

20/21: year of challenges and opportunities

The 2020/21 season presented well-known and formidable challenges for virtually all performing arts groups – but, in the case of the MCO and others, opportunities for innovation and audience development.

First, in terms of innovation, there were the many skills gained by virtually all members of the MCO team as they learned to present ticketed concert and fundraising events online. New streaming platforms were learned, in-house video editing capacities improved, and new box office processes implemented. These are skills that will serve the organization well beyond the pandemic.

On the whole, the MCO's online concerts did not attract paying audiences as large as its regular Westminster subscription series, but they did bring in younger and more international audiences. The first group has long been an audience development priority for the MCO. This priority has increased throughout the last year and a half, as young people tend not only to be digitally savvy but also more likely to attend in-person concerts amid the pandemic.

The MCO's collaboration with a diversity of new musicians, from local indie bands to traditional Ethiopian and Brazilian musicians, is another reason for this engagement of new audiences. A highlight here was our concert with, and commission from, Nahre Sol. One of YouTube's most popular composers and keyboardists, Nahre Sol's performance videos with the MCO resulted in hundreds of new YouTube subscribers and many ticket orders from across the world.



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Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

MCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / 3 NOVEMBER 2021

MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 25 YEARS IN THE BLACK



The Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and Cluster Festival collaborated to present a concert conducted by Larry Strachan featuring Raine Hamilton and Slow Spirit and members of the MCO.

THE MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA continues its third decade in the black, maintaining balanced budgets for 25 years in a row now.

The 20/21 season was unlike any other, with the COVID-19 lockdown preventing the MCO from hosting a full in-person subscription series. Despite this, it pursued valuable organizational innovation and presented dozens of impactful in-person and online concerts for Manitoban and international audiences in the tens of thousands. It did so with the vital support of its allies—and ended its fiscal year with a surplus crucial to cushioning the organization against future pressures.

The MCO presented various concert 'clusters' over the 20/21 season. Audiences reconnected with familiar performers and new collaborators as the season began with four in-person concerts at the Winnipeg Art Gallery in fall 2020. On September 27th, the MCO presented two concerts, conducted by Larry Strachan, with

indie musicians Slow Spirit and Raine Hamilton. A week later, the MCO presented two classical music concerts at the WAG, featuring breathtaking solos from familiar MCO players and Caitlin Broms-Jacobs' highly original arrangement for reed trio of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*.

In early 2021, MCO began engaging music-hungry audiences with two free and public re-presentations, via YouTube Live, of the fall WAG concerts. These online concerts are still public and have accumulated 20K streams to date. February 2021 also saw the MCO's first online Heartstrings Gala. Hosted by MCO veteran double bassist Paul Nagelberg, the gala featured a number of musical performances and raised over \$32,000.

Unable to visit underserved communities across Manitoba, the Fiddlers on the Loose outreach ensemble presented a popular online concert series in March. Resonating with schools across the province, the

free public series has been watched over 4K times by viewers around the world.

From April to July, the MCO offered eight ticketed online concerts. Recorded at various venues across the city, these concerts featured many favourite MCO guest soloists, including Tracy Dahl, Andriana Chuchman, and Aisslinn Nosky. The series also presented illustrious MCO newcomers Nahre Sol and Stephen Hough, who, as with other international soloists, recorded their performances from abroad.

With 2,805 cumulative views, the Festival was enjoyed by ticket-buyers across the world, often in real-time as they connected with friends and MCO musicians in the video's live chat. Music Director Anne Manson remained an important leader for this series, curating its program with Managing Director Vicki Young, liaising with soloists, and appearing in interviews from her UK home. The MCO's final concert 'cluster' for the 20/21 season was its MEDLEY series, delivered via YouTube in

collaboration with Artists In Healthcare Manitoba. Presented as a gift to those living and working in Manitoba's healthcare facilities and available to the general public, this series featured 12 in-person concerts and 22 unique online concerts with such Manitoban musicians as Jocelyn Gould, Sierra Noble, and Ambasel. MEDLEY added 13K streams to the MCO's YouTube channel, for 80K over the season.

Efforts by the development team were strong, with many sponsors choosing to shift support towards online content. MCO's Endowment Fund, administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, received more donations from supporters and matching funds from the Foundation and the federal Endowment Incentives Program. It now sits at \$2.421 million, plus a \$375,000 life insurance policy. The MCO Board of Directors expressed satisfaction with the year's results, and has turned its focus to the promise of the current season.

2020/21 Board and staff

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Boyd MacKenzie

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Michaela Kleer

Program Advertising
Brian Chipney

2020/21 Concerts/streams

27 September 2020 (2 shows)
Warp/Weave, presented
by the **MCO & Cluster Festival**
Collaboration support:

The Winniepee Foundation
Music Director sponsor:
**Warde Fraser (Manulife
Securities)**

4 October 2020 (2 shows)
The Buhler Concert
Chamber Night at the WAG

8-22 April 2021
Stephen Hough, piano
Concertmaster sponsor:
Raymond Hébert

20 May thru 3 April 2021
Lucie Horsch, MCO musicians
Concert sponsor:

LBL Holdings/60th Anniversary
Music Director sponsor:
Ron & Sandi Mielitz
Concertmaster sponsors:
**Judith Hall and Edmond
Financial Group**

27 May thru 13 June 2021
Nahre Sol, MCO musicians
Music Director sponsor:

Roger Groening
—in memoriam **Edd Groening**
Concertmaster sponsor:
Robert Giesbrecht

10-24 June 2021
Naomi Woo, conductor
James Sommerville, French horn
Victoria Sparks, percussion
Concert sponsor:

