

it
Starts
with **Us**



TUCSON
GIRLS
CHORUS

COMMUNITY
IMPACT
REPORT

2023/24



DEAR TGC COMMUNITY,

AT TGC, OUR MISSION has always been to build girls' confidence and character, create a sense of belonging, encourage leadership, and affirm that their voices matter. As we grow, that mission has expanded into *changing the world through the power of music*. With ambitious goals for the future, we remain rooted in our values: accessible and nuanced singing for women and girls of all ages, singer-led programming, leadership development, and fostering meaningful relationships.

OUR 2023-24 SEASON was a flourishing success, both in *programming and community engagement*. We proudly expanded to over 370 talented singers, including babies and toddlers, from 35 different zip codes. We awarded scholarships to 108 deserving young musicians and provided subsidized programming in partnership with school districts to five Title I schools. Our Mariposa and Jubilate Choirs represented TGC with performances outside our city and state at the highest levels. This past June, we were thrilled to bring our Advanced Choir and Alumnae members on a tour to Spain and Portugal, where we performed to enthusiastic audiences.



AT TGC, GIRLS' VOICES RESONATE far beyond the concert halls. They contribute to board strategic plan meetings, staff artistic plan discussions, and, just as importantly, within each rehearsal space. Together, we lead and build the future of our organization. Our work transcends music, emphasizing personal development, community building, and using music as a powerful tool to *nurture self-worth, foster belonging, and inspire civic engagement*.

YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT ensures that these young voices are not only heard but celebrated, *helping to build brighter futures*. Thank you for being an essential part of this inspiring journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marcela Molina
Director, Tucson Girls Chorus



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Tucson Girls Chorus is to prepare a diverse group of young women to be confident leaders through participation in a well-constructed educational program that emphasizes music, performance, leadership training and community service.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Inclusion, diversity, access, and equity are valued and practiced in all aspects of the Tucson Girls Chorus. We do not discriminate in any activity on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, bodily expression, socioeconomic status, national origin, or physical or developmental ability. As stated in the TGC's mission, the TGC mainly serves young women. We accept all female-identifying youth, regardless of the sex/gender they were assigned at birth.

2023-2024 SEASON

The 2023/24 season - **IT STARTS WITH US!** is inspired by the representation of the infinite circle.

This year, we focused on 3 circles surrounding us: one circle that forms confident, complete versions of ourselves; one that extends compassion to our community, family, and friends; and a third broadens the impact we can have in our local and global communities.

BY THE NUMBERS



3100

Total students reached;
1500 from Title I Schools



400

Total 2023-2024 Singers
231 Full Season Singers
117 Engagement Choir Singers
52 Short Season Singers



35

Zip Codes Served



\$96,900

Awarded through scholarships
and subsidized programs



55

Local music educators
supported to increase teacher
recruitment & retention



64

Campers in Shine!
Performing Arts Camp



96% of TGC Parents

Report an increase in their singers of at least one mission-based
characteristic: self-confidence, acceptance of others, responsibility,
increased appreciation for music, and/or sense of belonging.

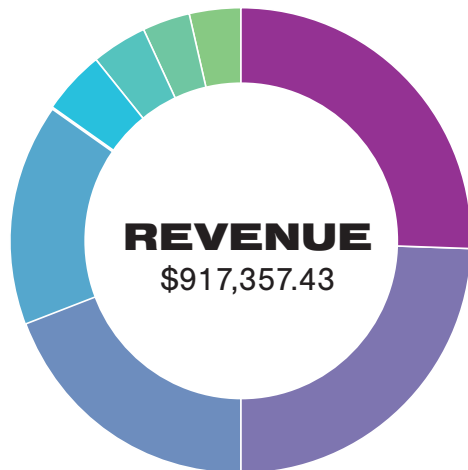


4 NEW PROGRAMS

Las Estrellas at Safford K-8,
CDO Adaptive Project Choir,
Music Teacher Mentorship,
Tunes for Tots

