Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire San Francisco Girls Chorus organization, it is our sincere pleasure to share with you our 2018–2019 Annual Report, which provides an overview of operating activities from our milestone 40th anniversary season.

For four decades now, SFGC has been one of the Bay Area’s, and the nation’s, leading non-profit music education and performing arts organizations for young women.

SFGC’s core work to train, empower, and inspire young women through exemplary music education programs served more than 375 girls and young women, ages 4–18, from all across the socioeconomic spectrum and from more than 38 Bay Area zip codes and all 9 Bay Area counties. Programs included our summer camps in San Francisco and Healdsburg, our school-year programs in Hayes Valley, Berkeley, and Bayview-Hunters Point, and a six-concert tour to England and France. To accommodate double-digit growth in enrollment, we launched a new Training Chorus program, now the sixth ensemble level of our award-winning Chorus School.

On the concert stage, SFGC’s choristers were seen across the Bay Area and on tour in England and France. The GRAMMY Award-winning Premier Ensemble was presented in five performances of four programs as part of its annual subscription series at Herbst Theatre, Davies Symphony Hall, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Mission Dolores and First Congregational Church of Berkeley. These programs featured guest artists tenor Nicholas Phan, Kronos Quartet, harpist Bridget Kibbey, and vocalist Mahsa Vahdat. In December, all seven of SFGC’s choral ensembles presented our popular Holiday Concert at Davies Symphony Hall. And choristers from multiple levels were presented on stage by leading local organizations, including Opera Parallèle (The Little Prince), San Francisco Opera (Pagliacci and Carmen), San Francisco Symphony (Stravinsky’s Persephone and ‘Twas the Night), Kronos Quartet (2019 KRONOS FESTIVAL), and TEDxSanFrancisco (2018 TEDx talks).

To ensure equitable access to our programs, SFGC awarded more than $140,000 in scholarships through the Elizabeth Avakian Need-Based Scholarship Fund. These scholarships were made possible by the generosity of many donors, and by support raised at our Spring Gala, which honored Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi as the inaugural recipient of our Elizabeth Appling Arts Champion Award.

In total, choristers benefited from more than 1,300 hours instruction in vocal technique, choral singing, music theory, music history, and sightsinging, taught by our talented, dedicated music faculty. Choristers appeared on concert stages in over 60 public performances that were enjoyed by more than 40,000 audience members.

We are proud to continue the tradition of excellence in education and performance instilled in SFGC by our beloved founder Elizabeth Appling. At a time when the value and importance of a robust music education experience has never been greater, we are honored to lead this incredible organization into its fifth decade and most grateful for the support of our family of individual and institutional donors, whose kindness and generosity makes possible the work we do to prepare our young women for success on the stage, in the classroom, and in life!

Yours very truly,

Valérie Sainte-Agathe
Artistic Director

J. Andrew Bradford
Executive Director
2018–2019 PERFORMANCES

PREMIER ENSEMBLE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
National Center for Family Philanthropy Conference
Hotel Nikko, San Francisco

SEPTEMBER 21, 22, & 23, 2018
Stravinsky’s *Persephone* with San Francisco Symphony
Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco

OCTOBER 9, 2018
TEDxSanFrancisco
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

OCTOBER 18, 2018
*Mademoiselle: An American Inspiration* with Nicholas Phan
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

DECEMBER 17, 2018
*Holidays at Davies* with Kronos Quartet
Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco

DECEMBER 23, 2018
*‘Twos the Night* with San Francisco Symphony Chorus and Brass
Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco

JANUARY 11, 2019
Performance and Exchange with Bucknell University and Ragazzi Boys Chorus
Kanbar Performing Arts Center, San Francisco

JANUARY 25, 2019
*Quantopia: The Evolution of the Internet* with DJ Spooky
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco

FEBRUARY 25, 2019
David Conte Faculty Recital
SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

