



# 2008 Annual Report

*Fiscal Year August 2007 through July 2008*

## A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Rocky Mountain Arts Association Friends and Supporters,

We have just completed another incredible year in the history of Rocky Mountain Arts Association, and could not have done so without the support of our members and community partners. Despite the beginnings of a deteriorating economic environment, and the challenges thus faced by nonprofit organizations, Rocky Mountain Arts Association set new milestones in attendance at our concerts and outreach events, growth in membership in our choruses and financial support and performance. We began our fiscal year with two programs; our legacy Denver Gay Men's Chorus and the nearly two-year old Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus. By July we were preparing to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the newly-formed Mosaic Youth Chorus, a safe-space arts program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth and their straight friends and allies, ages 14 to 20. Membership in our programs approached 200, with an expanded age range of 14 to 78.



Photo by Alana Reinstein

In July nearly 120 of our singers traveled to Miami, Florida to participate in a quadrennial choral festival produced by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). Over 100 choruses from around the world participated in the week long festival, at which over 4,000 singers performed. Participation in the event truly reflected our 26-year history; the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, a founding member of GALA, performed in its seventh festival, Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus its first, and Mosaic Youth Chorus joined five other GLBTQQ/Allied choruses in the first festival with youth-focused programming.

The Denver Women's Chorus, formed in 1984 as a program of Rocky Mountain Arts Association and spun-off in 1992 into its own nonprofit organization, became our fourth program chorus in October after many years of collaboration, increasing our membership to over 240. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2009, the Denver Women's Chorus was one of the first women's choruses in the GALA Chorus movement.

Through our smart growth over the last several years, with particular attention paid to increasing our own diversity to better reflect the communities in which we live as well as the age range of our constituents, Rocky Mountain Arts Association is better prepared for challenges and opportunities we will face in the many years ahead.

Thank you for your interest in, and longstanding support of Rocky Mountain Arts Association and our programs.

Sincerely,

J William Adams  
Executive Director

# About Rocky Mountain Arts Association

## Our Mission

Rocky Mountain Arts Association exists to build community through music.

## Our History

Rocky Mountain Arts Association was incorporated on March 23, 1982 as the corporate name for our first program, the Denver Gay Men's Chorus. The chorus was the first arts program in Colorado to use the word "gay" in its name, and thus was somewhat controversial. The Association name was used when signing contracts, accepting donations or in any other situation where the chorus name may not have been accepted.

## Our Programs

Rocky Mountain Arts Association builds community through music through our four program choruses: the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, Denver Women's Chorus, Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus and Mosaic Youth Chorus.

**The Denver Gay Men's Chorus** celebrated its twenty-sixth anniversary in 2008. Founded in 1982 by Robert "Melba" Moore, the chorus today is made up of over 100 volunteer singers from primarily the Denver metropolitan area. Its members have joined together for the purpose of making an artistic statement: the chorus, as it sings, provides educational, cultural and social enrichment for its audiences and members, and identifies as an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) people and supporters that is actively making a positive contribution to the entire community. The chorus produces three concert series' and sings at over 15 community outreach events each year.

**The Denver Women's Chorus** was founded in 1984 by Carol White and is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2009. With origins in the lesbian community, and open to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, the Chorus provides educational, cultural and social enrichment through its performances and activities, thereby making a positive contribution to its audiences, members and the entire community. With over 70 volunteer singing members, the chorus produces two concert series' and sings at over 10 community events each year.

**Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus** was founded by Guy McPherson, premiered in April, 2006 and is celebrating its third anniversary in 2009. Like our legacy chorus, the members of Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus have joined together for the purpose of making an artistic statement: the chorus, as it sings, provides educational, cultural and social enrichment for its audiences and members, and identifies as an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) people and supporters that is actively making a positive contribution to the entire community. Made up of over 40 volunteer singers from primarily the Colorado Springs metropolitan area, the chorus was the first gay men's chorus in the Pikes Peak region, and produces two concert series' and sings at over 10 community outreach events each year.

**Mosaic Youth Chorus** was conceived by J William Adams and premiered in August, 2007. One of only nine choruses of its kind in North America, Mosaic is a safe-space arts program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning youth and their straight friends, ages 14 to 20. The members of Mosaic Youth Chorus join together for two key purposes: a common interest in music, and to form a community based on common experiences, and seeks to participate in and contribute to the entire community by providing educational, cultural and social enrichment for its audiences, supporters and members. The chorus provides a safe space for these youth to be themselves, while raising awareness of what it means to be a GLBTQQS youth in today's society.

