OYC Year In Review

OYC served 1100 singers in yearlong programs at 23 sites. Singers learned music of many cultures- including Israel, Iraq, Venezuela, Mexico, South Africa, Russia, the Philippines, and American folk and popular traditions. OYC provided over 60 in-school and community performance opportunities so each student had multiple opportunities to develop confidence and community building across neighborhoods.

We focused upon ways to bring multiple levels of our programs together more often during the season than our two OYC concerts, and were grateful to our community partners for helping us to develop creative programming. OYC singers previewed our winter concert with the help of special Planetarium shows at the Chabot Space and Science Center, and our Miracles and Middle Schools joined together for Zoo Lights. Our Middle School and Concert Chorus singers also joined forces for the Kodaly Children’s Choir Festival at Holy Names University - sharing music and connecting with many other youth choruses in the region. These programs also connected for performances in Marin, and 12 of our young people had the once in a lifetime experience of performing at Oracle Arena with Roger Waters!

We continued to rotate our locations for our spring concert this season, being graciously welcomed by Love Center Church in East Oakland for our Rise Up! Songs of Love and Justice program in May - featuring empowering songs from pop, gospel, folk, and world music traditions. Our singers were joined by a collective OYC Women’s Chorus which brought alumnae, parents, board members and staff together in song for one of the first times we could recollect in recent OYC history. Participants came away with a new sense of OYC’s mission to transform lives through excellence in music education and performance, connected with their children over a shared love for music, and built new understanding and bonds with each other as they modeled a welcoming, inclusive culture for our youth.
A Note from our Executive Director

Our 2016-17 season continued to deepen community connections and gave our 1100 k-12 singers more than 60 opportunities to lift their voices together in joy, and for others in our world. From starting the year inspired by OYC alumna and Grammy nominated singer and pianist Victoria Theodore as she took time out from touring with Beyonce to work with our Chamber Singers and answer their questions about what it takes to be a successful professional musician, to finishing the year clad in “RESIST” t-shirts onstage with Roger Waters at the Oracle Arena, the season saw our young people participating in life changing experiences.

Whether they were supporting the Rockridge Festival, CASA, Fred Finch Youth Center or BOSS, collaborating with professional musicians for Songs for All Beings in Marin or to combat human trafficking in San Francisco, or coming together for celebrations of song, art, and community at Chabot Space and Science Center, the Oakland Museum, or the Oakland Zoo, our singers combined their love and learning for music across world cultures with a desire to make our world better through vocal music.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to connect across boundaries throughout the East Bay. From our spring concert at Love Center Church featuring our Community Voices’ commissions by Michelle Jacques to the more than 900 rehearsal and instruction hours shared by our teachers with young people across Oakland, Alameda, and Richmond, our 42nd season focused on how we stand up for others in our community, and how we stand together as one. Music has the power to connect us - and our singers are powerful!

In harmony,

Keri Butkevich

“[OYC] was great - it gave me a family, that I could always come back to, that I could always trust in...they kind of found the best in me I think... I was the shy kid, I was so shy, and I’ve learned that I am so much bigger than I knew...”

Our Supporters: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

OYC relies upon the support of many foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals whose generous contributions make our programs possible. Join us in expressing our gratitude to those listed below and to those who contributed to OYC anonymously or through our affinity programs.


OYC apologizes for any omissions or errors. Please contact Keri Butkevich with any corrections. Please support OYC this year and create harmony in our schools and communities!

OYC is supported by the Oakland City Council and funded by the City of Oakland’s Cultural Funding Program.
Oakland Youth Chorus Financials 2016-17

2016-17 Board of Directors: Patrick Zimski, President, Kathleen Davis, Treasurer, Tina Flores, Secretary, Kristen Brun, Andrew Chung, Jeanine Hooks-Allen, Darbi Howard

2016-17 Staff: Keri Butkevich, Executive Director, La Nell Martin, Artistic Director, Trish Yanko, Admin. Assistant, Sid Quinsaat, Teacher and Community Engagement Associate, D’S Shawn Hunter, Chamber Singers PA, Brianna Brown, Rhonda Crane, Bryan Dyer, Debbie Gold, Sarah Hawley-Snow, Emily Shisko, Teachers, Momoko Ezawa, Intrax Intern

Join our team! OYC is actively looking for volunteers, interns, and board members passionate about music education and performance ready to give back to their communities through the Chorus. Contact Executive Director Keri Butkevich at keri@oaklandyouthchorus.org to find out more!