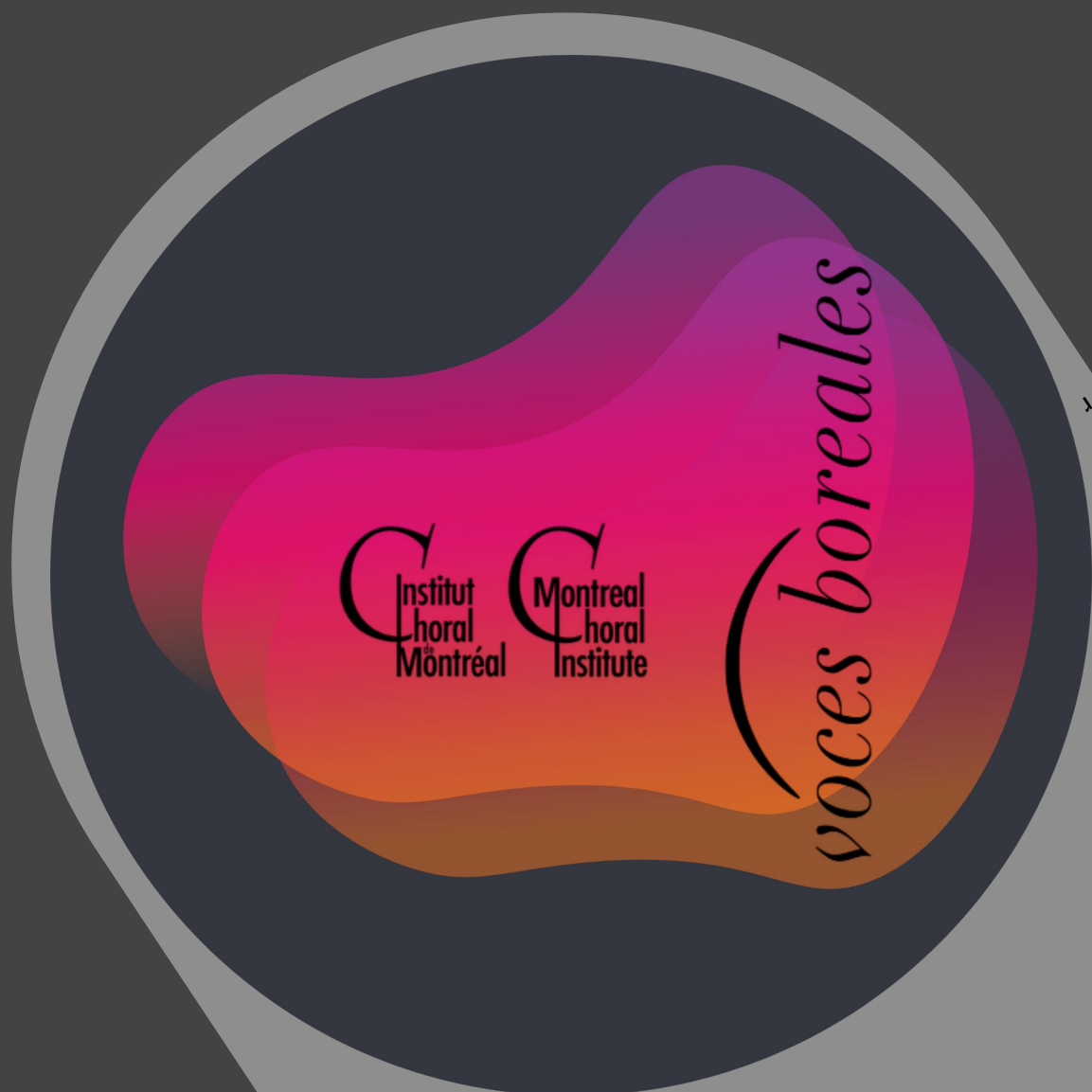


ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025

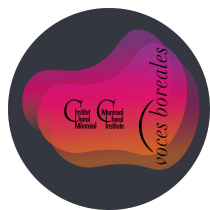
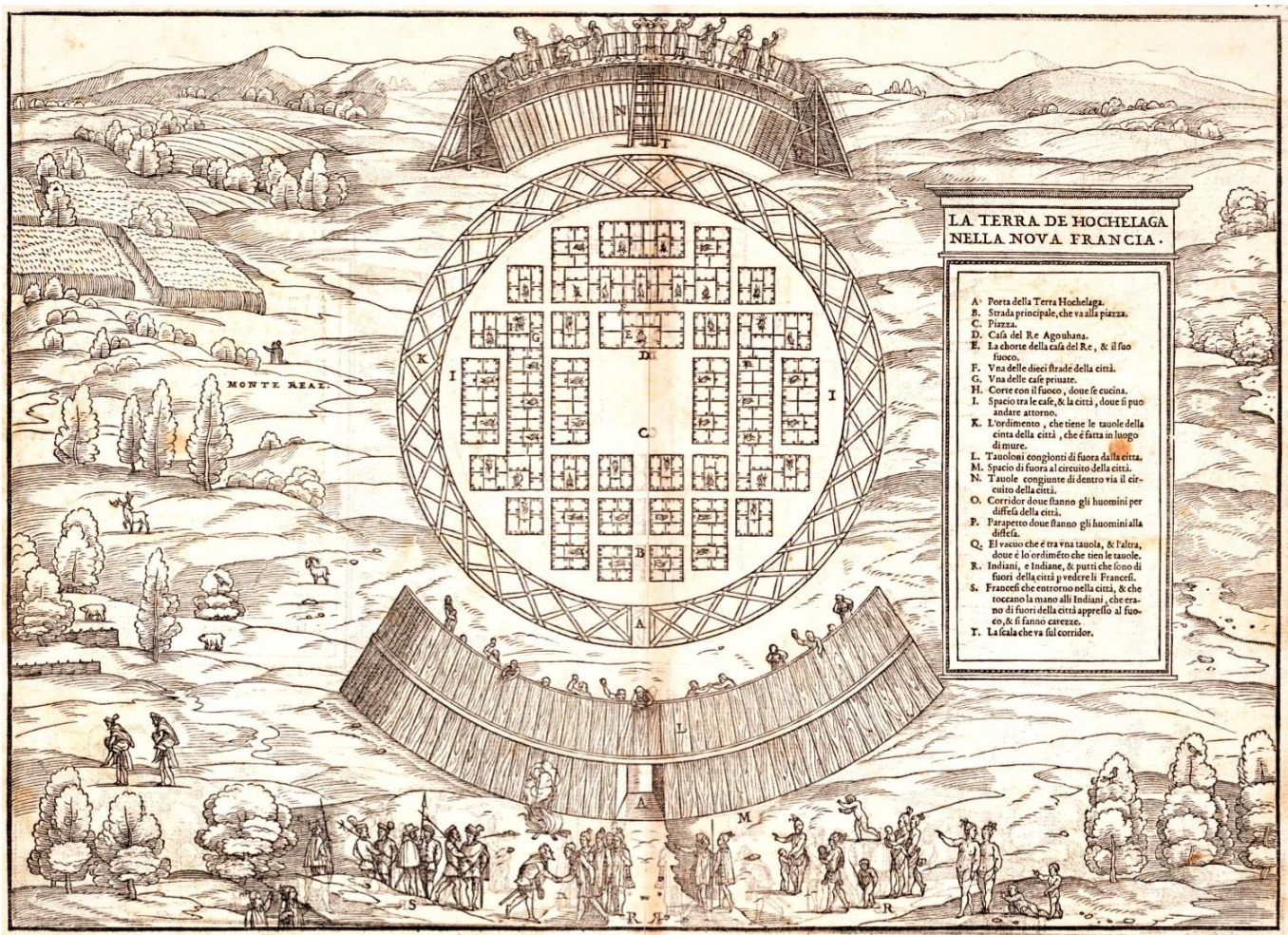


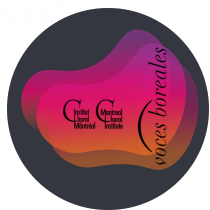
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We are located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodian of the lands and waters where we offer our efforts. Tiohtià:ke / Montreal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of peoples, indigenous and otherwise. We emphasize the ongoing ties to the past, present and future in our relationships with Indigenous and other peoples in the Montreal community.

