



FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT

(Sept. 1, 2023–Aug. 31, 2024)

ALEXANDRIA A CAPPELLA COLLECTIVE

BRINGING HARMONY TO THE GREATER DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA ... AND THE WORLD....



August 2025

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Letter from the President



Noah Van Gilder

President, AACC Board of Directors
(CY2022-2024)

Dear Friends and Supporters,

FY2024 marked an extraordinary year for our organization.

One of the most significant changes that came about is that the Alexandria Harmonizers, Inc. changed its name, so we now do business as the Alexandria A Cappella Collective (AACC).

AACC is an umbrella organization that includes the Harmonizers, our new treble chorus Metro Voices, and leaves room for potential future expansion with other choral ensembles.

Another highlight of the year: In September 2024, we had a concert dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Alexandria Harmonizers. During this diamond jubilee event, we celebrated both the Harmonizers' storied history and prepared for our organization's future.

While 2024 was a gem of a year, to make it through the next 75, our organization must be diamond-like in other ways: We must have clarity of purpose; our finances must be strong; and our organization must be multi-faceted and resilient, to meet the diverse needs of our members and our community.

To meet these goals, we also worked on refining our organization, developing, and implementing a new strategic plan to guide us through CY2028.

Whether you join us on the risers as chorus members, become involved as supporters, or just take in one of our performances, we are thrilled to include you as members of our Collective and our larger community.

When we all come together, our diamond-aged chorus truly rings.

AACC's Mission

Enriching lives through vocal harmony in the greater DC area



We aren't just committed to being one of the world's best. We bring the best of barbershop to the world

Introduction: A Diamond of a Year



A Cut Above: One of the Nation's Best Choral Ensembles

For decades, AACC has dazzled audiences, and this past year was no different.

We remain leaders in the a cappella world. The Harmonizers took fifth place at the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) 2024 International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, while our new chorus Metro Voices brought home the championship from the BHS International Chorus Festival. Moreover, AACC's ensembles are routinely asked to take the stage at national and regional events—as we did during a July 2023 performance *Wolf Trap*—while our principals take leading roles as educators and performers for other organizations around the globe.

We aren't just committed to being one of the world's best. We bring the best of barbershop to the world.

As residents of the greater Washington DC area, we also embrace a role as musical diplomats and cultural ambassadors. Throughout our history, our chorus has performed around the world. And when here at home, we have proudly performed for heads of state and other dignitaries, while hosting ensembles and individual artists traveling to the US.

Color: A Community Arts Organization Committed to Its Community

Although we have a global reputation, we are a community arts organization, and we are as serious about honoring our local commitments as we are our international ones.

We love Alexandria, a jewel of a city, and we are honored to support it whenever we can. That is why AACC choruses perform locally throughout the year. In FY2024, members of our choruses performed at nearly 20 events within Alexandria and the greater Washington DC metro area—ranging from our anniversary gala concert at Alexandria’s Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center to caroling on the streets of Old Town.

Clarity: An Organization Dedicated to Members’ Well-being & Growth

We also want to acknowledge the larger value that AACC brings to its members.

As was memorably depicted in the film *Join or Die*, studies show that local organizations are important catalysts for civic and individual well-being; they are the engines of community. Research has further shown that participation in choral singing specifically is one of the fastest ways to build community bonds and combat loneliness, while it reduces individuals’ likelihood of cognitive decline and improves physical and psychological health.

While few Americans have friends who are of a different political party, class, or generation, AACC is an apolitical community chorus with members from all walks of life, ranging in age from their teens to their eighties. AACC counts among its members professional musicians, who have appeared on some of the globe’s most prestigious stages, and singers who are individually ranked among the best in the world. But AACC also includes those who have never previously sung in a group and don’t read music. The appeal, both of our musicianship and community, shines through. Roughly one-third of AACC’s members have been in the organization for 10-50 years, while one-third have joined within the past two years.



AACC Strategic Vision/Plan

**Quality
Outreach
Branding
Growth
Culture of Fellowship**

The AACC Carat:

The Weight of Our FY2024 Achievements

FY2024 marked a historic year for AACC

Not only was it the Harmonizers' anniversary year, but it was the first full year for the new Collective organization and the first full year for Metro Voices, the AACC treble chorus that began as a full-time chorus in January 2023.

