

# THE FIRST YEAR MAKINGS OF WESTERN'S STUDENT CHAPTER BRANCH

By Morgan Kuepfer



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In its first full year as an official Student Chapter Branch of Choral Canada, Western University's Don Wright Faculty of Music Choir Council has risen to the challenge of bringing together the four choirs within the faculty. With the council's main goal being to foster a sense of community in the choral department, we have actively sought out ways to promote a sense of inclusivity and unity.

This year, the council was made up of a President, Secretary & Treasurer, Vice-President of Communications, and eight Choir Representatives. In September, Choir Council participated in the faculty's second ever Music Involvement Day. We were able to encourage students to get involved by running to be a Choir Representative in our upcoming election, apply for our new Vice-President of Communications position, or to sign up for a Choral Canada Student Membership. By the end of September, our 2019-2020 Choir Council was formed and became a ratified member of the Faculty of Music Students' Council.

Despite the abrupt end to our year together, the council was still successful in organizing our second annual Student Book Sale. The three-day sale generated over \$800 this past January, with plans of using these funds to host choir socials and bring in guest clinicians. A new initiative we implemented this year was organizing sub orders at our November Mass Choir concert, where we arranged for subs to be made available during our dinner break before the concert. Thanks to the funds generated from our 2019 Student Book Sale, students were able to order their subs in advance and pay a subsidized fee of \$2 per sub. The sub orders provided an opportunity for all singers to eat together in the Church's gymnasium and get to know other choir members better. We received much positive feedback from this initiative and hoped to organize it again for our March Mass Choir Concert. Other plans for March included hosting Canadian composer Matthew Emery in a two hour workshop with our choirs. We also anticipated organizing a year end Choir Social in April. Unfortunately, all of these events had to be cancelled due to the ongoing health pandemic.

In order to recognize the amount of leadership and dedication needed to run our council, we established Choir Council as a Western Co-Curricular Record activity! Members of the 2019-2020 council can now add their position to an online extra-curricular activity transcript to showcase their leadership involvement. Furthermore, the 2019-2020 Choir Council Executive Team will be expanding to include a Vice-President of Finance and two Vice-Presidents of Communications: External and Internal. With a five person Executive Team and eight Choir Representatives, the thirteen member council aims to continue with its goals of creating unity, reaching out to the choral community, and building upon the tradition of choral excellence at the Don Wright Faculty of Music.