The territory was also a place of diplomatic encounter with other Iroquoians and Algonquians, including the Algonquin-Anishinaabe, Atikamekw and Huron-Wendat. We recognize that we are located on a land that has been the site of human creativity and storytelling for thousands of years, and we are grateful to be able to create, collaborate, play, and work here.





ABOUT US

Over the past 20 years, the chamber choir Voces Boreales has become a leading force in Montreal, renowned for its artistic excellence across Canada. Its repertoire spans more than four centuries of classical music, and under Andrew Gray's direction, the ensemble collaborates with Montreal and Canadian composers to shape the city's vibrant choral landscape.

"Voces Boreales has once again proven itself to be one of the best in Canada."
Justin Bernard, La Scena Musicale

"An exceptional vocal octet from Montreal."
Frédéricka Petit-Homme, CBC



Five-time finalist for the Opus Awards

Our Vision

We aim to highlight contemporary choral music by creating innovative performances and achieving artistic excellence that is widely recognised.

We bring this vision to life through transformative, socially engaged choral experiences, where diverse voices meet and the living stories of our communities resonate.

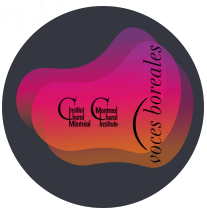
Our Mission

Concerts | Education | Community

Concerts: Voces Boreales offers authenticity and emotion. Deeply attuned to the beauty of classical works, it gives audiences the opportunity to experience moments of joy and shared connection.

Education: The ensemble works closely with emerging Canadian composers to offer programming rich in discovery, helping to shape the soundscape of the 21st century.

Community: Each year, it offers masterclasses and workshops for choral conductors, composers, and singers, helping to strengthen and support a vibrant and connected choral community.



ABOUT US

Under the direction of Andrew Gray, the professional chamber choir Voces Boreales highlights Montreal's rich choral tradition while shaping the city's contemporary soundscape. Its work is structured around three main areas: concert production, commissioning and performing new works, and training the next generation of artists. Voces Boreales is the city's leading chamber choir, with a repertoire spanning more than four centuries of music.

Concerts

Comprising 20 to 40 exceptional singers, the choir explores ambitious works and bold collaborations with artists such as Quatuor Bozzini, Flûtes Alors!, Quasar, BradyWorks, and the poet Hélène Dorion.

VB8, an eight-member vocal octet drawn from the ensemble, presents intimate concerts emphasizing repertoire accessibility and close connection with audiences. The immersive installation Camino allows choral art to inhabit unconventional public spaces, extending the ensemble's reach beyond Quebec.

Workshops

Through educational initiatives tailored to the choral community, Voces Boreales actively contributes to its development. The choral singing workshop, composition workshop, and masterclass in choral conducting provide hands-on training to prepare participants for the specific challenges of the choral field.

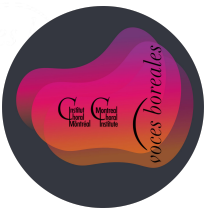
New Music

As it embarks on its 20th season, Voces Boreales reaffirms its dedication to Quebec composers. Since 2014, the ensemble has performed more than 60 Canadian works, including over a dozen world premieres.

The Montreal Choral Institute

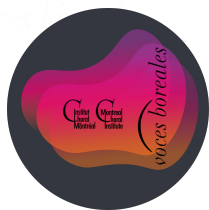
The Montreal Choral Institute (MCI) is the producer of the Voces Boreales chamber choir and the VB8 octet. Andrew Gray is the artistic director.

