



# THOMAS CIRCLE SINGERS

JAMES KREGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2020-2021 SEASON



THOMAS CIRCLE  
SINGERS





# JAMES KREGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## 2020-2021 SEASON

### **Mission**

Established in 1976, The Thomas Circle Singers (TCS) is a welcoming and inclusive choral ensemble committed to enriching the musical life of the Washington, DC region through engaging and impactful performances, and partnerships with DC-based social service organizations.

### **Vision**

TCS envisions a future where choral singing is a vibrant part of a just and equitable society.

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### **From Our Artistic Director**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support and virtual presence during our 2020-2021 season, a season like no other. TCS celebrated its 45th year of being *"Voices that Make a Difference"* in the nation's capital, although it was not the celebration that we had hoped for. Instead, it was a celebration of the organization's resiliency, determination, creativity, tenacity, and strong sense of community. This was one of several silver linings that manifested during the past year; let me share a couple more. Although the Singers were never able to meet together in person, we managed to stay connected on a weekly basis through online rehearsals which included singing through music both familiar and new, having group voice lessons from guest instructors, expanding our understanding of various musical topics through engaging lectures from guest speakers as well as drawing on the expertise of some of our own singers, and preparing three virtual chorus videos. In addition, we were able to connect with our audience, donors, and friends on a more regular basis throughout the season. Online events ranging from a look back at forty-five years of TCS, to a meet the composer evening with Blake Henson, to "Cookies, Carols and Cocktails" (our re-invented Christmas concert), culminating in our final event of the season "Looking Forward Together" allowed TCS to come into your home and share our story and music with you on a more personal level. What incredible opportunities these were for us!

Throughout the season, we have been most grateful for the generosity of so many who believe in our mission and help to make our re-imagined work and musical art possible. Looking forward, we are staying as optimistic as possible that we will be able to perform for you in person once again this coming season. As we consider a potential hybrid schedule with both live and virtual offerings in store, we also plan to continue to offer online educational events this season. Whichever way you choose to connect with us, we are most grateful for your continued support and presence.

With deep gratitude,  
James Kreger, Artistic Director





**Looking Back -  
TCS Celebrates 45 Years  
Saturday September 19, 2020 5:00-6:00 PM**

Founded in 1976, TCS grew out of a music group from Luther Place Memorial Church that believed sharing the beauty of music could help transform what was at that time a blighted community. Artistic Director James Kreger began his tenure with TCS in January of 1989. Since those early days, the Thomas Circle neighborhood has gone through tremendous change, as has TCS.

Join four members of our alto section and Jim Kreger as they discuss and share remembrances of the early years of TCS to the present.



**Meet the Composer -  
Blake Henson  
Tuesday September 29, 2020 7:30-8:30 PM**

Blake Henson's "August Moonrise" was composed in 2011 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of TCS. This gorgeous setting of the Sara Teasdale poem has become a treasured and favorite addition to TCS's repertoire. Director Kreger and Dr. Henson will discuss the piece as well as their thoughts on recent projects and on composing choral music and selecting texts. Those present will be invited to join in a sing-along (via a May 2019 TCS recording) of a performance of the work.



**TCS Online Silent Auction Kick Off  
Saturday, October 24, 2020  
5:00-5:45 PM**

Get dressed to the nines (or not)! TCS is excited to be hosting its postponed annual Silent Auction Party online. Our biggest party of the year will have a different look with an exciting and expanded line up of events. Party goers will hear highlights of the season from Jim Kreger, enjoy performances by both the Thomas Circle Singers and guests, see a presentation about the important work of our partner organization Art Enables, and be able to indulge in other activities. In addition to early access to our fabulous online silent auction, those in attendance will also be eligible for door prizes.



**Carols, Cookies, and Cocktails  
Saturday December 19, 2020 5:00-6:00 PM**

Our popular annual Christmas concert moves online this year with some new twists and surprises. Snuggle up at home around the Christmas tree and join the singers in a video performance of music for Christmas, as well as a joyful and uplifting sing-along of favorite carols. In addition, singers will share favorite Christmas memories. Our friends at Catocin Creek Distillery will share some holiday cocktail recipes with us, and attendees will be eligible for door prizes. Advance ticket holders will receive a digital holiday booklet ahead of time featuring a caroling book for the sing-along and favorite Christmas cookie recipes. Ticket proceeds will benefit Art Enables.

While you are getting your ticket, don't forget to get your event box featuring an ornament by the artists of Art Enables, cookies from Capital Candy Jar, and candy and cocoa for two!