MARCH 3, 2019
*Modern Masters*
SF Conservatory of Music, San Francisco

MARCH 15, 2019
SFGC 40th Anniversary Gala
Julia Morgan Ballroom, San Francisco

MARCH 22, 2019
Exchange and Performance with Copenhagen Girls’ Choir and Afenginn
Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

MAY 4, 2019
*Unearthed* with Jim Hodges
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

MAY 30, 31 & JUNE 1, 2019
2019 Kronos Festival with Kronos Quartet and CocoRosie
SF Jazz, San Francisco

JUNE 8 & 9, 2019
*From East to West*, with Mahsa Vahdat and Bridget Kibbey
Mission Dolores Basilica, San Francisco
First Congregational Church, Berkeley
NEW COMMISSIONS / NEW MUSIC CREATED:

*Rags of Time* by Fred Frith premiered by the Premier Ensemble on March 3, 2019, at San Francisco Conservatory of Music in San Francisco, and was commissioned for SFGC by the Gerbode Foundation’s Special Awards in the Arts Program.

Excerpts of *I Am* by Bayview Choristers, Othello Jefferson, and Christopher Street, premiered by the Bayview Chorus Program on May 21, 2019, at Bayview Opera House in San Francisco.

*Campfire Chants* by Danny Clay premiered by Levels I–IV on May 23, 2019, at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco.

*Three Parables* by Richard Danielpour premiered by the Premier Ensemble on June 8, 2019, at Mission Dolores in San Francisco and on June 9, 2019, at First Congregational Church in Berkeley.

*The Love of Thousands* by Reena Esmail premiered by the Premier Ensemble on June 8, 2019, at Mission Dolores in San Francisco and on June 9, 2019, at First Congregational Church in Berkeley and was commissioned for SFGC by Classical Movements’ Eric Daniel Helms New Music Program.
Continuing its rich tradition of international touring, in July 2019, SFGC’s Premier Ensemble once again represented the Bay Area as cultural ambassadors during a 12-day, 6-concert tour to England and France that included performances in London, Cambridge, Windsor, and Paris. Between performances, choristers enjoyed a variety of unforgettable sightseeing, cultural, and entertainment activities.

CONCERTS

**JULY 20, 2019**
Café OTO, London

**JULY 21, 2019**
Cambridge Summer Music Festival
Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge

**JULY 23, 2019**
St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle, Windsor

**JULY 24, 2019**
St. Marylebone Festival
St. Marylebone Church, London

**JULY 27, 2019**
Église Saint-Sulpice, Paris

**JULY 28, 2019**
Les Dimanches Musicaux
l’Église de la Madeleine, Paris
## SFGC By the Numbers

### Premier Ensemble Performances 23
### Chorus School Performances 27
### Soloist Intensive Performances 12

### Chorus School Choristers 327
### Premier Ensemble Choristers 43
### Summer Camp Choristers 19

### World/Regional Premieres 9

### Choristers by Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Chorus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayview Chorus Prep</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training Chorus</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>Level II</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Level III</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level IV</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Ensemble</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Choristers 173

### Chorister Enrollment by Campus

- 71% San Francisco
- 24% East Bay
- 5% Bayview

### Total Hours of Rehearsals per Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Chorus and BVCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
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<td>Level II</td>
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<td>Level III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level IV</td>
<td>260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premier Ensemble</td>
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### Total Hours of Music Theory per Year

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<td>Level III</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level IV</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Ensemble</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number Impacted Through Outreach Programs 1,150
CHORUS SCHOOL

SFGC’s Chorus School continued its important work of training more than 300 young choristers through programs of unparalleled artistic and educational excellence, designed to take young girls from their first introduction to the art of choral singing through a full course of choral, vocal, and theoretical instruction.

Following a record number of auditionees in May 2018, a new Training Chorus level was added for the season to accommodate continued growth in enrollment. The Chorus School is now comprised of six levels: non-auditioned Prep Chorus, Training Chorus, and Levels I–IV, which choristers move through as they develop musically.