In May 2024, AACC adopted a new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan that established six goals for the chorus: *quality, outreach, branding, finances, growth, and culture of fellowship*. Since the plan's adoption, AACC has been working to meet those goals.

We are gratified by the progress we have made and look forward to continuing this achievement.

Quality

AACC is known for its world-class musicianship; however, AACC's choruses strive for continuous improvement. In addition to its triumphant performances in regional and international competitions, AACC was a headliner for the 2023 BHS Midwinter Convention in New York City, the 2023 Northeastern District Convention in Lake George, NY, and a choral event at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.



To ensure that this volunteer chorus meets professional performance standards, the chorus has frequently updated its repertoire, keeping its members and audiences engaged. In FY2024, the chorus instituted new ways for its members to receive support and evaluation of their performance quality.

AACC provided continuing education for its members—such as check-ins with chorus leaders, educational programming, and inviting internationally renowned coaches to work with its chorus members, collectively and individually. It has also collaborated with other choruses to perform and learn with them.

These efforts have been paying off. According to a 2024 chorus survey, more than 80 percent of chorus members felt that the learning resources offered met their needs. Moreover, chorus ratings for learning opportunities generally improved over the last two years.

Outreach

AACC has committed itself to strengthen its ties with other Alexandria entities as well as those within the larger Washington DC metro area, by expanding our existing relationships and beginning two new significant initiatives.

We've built on our longstanding relationships—such as our affiliation with the Alfred Street Baptist Church Men's Chorus—and we've increased the number of local events where we've performed.

We've also begun to work with organizations that serve the military, veterans, and military families. Historically, many AACC members have been affiliated with the military, and, in FY2024, we created a team dedicated to working with these related charities, finding ways to support their efforts (e.g., providing entertainment at events).

Next, we have expanded our efforts to provide music education for youth. We began working with the Washington, DC Public Schools (DCPS) to provide music education to district students. In our first effort, we designed curricula and hosted a one-day youth festival for nearly 80 students, which ended with the students performing for parents, faculty, and AACC members. This kickoff's success led to the AACC and DCPS joint commitment to make this an annual event.

9,000+

**Est. Audience
Members**

**20+ local
events
including:**

An anniversary gala concert—where we debuted Metro Voices while hosting local dignitaries and global phenom quartets Max Q and Ringmasters

A performance at Wolf Trap

A free community concert in Fairfax, Virginia

Valentine's Day quartet performances at local assisted living facilities

A holiday concert in Alexandria, Virginia

A holiday concert for the Frederick Catoctones in Frederick, Maryland

Branding

AACC has recognized that it needs a concerted effort to establish the branding of its individual choruses as well as the entity as a whole. While the Alexandria Harmonizers are a well-known entity, Metro Voices began in January 2023, and, later that year, the larger organization was renamed the Alexandria A Cappella Collective.

Branding and other communications efforts are important, to ensure that community entities are aware that AACC participates in relevant activities, while AACC builds awareness to support its efforts.

In FY2024, AACC brought on a branding specialist for nonprofit choruses to develop logos and visual designs for the AACC and its entities, but branding will continue to be a challenge for AACC in the coming year and beyond.



Growth

In May 2024, AACC set a 4-year growth plan, and it has gotten off to a great start in its first year. Harmonizers and Metro Voices gained 18 members in FY2024.

AACC's membership has expanded and has been developing a recruitment plan. While AACC held formal "guest nights," with marketing and rehearsal programming designed specifically for new members, it welcomed guests to virtually every open rehearsal held in FY2024.

Throughout FY2024, AACC members actively recruited potential members and community members to attend rehearsals and performances, while AACC looked for other avenues that would introduce the chorus to a broader audience.

After membership declined during the Covid pandemic, AACC had a surge in new members which revealed some shortcomings when it came to onboarding new members and some other administrative issues. Having heard these criticisms, in FY2024, AACC leadership began a marked effort to improve the process of welcoming new people into the organization—so new members remain for many years to come.

