



MEDIA RELEASE

November 13, 2024

Circle of Harmony Improves Chorus Experience Thanks to \$45,100 OTF grant from Ontario Government

Oakville, ON - On Wednesday, November 13, the team at Circle of Harmony Chorus gathered to celebrate a \$45,100 Capital grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) to improve the experience of their members and audience.

"I am delighted that our government understands the value to support local organizations like Circle of Harmony through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This wonderful grant of \$41,500 will be used for a new set of risers and sound system allowing Circle of Harmony to perform their beautiful choir music for years to come. Thank you for your dedication and for serving the Oakville community so harmoniously," said Stephen Crawford, MPP for Oakville.

The grant helped improve the chorus experience by funding the replacement of their old, aging risers with a set of new risers and associated gear. These improvements are expected to allow more than 60 women to directly participate in weekly chorus rehearsals, coaching, music education and performances.

Circle of Harmony is a chorus of women, dedicated to learning and performing quality four-part harmony with a caring spirit that shows their love of singing. The chorus rehearses on Wednesdays at the Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre in Oakville. With this Capital grant, Circle of Harmony was able to purchase a new set of risers, which are an interlocked set of steps that allow the 60+ members of the chorus to see the director and audience during rehearsals and performances.

"Singing on risers is an integral part of the chorus experience," said Alexandra Morris, President of the Board of Directors. "While we've been aware of the need for new risers for some time, they are very expensive. Given that we aim to keep the costs of dues low to ensure all members are able to participate, this capital grant was received with great excitement."

Formed in 1998, [Circle of Harmony](#) is an award-winning, four-part, a cappella chorus of women dedicated to musical excellence. Under the direction of Master Director Barbara Hodge, the chorus performs dynamic and entertaining music that captures the interest of audiences with their passionate singing, energetic choreography and engaging performances.

“In addition to new risers, we were able to invest in other equipment of benefit to our members,” said Barbara Hodge, director of the chorus. “A new sound system means that members can better hear me during rehearsal, and associated riser gear allows members with physical challenges to participate.”

As a member of [Sweet Adelines International](#), Circle of Harmony competes annually as part of [SAI Region 16 Lake Ontario](#). In April 2024, Circle of Harmony placed second in the mid-sized chorus division AA and second overall, which earned them a spot at the International competition to be held in Columbus, Ohio in 2025.

“Whether it’s helping people learn new things, connect with their community or simply have fun, organizations like Circle of Harmony Chorus deliver experiences that make a difference,” said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. “That’s why grant support through the Ontario Trillium Foundation is so important. This funding will help ensure they remain at the heart of the community for decades to come.”

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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Media contact:

Lisa Michaels, Public Relations Chair, Circle of Harmony Board of Directors
pr@circleofharmony.ca
(905) 469-6278

Photos available upon request.