

men in bīa[👤]que

Annual Report 2022-2023

PO Box 4849, Irvine, CA 92616

www.MeninBlaque.com | contact@meninblaque.com | (949) 732-0122

Dear friends,

We are thrilled to present our very first Men in Blaque Annual Report! Your invaluable contributions of time and financial support are foundational to the success of our organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Men in Blaque team, thank you for being part of our community. We hope this report shares our responsible stewardship of the resources you've generously shared with us. We strive to continue earning your trust as a non-profit deserving of your support.

Men in Blaque is flourishing thanks to the generosity of our donors, the unwavering support of our families and friends, and the collaborative spirit within our communities. We express our deepest appreciation to each individual who has contributed to our achievements this year.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Richard Paul

President, Board of Directors



Catching up with old friends.

It wouldn't be a celebration without pizza.



about us

our MISSION

Men in Blaque is a male chamber chorus based in Orange County, California. Formed in 1997 at the University of California, Irvine, Men in Blaque sings 15th – 22nd century choral music in original voicing. Our mission is to celebrate and promote cultural, and artistic diversity through sharing high-caliber vocal literature for male voices worldwide. Men in Blaque embodies a lifelong devotion to the music community—past, present, and future.

our VALUES

We aspire to be an inclusive, artistically-driven ensemble dedicated to the education, application, creation, and presentation of diverse choral music repertoire. We strive to be a cornerstone in our community, fostering outreach and collaborative initiatives that promote the appreciation and understanding of the choral art form. We aim to provide comprehensive and ongoing opportunities for individuals seeking to deepen their understanding and practice of choral singing. Ultimately, our goal is to establish ourselves as an artistic ensemble celebrated for our mastery and interpretation of choral music.



Ed Johnson, Dylan Calkins, Andy Ball, Isaiah Jacobs, Le Do, Vince Ko, Ty Morgan, Steve Michel, Aidan Piecuch, George Ranney, Wendell Ballantyne, Jett Collins, Amir Garcia, Ross Valentine, Mike Ushino, Joseph Jamoralin, Craig Toyota, Joseph Huszti, Anthony Magturo, Richard Paul

artistic highlights

Men in Blaque began the 2022-2023 season with a 25th anniversary celebration weekend in November, filled with rehearsals, live performances, shared meals, and the vibrant (re)telling of many stories. Alumni of Men in Blaque traveled from various parts of the country to join the festivities in Southern California.

Our Winter concert in December featured cherished holiday classics, and a heartwarming community sing-along of beloved carols. We partnered with fifteen women, affectionately known as “Women in Whyte” for our Valentine’s Day concert in February. Finally, we embarked on a global musical journey with our May performance titled “A Choral Passport” featuring a diverse repertoire in Japanese, French, Polish, Latin, German, and English.



It's always more fun to sing with friends.
The Women in Whyte joined the Men in Blaque on Valentine's Day 2023.

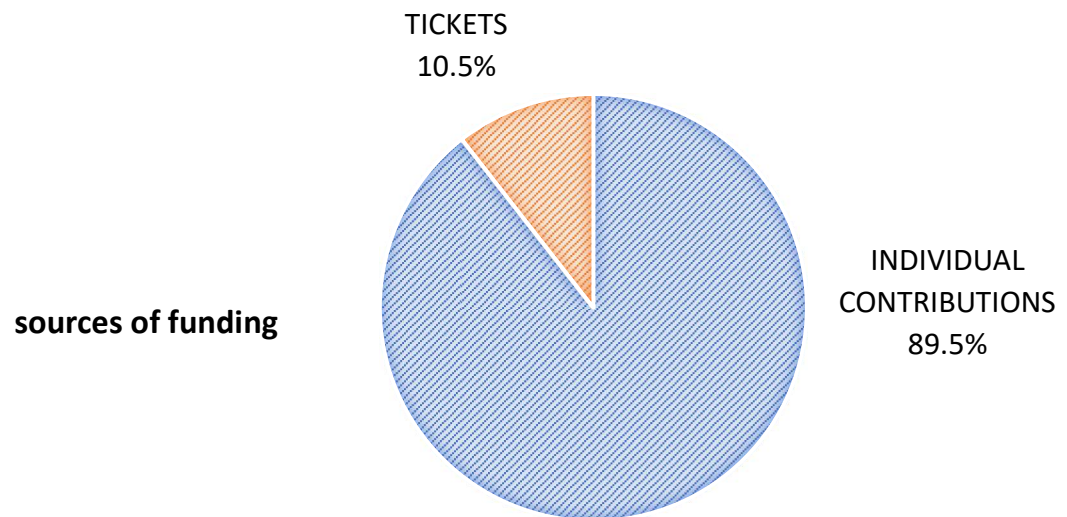


Professor Joe Huszti before the anniversary performance.