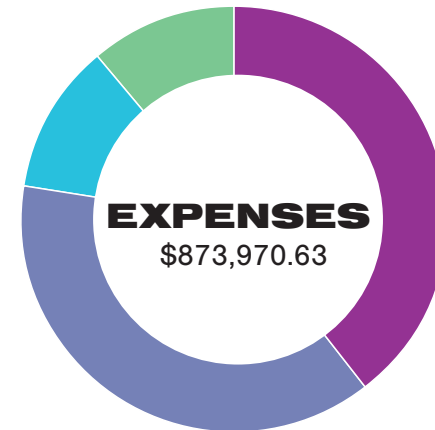
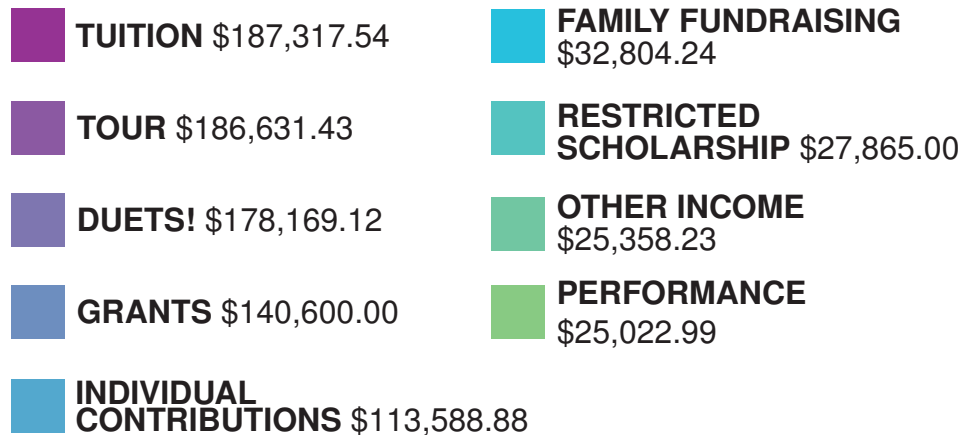
TGC FINANCIALS

The TGC's programming is funded by membership fees and ethical fundraising practices. We are committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, and are grateful to the community's collaborations that help to ensure sustainable programming.



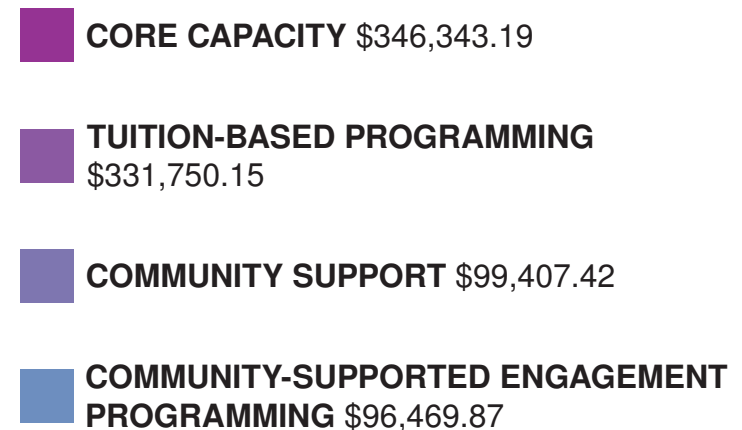
REVENUE

\$917,357.43



EXPENSES

\$873,970.63



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FULL SEASON PROGRAMS

weekly Aug – May

- » **BUMBLEBEE SINGERS** (K-1; Central & NW)
- » **LADYBUGS CHOIR** (2-3; Central & NW)
- » **HUMMINGBIRDS CHOIR** (4-5; Central & NW)
- » **LAS ESTRELLAS CHOIRS** (2-5; partner school locations)
 - » *Las Estrellas Choirs* are fully-subsidized after-school choral programs run in partnership with Title I schools and districts
 - » *5 locations in 2023/24:* Prince, Keeling, and Holaway Elementaries, Morgan Maxwell and Safford K-8s
- » **MARIPOSA SINGERS** (6-8; Central)
- » **JUBILATE CHOIR** (8-12; Central)
- » **ADVANCED CHOIR** (9-12; Central)