The MCI is a member of Le Vivier, the Quebec Choral Alliance and the Conseil québécois de la musique.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2024–25

- Our team is actively advancing a strategic plan to raise the visibility and reputation of Voces Boreales and VB8 within the broader artistic community.
- We are proactively building relationships with government agencies to secure vital financial support.
- We remain dedicated to offering a concert series that is both diverse and innovative (see “A Word from our Artistic Director”).
- The *Path of Miracles* project—a unique urban pilgrimage—continues to move forward with enthusiasm and purpose.
 - After a successful digital installation of *Path of Miracles* in June 2023, we are now embracing the next phase of this dynamic project.
 - Now renamed *Camino*, the project better captures our vision of the visitor experience as a journey or pilgrimage.
 - Our partnership with Barbara Scales (Latitude 45) is instrumental in promoting *Camino* throughout North America and abroad.
- Broadening and diversifying our funding streams:
 - In response to notable funding challenges across the cultural sector—including reductions in annual support—we are developing new revenue streams. Our ongoing successful fundraising campaign has already shown promising results and will remain a central focus moving forward.
 - We are also strengthening our relationships with foundations to secure additional support.
- We bid a sad farewell to former Board Member Martin Thiboutot and express our deep gratitude for his dedication and service over the past two years.
- Ongoing governance initiatives are clarifying processes and responsibilities across our Board and administrative teams, while we actively seek to attract new Board members.



OUR TEAM

The Board:

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Administrator

Diane M. Ellison
Pierre Thibaudeau
Philip Raphals
Marie-Ève Racine-Legendre
Martin Thiboutot

The Team:

Artistic Director
Marketing and Communications Manager
Administrative Coordinator

Andrew Gray
Alexia Jensen
Marilou Pagé

INSTITUT CHORAL DE MONTRÉAL | MONTREAL CHORAL INSTITUTE
www.vocesboreales.org

Membres exécutifs du conseil Board Executive



Diane M. Ellison
Président du conseil
d'administration et
directeur général |
Chair of the Board &
General Manager



Pierre Thibaudeau
Vice-président Conseil
d'administration |
Vice President Board of
Directors



Philip Raphals
Trésorier | Treasurer



**Marie-Eve Racine-
Legendre**
Secrétaire | Secretary

Membres du conseil Board Administrators



Martin Thiboutot
Administrateur |
Administrator

Équipe artistique Artistic Team



Andrew Gray
Directeur Artistique |
Artistic Director

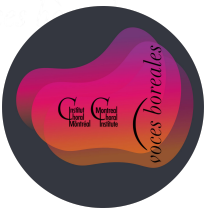
Administration



Alexia Jensen
Responsable du
marketing et de la
communication |
Marketing &
Communications
Manager



Marilou Pagé
Coordinatrice
administrative |
Administrative
Coordinator



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Music is the language of the spirit.
It opens the secret of life, bringing peace and abolishing strife.**

Khalil Gibran

From my very first encounter with *Voces Boreales*, the word *ethereal* came immediately to mind—the ensemble's sound is truly transcendent. Under the visionary leadership of Andrew Gray, their exceptional vocal purity, emotional depth, and wide-ranging repertoire continue to captivate and inspire audiences.

In the face of today's global challenges, our collective longing for peace, solace, and authentic human connection has never been more profound. In this context, the contributions of *Voces Boreales* to our shared cultural and emotional well-being are more vital than ever.

Over the years, the ensemble has evolved from an outstanding amateur choir into the accomplished professional organization we so deeply admire today. This remarkable transformation has been made possible through the unwavering commitment of a dedicated Board of Directors, along with the countless—often unseen—efforts that sustain and strengthen the organization. Thanks to the passion and perseverance of so many, the foundations of *Voces Boreales* have never been stronger.

As we approach our 20th anniversary, we look forward with great anticipation to celebrating this milestone through a dynamic series of artistic events. We would be honored to welcome you to these special celebrations.

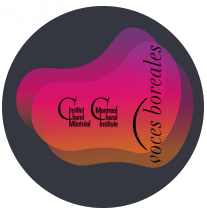
To our staff, singers, donors, volunteers, audiences, and partners, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your steadfast support has shaped every success and made all that we have achieved together possible.

