

Annual Report



Glen Ellyn
Children's
Chorus

2022-2023

Prepared By:
Evan Bruno
Artistic Director





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Artistic Director

*Anima is where
choir and
community meet.*

A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

How can I fully convey the ways in which I've been inspired, challenged and moved in these first twelve months as the Artistic Director of Anima - Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus?

I have long held high regard for this esteemed organization. Under the exceptional leadership of my predecessors like Doreen and Emily, Anima - GECC has exemplified the finest in choral education and performance. From Grammy-award winning performances to international travel, Anima provides singers in Glen Ellyn and its surrounding communities with a truly world-class musical experience.

As we know these past few years have been challenging in many ways. Funding for the arts has changed, students are inclined to try many activities as opposed to just one and a global pandemic stopped us all in our tracks. I arrived to an organization where the numbers were down but the *spirit* and sense of community were as emboldened as they've always been!

The world we live in has changed. We know that young people are more committed than ever and they also carry the burden of social media, climate change, mental health, and identity. Many students find that expressing themselves fully and truthfully comes with the harsh scrutiny of the world around them. They need a safe space and we must engage them in new ways!

Choral singing helps to develop the whole child by giving them a safe space to find their voice. Our repertoire will continue to expose young minds to global communities, inspiring curiosity, empathy and open-mindedness.

Our mission is to get more kids singing in more ways and in more places. This coming year we're adding classes to engage more young people and provide more opportunities for singing with us. Classes to look forward to are Glen Ellyn Carolers, Musical Theater Workshops, and for our youngest choristers, Prep Chorus! Next summer, we'll be partnering with D41 Foundation to engage with their summer musical.

One singer commented that Anima is where choir and community meet. We are renewing our commitment to local and community-based performances. Look for Anima - GECC at events around town!

Five hundred, twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes. How do we measure the fullness of this year? When we measure it in joy, I will tell you that it feels very full and complete. But, when I think about it in terms of the journey, *WE* are just getting started!

Evan B. Bruno



A YEAR IN REVIEW

- August 2022: Evan Bruno is named Artistic Director of Anima - Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus
- December 2022: Sip & Sing held for the first time
- December 2022: Winter Concert, Wentz Hall
- March 2023: J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Music of the Baroque
- March 2023: Musical Theater Showcase, First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn
- April 2023: Return of SingFest with Dr. Rollo Dilworth (SingFest was last held in 2019)
- May 2023: Spring Concert, First United Methodist of Glen Ellyn
- May 2023: New website is launched
- June 2023: Anima participates in Lombard Family Pride Festival
- June/July 2023: *Be A PopStar!* Summercamp
- July 2023: Tour to London and Canterbury as part of the International Children's Chorus Festival

Why is Anima important to you?

I love singing, and being with people with the same interest is just amazing. But I've also found that everyone here is going through issues and that we all need a safe space. Anima is that place, no one judges you on your identity, sexuality, or race. There are no groups within the group and everyone's always included. Whenever I feel down I just remember that I have everyone in Anima ready to back me up. I wish that everyone in the world could have a safe place like Anima, and I'm very blessed to be here and to have friends and family like Anima.

- 6th Grade Concert Chorister





85%

Families enrolled in Anima - GECC for the 2022-2023 program year would highly recommend the chorus to a friend.

100%

Of students surveyed are satisfied or highly satisfied with their experience in Anima - GECC.

100%

College enrollment for graduating seniors.



Graduating Seniors:

Iris Swanberg, Mount Mary University
Daniel Prokudin, College of DuPage
Jackson Zier, College of DuPage

Tour 2023: London and Canterbury



This tour marked Anima's first tour since 2018 and transformed the lives of our youth by providing them with the opportunity to form deeper bonds with their friends within the chorus, meet new friends from neighboring children's choruses - specifically our "cousins" at Indianapolis Children's Chorus, and begin to gain skills necessary to be classified as a global citizen. Our singers performed three times in Canterbury Cathedral, viewed the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London and even got to see "Wicked" on London's historic West End.



Articulating Our Future

Our Mission:

To empower young people to experience the joy of singing together and to discover their own potential through personal and collective excellence.

Our Vision:

To be the choral organization that allows more people to sing, in more ways and in more places.

Our Values:

We are a community that is welcoming, inclusive and supportive as we challenge ourselves and strive to reach new levels of individual and collective performance and excellence.