SHORT SEASON PROGRAMS

weekly Sep – Nov & Feb – May

- » **TUNES FOR TOTS** (0–5yr; Central)
- » **TUTTI CHOIR** (K-12; Central)
 - » *Tutti Choir* is a co-ed adaptive choir
- » **POP ACAPELLA GROUP** (9-12; NW)

PROJECT CHOIRS

scheduled by request



- » **CANYON DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL ADAPTIVE CHOIR**
- » **LAPAN COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER**
- » **NATIVE AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION (NAAF)**
 - » Quarterly virtual music classes for students in the GuVo District of the Tohono O'odham Nation

FESTIVALS



- » **TREBLE FEST** (grades 9-12)
- » **SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHILDREN'S CHORAL FESTIVAL** (grades 3-6)
 - » with the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus

MUSIC EDUCATOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

year-round



- » **FREE SCHOOL VISITS**
offered year-round to
choral and general music
classrooms
- » **SUMMER PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
- » **MUSIC TEACHER
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**
 - » Intensive classroom
support for one
semester or one year,
designed to improve
school music teacher
retention in Tucson and
the surrounding area

- » **FESTIVALS, CONFERENCES, & WORKSHOPS**

- » TGC Staff frequently present and conduct at state,
regional, and national choral festivals and conferences



TGC STAFF

A special thank you to the TGC staff who use their remarkable talents and skills to fuel our mission and inspire our girls!

ADMINISTRATIVE

- ♪ **MARCELA MOLINA, DMA** | Director, Associate Conductor
- ♪ **JESS EDELBROCK, MM** | Director of Operations, Associate Conductor
- ♪ **NICKY MANLOVE, MM** | Director of Community Engagement, Associate Conductor, Pianist
- ♪ **BRANDI DIGNUM, BM** | Director of Education, Associate Conductor
- ♪ **APRIL NIER** | Administrative Manager
- ♪ **LISA ROBINSON, CFRE** | Fundraising Consultant
- ♪ **CHARLENE DEAL** | Bookkeeper
- ♪ **ANNA MAIDEN** | HR Consultant

ARTISTIC

- ♪ **GLORIA DAY, MMed** | Associate Conductor
- ♪ **SIERRA NORRIS, PHD** | Associate Conductor
- ♪ **ANNALUPE RODRIGUEZ** | Pianist
- ♪ **DANIEL DUNNING** | Pianist
- ♪ **DEBORAH OSBORN** | Pianist
- ♪ **INA SELVELIEVA, DMA** | Pianist
- ♪ **KATHRYN LIEPPMAN, MM** | Pianist
- ♪ **LUANN COX, MM** | Pianist
- ♪ **ALAINA WEGNER** | Choir Assistant
- ♪ **CHELSEA CANNON '21** | Choir Assistant
- ♪ **CHLOE BELL '21** | Choir Assistant



SPECIAL THANKS

The TGC is governed by a dedicated group of volunteer board members. We thank them for their time and talents to help lead and set a strategic vision of growth for our girls!

2023–2024 BOARD OF DIERCTORS

- ♪ **MELISSA SOLYN** | President
- ♪ **VANESSA HELMS** | Past President
- ♪ **KAREN MOODY** | President Elect
- ♪ **MONICA MEDLEN '15** | Treasurer
- ♪ **MIKE SCIONTI** | Secretary
- ♪ **MATTHEW BELL** | Member
- ♪ **MELISSA TOMLINSON** | Member
- ♪ **CATHLEEN LINN** | Member
- ♪ **HAILEY FINN '14** | Member
- ♪ **SCOTT MATLICK** | Member
- ♪ **CHELSEA ACREE** | Member

A special thanks to some outstanding individuals and organizations who went above and beyond this year to advance TGC's mission!

