

May 2022 SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus Update

Here's a brief overview of the season just passed.

Our full annual report will be available at our website for July 1st, 2022.

Year TWO of the COVID-19 pandemic created yet another interesting variation on SingYourJoy's work with people ages 16-29. Our Winter/Spring session started on Zoom due to local restrictions, and we began to sing together in person in February. In a change from usual procedures, we encouraged new members to join at any time during the season. With a smaller cohort and shorter season, we did not have sufficient time to adequately prepare these singers (40% of whom were new to SYJ) for a full concert. We combined our WestShore singers with our Victoria group and provided our friends and family with an 'Open House' rehearsal/performance on April 11th. SingYourJoy was invited to participate in a choral workshop with two other community choirs on April 18th, and we finished our season with a social function on the 25th.



Our singers tell us:

From a new singer: *I feel like I've improved so much in my singing ability and confidence. I owe it to the directors and my fellow singers for this! The mission and vision of Sing Your Joy resonates with me and I'm looking forward to next season.*

From a longtime member: *I have been talking to three young neurodivergent people who are new this season and they have told me how incredibly healing the experience of being in choir is, and that singing with others has helped mitigate some of the more challenging aspects of their neurodivergence.*

I really loved getting back into singing this year, I missed being part of a choir the last couple of years. I particularly enjoyed meeting new people, and having a fun activity to get me out of the house every week. Thank you!!

Arts organizations across the globe have been affected by the pandemic, and SingYourJoy is also feeling the effects. While the chorus remained active throughout 2020 and 2021, the online rehearsals combined with the lack of the excitement and reward of performance has taken its toll on our singers. We are working hard to reconnect with them and are seeking new people who have yet to experience the SingYourJoy community. In 2021 to keep singing opportunities open for them, we created our first OUTDOOR Summer Season, and we are hoping to do it again this summer.

We will resume our full rehearsal schedule starting September 5 (Victoria) and September 8 (WestShore).

To help our organization financially, we (Co-Directors) are reducing our hours and remuneration from now to August. Our Board continues to seek out large grant opportunities and we will be embarking on a fundraising campaign prior to our fiscal year end of June 30th.

We know that you are there for us and thank you for your ongoing support of these young adults. If this is a good time for you to consider making a financial contribution to our work, we are grateful. We look forward to thanking you with a wonderful concert in the late Fall of this year.



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