



vocalessence
Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director

2010-2011 annual report



VocalEssence
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VocalEssence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Letter from Dave Mona, Board Chair



The 2010-2011 season was a time for making new friends and deepening relationships with our existing ones.

Not only did we reach more than 10,000 people through our season concerts and 6,000 students through our Twin Cities education programs, **WITNESS** and **¡Cantaré!**, we also reached an additional 450 students in Worthington, a small town tucked in the

southwest corner of Minnesota.

With help from the Legacy amendment and the Minnesota State Arts Board, we expanded the **¡Cantaré!** program to Worthington. What a success! In addition to the community concerts in Worthington (we had to do two in order to fit everyone in the auditorium!), the 5th graders and their teachers performed on stage at the Ordway at the Twin Cities **¡Cantaré! Community Concert**; it took many buses — and even more donors — but we did it!

In May, we debuted our first-ever **Philip & Friends Cabaret** at The Dakota. With specialty cocktails designed by Maria Jette, mouthwatering food and A+ talent onstage, friends new and old worked together to raise more than \$18,000 for our education programs. It was a spectacular night that I'm sure will be replicated in future years.

2011 was also the birth of the **Young Singers Group**, a young professionals group for VocalEssence. Led by a collection of motivated singers ages 20-30, the group had its first kick-off event at Mears Park in St. Paul this summer, and continues to plan new events to get more young professionals involved with VocalEssence.

And not only was this year an artistic success, but we managed to operate in the black...a testament to sound management and an appreciative and generous community.

—Dave Mona, VocalEssence Board Chair,
2010-2011

The Mission of VocalEssence

VocalEssence champions choral music of all genres, celebrating the vocal experience through innovative concerts, commissions, and community engagement programs.

Letter from Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director



What a season for VocalEssence! Bradley Greenwald starred in John Phillip Sousa's *El Capitan* staged by our own Vern Sutton. **Welcome Christmas** held all of the sparkle and delight of the holidays with Swedish carols and the two winning carols — both by Minnesota composers — from our annual Welcome Christmas Carol Contest, co-sponsored with the American Composers Forum.

I am proud to say that in November 2010 we launched **VocalEssence Music Press**, a new publishing arm of VocalEssence. We currently have five pieces written for our ¡Cantaré! program for sale on our new website (vocalessencemusicpress.org) along with free music guides for conductors and teachers. It is my hope that the press will grow to include music from our **WITNESS** program, the Welcome Christmas Carol Contest, and Essentially Choral.

The new year brought appearances by two fabulous guest conductors. In January we welcomed Mexican conductor Gerardo Rábago and pianist Douglas Riva for the Midwest premiere of *Cant de les Estrelles* (*Song of the Stars*) — a long-lost gem by Spanish composer Enrique Granados. March brought a second guest conductor and composer to the stage, Dr. André Thomas, for our 22nd year of **WITNESS** performances. Sharon Sayles Belton, former mayor of Minneapolis, was awarded the Reatha Clark King Award for her outstanding service to the Twin Cities community.

The season came to a close with a new take on an old standard — Bach's B minor Mass with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra and silent films. Thanks to our fabulous board, staff and volunteers for helping to make the year such a success. On to our 43rd season!

Philip Brunelle

— Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director and Founder

2010-2011 Commissions & Premieres

Matthew Brown: *Table Grace* (World Premiere)
 Matthew Brown: *Sole Watchman of the Flying Stars* (World Premiere)
 J. David Moore: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* (Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner)
 Mark Shepperd: *Come Join Their Song* (Welcome Christmas Carol Contest Winner)
 Enrique Granados: *Cant de les Estrelles* (Midwest Premiere)

2010-2011 ¡Cantaré! Premieres

Jesus Echevarria: *Cabalito*
Muchos Gracias
Madrugada
¡Cantaré!
La Pirugüita de Okabena
Volando

Diana Syrse: *The Essence of Our Souls*
Mar de Sueños
Chubasquero
Paxional Antzil
Oda a la Pobreza
Cantos de Primavera
Dejemos Cantos

Lilia Vázquez Kuntze: *Vuela mi Corazón*
Nido de Amor
Aguilita
Corazón
Naturaleza
Alleluia

Horacio Uribe: *De Brujas, Peteneras y otras Quimeras*

2010-2011 Season Highlights

August 27: Philip Brunelle, Bradley Greenwald and the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers preview the season with Classical MPR at the Minnesota State Fair



