



Dear members of the Canadian Choral Community,

As stewards of the choral art, it is imperative that we present a unified and constructive message about choral singing at this stage of the pandemic. None of us want to see destructive, unhelpful headlines, and all of us want our singers and communities to stay safe.

As your national choral arts service organization, we invite our members to promote the messaging below:

1. Choral Canada is the national choral arts service organization, representing almost 28,000 choirs of all kinds, throughout Canada.
2. 10% of the Canadian population sings in a choir according to the 2017 national choral census. That is approximately 3.5 million choristers. Choral singing truly is Canada's national pastime.
3. As stewards of the choral artform, our #1 priority is the safety and well-being of choristers and the choral industry/sector.
4. We are seeking constructive avenues of communication among the Canadian Choral community, health officials and policy makers so that we can provide unified guidelines for the choral community. A thoughtful, informed and collaborative approach is the best way forward.
5. We are looking to work with health officials and policy makers to find modifications and practical guidelines for safe singing, guidelines that are rooted in scientific research. We seek to create sensible safety guidelines that align with other sectors, such as adult rec hockey, gyms, dance studios, children's soccer camps, etc. In fact, some provinces have already made recommendations for safe singing.
6. We appreciate the recent intention of the media to highlight how choirs are innovating and trying to survive during this time, but sensationalist headlines do even more damage to this already devastated arts sector including the professionals and associated industries who rely heavily on the choral arts for income. There is a lot at stake here. We cannot overstate the financial, emotional, cultural and physical damage of negative news articles and comments to the entire choral sector.
7. Recent negative headlines have been pointed directly at the choral sector based on little more than anecdotal evidence.



8. Definitive scientific studies about COVID-19 transmission in relation to singing versus other forms of activities such as loud talking or cheering and other aerobic activity, have yet to be published.
9. There ARE studies underway at the University of Colorado-Boulder and elsewhere, for example
 - [CSU Performing Arts Aerosol Study v3.pdf](#)
 - [Risk of transmission instrument playing vs.2.pdf](#)
10. The potential physical, mental and emotional impact on choristers is also significant and documented in a number of scientific studies.
11. We encourage decision making and policy implementation rooted in science, as opposed to unproven, anecdotal or comparative scenarios. We will continue to advocate for clear scientific communication from our leaders and insist that policy be created with integrity from the best available science.
12. Because there are nearly 28,000 choirs throughout Canada, representing a diversity as vast as this land, a “one size fits all” approach may not be practical. We are eager to work with policy makers to find innovative solutions for safe singing for a variety of choral groups.