*Why
Anima?*

*Witnessed my child's growth firsthand, Cultural value of musical repertoire, Exceptional instruction, Welcoming and familial atmosphere
- Parent of Anima Singer*

*Anima provides a welcome break from the business of the week while also being challenging and engaging. On top of all of that, it provides a great community and a chance to connect with friends.
- 8th Grade Touring Chorister*

People and Numbers

Total Enrollment: 119

KidSingers: 26

Treble Chorus: 25

Concert Chorus: 18

Touring Chorus: 26

Musical Theater Workshop (pilot): 6

Summer Camp: 18

Staff

Artistic Director (F/T): Evan Bruno

Executive Director/Bookkeeper (P/T): Theresa Olvera

Principal Accompanist (P/T): Bill Buhr

Program Coordinator (P/T): Emma Burck (through June)

Associate Music Director (P/T): Monica Bertrand* (through December)

Accompanists: Jeremy Zimmer and Daniel Segner

**In January 2023, Evan Bruno began teaching all levels of Anima - GECC*

Board of Directors

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Kim Lloyd-Eichenauer

Danielle Wetle

Treasurer: Maggie McCoy

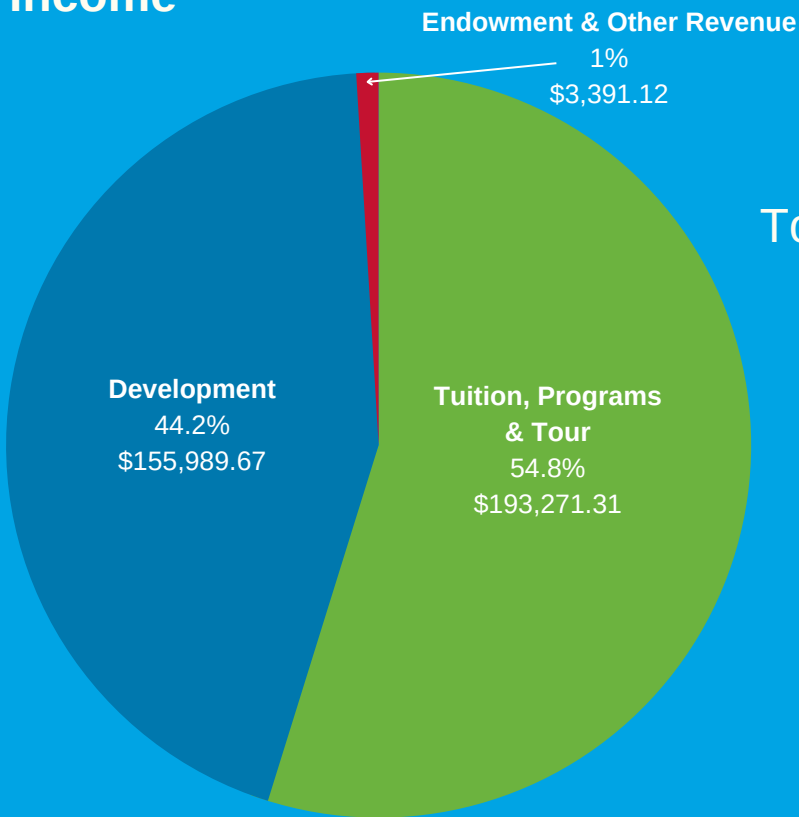
Alex Lopez

Secretary: Kate Tebrugge



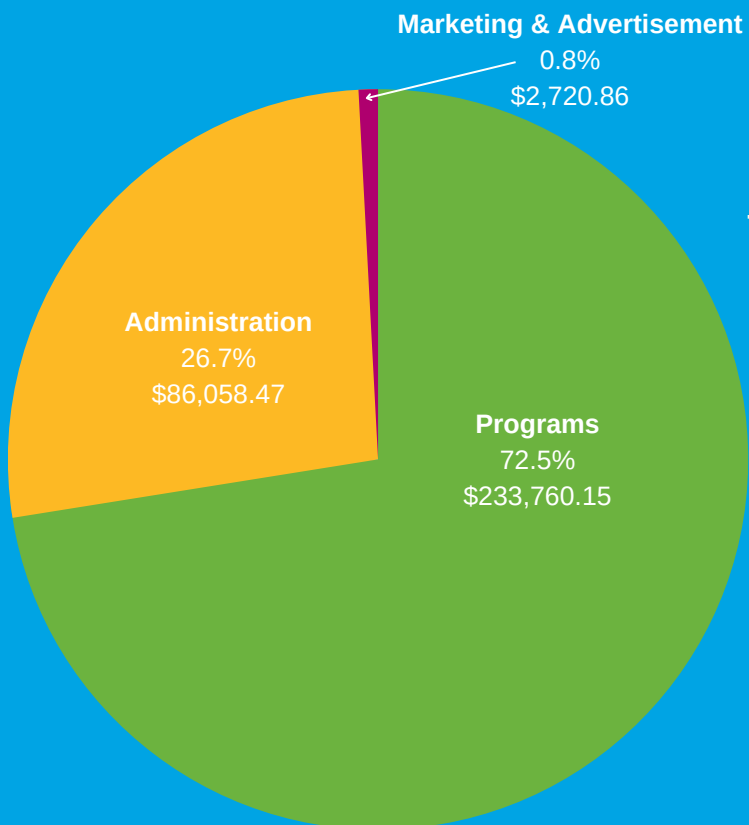
Financial Data

Income



Total Operating Revenue
\$352,652.10

Expenses



Total Operating Expenses
\$322,539.48

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Help us empower young people to find their voice!



501 Hill Avenue
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137
www.anima-singers.org

Stay Connected