## Rocky Mountain Arts Association Staff

J William Adams – Executive Director

Kendall Bridges – Artistic Director, Mosaic Youth Chorus

Gabrielle Dietrich – Assistant Director, Denver Gay Men’s Chorus

Joy Jenkins – Assistant Director, Denver Women’s Chorus

Rick Miller – Principal Accompanist, Denver Gay Men’s Chorus and Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus

Wendy Nestrud – Principal Accompanist, Mosaic Youth Chorus

Lara-Jean O’Connor – Principal Accompanist, Denver Women’s Chorus

Ben Riggs – Executive Artistic Director, Rocky Mountain Arts Association and Artistic Director, Denver Gay Men’s Chorus

Mark Zwilling – Artistic Director, Denver Women’s Chorus and Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus

## Rocky Mountain Arts Association Board of Directors

Kevin Whatley – Chair

Guy McPherson – Vice Chair and Immediate-Past Interim Chair

Dave Kincade – Treasurer

Kareen McCollough – Secretary

Cory Barrett – Director

Dale Britt – Director

Peter Di Leo – Director

Don McMaster – Director

Greg Montoya – Director

J William Adams – Ex-Officio and Immediate-Past Chair

Ben Rigs – Ex-Officio



## Program Chorus Leadership

### Denver Gay Men's Chorus Chorus Council

Dale Britt – Chorus President  
Drew Currie – Chorus Vice President  
Jay Kline  
Don McMaster  
Wayne Millsaps  
Phil Robberson  
Jim Walker  
J William Adams – Ex-Officio  
Ben Riggs – Ex-Officio



### Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus Chorus Council

Guy McPherson – Chorus President  
Jerome Carter – Chorus Vice President  
Keith Carter  
Jeff Mueller  
Richard Ortiz  
Dale Tims  
J William Adams – Ex-Officio  
Mark Zwilling – Ex-Officio

### Denver Women's Chorus Chorus Council

Kareen McCollough – Chorus President  
Cecelia Thomas – Chorus Vice President  
Cheryl Hamilton  
Ann Mead  
Nicole Tapp  
J William Adams – Ex-Officio  
Joy Jenkins – Ex-Officio  
Lara-Jean O'Connor – Ex-Officio  
Mark Zwilling – Ex-Officio



### Mosaic Youth Chorus

#### Chorus Council

Cory Barrett – Chorus President  
J William Adams  
Jessica Blechschmidt – Youth Member  
Jonah Bradley  
Kendall Bridges  
George Holland – Youth Member  
Hillary Montague-Asp – Youth Member  
Wendy Nestrud

## *Building Community Through Music*

For Rocky Mountain Arts Association, building community through music happens in two stages. First, we find opportunities to gather people in concert halls, churches, libraries or even on the 16th Street Mall in Downtown Denver and Acacia Park in Colorado Springs. Sometimes we are invited to perform, but we also seek out opportunities. Second, our Artistic Directors program music with the goal of speaking to diverse and varied groups: secular, non-secular, GLBT and non-GLBT themed, in foreign languages, from unfamiliar nations and cultures, plus the standard holiday carols and familiar show tunes and pop music. When combined, a gathering of people and well-programmed and performed music can be extremely powerful in sharing connections and learning opportunities. Music is a powerful tool that can be used to communicate a broad range of messages. This is how we gain understanding and teach others that GLBT people are just like everyone else. This is how we build community.

Our performances move our audiences and our own members to talk about their experiences. Through their conversations with others we experience an influx of new singing and audience members and the education and fulfillment of our mission continues. A conversation can take place simply because an audience member liked the sound of our music, or it can happen because they really learned something about our experiences by opening their mind to the lyrics of our music.

Mosaic was conceived to reach out to youth and to increase RMAA's reach to new audiences. GLBTQQ youth are an underrepresented and at-risk community in many ways, including higher than average rates of suicide. Today, youth are "coming out" at very young ages and they need a safe haven for socializing and gathering with others.

The expansion to four choruses in the last few years has enabled us to expand our ability to fulfill our mission, most notably by serving the Pikes Region with Out Loud: The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus and by serving youth through Mosaic Youth Chorus.



- Audited Statement of Financial Position as of July 31, 2008

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Accounts	\$ 7,347.00	Accounts Payable	\$ 849.00
Accounts and Grants Receivable	18,055.00	Credit Accounts Payable	14,991.00
Prepays	825.00	Payroll Taxes and Benefits Payable	<u>1,475.00</u>
Inventory	<u>12,126.00</u>	Total Liabilities	<b>\$ 17,315.42</b>
Total Current Assets	<b>\$ 38,353.00</b>	Net Assets	
Fixed Assets		Operating	19,038.00
Furniture and Equipment	<u>7,982.00</u>	Net Investment in Fixed Assets	7,982.00
Total Fixed Assets	<b>\$ 7,982.00</b>	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>2,000.00</u>
		Total Net Assets	<b>\$ 29,020.00</b>
TOTAL ASSETS	<b><u>\$ 46,335.00</u></b>	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<b><u>\$ 46,335.00</u></b>