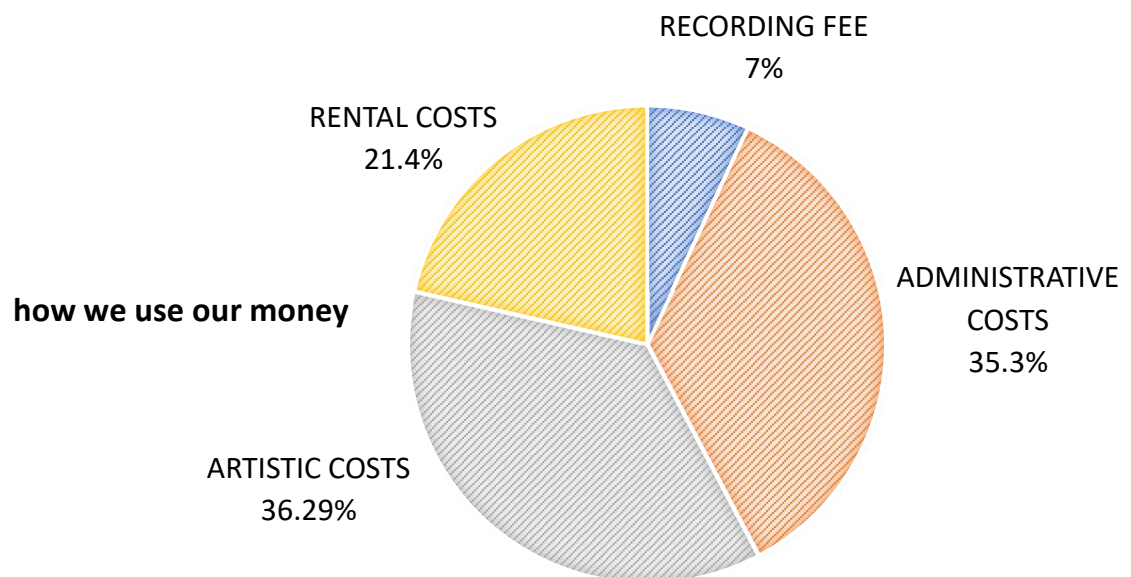
financial highlights

Men in Blaque was officially granted the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in April 2023, allowing us to provide tax-deductible receipts to our donors for the 2022-2023 season.

89.5% of our revenue came from individuals. Singer contributions were not yet put in place for the 2022-2023 season, and tickets were donation based.



64.7% of our funding was spent on our programs: artistic compensation, rehearsal and venue rental costs as well as a recording fee for one of our concerts. Administrative costs were mostly spent on legal counsel for our 501(c)(3) application.



administrative highlights

Administratively, our primary objective at the beginning of the season was to begin the process of submitting our 501(c)(3) application to the IRS. This designation would enable us to provide tax-deductible receipts to our patrons. Additionally, securing the 501(c)(3) status would make Men in Blaque be eligible for both government and private grants, supporting our mission and providing additional funding opportunities. We are thrilled to announce that our 501(c)(3) status was officially granted by the IRS in April of 2023.

One of our major goals was to be able to provide contracts for our artistic team – Andy Ball and Mike Ushino, artistic directors, and our exceptional accompanist, Katie Franklin Ledsinger. We are delighted to say that by the conclusion of our 2022-2023 season, our financial position was strong enough to ensure that we were able to fulfill this goal for the subsequent season (2023-2024).

special thanks

We thank Professor Joseph Huszti for his exceptional leadership, unwavering inspiration, and steadfast financial support over the last twenty-five years. His dedication, guidance, and passion for Men in Blaque has been instrumental in shaping the musical journey of every member, both past and present. His mentorship has not only enhanced our musical abilities but has also instilled in us a deep appreciation for teamwork, discipline, and the power of collaboration. We are truly fortunate to have had the privilege of working with you.

We are immensely grateful to Mary Langsdorf and the dedicated administrative team at Orange County Women's Chorus for their invaluable assistance throughout our 501(c)(3) application process. Their guidance and support have been instrumental in navigating this significant milestone for our organization.

Our heartfelt thanks to the teams at Faith Lutheran (now Christ Lutheran Church) and St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church in Huntington Beach for graciously hosting our rehearsals and performances over the past few years.

To the many volunteers working in the background, please accept our deepest thanks for the countless hours, expertise, and dedication you have generously shared with us.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering dedication, guidance and support, which have played an immeasurable role in our success.

our team



Andy Ball,
Artistic Director



Mike Ushino,
Artistic Director



Joseph Huszti,
Artistic Director



Katie Franklin Ledsinger,
Accompanist

board of directors

Richard D. Paul, President

Edward Johnson

Steven Michel

Anthony Magturo

Peter Lin

Caesar Villanueva

Craig Toyota

our donors

August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023

Director (\$2500 and more)

Joseph Huszti

Soloist (\$500 to \$2499)

Richard Paul

Chorale (\$5 to \$499)

Jacob Brouwer

Cynthia Fitzgerald

Brian Hart

Heather Huszti

Thomas Kim

Irene Messoloras

Kelli Michel

Carol Morrison

John Romine

Derrick Toyota

Lauren Valantine

Monica Van Ess

Kristin Wat

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support.

Your contribution is instrumental in our achievements.

THANK YOU!

2022-2023 Season

for men mostly festival – October 21, 2023

Men in Blaque hosted our inaugural For Men Mostly Festival in October 2023. Fifty-two high school students from three schools joined Men in Blaque for a morning workshop and an afternoon festival adjudicated by Dr. Irene Messoloras, the Director of Choral Activities at University of California, Irvine.

Thanks to your support, the Festival was a tremendous success. Your support allowed us to connect with fellow musicians, learn wonderful new music, and make a difference in the next generation of singers.

winter concert – December 2, 2023

The 2023 Winter Concert was a delightful celebration of the holiday spirit through music. It was a heartwarming celebration that captured the spirit of Christmas. The concert brought both singers and audience members together as we enjoyed singing beloved carols.

valentine's day – Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7:00PM

Whether you're celebrating with a special someone, friends, or simply want to embrace the spirit of love, this concert promises to create cherished memories.

Please join us for an evening of wonderful music, sweet treats, and fond memories.

spring concert – Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 7:00PM

Enjoy an evening of joyful melodies that celebrate the essence of springtime – a time of growth, and fresh beginnings.

Gather your friends, family, and fellow music enthusiasts for an evening of musical delight. This concert is a perfect opportunity to create cherished memories with your loved ones.

tickets are available at www.meninblaque.com/events

all performances are held at St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church

18631 Chapel Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646



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