- ♪ **ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS** for continuing to provide sustainable support and access to the arts.
- ♪ **DEBRA HADDOCK** for being an angel to our girls!
- ♪ **LAPAN SUNSHINE FOUNDATION** for expanding access to singers.
- ♪ **THE LEVIN FAMILY** for ensuring girls always have access to singing.
- ♪ **PIMA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AND ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** for giving our girls a place to call home.
- ♪ **STONEWALL FUND** for your years of unwavering support to the TGC.
- ♪ **THE STEARNS FAMILY** for continuing your legacy of support for the TGC girls!



SINGING IN COMMUNITY

"Having an **expert teacher** to connect with and learn from is a truly **tremendous beacon of light** shining through the isolation I experience as the only choir teacher in my school. I believe teachers practice what we preach about maintaining a growth mindset. We want to continually get better at what we do so that we can serve students better. Yet schools do not currently have enough structures in place that would support us teachers learning what is most important to us. TGC has filled a gaping hole for me and provided a **meaningful opportunity for professional growth** so that I can be the best I can be for my students."

– **Natalie Killom**, *Teacher Mentorship Program*



"Weekly rehearsals have offered my daughter an opportunity to share her joy for singing with an encouraging group of peers and mentors. I've observed **significant improvement in her vocal skills and a boost in self-confidence**. I appreciate how TGC values every voice. They work hard to foster a sense of shared purpose, where the value of **personal dedication and teamwork** are evident. I am thankful that my daughter is part of such an **uplifting community**."

– **Parent of Mallory**



"TGC has provided our daughter with **a safe and encouraging environment to be herself**. She has grown from a shy and quiet girl to a busy bee pollinating the world with her beautiful voice. From singing down the halls at home to breaking out into song and dance at the store, she utilizes the **confidence and technique** that she has gathered because of the love and support that is offered by TGC."

– **Parents of Avery**



"TGC has created an environment where my daughter feels welcomed, where she has a voice, and where she can do hard things. **High challenge, high support** -- this is the TGC recipe for growth that I have witnessed week after week. You can see the conductor's artistry in moving the girls to where they need to be musically, infusing structure and high expectations into each rehearsal, while finding joy in the moment. Speaking of joy, my daughter has loved any time she gets to spend with older TGC members, at rehearsals, during Shine camp, or as a postcard in the mail. The mentorship component of TGC is **intentional and impactful** and truly rounds out this incredible experience for girls."

– **Parents of Grace**

TUCSON GIRLS CHORUS IN CONCERT

2023/24 Highlights

- ♪ TGC added a new **Las Estrellas Choir** at Safford K–8 School
- ♪ **Bumblebee Singers** were the youngest choir to perform at Arizona chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association State Conference
- ♪ **Jubilate Choir** and **Advanced Choir** recorded Jocelyn Hagen's "Here I Am" with True Concord Voices and Orchestra
- ♪ TGC launched a new **Music Teacher Mentorship Program** aimed at increasing public school music teacher retention in Tucson and the surrounding areas
- ♪ TGC's Upper Choirs (**Mariposa Singers**, **Jubilate Choir**, and **Advanced Choir**) represented TGC on tour to Phoenix, San Diego, and Spain and Portugal, respectively
- ♪ **Mariposa Singers** piloted **COMPOSE LIKE A GIRL: My Voice Soars**— a new composition program in collaboration with award-winning composer Jocelyn Hagen, and in collaboration with True Concord Voices and Orchestra and Literacy Connects
- ♪ TGC launched **Tunes for Tots**— a new experiential program for babies and toddlers



Stay tuned for even more TGC events throughout the season!

Don't miss TGC this season!

Radiant SOUNDS OF WINTER 2024

DECEMBER 15, 2024
U of Arizona Crowder Hall
2PM & 5PM



DUETS!

APRIL 27, 2025
Tucson Jewish Community Center
3:30pm



Rooted SOUNDS OF SPRING 2025

MAY 18, 2025
U of Arizona Crowder Hall
2PM & 5PM





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