- Financial Highlights

#### Revenue and Other Support

Contributions	\$ 77,337
Performances and Merchandise	65,334
Special Events	45,779
Membership	18,605
Government	18,284
Foundations	6,900
Interest Income	44
In-Kind	<u>32,673</u>
Total Revenue and Other Support	\$ 264,956

#### Expense

Program Services	
Denver Gay Men's Chorus	\$ 102,723
Out Loud	59,150
Mosaic Youth Chorus	<u>33,984</u>
Total Program Services	195,857
Supporting Services	
Administration	48,989
Fundraising	<u>17,407</u>
Total Expense	262,253

**Change in Net Assets                    2,703**

Net Assets Beginning of Year	26,317
Net Assets End of Year	29,020

- Financial Narrative – Revenue

- Government Includes:

▪ Scientific and Cultural Facilities District	\$ 13,084
▪ Colorado Council on the Arts	5,200

- Foundation Includes:

▪ Bee Vradenburg Foundation	\$ 2,000
▪ Pikes Peak Fund for the Arts	1,000
▪ Janus Foundation	2,500
▪ John G Duncan Trust	1,400

(Taylor, Roth and Company, PLLC, Independent Auditors)

# Rocky Mountain Arts Association Supporters

## \$99 and Under

Stan Adams  
Dennis Ahrens  
Greg Andersen and John Palazzo  
Tammi Arnett  
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Diane Barrett  
Bonnie Benda  
Nancy Berk  
Martha Hopkins Booth  
Sue Brown  
W Sue Brown  
Kim Brown  
Mim Campos  
Lois Casacca  
Derek Chisholm  
Skip Cochrane  
Emory Collinson  
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Kyle Crutcher  
David and Nicole Currie  
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Barb DeGrand and Margaret Garrett  
Barb Delventhal  
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Ben Fiedler  
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Karen Parker  
Victoria Parks  
Dolorhy Peters  
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Ken Robinson and Tom Muldrew  
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Leann Shepard  
Murl J Sickbert  
Sharon R Spencer  
Jane K Stauduhar  
James A Stegman  
Sandy Stoner  
Chris Suazo  
Alice E Sutton  
Kyle Thompson  
Donald Todden  
Lance Tressler  
K Joyce Turner  
Sandra Van De Hay  
Donald Van Splinter  
George Ward and Park Showalter  
Evelyn Whatley  
Elizabeth P Whatley  
Mary Ann and Roger Wisehart  
Donald Zeller

## \$100 to \$499

Barbara L Adams and Jennifer L  
Umsheid  
Gerald Albrent and Chris Garvin  
Elizabeth and Dana Alden  
Geary Anderson  
Bryan Aumiller  
Dave Babin  
Sally Bartalot  
Angela Becker  
Will Bishop and James Kearney  
Jim Bonk  
Donald and Shirley Brickley  
Rick Brown

**\$100 to \$499 (continued)**

Carolyn Burtner  
Matt Burton  
Matthew H Cammer  
Jerome Carter  
Tony Castaldo  
Richard Chacon  
Thomas and Vivien Clark  
Paul Crowley  
Megan Darricau  
Mick Davey and Ron Koch  
Jim Doolittle  
Karen Edson and Niki Horino  
Roger Ferris  
Susan Maree Foppe  
Kevin Ford and Michael Sattler  
Jude Gassaway  
Andrew Gerber  
Art Glover  
Kyle Hansen  
Carol Harr In Honor of Mark Zwilling  
Bill Heath and Bill Cooley  
Barkley and Diane Heuser  
Ann Howard  
Linda Hubbard  
Kaiser Foundation  
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Ralph and Clara Kincade  
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Ellis McFadden  
Wayne Millsaps  
Kathy Montague  
Jeff Mueller  
William Oliver  
Richard Ortiz  
Peter Padilla and Alan Leyba  
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Dorothy Peter  
Heather and Craig Pines  
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Sharon Russell  
Rockie Sanders  
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Amanda Udis-Kessler and Candi  
Lostroh  
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Eric Warner  
Jo Ann Weinstein  
Walter and Adrienne Whatley  
Patti and Jim White  
Armando Zambrana

**\$500 to \$999**

Cory Barrett  
Keith Carter  
Randy Chanadet  
Tom DePaul  
Peter Di Leo and Lee Vogt  
James A Henderson  
Wayne Jarrett  
King Family Foundation  
Peter McGill  
McKesson Foundation  
Don McMaster  
Greg Montoya and Randy Martin  
Nolan Oltjenbruns  
Kyle Osborn  
Tom and Charlotte Saponas  
Andrew Schwartz  
Tim Starchman and Dave Kincade  
Brian Tepp and Jonah Bradley  
United Court of the Pikes Peak Empire  
Kevin Whatley and Todd Sebo