Here's to 20 years of music, excellence, and community.

Diane M. Ellison

President of the Board of Directors / Executive Director





A WORD FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This was a season in which we were able to develop artistically with both performance groups (Voces Boreales and VB8) in terms of content / repertoire, personnel, new collaborations and outreach. As always the season included certain creations and premiere performances.

- Winter Magic (NDBS et Rdv NDG) (December 2024)

A new Christmas programme for VB8 brought further variations in musical styles and arrangements, and provided our first outdoor winter event thanks to a collaboration with Rendezvous NDG. It was also an opportunity to rehearse-in a couple of new singers to VB8.

- Once Upon 8 Times (Verdun et Dorval) (March-April 2025)

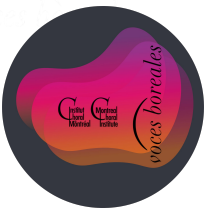
This was a programme that I'd wanted to put together for a long time as it showed off yet further the stylistic flexibility of the smaller group. A cappella harmonisations of folk tunes, children's songs, jazz standards, popular song and quebécois chansons were all represented, told stories from across the ages and had plenty for everyone of any age or taste. Due to a terrible storm the Verdun event was disappointingly under-attended, but still provided the opportunity for the group to develop its ensemble in the lovely acoustics of another church venue, and for image / sound capture for promotional uses. The concert in Dorval for Festival de la Voix was warmly and enthusiastically received.

- In memoriam Jocelyn Morlock (May 2025)

It was a great pleasure to be invited as guest conductor, with Voces Boreales as the invited chorus, to collaborate with the SMCQ on a concert in memory of Jocelyn Morlock. This third and final major project of their subscription-season provided another opportunity to work once again with a skilled group of instrumentalists. VB has performed a number of Morlock's works in the past—and we had also tried to commission a new work (with Architek percussion) but she fell ill and a while thereafter tragically passed away. There was therefore both an artistic and human depth to this project that included one of her most well known pieces *Exaudi*, as well as a new work (amongst various special commissions) of *You are a vessel for joy* by Rita Ueda.

The event was well received by the media as you can read elsewhere in this document.





A WORD FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- Vibrations (May 2025)

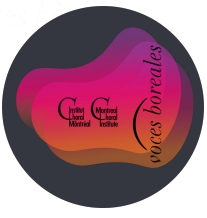
Speaking personally, I feel that the concert *Vibrations* was one of our finest yet. The marriage of timbres and textures between the voices of Voces Boreales, the combination works written specifically for this combination, and the spectacular marimba playing from Ben Duinker (not forgetting the beautiful acoustics of the Chapel NDBS) exceeded even my own expectations. It was a truly exceptional performance and the kind of programme that could be offered to festivals and promoters around the province. Working with Ben and watching him perform the solo-marimba piece was a particular highlight and I feel that it inspired us all to challenge ourselves even further. The pre and post concert events also added artistic value as the repertoire, the marimba instrument, and the performers, could all be better understood by the audience.

On the less-than-positive side, we certainly felt the sting of reduced financial support and as such had to postpone the main fall 2024 concert. Essentially, we just pushed back the calendar of planned programming by 6 months, in terms of the concert performances. But we also had to curtail some education and outreach plans (workshop, emerging composers, masterclass) due to a shortage of funds. I feel strongly that Voces Boreales continues to have a lot to offer the Montreal and Quebec choral music scene. We are experts in certain areas of repertoire and our programmes always carry humanitarian messages and themes. Without preaching or being political, we use the vehicle of choral music—particularly repertoire from within living memory and/or from living composers—to stimulate reflection and renewal of intention amongst ourselves and our audiences. Such themes that touch all of humanity and cross all cultural boundaries include (or have included): space, love, diversity and tolerance, peace & understanding, the environment, and various elements from nature, etc.

All artists wish to share the results of their considerable efforts as widely as possible and we all want to see capacity audiences. Attendance numbers continue to be a challenge. I believe we are all in agreement that the quality of the programming and the performances produced by our ensembles are of the highest quality and should be experienced by a larger and more diverse audience.