October 8-9: Bradley Greenwald stars in a semi-staged version of John Phillip Sousa's operatta **El Capitan** at Ted Mann Concert Hall



November 23: **Gratitude, Gravy & Garrison** at Orchestra Hall

Dr. Art Kaemmer

His Life-Long Adventure in Music Includes Three Decades of Service and a Lasting Friendship

Dr. Art Kaemmer's story echoes those who have enthusiastically supported VocalEssence over many



years. But it has several compelling twists, entwining friendship, service and travel —plus a compelling soundtrack! Dr. Kaemmer, who retired after a distinguished 25-year medical career as a pediatrician at HealthPartners, has loved choral music his entire life.

It developed early in life where he sang in school and church

choirs and later in the Carleton College choir where he met his wife, Martha. She is also a devoted supporter of what the good doctor describes as “a Best Kept Secret in Minnesota, this wonderful organization run by Philip Brunelle.” Despite the fact that Art Kaemmer enjoys music of all kinds and plays piano, it’s the rarefied diversity of music that VocalEssence consistently presents that keeps his passion for the organization alive through generous financial giving and almost 30 years on the board. Joining in the early 1980s, Kaemmer remains a beacon of service and perhaps the biggest champion VocalEssence has ever had!

His committed relationship with VocalEssence, however, is equaled through an enduring friendship with Brunelle. The two met as younger men at Plymouth Congregational Church at what was then known as The Plymouth Music Series. Over the years, that friendship solidified Dr. Kaemmer’s appreciation of Brunelle, the artist, curator, educator — and fellow adventurer.

Come to Sweden!

One time, at Brunelle’s urging, in the middle of the school year, the entire Kaemmer family traveled for a long weekend to Stockholm to see Brunelle’s Swedish conducting debut. Later, Brunelle staged a Twin Cities concert version of the opera about Swedish immigrants,

Kristina från Duvemåla, created by former ABBA pop star Benny Andersson. That concert came complete with a Swedish television crew in tow to document not only the performance but how select immigrants are faring in the new world. “There is always a sense of adventure about him,” his old friend says, recalling other travels together, usually with music as a driving force.

“Philip’s intense interest in music of all kinds, the variety and richness, really appeals to me and anyone who likes to ‘expect the unexpected,’” Dr. Kaemmer says fondly. “Audiences always know they are going to get something new, something fresh. Philip always presents such quality music; it’s never bland. People may not like all of it, but it’s never boring. That is just one strength of VocalEssence. Add in its educational outreach that touches thousands of students in the state — and many others around the country through the organization’s teacher guides — and you’ve got a first-rate arts organization that deserves as big an audience as it can get.”

He marvels at some of the artistic coups that Brunelle and staff have managed to stage: A grand work by Minnesota composer Libby Larsen, featuring Jehan Sadat, wife of the late Anwar Sadat; an ongoing association with musical satirist Peter Schickele (aka P.D.Q. Bach); and premiering magnificent English hymns by composer Ian Kellam. These and many others are some of his favorite VocalEssence moments.

But the Kaemmer’s long association with VocalEssence and its esteemed director gives Art a unique perspective few have. “Philip has some of the best ‘people skills’ I have ever seen in action,” the longtime board member notes. “And he and his staff like Executive Director Mary Ann Pulk run the organization on a very tight but very effective, well-managed budget. With the endowment slowly growing and a succession plan being put in place, the future looks very strong and good for this organization — and it should,” he adds. “It is the Best of the Best.”

“Audiences always know they are going to get something new, something fresh Add in its educational outreach that touches thousands of students in the state — and many others around the country through the organization’s teacher guides — and you’ve got a first-rate arts organization that deserves as big an audience as it can get.”

—Art Kaemmer



November 2010: Two new compact discs released in time for the holidays: **Behold This Heavenly Night** and **Gratitude, Gravy & Garrison**



December 4, 5, 10, 11, 12: **Welcome Christmas** concerts feature **Twin Cities Bronze handbell ensemble**

Jan & Stacey Kilton — Like mother, like daughter



"I love working with conductors who are musically competent, professional, realistic, supportive, unique — and recognize the importance of having fun." — Jan Kilton

Jan and Stacey Kilton took a rather unusual route to VocalEssence. Jan had been involved in music her entire life, but had never participated in an auditioned choir. It wasn't until her daughter Stacey started voice lessons that Jan decided to take the plunge and start learning more about singing herself.