One-third of AACC's members have been members for 10-50 years, while one-third joined the organization within the past two years.

Culture of Fellowship

AACC set a goal to facilitate a culture of fellowship. In qualitative and quantitative survey analysis, AACC members say they are very happy with the organization, and they value community even more than their musical accomplishments. If anything, members have said they want more time to socialize with each other, given that most interaction is limited to rehearsing material.

In FY2024, AACC began giving members more time in rehearsal to interact, offering team-building activities. In the spring, AACC held its first-ever gala, to give members, friends, and colleagues a more dedicated opportunity for social engagement.

In addition, AACC began strategies to improve inter-organizational communication, as well as encourage more members to become involved as volunteers. These are ongoing efforts that will continue as membership continues to evolve—especially for the newer choruses.



18
members joined in FY2024



3
members for 50+ years

What's Next

As significant as FY2024 was, there are exciting things on AACC's horizon—including a concert tour in Ireland, the launch of our youth chorus, and much more.

In FY2025, we expect to move forward towards achieving our goals—quality, outreach, branding/marketing, finances, growth, and culture of fellowship. We will be expanding community partnerships. And we are planning for our future. We are looking to build a stronger infrastructure that will ensure that, 75 years from now, AACC will still be one of Alexandria's true treasures.



30,000+
Unique Facebook /
YouTube Views

Financial Highlights

In FY2024, AACC met its fundraising goals and ended the year with a budget surplus, as it has year after year. The reserves have been put in a rainy-day savings account and towards larger purchases that the chorus may need within the next year or so (e.g., a new commercial truck for transporting chorus risers and other equipment).

AACC met these financial goals even though it eliminated membership dues—a major source of revenue—allowing the organization to reduce financial barriers to membership.

- The majority of FY2024 AACC's funding came from individual donations and small institutional grants. One highlight was AACC's participation in Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's Giving Day, an annual one-day event for nonprofits that yielded AACC \$27,000 from 240 donors.



Total Income

\$241,988



Expenses

\$230,328



Net Surplus

\$11,660

Our Leadership

Artistic Director, AACC
Director, Harmonizers

Joe Cerutti, Jr.

Executive Director, AACC

Stan Quick

Associate Director, Harmonizers

Anthony Colosimo

Assistant Director, Harmonizers

Terry Reynolds

Director, Metro Voices

Samantha Tramack

Assistant Director, Metro Voices

Maggie McAlexander

Director, Capital Force

Tessa Walker-Sifuentes



AACC Artistic Director Joe Cerruti, Jr. was honored with the Barbershop Harmony Society's Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award

Our Board of Directors (2022-2024)

President	Noah Van Gilder US Department of the Interior
Vice President	Carolyn Griffin MetroStage
Treasurer	Terry Reynolds Deloitte
Secretary	Cy Shuster Shuster Piano Service
Member at Large	Turner Arndt Structural Technologies
Member at Large	Michael Berkson Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
Member at Large	Mary Cooper Retired, American Airlines
Member at Large	Dave Kohls, PsyD Ballston Psychology
Member at Large	Charlyne (“Chuck”) Miller Andiron



AACC Operational Team

Chapter Secretary	Heidi Suckow
Contest Director	Craig Kujawa
Development Director	Kenneth Rub
Education Director	Sheryl Berlin
Finance Directors	Carl Kauffmann & David D. Welter
Membership Director	Jacob Broude
Operations Director	Gary Cregan
Show Director	Doug White
Archivist/Historian	Don Harrington



When we all come together,
our diamond-aged chorus truly rings



Grantors, Partners, Sponsors, and Donors

Thank You to Our Grantors, Partners, and Donors— We Couldn't Do This Without You

The Harmonizers and Metro Voices of the Alexandria A Cappella Collective gratefully acknowledge support in part i) for community engagement events from an Arts Program Grant from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and ii) for Metro Voices activities from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which received support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Other partners and supporters whom we are so fortunate to collaborate with include:

ACT for Alexandria
 AlexRenew
 Alexandria Arts Alliance
 Alfred Street Baptist Church
 Chadwick's Restaurant
 Design Frames
 District of Columbia Public Schools
 Fairfax County Park Authority
 Network for Good
 Savoir Faire Limited
 The Washington Chorus
 Weave and Notion
 Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts



Our Donors

Virtuosos (\$10,000 and more)

- Charli Sowers in memoriam of Bill Sowers
- Irene Szopo in memoriam of Al Herman
- David L. Wilt

Conductors (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- Buchly Charity Fund
- Randall Eliason
- Stephen White

Directors (\$2,000-\$4,999)

- Terry Reynolds
- Bruce Roehm
- Jack Pitzer
- Wanda Wachter in memoriam of Robert Wachter
- Dean Rust

Section Leaders (\$1,000-\$1,999)

- Ernest ("E.J.") Herold
- Patricia Chow
- Al Herman
- Chris Huber
- Louise Kenny
- David Kohls
- Greg Tepe

The Harmonizers and Metro Voices also thank the hundreds of others who have donated to our chorus. We sincerely appreciate each and every one of them: Their support means everything to us.



Financial Statement

FY2024 Year-End Actuals

Acct Type	Account Number	Corres Passthru Acct	Level	Account	Review	2024 Budget Chapter	FY24 Actuals Chapter	FY24 AHI Budget	FY24 Actuals AHI
income	40000		1	Public Activity Income		\$40,300.00	\$7,350.06	\$184,700.00	\$225,377.81
income	41000		2	Direct Public Support Income		\$7,200.00	\$6,053.48	\$131,000.00	\$151,479.97
income	42000		2	Grants	X	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$5,100.00
Income	43000		2	Shows Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,700.00	\$40,074.15
Income	44000		2	Contest Income		\$33,100.00	\$1,296.58	\$0.00	\$0.00
income	45000		2	Education/Outreach Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
income	46000		2	Development Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$13,723.69
income	50000		1	Internal Activity Income		\$3,000.00	\$7,314.08	\$0.00	\$1,945.99
income	51000		2	Membership Income		\$0.00	\$410.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
income	52000		2	Operations Income		\$0.00	\$999.10	\$0.00	\$0.00
income	53000		2	Communications Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
income	54000		2	Music Team Income		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
income	57000		2	Finance Income		\$2,000.00	\$2,161.98	\$0.00	\$1,945.99
Income	58000		2	Board Income		\$1,000.00	\$3,743.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
income			T	Total Income		\$43,300.00	\$14,664.14	\$184,700.00	\$227,323.80
expense	60000		1	Public Activity Expenses		\$36,025.00	\$1,203.17	\$38,570.00	\$61,367.43
expense	61000		2	Direct Public Support Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$13,379.76
expense	62000		2	Grants & Awards Made		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
expense	63000		2	Shows Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,570.00	\$31,873.95
expense	64000		2	Contest Expenses		\$36,025.00	\$1,203.17	\$0.00	\$0.00
expense	65000		2	Education/Outreach Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,113.72
expense	66000		2	Development Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
expense	66192			Other Fundraising Item Purchases					
expense	70000		1	Internal Activity Expenses		\$16,195.00	\$16,584.33	\$162,033.00	\$151,173.76
expense	71000		2	Membership Expenses		\$5,200.00	\$3,750.64	\$0.00	\$0.00
expense	72000		2	Operations Expenses		\$2,500.00	\$3,895.41	\$29,550.00	\$27,190.01
expense	73000		2	Communications		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,625.00	\$2,906.04
expense	74000		2	Music Team Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,390.00	\$14,151.75
expense	76000		2	Archivist/Historian Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
expense	77000		2	Finance		\$230.00	\$29.05	\$3,910.00	\$1,672.21
expense	78000		2	Board Expenses		\$8,265.00	\$8,909.23	\$2,560.00	\$1,969.87
expense	79000		2	Contractor Expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,498.00	\$103,283.88
			T	Total Expenses		\$52,220.00	\$17,787.50	\$200,603.00	\$212,541.19
			T	Net Surplus / Deficit		-\$8,920.00	-\$3,123.36	-\$15,903.00	\$14,782.61



Contact Us

Website

<https://www.harmonizers.org>



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AlexandriaACappellaCollective>



YouTube

<https://bit.ly/4lbBGrR>



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