



# Ontario Vocal Festival

January 9, 2020

Dear OVF Concert and Chamber Participants,

**It is with deep regret that, due to the data collected from our recent survey, the OVF Board has made the decision to cancel the Concert and Chamber Festival this year.**

We appreciate the feedback and quick response that allowed us to make an informed decision with your interests in mind. Our typical registration at this point in the year is 70-80 groups. Unfortunately, as of tonight we have had only 28 groups confirm their commitment to attend the 2020 OVF Concert and Chamber Festival. In addition, ETFO announced today that public elementary teachers will be unable to participate in extracurricular activities or field trips which will have further impact on attendance at this year's festival. This small number of groups makes it financially unfeasible to present the high quality festival that we are accustomed to organizing.

We have also been fielding questions from school administrators who are reluctant to authorise trips and extracurricular activities that may risk the loss of school funds. This makes it difficult to assume that the number of participants will increase.

We aim to continue offering a vibrant festival experience that supports all of the amazing work you do to bring choral music to your students. **The Ontario Vocal Jazz Festival scheduled for April 1-2, 2020 at Mayfield is still on!** We are hoping that all contract issues will be resolved by then.

Refund cheques will be mailed to your attention. If you need more information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Chalmers  
Executive Director  
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