Andrew





KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS – MARKETING

Concerts and fundraising

During the year, Voces Boreales developed a new concert for young audiences and families, combining accessible classical music with popular song classics (Leonard Cohen, Robert Charlebois, Édith Piaf). Entitled *Il était 8 fois*, this programme was presented twice, in Verdun and Dorval, allowing the ensemble to reach new audiences in neighbourhoods where it had not yet performed. The concert in Verdun was supported by the Verdun–L'Île-des-Sœurs borough council, while the Dorval performance was part of the Festival de la voix programme, based in the west of the island.

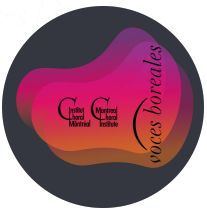
In addition, in May, some of the Voces Boreales choristers took part in a tribute concert to composer Jocelyn Morlock, produced by the Société de musique contemporaine. This collaboration helped strengthen Voces Boreales' position as a significant player in the contemporary music scene and generated positive media coverage, notably in *PAN M 360* and in an article by Christophe Huss (*Le Devoir*).

“The musical setting of Exaudi is very refined and complex, then simplifies, leaving the men on stage with the women's voices in the background, as if in filigree. Voces Boreales was perfect in its vocal contributions. An unforgettable evening, arranged with great heart, tact and immense respect.”

— Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*

The *Vibrations* concert, presented on 29 May in collaboration with marimba player Ben Duinker, marked the launch of a fundraising campaign, with percussionist and businessman Robert Leroux as spokesperson. Thanks to the mobilisation of the team and the board of directors, Voces Boreales raised over \$27,000 in donations, setting a fundraising record since the ensemble's creation.

In a context characterized by volatility and declining government support—a reality shared by the entire arts community—the team and board of directors have initiated a structural transformation of the organization's funding model. This approach aims to strengthen the choir's resilience by deploying an expanded philanthropic strategy targeting individual and corporate donors.



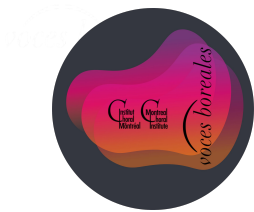
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS – MARKETING

Between 2021 and 2025, Voces Boreales' philanthropic revenues grew by an average of 200% annually, confirming the relevance and effectiveness of this strategic direction.

Camino

As part of the development of the *Camino* project, Voces Boreales benefited from the expertise of Barbara Scales, a specialist in the Canadian market, and Jean Vinet, a specialist in the French and European markets, to prepare the presentation and marketing tools for this immersive and multidisciplinary project.

The project was presented by the Voces Boreales team at the Grand Rendez-vous de la musique, a professional meeting organised by the Conseil québécois de la musique, in front of several broadcasters and producers.



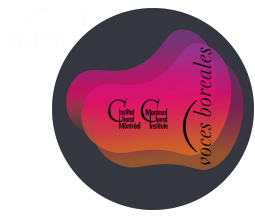
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024-2025

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2026-01-15
Accrual Basis

Montreal Choral Institute (Voces Boreales) Balance Sheet As of 31 August 2025

	31 Aug 25	31 Aug 24
ASSETS		
Total Chequing/Savings	7,706.07	2,352.64
Total Current Assets	7,706.07	2,352.64
Fixed Assets	20,218.93	26,627.61
CDs in Stock	150.00	150.00
TOTAL ASSETS	28,075.00	29,130.25
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	1,902.34	2,797.34
Credit Card	10.97	421.38
Total Credit Cards	10.97	421.38
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,153.45	12,966.26
Total Current Liabilities	3,066.76	16,184.98
Long Term Liabilities		
Deferred Donation	13,481.67	0.00
Total Liabilities	16,548.43	16,184.98
Equity		
RETAINED EARNINGS	12,945.27	33,125.45
Net Income	-1,418.70	-20,180.18
Total Equity	11,526.57	12,945.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	28,075.00	29,130.25