VocalEssence came into Jan's life soon after she made the commitment to take professional voice lessons. "I saw an advertisement in the newspaper to audition for VocalEssence," says Jan. Her voice teacher urged her to attend the audition — to gain experience and to help with her performance anxiety. Jan never thought that she would

actually receive a spot in the chorus, but ten years later she is still going strong. "VocalEssence is a good match for me. Philip and Sigrid offer a wide variety of music along with a multitude of opportunities to work with interesting performers and composers," she says.

While Jan was enjoying her first few years in the VocalEssence Chorus, Stacey was off studying music at Ithaca College in New York. After she graduated and moved back to Minnesota, Stacey decided that singing with her mom and the VocalEssence Chorus was where she belonged. "Being a Chorus member helps me maintain my standard of excellence," says Stacey. "It gives me opportunities to grow and continues to challenge me year after year."

"It gives me a sense of pride belonging to a group of high quality musicians — I enjoy the challenge," echoes Jan. "I also love working with conductors who are musically competent, professional, realistic, supportive, unique — and recognize the importance of having fun."

Along with the musical experiences, comes the unique benefit (and challenge) of singing with a family member. "Sometimes she still 'parents me' — giving me directions to our next concert or checking in to

make sure I'll be on time," explains Stacey with a smile, "but we have a great time singing together!"

"I love singing with Stacey," says her mother. "It means we see each other every week and have a chance to catch up."

Sharing more than singing

Both Jan and Stacey are involved in VocalEssence beyond the chorus. Jan is a gold-star volunteer and always assists when help is needed. She is a staple in the biennial Spring Gala, serving on the décor committee and assisting with selecting the flowers for the tables. "I love volunteering for VocalEssence and giving back to an organization that has given so much to me," she says.

Stacey is a high school choral director at Edison High School in Minneapolis, a long-time WITNESS Partner School. As a teacher, Stacey sees first-hand the effect of WITNESS on her students and her classroom. "It is so valuable for my students to see me perform on stage at the WITNESS Young People's Concerts," said Stacey. "It makes something that may seem so out of reach for them more accessible. It is the most effective way for me to engage my students in music."

In addition to their time and talents, Jan and Stacey feel it is important to make a financial commitment to VocalEssence. "Being a teacher, I know a lot of the VocalEssence budget goes toward education programs. I want people to know that high quality arts education needs to be financially supported as well as philosophically supported," said Stacey.

"I donate to VocalEssence because it is such a well-run, professional and respected organization," said Jan. "And because the Chorus is really top-notch."

Thank you, Jan and Stacey for your dedication to VocalEssence in so many ways!



December 11: Concert at Trinity Lutheran Church cancelled due to a blizzard — our first weather cancellation since the famous Halloween blizzard of 1991!



January 28: **Song of the Stars** features the artistry of guest pianist **Douglas Riva**

Laura and Mike Robinson

Holding VocalEssence dear to their hearts



“We love arts and we love music, and being involved with VocalEssence is a chance to support one of the most talented choral groups in the Midwest right here in the Twin Cities. They are near and dear to our hearts.”

– Laura Robinson

They host composers, they serve on Advisory Committees, they volunteer for concerts. Laura and Mike Robinson do it all for ¡Cantaré! and VocalEssence — and it all began with a simple invitation.

“A friend of mine, Uri Camarena, wanted my input about a new Latin music education program that Philip Brunelle wanted to create. I went to the next meeting, was energized by all of the great ideas, and was hooked!” said Laura. “And I have been involved ever since.”

Laura was one of the founding committee members of our new education program, ¡Cantaré!, that now is in its fourth season. The goal of ¡Cantaré! is to engage diverse communities in the discovery, celebration and creation of music inspired by Mexican traditions, past and present. During the school year, Mexican composers work in residence with elementary and high school students for four weeks. In May the students perform pieces written especially for them at a free ¡Cantaré! Community Concert.

Both Laura and Mike are actively involved in ¡Cantaré!. Laura serves on the ¡Cantaré! Cultural Advisory Committee and assists with the composers. They both take part in hosting the composers when they are in town and helping with logistical and fundraising needs for the program. “To me, the ¡Cantaré! program means celebrating diversity, building self-esteem with young kids, reaching out to the community, and closing the gap between cultures,” said Laura.