**\$1,000 to \$9,999**

Jim and Judy Adams  
Bee Vradenburg Foundation  
Davis Bennett  
Constance Boyd  
Robert Brickley  
Dale Britt and Brian LeMaire  
Colorado Council on the Arts  
Chuck Croissant  
Michael A Dively  
Fast Enterprises  
Thorn Green

**\$1,000 to \$9,999 (continued)**

Heartland Bank  
Jim Hill and Lanny Dick  
Janus Foundation  
Emmy and Bob King  
Guy McPherson and Jon Vigne  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
Oliver Scofield and Michael Clohesy  
The John G. Duncan Charitable Trust

**\$10,000 and Above**

J William Adams and Mike Uhlenkamp  
Frend John Miner and Jeffrey L Lawhead  
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

**In-Kind**

J William Adams and Mike Uhlenkamp  
Ashwood Accents  
Aspen Art Museum  
Patti Barton  
Elaine Bergner  
Jim Bonk  
Brandbeorn Pottery  
Donald and Shirley Brickley  
Kendall Bridges  
Capitol Hill Mansion B&B  
Jerome Carter  
Chipoltle  
Clean Critter Grooming  
Concepts2Design  
Ariel DeFazio  
Denver Center Theatre Company  
Designs of the Interior  
Robert Eckles  
William Ferrara  
First Congregational Church  
First Unitarian Denver  
Kelly Garrett  
Carrington and Peggy Garrett  
Jude Gassaway

Andrew Gerber  
Emily Hill  
Jim Hill and Lanny Dick  
Eric Horan  
Daniel Hudson  
Human Rights Campaign  
Peder Iverson  
Wayne Jarrett  
Michael Kadovitz  
Jay Kline  
Josh McGirk  
Don McMaster  
Ann Meade  
Out Front Colorado  
Dorothy Peter  
Pulcinella Ristorante  
Chad Reischl  
Robin Santa-Teresa  
Brian Schultze  
Janis Skinner  
Tim Starchman and Dave Kincade  
Brian Stinar  
Alice E Sutton  
The Summit Connection  
Cecelia and Thor Thomas  
Top Car Transportation  
Holly Van Kleeck  
Vine Street Pub  
Vital Yoga  
Warwick Denver Hotel  
David Whatley  
Kevin Whatley and Todd Sebo  
White and Steele, LLC  
Wild Flowers  
Linda Wingate  
Mark Zwilling

**Employer Matching**

DIRECTV  
Equifax, Inc.  
JP Morgan Chase  
Qwest Foundation

## Mosaic Youth Chorus Founders Society

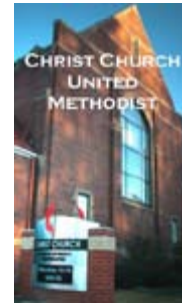
The Mosaic Youth Chorus Founders Society is made up of Individuals, Foundations and Businesses that have made significant contributions in support of the chorus' inaugural season, August 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008.

Barbara L. Adams and Jennifer L. Umsheid  
J William Adams and Michael Uhlenkamp  
Jim and Judy Adams  
Gerald Albrent and Chris Garvin  
Matthew H. Cammer  
Dennis W. Baier  
Cory Barrett  
Jonah Bradley and Brian Tepp  
Phil and Betty Bradley  
Kendall Bridges  
Colorado GLSEN – Tracy Pharris  
Michael A Dively  
Diverse Harmony – Rhonda Juliano

First Unitarian Denver  
Flagg Creek Foundation  
GLAM Youth Choir – Aidan Dunn  
James A Henderson  
Charles Kurchinski  
Doug Lundin  
Frend John Miner and Jeffrey Lawhead  
Out Front Colorado  
Peter Padilla and Alan Leyba  
Debra Pollock and Maureen Andersen  
Rainbow Alley – Kathleen O'Boyle  
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District



## Rocky Mountain Arts Association Major Sponsors



## In Conclusion

Rocky Mountain Arts Association would not be in existence today if not for our singing and support members and artistic staff. They are the ones that put in endless hours of their time, energy and love into bringing to life our mission of building community through music. The building of community happens within our organization itself because of our members, and that internal community transforms into building community outside of our organization. For twenty-five years our members have been opening hearts and changing minds through beautiful music, raising awareness of what it means to be a GLBT person. Much has changed and progress made in our twenty-five year history. But we will continue to work hard to fulfill our mission far into the future. We are ever-evolving and will continue to strategically plan for our future and almost certain change and progress. We will continue to build community through music not only in the greater community, but also within our programs to ensure our members have safe spaces to simply be who they are.