share our love of a cappella singing [primarily in the barbershop style] with students and teachers. Project Harmony takes contemporary a cappella music back to its roots by integrating tight harmonies and barbershop singing techniques into a year-long program in local schools.



## Acappellooza

Acappellooza Fall is a two-day field trip for high-schoolers from all over Missouri and the Metro-East. Dr. Jim Henry and the Ambassadors of Harmony have been putting this together for 17 years, in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with help from the University Singers. This year, more than 1,041 students participated.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1997, the Ambassadors of Harmony have provided an annual college scholarship to local high school seniors. The \$1,000 scholarship is designed to encourage singers to continue to pursue vocal education and is presented at AOH's annual concert in June.

## ACAFEST

In 2016, AOH launched AcaFest, a festival of high school and college singers that gave local St. Louis groups opportunities to network and showcase their talents for an engaged audience. This year AcaFest will be held in April. Stay tuned for details!

## The RECRUITS Chorus

The Recruits chorus was formed in 2012 by AOH co-director Jonny Moroni to inspire, educate and provide choral opportunities for youth. Members benefit from performing before large audiences and receiving top-notch vocal instruction. In 2018 it welcomed new director, Eric Dalbey. In early 2019 the chorus became the first official BHS mixed chorus and plans to represent the society in Germany this March.



# Partners in Harmony

## GOLD (\$1,000-\$1,999)

David & Kay Tucker

## SILVER (\$500-\$999)

Susan & Lawrence  
Hanebrink

## BRONZE (\$250-\$499)

Susan Bauer  
Howard Berner  
George Collings  
Joan Wagner

## PARTNER (\$100-\$249)

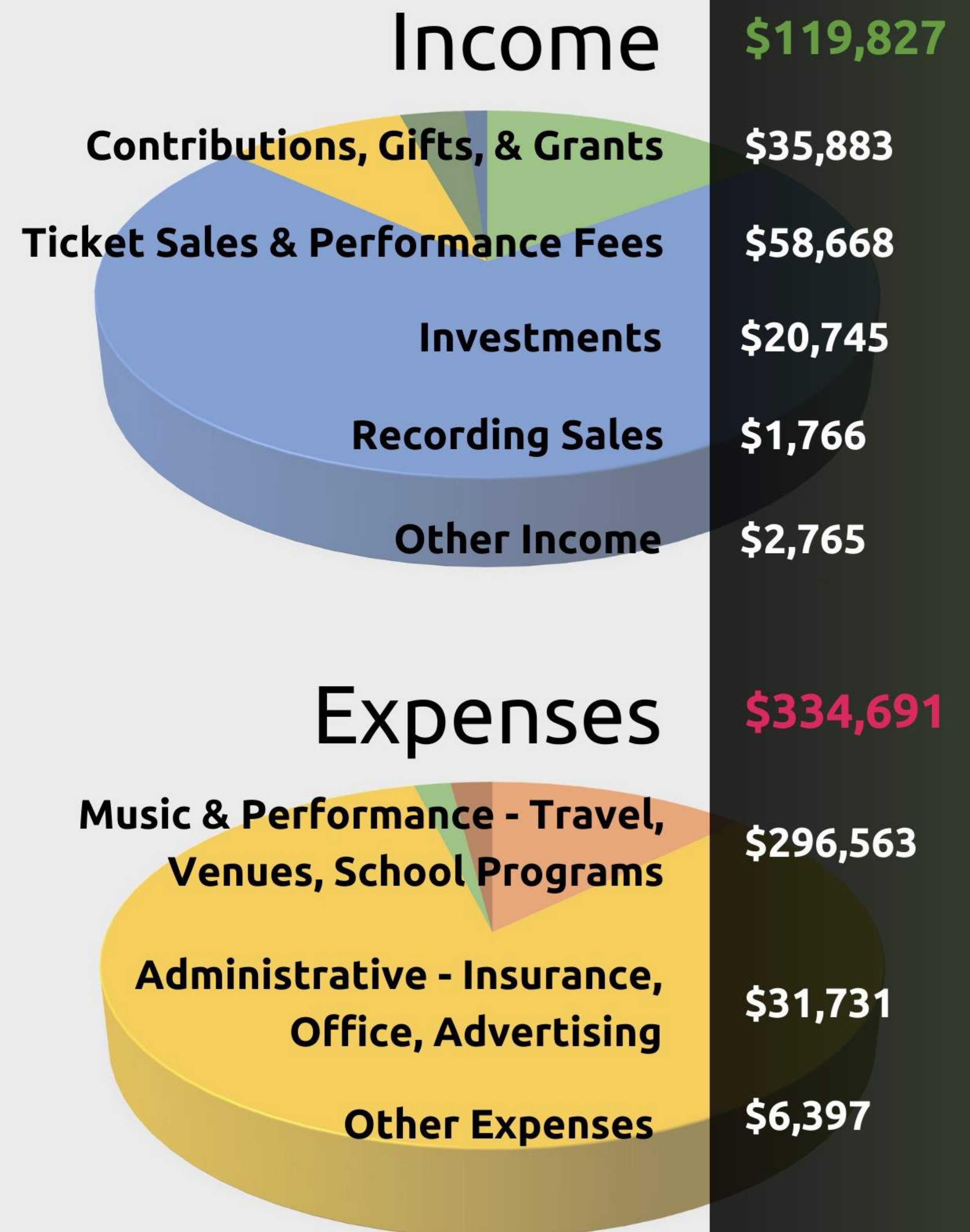
Susan Bachmann  
Dale Bieber  
Valerie Bland  
Tim Boeddeker  
Daniel Bothe  
Joseph Brown  
Timothy Bryles  
Brad Burch  
Douglas Durham  
Kenneth A. Gibson  
Nancy Laufer  
Tyler McClay  
H. Meyers  
Kathryn Norwood  
Ann Reisig  
Phillip Robertson  
Fred & Betty Robinson  
Alan Ruby  
John Richard Schien  
David Schmidt  
A. Dennis & Helene  
Sparger  
Dave Stookesberry  
E. Paul Unger  
Samuel Welge  
Kelly White  
Emily Williams