The Robinsons note that their favorite part about the program is seeing the children’s and parents’ pride in the work they have done at the ¡Cantaré! Community Concert. “And not only the children’s and parents’ pride,” said Laura, “but also seeing the

composers’ joy when they see and hear their work come to life. It’s a beautiful thing.”

In the 2010–2011 Season, ¡Cantaré! reached more than 800 students in the Twin Cities and Worthington, the third most diverse community in Minnesota behind the Twin Cities. Mexican composers Diana Syrse, Jesús Echevarría, Lilia Vázquez, and Horacio Uribe wrote a combined 28 pieces, with a select few soon to be included in the new VocalEssence Music Press, the music publication arm of VocalEssence.

In Mike and Laura’s view, the ¡Cantaré! Program is just one of the things that make Philip Brunelle’s creativity stand out above the rest. “Philip is not afraid of being different, and is always looking to try new things,” said Mike. “¡Cantaré! is an example of that – you can combine culture, music and education and give kids a great new experience. His reinventions keep people coming back for more.”

When asked why they continually support VocalEssence and volunteer their time, the Robinsons could not stop bringing up phrases like “best vocal talent in the Midwest” and “it’s a blast,” along with words like “committed,” “diverse,” and “intention.”

“We love arts and we love music, and being involved with VocalEssence is a chance to support one of the most talented choral groups in the Midwest right here in the Twin Cities,” said Laura. “They are near and dear to our hearts.”

February 19: **Essentially Choral** reading session features works-in-progress by Marie Incontrera (Brooklyn, NY); Linda Kachelmeier (St. Paul, MN); Norman Mathews (New York, NY); and Paul J. Rudoi (Richfield, MN)



February 27: **André Thomas Community Sing** at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

WITNESS 2010-2011

The WITNESS Program had an excellent year in 2010-2011 as VocalEssence welcomed distinguished composer, educator and conductor Dr. André Thomas as a guest conductor. Over 5,000 students from 44 partner schools in grades 2-12 attended WITNESS Workshops and the WITNESS Young People's Concerts on March 2 & 3, 2011 at Orchestra Hall. Through the study of spirituals, students learned about the incredible legacy of spirituals and their power to express hope in the face of oppression, to create individual and cultural identity, and to build bridges between people of different backgrounds.

VocalEssence also welcomed four guest choirs to perform in the WITNESS concerts, including: The St. Olaf Choir under the direction of Dr. Anton Armstrong, Central High School Concert Choir, Hastings High School Select Chorale and Washburn High School Miller Voices. One teacher commented, "My students loved the concert. They hadn't seen or heard a high school choir before and it gave them an idea of what they could do someday."

At the WITNESS public concert held on Friday, March 4, 2011, Sharon Sayles Belton was honored as the 2011 recipient of the The Reatha Clark King Award for Excellence and Youth Motivation through the Cultural Arts.



Above: WITNESS Teaching Artists Anita Ruth and T. Mychael Rambo visit St. Helena Catholic School.

Right: Students from the Independent Film Project interview WITNESS School Program students.



Teaching Artists

Ta-coumba Aiken, visual artist
Timothy Berry, musician
Patricia Brown, dancer/choreographer
Ginger Commodore, singer/songwriter
Beverly Cottman, storyteller
Danielle Daniel, creative writer/storyteller
Kelechi Jaavaid, writer/poet/playwright
Rose McGee, storyteller/poet/playwright
Louis Porter II, memoirist/poet
T. Mychael Rambo, singer/actor
Anita Ruth: Musician
Roxane Wallace-Patterson: Dancer and Choreographer

Partner Schools

Anoka Middle School
Bancroft Elementary
Birch Grove Elementary
Blessed Trinity Catholic School
Boys Totem Town
Brooklyn Center High School
Carondelet Catholic School
Diamond Path Elementary
Evergreen Park Elementary School
FAIR School Crystal
FAIR School Downtown
Franklin Music Magnet
Glen Lake Elementary
Hancock-Hamline Elementary
Highland Elementary
Jenny Lind Elementary
Lake Harriet Upper Campus
Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts
L. H. Tanglen Elementary School
Lyndale Community School
Lynwood Monroe A+ Elementary
Maplewood Middle School
Nativity of Our Lord School
North Park Elementary
Northern Lights Community School
Partnership Academy
Pilgrim Lutheran School
PYC Arts & Technology High School
Ramsey International School
Richfield High School
Rockford Elementary
Sanford Middle School
Sheridan Arts Magnet
St. Helena Catholic School
St. John's Catholic School
St. Mark's Catholic School
St. Peter Claver Catholic School
St. Peter's Catholic School
Stonebridge Community School
Trinity School at River Ridge
Twin Cities Academy
Valley View Elementary
WISE Charter School
World Cultures School