**Looking Forward Together  
Saturday May 8th, 2021 5:00-6:00 PM**

Join us in May for our final event of the season as we "Look Forward Together" to a not-so-distant future where we can sing together in person.

This will be our final virtual presentation of the season, featuring performances by the full ensemble as well as solo performances highlighting the talents of individual members of TCS. We will hear from our partner organization, Art Enables, about the work they are continuing to do to help build a more inclusive art world. The event will also feature the presentation of this year's Deborah Kennedy Coster Spirit Award, recognizing a member of our community who has embodied the TCS spirit of volunteerism over many years of service.

Ticket proceeds will benefit Art Enables.





**JAMES KREGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
**2020-2021 SEASON**

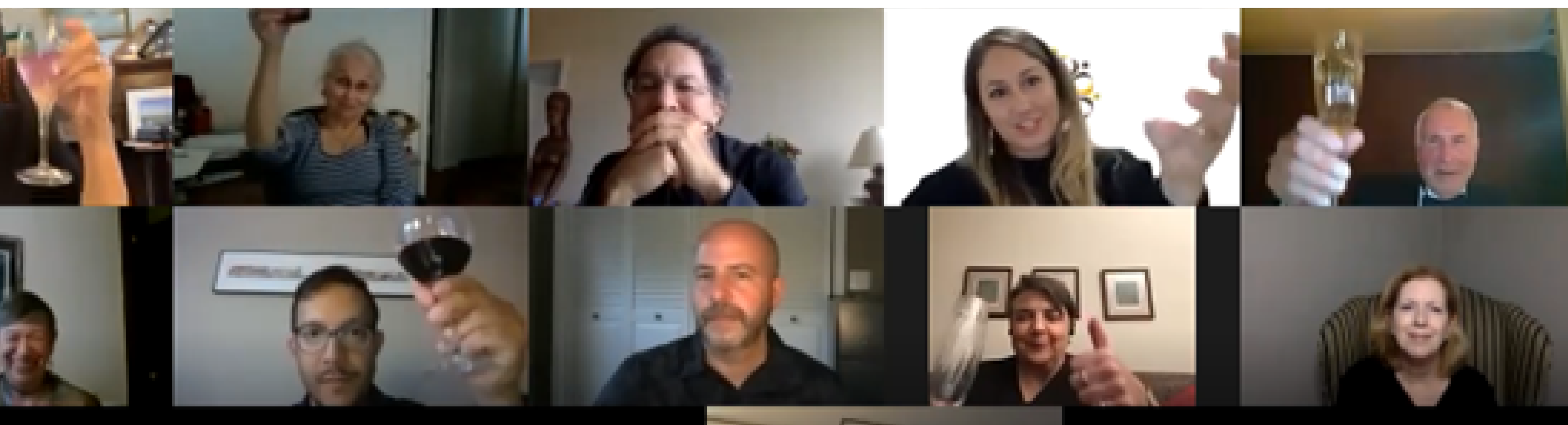
# **Virtual Chorus Releases**

**You Are the New Day**  
**John David, composer**  
**Premiering November 21st, 2020, 5 PM**

**If I Could Stop One Heart From Breaking**  
**Arreon A. Harley-Emerson, composer**  
**Premiering March 20th, 2021, 5 PM**

**Come Again Sweet Love**  
**John Dowland, composer**  
**Premiering Saturday May 8th, 2021**

**Sing Gently**  
**Eric Whitacre, composer**  
**Premiering Saturday May 8th, 2021**







## JAMES KREGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2020-2021 SEASON

# Tuesday Choral Salons

While we couldn't sing together in person this season, we could sing and learn together from home! In lieu of our usual Tuesday rehearsal we hosted bi-weekly Tuesday Choral Salons (TCS), as well as the following special interest sessions:

**October 2, 2020: Improving Your Reading Skills with Antony Zwerdling**

Learn a few tricks to improve your reading skills. Topics covered include key signatures, solfege, and intervals.

**October 27, 2020: Black Music Matters with Dr. Edryn Coleman and Arreon Harley-Emerson**

Accessible non-idiomatic music by Black composers and arrangers

**November 10, 2020: Rosa Lamoreaux, soprano**

Maintaining vocal technique when you're singing alone in a virtual rehearsal

**November 24, 2020: Dr. Sam Baltimore**

The Music of Sondheim

**December 1, 2020: Indian Classical Music**

TCS baritone Rashad Ullah, also a vocal student in the North Indian (or 'Hindustani') Classical tradition, will present a lecture, with short, live-sung demonstrations, introducing the fundamentals of this musical practice.