Philip Raphals
Treasurer

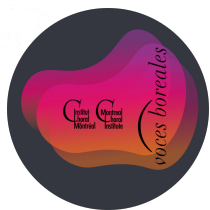


FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024-2025

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Accrual Basis

Montreal Choral Institute (Voces Boreales) Profit & Loss September 2024 through August 2025

	Sep '24 - Aug 25	Sep '23 - Aug 24
Income		
PRODUCTION INCOME	25,738.48	40,825.54
OPERATING GRANTS	37,807.00	50,000.00
DONATIONS	24,587.88	1,632.00
OTHER INCOME	2,100.64	13,261.46
REVENUE	90,234.00	105,719.00
 6000 · EXPENSES		
PRODUCTION EXPENSES	69,401.42	99,409.45
MARKETING / COMMUNICATIONS	14,544.44	13,630.00
ADMINISTRATION	5,060.16	9,856.77
DEPRECIATION	2,646.68	3,002.96
EXPENSES	91,652.70	125,899.18
Net Income	-1,418.70	-20,180.18



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024-2025

Articles of incorporation and nature of operations

The Montréal Choral Institute (MCI), founded in 2009, is incorporated as a non-profit organization under Part III of the Quebec Companies Act. It holds charitable status as per the federal Income Tax Act.

MCI's purpose is to produce concerts and events to educate the public and help them better understand and appreciate music, and to train artists, both professionals and amateurs, by organizing advanced choral singing and choral conducting workshops. MCI is the producer of professional chamber choir Voces Boreales and professional octet VB8. Several times a year, MCI commissions choral works from Quebec and Canadian composers.

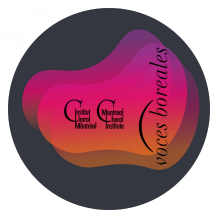
In the event of MCI's liquidation, its assets would be transferred to a non-profit organization with purposes similar to MCI's.

Accounting methods

MCI's financial year begins on September 1st and ends on the following August 31st. The financial statements are accounted for on an accruals basis. The deferral method is used to record contributions allocated to a future financial year.

Fixed Assets: Tangible and Intangible

MCI's fixed assets consist mainly of tangible fixed assets, in the form of audio-visual recording or broadcasting equipment (mixers, microphones, recorders, loudspeakers, televisions, etc.) and production accessories (choristers' lights, electronic candles, etc.). To these must be added the three MCI logos, as intangible assets, and the collection of musical scores.



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024-2025

Tangible and intangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the following periods:

Musical scores	30 years
Logos	15 years
Audio-visual equipment	10 years
Production accessories	5 years

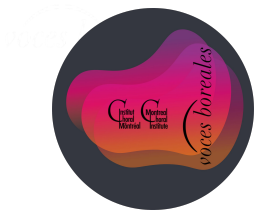
Qualified Donations

In the fiscal year, MCI received an anonymous donation, dedicated to an internal trust fund to help ensure the sustainability of the organization. In this fiscal year, an amount of \$13,069.55 of this grant was applied to cancel outstanding financial obligations.

Income Statement: Production expenses

Production expenses break down as follows:

Artists' fees:	\$62,665
Technician fees:	\$ 1,775
Rent:	\$ 2,770
Miscellaneous expenses:	\$ 2,251



BUDGET 2025-2026

Budget 2025-26

REVENUES

Ticket sales and contract revenues	\$10,000
Government grants	73,600
Advertising	\$1,000
Fundraising	\$25,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$109,600

EXPENSES

Artist fees	72,869
Musical Scores	\$1,700
Technician fees	\$1,650
Rehearsal and concert space rentals	\$5,250
Other production costs	4,907

PRODUCTION EXPENSES **\$86,376**

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS **\$18,724**

ADMINISTRATION **\$4,500**

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$109,600**

NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) **0**



GRAND RDV
DE LA MUSIQUE

3 juin, 16h à 17h30
Vitrines et présentation express

Présentations express

XXe-XXIe siècles
Voces Boreales
Camino

CQM
CONSEIL QUÉBÉCOIS
DE LA MUSIQUE