"The WITNESS concert opens up a world of music to my students that they would otherwise not hear. It gives them a chance to see that music and singing IS a lifelong skill that many people enjoy. They love hearing new groups and soloists — I think it inspires them to try new activities." — Christina Pederson, St. Peter's Catholic School

"Thank you for coming to our class. I learned about the real meaning and feel of spirituals." — WITNESS Program Student



March 4: **WITNESS** Concert at Orchestra Hall features guest choirs from St. Paul Central High School, Hastings High School, Minneapolis Washburn High School and conductor/composer André Thomas



March 31: VocalEssence flies south to Arizona for a special event at the **Musical Instrument Museum** in Phoenix

New in 2010-2011: ¡Cantaré! in Worthington

"We go to school together, work together and live next door to one another and now to be able to share music together is another level to co-exist!" — *Audience member*

"When Philip asked the kids how many had been to Mexico, all the Latino kids raised their hands and BEAMED with pride. From then on, he had them in the palm of his hand. I almost cried when that happened."
— *VocalEssence Ensemble Singer*

"The more they learn, the more they are open to new history. I noticed the Hispanic students were always smiling...and now they are helping others pronounce, that makes them feel better." — *¡Cantaré! composer*

"I find myself looking at the Spanish materials in our curriculum now. There are some wonderful materials I haven't ventured to use because I wasn't very comfortable, and because of this experience I'm willing to try them."
— *¡Cantaré! program teacher*



Above: Jesús Echevarría at Prairie Elementary in Worthington
Below: Diana Syre at Worthington High School
Photos: Jill Roush

With the assistance from the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and a grant made possible through the Legacy Amendment, VocalEssence expanded ¡Cantaré! to Worthington in 2010-2011, bringing the program for the first time to rural Minnesota. With the aid of Sharon Johnson, Coordinator for the Nobles County Integration Collaborative, VocalEssence identified the following local partners for the program: Prairie Elementary School; Worthington Middle School; Worthington High School; Worthington Chamber Singers; St. Mary's Catholic Church; Memorial Auditorium; Minnesota West Community and Technical College; and The Meadows – An Ecumen Senior Living Facility.

Mexican composers Diana Syre and Jesús Echevarría spent four weeks in residency in Worthington, writing new compositions for the schools and engaging community in their music through local events. More than 1,868 Minnesotans participated in ¡Cantaré! in

Worthington, with the majority attending one of two Community Concerts at Memorial Auditorium on April 28, 2011.

VocalEssence had hoped to help bridge the culture gap between whites and Latinos in Worthington. Through the evaluation by UpFront Consulting, VocalEssence measured the success of this goal, learning that 100% of the teachers were satisfied with how well the ¡Cantaré! program helped to create a more inclusive environment in classrooms with Latino students. One composer mentioned in his March interview that he "noticed the Hispanic students were always smiling...and now they are helping others pronounce, that makes them feel better." In the Concert Choir, students agreed they had learned something about Mexican culture, as well as changing their "stereotype" view of Latin music and, for some, their view of Mexican people in Worthington.

VocalEssence is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an Arts Learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



April 8 & 9: Bach Mass in B minor features Lyra Baroque Orchestra



April 28: Two ¡Cantaré! Community Concerts in Worthington were funded through an Arts Learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board.



May 1: **Philip & Friends Cabaret** debuts at The Dakota, raising \$18,000 for ¡Cantaré! and WITNESS.

¡Cantaré! Twin Cities 2010-2011

The third year of ¡Cantaré! continued to engage new Twin Cities communities in the discovery, celebration and creation of music inspired by Mexican traditions, past and present. Composers Horacio Uribe and Lilia Vázquez created a total of eight brand new compositions for 298 students in Adams Spanish Immersion School, Ramsey International Fine Arts Center, Como Park High School, Mound Westonka High School, South High School, and the Latino Children's Choir as well as for singers in the VocalEssence Chorus. All of the pieces premiered at the Community Concert at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in Saint Paul on Tuesday, May 24, 2011. This concert was a huge success, with over 1,300 students, parents, and community members in attendance.