## PATRON (up to \$99)

Michael Albers  
Ted Anderson  
Arianne Aughey  
Brett Balasky  
Holly Beck  
Evie Renee Beers  
Julie Behrens  
Robert Bentzinger  
Beverly Berardinelli  
Paul Bloomer  
Patricia Boedeker  
Matt Bostick  
Tanya Briley  
Shirley Brown  
Janis Clodfelter  
Kathryn Cox  
Kathryn Coyle  
Martha Darling  
Martina Duperret  
Arthur Dusenbury  
Mary Emge  
Corinne Esnault  
Timothy Fitzgerald  
C. A. Forsee  
Stephen Ganz  
Sharon Gardnet  
Terry Gravermann  
Malinda Green  
Joan Grossmann  
Frances Hamilton  
Jamie Hanak  
Gwyndolyn Harvey  
Arne Helbig  
Theresa Hildebrandt  
Martha Hitchcock  
Kimberlee Hoehn  
Michael Isserman  
Judith Jensen  
Roger C. Johnson, Ph. D.  
Karen Kelly  
David Kersting  
Christine Knip

Paula Kraft  
Gustav Kuether  
Susan Lashly  
Robert Macdonald  
Anthony Manz  
Phil Marmelstein  
Ira McCauley  
Ben & Mary McReynolds  
Linda Mehl  
Marilyn Meyer  
Arlene Miller  
Carolyn Myers  
Carrie Newman  
Parker Nilsen  
Susan Oaks  
Linda Odell  
Susdan Oefelein  
Richard Olds  
Sandra Olsen  
Douglas Peterman  
Dolores Pobst  
Mary Pohlman  
Susan Pundmann  
Rama Puppala  
Randy Rensi  
Steve Schenk  
Leanne & Harvey  
Schneider (in honor of  
Charlie Yeldham)  
Janet Simpson  
Gregory Smith  
Norm Smith  
Melanie Stahlheber  
Gwen Stauder  
Jeffrey Stone  
Carol Witt Strassburger  
Susan Taylor  
Carrol Virus  
Deb Wess  
Bruce White  
Jessica White  
Melissa White  
John Wilkie

# INCOME AND EXPENSES



Information from 2019 AOH Form 990

# 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

President: J. Tim Myers

Executive VP: Rich Meyers

Secretary: Denny Gallagher

Treasurer: Chris Pingel

VP Chapter Development: Steve Knese

VP Music & Performance: Matt Suellentrop

VP Communications, Marketing & PR: Dave Revelle

Board Member at Large (2021): Ryan Smith

Board Member at Large (2020-2021): JT Reid

Board Member at Large (2021-2022): Michael Testa

Board Member at Large (2021-2022): Stan Johnson

Immediate Past President: Michael Rubin

## MUSIC DIRECTORS

Co-Director: Dr. Jim Henry

Co-Director: Jonny Moroni

Associate Director: David Wright

Images courtesy of Elizabeth Merkel, Josh Marino,  
Dave Revelle, Mike Schoen, Lance Theby, & the  
Arts & Education Council of St. Louis

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