SFGC also continued to expand its presence in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood, offering a Winter/Spring chorus program in partnership with the non-profit Bayview Opera House. Over the course of a multi-month program built on SFGC’s Prep Chorus curriculum, 17 choristers participated in weekly ensemble rehearsals and were presented in two performances in May, at the Kanbar Performing Arts Center and Bayview Opera House. We are pleased to share that for the 2019–2020 Season, the Bayview Opera House will become the third official “campus” of SFGC’s Chorus School, joining existing programs in Hayes Valley and the East Bay.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Continuing its commitment to ensuring that no young woman is prevented from participating in SFGC’s life-changing programs due solely to her family’s financial circumstances, the Elizabeth Avakian Need-Based Scholarship Fund once again awarded more than $140,000 in scholarship support to nearly one-third of enrolled choristers.

Scholarships, ranging from partial to full-tuition support, were awarded to choristers residing in 38 different Bay Area zip codes for programs including summer chorus camps at the Kanbar Center, our week-long Away Camp in Healdsburg, school-year programs, and our international tour to England and France.

The Elizabeth Avakian Need-Based Scholarship Fund is fully funded each year by support from a variety of institutional and individual funders, and from proceeds raised through our Spring Gala.

“SFGC has directly impacted our daughter—academically, socially, spiritually, and emotionally. She has grown into a poised, confident, self-motivated, independent, joyful young woman. Our sincere gratitude and thanks to all the SFGC donors for their generous gifts of scholarship, without which our daughter would not have been able to participate.”

—Premier Ensemble Parent
The San Francisco Girls Chorus’ 40th Anniversary Gala: A Ruby Ball celebrated four decades of artistic and educational excellence at the elegant Julia Morgan Ballroom in March, 2019. During this festive evening, SFGC honored Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, as recipient of the inaugural 2019 Elizabeth Appling Arts Champion Award, a new award named for SFGC’s founder to be presented each year to an extraordinary champion of the Chorus and broader Bay Area arts community. The evening was also marked by virtuosic performances by the Chorus, inspiring remarks from Speaker Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor London Breed, and an overwhelming outpouring of support for the incredible young women of SFGC.

Thanks to the generosity of attendees, SFGC raised over $200,000! All proceeds from the evening fund the Elizabeth Avakian Need-Based Scholarship Fund and SFGC’s music education programs, directly impacting every one of our choristers and creating countless opportunities for spirited song, personal empowerment, and life-long friendships through the San Francisco Girls Chorus.
MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

During the 2018–2019 season, SFGC received 63 media mentions between self-produced concerts and events, and collaborations with other organizations, including the following highlights:

“For four decades now, the San Francisco Girls Chorus has pursued an important double mission. The group has trained several generations of young women in musicianship, artistry and discipline, and it has also provided Bay Area audiences with excellent public performances across a wide range of repertoire.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

“Founded in 1978 to train and present young women’s voices, the chorus has a uniquely poised and beautiful sound.”

—San Jose Mercury News

“...they were spot on vocally, mastering Baroque trills and witches’ cackling and everything else with aplomb.”

—San Francisco Classical Voice (Voices of Music, Dido and Aeneas review)

“The San Francisco Girls Chorus isn’t just a skilled and adventurous ensemble in its own right. It’s also an energetic collaborator with all kinds of other local musical groups, which makes its offerings delightfully varied and unpredictable.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

AWARDS

Adding to our lavish catalog of accolades, which includes five GRAMMY Awards, four ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, and Chorus America’s prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Excellence in Choral Music, SFGC was once again voted Best Choral Group and Best New Music Group in the Bay Area for the 2018–2019 concert season by the readers of San Francisco Classcial Voice in its annual Best of the Bay Awards.
Owned and operated by SFGC since 2005, the Kanbar Center continued to be an invaluable asset to SFGC and the broader Bay Area arts and cultural community during the 2018–2019 season. Serving as a centrally-located hub in the heart of the San Francisco’s performing arts district, the Kanbar Center provided ample rehearsal and administrative office space to SFGC all year long. Additionally, through SFGC’s office and facilities rental programs, the Kanbar Center was utilized as a vital source of rehearsal, meeting, concert, and office space by more than two dozen arts, cultural, and other leading local non-profit organizations.