The Twin Cities ¡Cantaré! program also supported the launch of VocalEssence Music Press at the Fall 2010 ACDA-MN Conference, featuring five publications written for the ¡Cantaré! program. The VocalEssence Ensemble Singers both performed at the conference and supported two sessions presented by Philip Brunelle and composer Diana Syrse, where they read through the new compositions and discussed choral music in Mexico today.

"For a moment the songs transported me to my beautiful and beloved Mexico. It also gave my son a little bit of my culture." —
Audience member

"It was something exciting, something that hasn't happened here before, it's a new side of what we do. It's not just picking a piece to sing, it's actually getting a piece written for us." —
2010-2011
¡Cantaré! student

"I learned that knowing how to pronounce the text isn't the only important thing when singing in a foreign language. Singing the emotion of the text is just as important." —
2010-2011
¡Cantaré! student



Photos clockwise from top:
¡Cantaré! Community Concert at the Ordway; singers from Ramsey International Fine Arts Center; Lilia Vázquez at the piano with Latino Children's Choir; Horacio Uribe at Minneapolis South High School; Backstage at the Ordway
Photos: Stephen Maturen



May 24: At the **¡Cantaré! Community Concert**, Philip Brunelle was honored by the government of Mexico with the prestigious Ohtli Recognition Award

Philip & Friends Cabaret Debuts at The Dakota

\$18,000 Raised to Support Community Engagement Programs



On May 1, VocalEssence presented its first-ever “Philip & Friends Cabaret” at The Dakota Jazz Club in Minneapolis, and what a delightful evening it was! A packed house, friendly conversation, charming entertainment and delicious food made for an exciting debut for this new event.

The evening began with time for general socializing. The guests — including previous years’ gala attendees, VocalEssence concert-goers, chorus members and other friends of the organization — met and mingled during a cocktail hour that was accented with two specialty cocktails designed for the occasion by mixologist Maria Jette.

Garnished with an edible flower, a rum cocktail dubbed “Carolyn in the Spring” was inspired by Carolyn

Brunelle’s love of flowers, flavors and colors. “Les Amis de P.B.” combined liqueurs from Britain, Mexico and France with a splash of Philip’s favorite drink, Campari.

As dinner was served, special guests Maria Jette, Simone Perrin, Bradley Greenwald and T. Mychael Rambo took the stage to sing a cabaret-style program that had been “cooked up” by Vern Sutton and Philip Brunelle. A newcomer to VocalEssence audiences, Simone Perrin made a splash with her winsome voice and accordion playing. Bradley’s rapid-fire “Rock Island Line” and Maria Jette’s trademark “Amor” brought down the house, while T. Mychael Rambo’s emotional “Imagine” was a show-stopping moment.

Midway through the program, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, a long-time friend, former board member and supporter of VocalEssence, came up to greet the audience. All four vocalists came together to close the cabaret with humorous lyrics written by Vern Sutton to the tune of “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.”

Cabaret guests had an opportunity to purchase any of three “Sign-up Items,” including a VocalEssence concert followed by dinner at Garrison Keillor’s house; a breakfast tour of Bill and Penny George’s garden; and a pearl tear-drop necklace. Proceeds from the Cabaret tickets and Sign-up Items were earmarked to benefit the VocalEssence community engagement programs ¡Cantaré! and WITNESS.

It’s hoped that the Cabaret will return in future seasons, alternating every other year with the biennial Spring Gala. The event netted just over \$18,000, and just as importantly, created a whole new circle of friends for VocalEssence.

2010-2011 Contributor Circle

VocalEssence gratefully acknowledges all those who made gifts between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

± Includes Matching Gift Contributions

+ Includes In-Kind Donations

* In Remembrance

ENSEMBLE CLUB

Gifts of \$25,000 & more

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General Mills Foundation ±
Louise Heffelfinger
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2010-2011 Volunteer Honor Roll

In 2010-2011 there were 233 active volunteers supporting VocalEssence activities. Volunteers and volunteer singers served a total of 9,119.5 hours. Independent Sector, a nonprofit organization, estimates the value of volunteer time to be \$20.85 per hour, putting the total value of our volunteer time at \$190,141.58.

Charles Adams	Ryan French**	Andi Marston	Carolyn Sayers
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*Designates VocalEssence Chorus Members
 **Designates VocalEssence Ensemble Singers

Financial Report



Financially, VocalEssence had a very successful season in 2010-2011:

- Investment income grew by over \$500,000, due to asset appreciation and contributions to the Key of C fundraising campaign.
- Our investment in the future through education programming grew by over \$120,000 from the previous fiscal year through the addition of a ¡Cantaré!

residency program in Worthington, Minnesota.

