



Rochester Oratorio Society



Report to the Community
2010

Letter from Andrew Wheatcraft

Board Chair

The Rochester Oratorio Society concludes its sixty-fourth year in strong operating and artistic condition. The 2009-2010 fiscal year was a hallmark of artistic achievement and operational performance.

We opened our season by singing with the RPO in three performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. We were honored to be an integral part of the first performances in the new Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater. In November we performed our own celebration of Brahms "Naanie" at the Hochstein Performance Hall, followed by a reception for our Patrons.

We held our fourth Classical Idol competition in March. This signature event attracted contestants from across the US and Canada. The ten finalists who performed the night of the event were the very best of nearly forty entries. Our three prize recipients will be highly regarded vocalists in the years ahead. We were very proud to enable them to highlight their talents in this venue. Classical Idol showcases the very best in young vocal talent, and also showcases Rochester to contestants and their families.

Our Resonanz ensemble group had a strong year. The group performed at several private functions. They also performed a friend raising concert at the Chatterbox Club, sang in the patron lobby prior to two RPO concerts, and appeared on WXXI's "Backstage Pass" radio program over the holidays.

In June 2010 we held a number of dinners at home events sponsored by Board and Chorus members. These evenings were financially successful and dramatically expanded the reputation, and numbers of friends, of the ROS.

We strengthened our infrastructure by refocusing our Development efforts and writing a Strategic Plan, both of which we believe will help us achieve new levels of future success.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding Music Director in Eric Townell. Eric continues to inspire the chorus, and all of us with whom he works, to ever higher levels of artistic achievement and success. Eric has brought a wealth of experience and exciting ideas to the ROS and our community.

We could not have accomplished our mission without the dedication and skill of our one hundred forty voice choir. These men and women work each week to provide the very best in choral music. The time they collectively and individually spend in rehearsal, language and vocal exercise is remarkable. They are deeply appreciated by all of us and the community at large.

We are fortunate that 100% of our Board members have made a personal commitment to the ROS. They have recognized the need to continue to strengthen the Board by seeking talent in marketing and development. We would welcome candidates who could fulfill these criteria.

The year ahead will witness significant expansion of our self produced performances. We are excited about the program Maestro Townell has created for our audiences. We are certain the community will embrace these works with great enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the Rochester Oratorio Society.

Andrew Wheatcraft
Chairman
ROS Board of Directors

Letter from Eric Townell

Music Director

The past year has been a season high of achievement for the ROS. In four performances with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the choir proved its mettle in popular blockbusters, film scores and in the two greatest choral masterworks, Verdi's "Requiem" and Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony". The later two, under the direction of Christopher Seaman, were featured in broadcasts on WXXI. Our own production of Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms masterworks, set the standard very high. Our Classical Idol 4 competition in March exceeded expectations. Artistically, this year has been a joy.

We will carry this momentum forward into a stellar season of concerts for 2010-2011 in our elegant home at the Hochstein Performance Hall. We celebrate 65 years of passionate performance with a program of choral highlights in October. December finds us in excellent company again with the RPO and Maestro Seaman's last Rochester performance of Handel "Messiah". Rich and moving English masterworks are in store for March, followed by another exceptional evening of song in Classical Idol 5. We close the season in May with a strong and thrilling performance of Schumann's "Mass in C Minor" and Mendelssohn's "Lauda Sion". Local stars and Classical Idol winners will round-out the cast of soloists appearing on our stage.

This standard of achievement would be notable in any community. While there will be challenges along the way, we can draw on a long history of exceptional choral performance, a talented membership, and the finest collaborators any choir could desire. In times when the issues of life threaten to overwhelm us, it is immensely therapeutic to experience the uplifting majesty of 140 voices performing great masterworks with passion, power and precision. We hope to see you in the concert hall!

Eric Townell
Music Director

Financial Results

Revenue:	June 30, 2009	
Contributions	\$58,760.	40%
Ticket sales	52,167.	35
Event Revenues	25,725.	17
Membership Dues	11,766.	8
Total Revenue	\$148,418.	100%
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Program Services	\$101,638.	70%
Supporting Services	22,689.	16
Fund Raising	20,342.	14
Total Expenses	\$144,669.	100%

The 2010-2011 Season

- October 29, 2010, Chestnuts and Old Favorites, 8 P.M. , Hochstein Performance Hall.
- December 9 & 11, 2010, “Messiah”, Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater.
- March 6, 2011, Baroque Gems, 3:30 P.M. Asbury First United Methodist Church.
- Classical Idol, April 2, 2011, 7:30P.M., Hochstein Performance Hall.
- May 15, 2011, English Portraits, 3:30 P.M., Hochstein Performance Hall.

ROS Endowment Fund

- The ROS Endowment Fund is managed by The Community Foundation.
- The Fund is managed in a balanced format. Income is distributed to the ROS.
- Fund Value at June 30, 2010 was \$112,000.
- The Community Foundation offers a Pooled Life Income Fund and a Charitable Gift Annuity Fund for those donors interested in making a Planned Gift to the ROS.
- Additions to the Fund last in perpetuity for the benefit of the ROS.

Board of Directors

- Andrew Wheatcraft, Chair, Rochester City Schools
- Heather Adams, Vice Chair, U of R
- Maryellen Giese, Secretary, Hochstein School of Music
- Sharon Peterson, Treasurer, Seneca Park Zoo
- Joseph Eduardo, Central Financial
- John Gerhard, The Bird House
- Flinn Hackett, U of R
- Carole Huther, The Bird House
- Meghan Lynch, Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP.
- Simone Picciolo, Trident Machine
- Dennis Rosenbaum, One Communications
- Stephen Rosenfeld, M.D.

Staff and Contact Information

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- JoAnn Lampman, Office Manager,
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- The ROS is a registered 501C-3 not-for-profit.
Our registration and 990 filings are current.
Our EIN: # 16-6052456.
- Website: www.ROSSings.org