**NUMBER OF KANBAR RENTERS 28**
- American Bach Soloists
- Bay Area Rainbow Symphony
- Cappella SF
- Chinese American International School
- Chanticleer
- Chromatic Community Music
- Clerestory
- Conspiracy of Beards
- Conspiracy of Venus
- Curran Theater
- Fog City Singers
- French American International School
- Golden State International Opera
- International Orange Chorale
- KPIX
- Kronos Quartet
- Musae
- New Century Chamber Orchestra
- Opera Parallèle
- Paradox Voice Band
- Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
- Resound
- San Francisco Boys Chorus
- San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus
- San Francisco Public Press
- Scales of the City
- The Table
- Volti

**NUMBER OF KANBAR TENANTS 8**
- American Bach Soloists
- Chinese American International School
- David Binder Research
- Free Body
- Jewish Learning Works
- Opera Parallèle
- San Francisco Community Land Trust
- San Francisco Public Press
We are proud to report that SFGC had one of its strongest years in history. Thanks to the amazing generosity of so many individual, institutional, and government funders, as well as continued growth in chorister enrollment, and full occupancy of the Kanbar Center, SFGC concluded the 2018–2019 season with a healthy operating surplus and is well-positioned for ongoing success. As we look ahead toward the future, we will continue to focus on both expanding current sources of funding and seeking new sources of support.

**2018–2019 OPERATING BUDGET**

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**INCOME**
- **44%** Tuition, Fees, and Ticket Sales: $1,048,606
- **28%** Kanbar Center: $665,646
- **28%** Contributed Income: $676,733

**TOTAL**: $2,390,985

**EXPENSES**
- **69%** Programming: $1,624,256
- **12%** Fundraising: $286,946
- **19%** Administrative: $462,851

**TOTAL**: $2,374,053

“Having the SF Girls Chorus bring their program to the Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theatre is an awesome opportunity for girls and families in our community ... Not only are my girls having a delightful time during rehearsals, but the performance itinerary boasts an impressive line-up of exciting productions.”

—Dee Hillman (Chorus School Parent)
DONORS

FOUNDER’S CIRCLE
The Founders Circle recognizes the generosity of our long-time donors whose cumulative contributions to the Chorus through the years have reached $100,000 or more.

Kay Bishop
Lynne A. Carmichael
Dorian Kingman Chong and Gordon Chong
Ellen and Joffa Dale
Peter M. Drake
Spencer and Rena Fulweiler
Isabelle and Charles Hamker
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Jeannik Méquet Littlefield
Louise and Paul Renne
SFGC Alumna Family
Sheila and Toby Schwartzburg
Diane B. Wilsey

INDIVIDUAL DONORS
San Francisco Girls Chorus gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, foundations and corporations whose support made possible the 2018–2019 season.

THE ELIZABETH AVAKIAN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE
The Elizabeth Avakian Leadership Circle was established in honor of Chorus School Founder and Director Emeritus, Elizabeth Avakian, and her extraordinary contributions to the San Francisco Girls Chorus. SFGC recognizes all annual donors of $5,000 and above as members of the Avakian Circle.

$50,000 +
SFGC Alumna Family
Sheila and Toby Schwartzburg

$25,000—$49,999
Alison Huang and Jonathan Howe

$10,000—$24,999
Ellen and Joffa Dale
Spencer and Rena Fulweiler
Carol and Richard Harris
Karen J. Kubin
Julia Trujillo and Richard Bourgon
Diane B. Wilsey

$5,000—$9,999
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Angela Rey, SF Prep Chorus Director, Level I SF Pianist
Matt Bourne, Level I EB Pianist

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Melissa Haddick
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Izabella Lipetski
Nicolle Oreo
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