- Minnesota Legacy Funds had a major impact on our finances and programming, supporting both the ¡Cantaré! residency and planning for the North Star Tour which took place in fall of 2011.
- Expenses were contained, keeping artistic and management costs at slightly below 2009-2010 levels.

As a result, VocalEssence enters into the 2011-2012 season well positioned to continue making progress toward its artistic and community engagement goals.

Mary Ann Pulk
—Mary Ann Pulk, Executive Director

VocalEssence 2010-2011 Financials

Total Unrestricted

REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,060,364
Special Events	\$18,339
Government Grants	\$95,483
Performance Revenue	\$292,053
Endowment Draw & Investment Income	\$587,788
TOTAL	\$2,054,027

EXPENSE

Artistic Series	\$927,763
Education	\$351,786
Special Programs	\$79,957
Management & General	\$141,544
Fundraising	\$169,280
TOTAL	\$1,670,330

NET ASSETS - Beginning of year

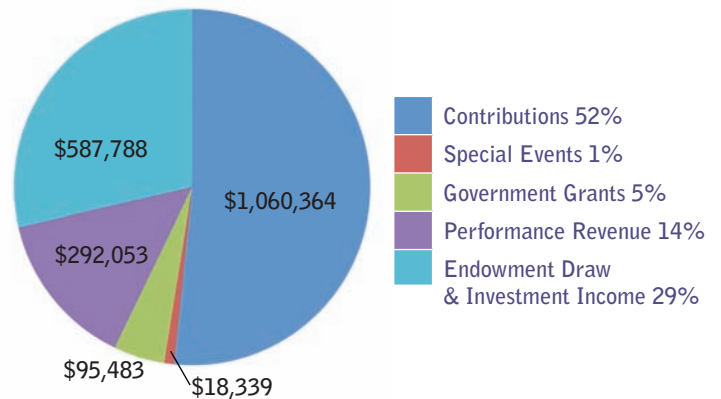
NET ASSETS - End of year

Change in Net Assets

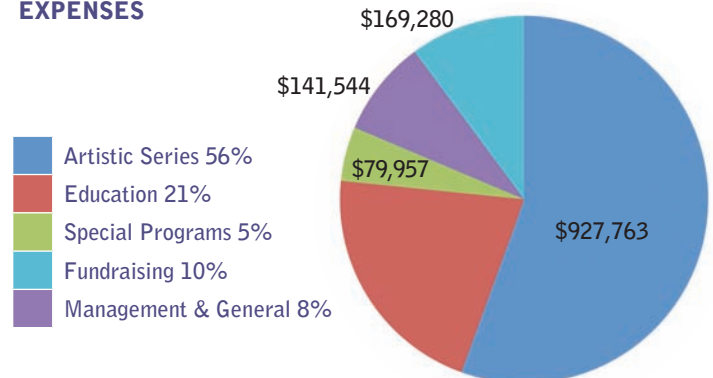
Net assets comprised of:

Operations	\$643,471
Temporarily Restricted	\$233,143
Artistic Advancement Fund	\$588,811
Key of C Campaign	\$851,807
Endowment	\$1,402,515
TOTAL	\$3,719,747

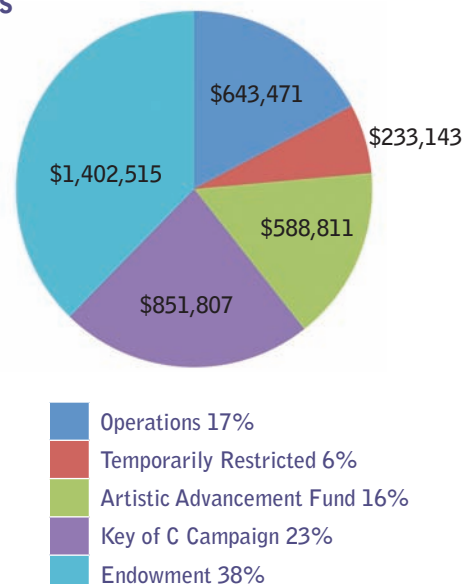
REVENUE



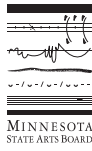
EXPENSES



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This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008, and a grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.



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VocalEssence is a fiscal year 2011 recipient of an Arts Learning grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



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