**January 26, 2021: "Peter Quince at the Clavier" with Barbara Bulger Verdile**

Listening and singing along with Dominick Argento's setting of "Peter Quince at the Clavier", and take a look at how this fascinating text and music fit together.

**February 23, 2021: Dr. Sam Baltimore**

The Music of Bernstein

**March 2, 2021: Michelle Lundy, Harpist**

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Harp (But Were Afraid to Ask)

**April 6, 2021: Michael Fili, composer**

An Introduction to Western Tonal Structure for Choral Singers

**April 13, 2021: Sight-singing II with Antony Zwerdling**

Don't let the virus erode your musicianship skills! Review your intervals, solfege, key signatures, time signatures, triplets and duplets.

**April 27, 2021: Indian Classical Music Part Two**

A continuation of Rashad Ullah's December presentation.

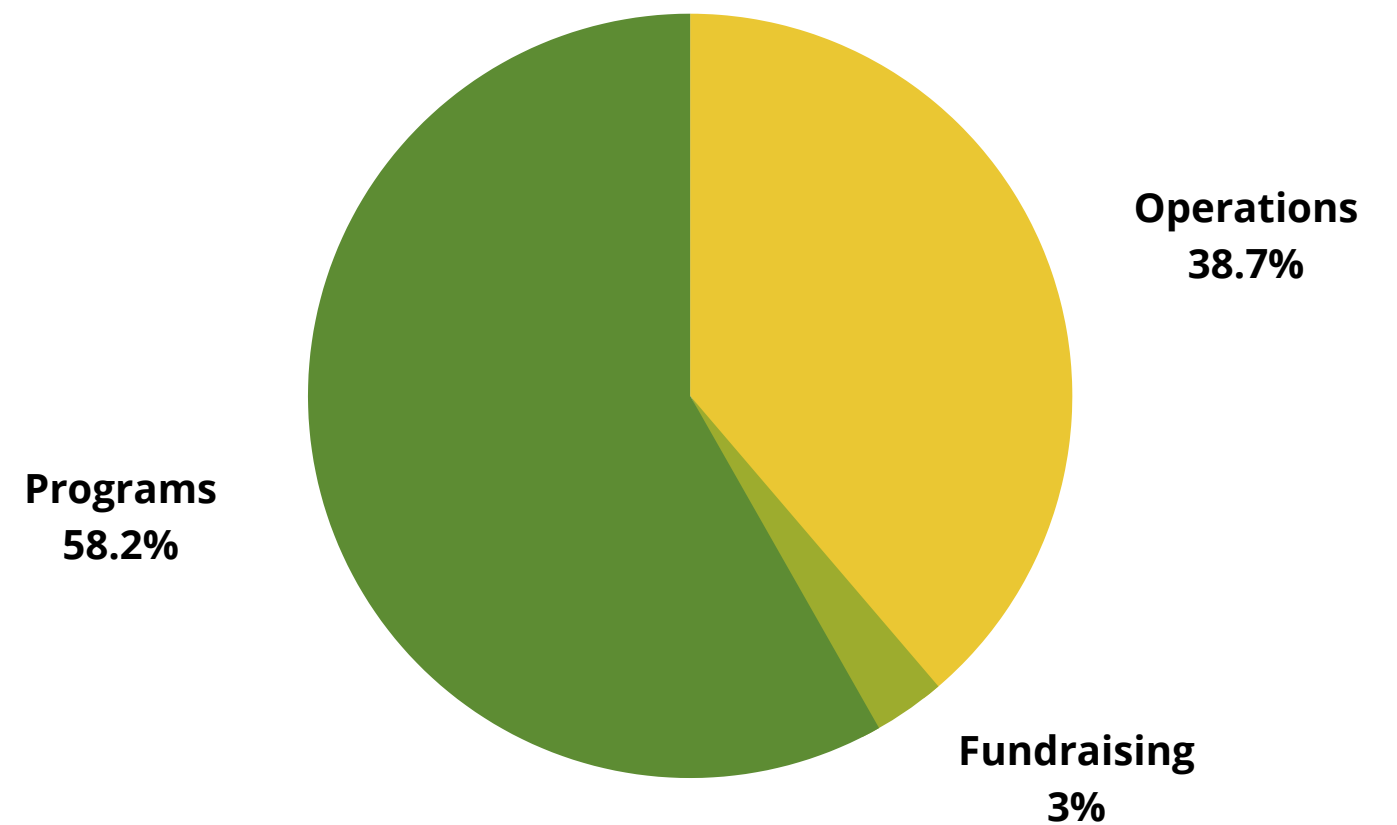
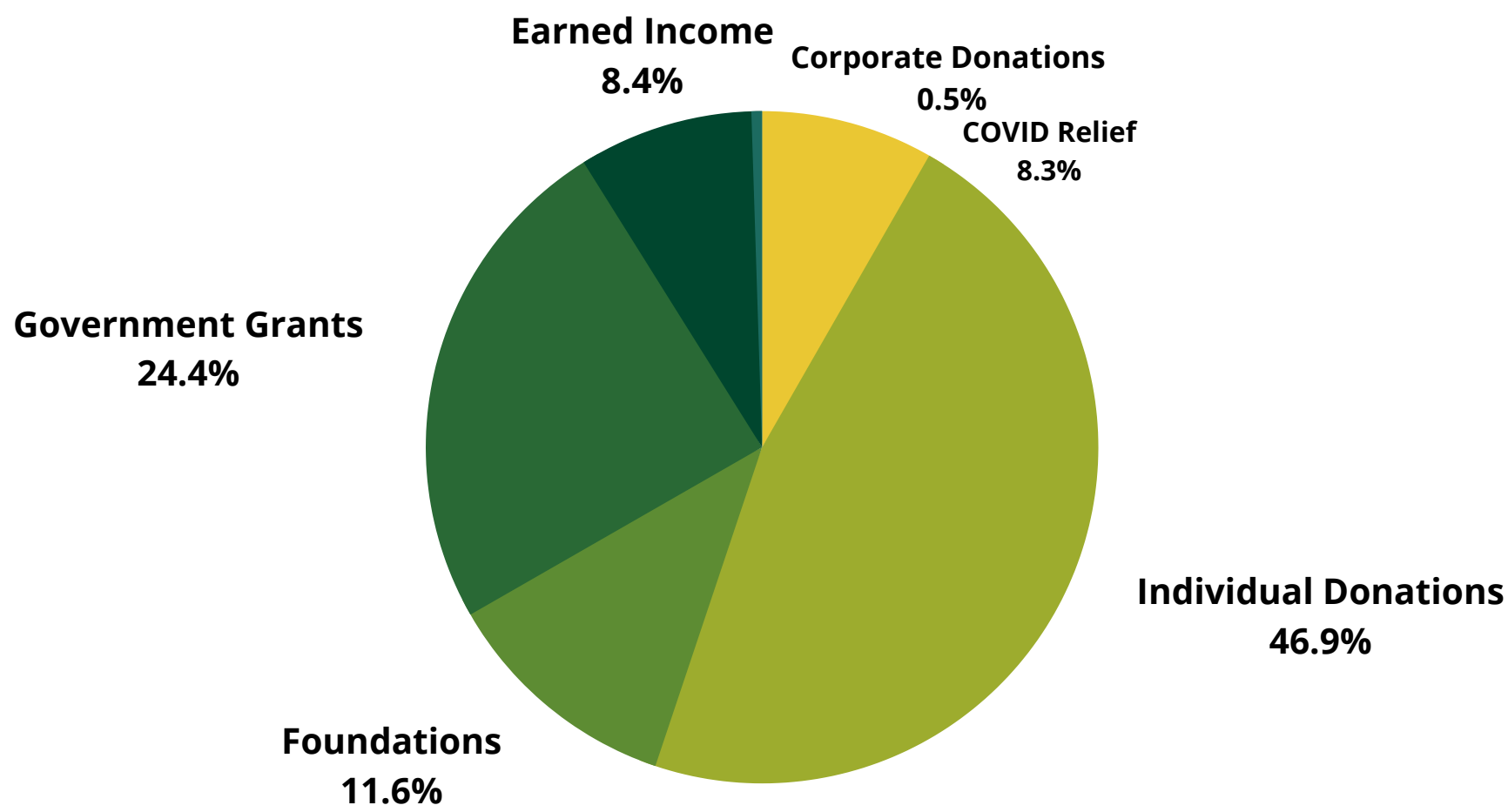




# JAMES KREGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2020-2021 SEASON

Income: \$86,456.20

Expenses: \$78,089.74



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## Thank you to all of our supporters

113 Individual Donors - Clark Winchcole Foundation - Three Friends Fund - D.C. Commission for the Arts and Humanities - Catoctin Creek Distillery

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## Staff

James Kreger, Artistic Director  
Erin Feng, Administrative Director

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