Pollard Banknote Ltd.
Concertmaster sponsor: **Sue Irving**

24 June thru 8 July 2021
Aisslinn Nosky, violin
Claire Chase, flute
Concert sponsor:

Wawanesa Insurance
Concertmaster sponsor:
Paul & Beryl Walsh

1-22 July 2021
A Day in the Life of Haydn
Alexander Weimann, conductor
Concert sponsor: **Johnston Group**
Concertmaster sponsor:
Moti & Majid Shojania

8-22 July 2021
Alexander Weimann, conductor
Tracy Dahl, soprano
Andriana Chuchman, soprano
Concert sponsors:

**Drs. Bill Pope
& Elizabeth Tippett-Pope**
and **The Gail Asper Family
Foundation**

Guest artist sponsor:
The Asper Foundation

Artists in Healthcare

Manitoba Medley, a series
of **12 in-person concerts**
featuring 34 musicians
with about 600 people in
attendance, and **22 online
videos** featuring 42 musicians
with nearly 15,000 views
Sponsor: **Safe at Home MB**

In-person performance
for **Downtown Biz**

Classic 107 series

24 radio programs featuring
works recorded by the MCO
and associates of the MCO;
total estimated listenership
of 120,000

2020/21 Education & outreach

Fiddlers on the Loose is a troupe of
MCO players that offers workshops
and mini-concerts in Manitoba
schools, libraries, and correctional
facilities. **Pizzicato Pizza Club** offers
music education and free pizza to
evening concertgoers. Other pre-con-
cert events include talks at **McNally
Robinson**, featuring an MCO soloist
or conductor, and mini-concerts
with emerging musicians, presented
before the main concert event.

Workshops and masterclasses
are offered as opportunities arise.
Matinee performances, open
rehearsals, lectures, workshops,
and classroom visits. During the
pandemic, in-person outreach
activities were suspended.

MCO at Home launched in April
2020, the MCO's online platform
offers a stream of virtual content
including concert recordings, exclu-
sive performance videos, interviews
with musicians, conductors, and
composers with our Music Director
Anne Manson, playlists, and more.

Education & Outreach support:
the **Canada Council for
the Arts**, the **Manitoba Arts
Council**, the **Winnipeg Arts
Council**, the **Winnipeg Founda-
tion**, **Access Credit Union**,
Assiniboine Credit Union,
Canada Life, **Lloyd Carr-Harris
Foundation**, **Manitoba School
Boards Association**, **Manitoba
Teachers' Society**, the **Mauro
Fund**, the **Musicians' Perfor-
mance Trust Fund**, **Red River
Co-op**, the **Richardson Founda-
tion**, the **Rita Menzies Endow-
ment Fund for Arts Education**,
Safe at Home MB, **Sun Life
Financial**, **Telus Friendly
Future Foundation**, and the
Winnipeg School Division.

Heartstrings@HOME

Catering: **Bergmann's on Lombard**

Wines selected & provided
by **GJ Andrews**

Event sponsor:
Christianson Wealth Advisors
National Bank Financial

Wine & volunteer sponsor:
MB Liquor Mart

Reception sponsor:
**Johnson Sousa Thoroski
& Associates of RBC Wealth
Management**, **Dominion
Securities**

Music sponsor: **Payworks**

Special thanks

The Canada Council for the Arts
Manitoba Arts Council
Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries
Winnipeg Arts Council
Safe at Home MB
Richardson Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation
Canada Life
Sun Life Financial
Telus Friendly Future Foundation

Season sponsor: **CN**

Media sponsors:
Winnipeg Free Press
Canstar Community News
Prairie Public Broadcasting
Classic 107 & Golden West Radio

2020/21 Canadian repertoire

Kati Agócs
JS Bach (arr. Broms-Jacobs)
John Burge
Srlul Irving Glick
Raine Hamilton
Raine Hamilton (arr. Byman)

Raine Hamilton (arr. Kristofferson)

Alexina Louie
Rodrigo Muñoz

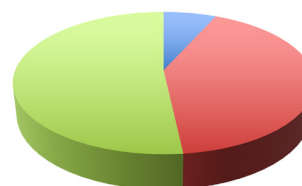
Jeff Presslaff
Slow Spirit

Horn Concerto (excerpt)
Goldberg Variations, arranged for wind trio
Because Forgiveness Needs Another Word
Old Toronto Klezmer Suite
Creek Cabin Song
Robin Hood
Over the Mountain
Aurora in the Meadow
Starlight
Waking the Lion
Bailecito en mi
Mueve la cintura mulata
Heaven's Reflexes
Nowhere No One Knows Where to Find You
Moon flower
Woman
Gone Gone
Hard Season
Sketchy Symbology

Income and expenses

Income	2021	2020
Earned income	\$73,153	\$96,033
Fundraising and sponsorships	\$451,557	\$398,967
Grants	\$562,562	\$432,282
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,087,272	\$927,282
Expenses		
Artistry and performance	\$346,168	\$358,979
Marketing and publicity	\$20,331	\$27,999
Administrative	\$387,760	\$388,459
Contribution to MCO Endowment Fund	\$21,550	\$2,700
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	\$775,809	\$778,137
Surplus	\$311,463	\$149,145
Accumulated surplus/deficit	\$261,179	\$112,034
Net assets invested in guaranteed cash value of life insurance	\$50,531	\$47,332
Investment in capital assets	\$2,054	\$3,203
Stabilization fund	\$49,868	\$9,868
Special projects fund	\$52,869	\$12,869
Unrestricted net assets	\$417,320	\$187,907
Net surplus	\$572,642	\$261,179

Income



Expenses

