

BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

2023 Report to the Community



Echoes of the Season

This year transcended the boundaries of just creating music. It was a sonnet of forging connections, igniting community involvement, and most importantly, rekindling the indomitable spirit of Buffalo through the timeless and universal language of music.

Global Reach, Local Impact

This year has been exceptional for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, made possible by the invaluable support from our community, donors, and patrons. We've brought Buffalo's rich musical heritage to stages beyond our city limits.

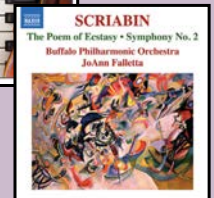
One highlight was our Carnegie Hall performance in celebration of Lukas Foss' 100th birthday. Music Director JoAnn Falletta honored him with an extraordinary concert featuring BPO concertmaster Nikki Chooi and flutist Amy Porter.

Additionally, we made our return to Sarasota and Vero Beach, Florida, connecting with Western New York's extended family.



Midori Returns

NEW NAXOS CD RELEASES



Tower of Power



Celtic Woman



The Chevalier



Mozart's The Magic Flute



Beethoven's Eighth
(Michelle Cann)



Gladys Knight



Regina Carter



The Music of the Beatles



The Tempest with ICTC

Amplifying Buffalo's Creative Pulse

Your support has been the cornerstone of our artistic explorations, right here in Buffalo. Memorable events include a sold-out performance with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* featuring the Irish Classical Theatre Company with the BPO performing the imaginative score of Jean Sibelius.

Our repertoire this year highlighted our musical versatility, from "Empress of Soul" Gladys Knight, delivering a performance that resonated with every heart to a theatrical spectacle infused with our score narrating the life of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint Georges, and the world premiere of a double bass and harp concerto to José Lezcano.

Equally memorable were our genre-blending ventures, such as teaming up with jazz violinist Regina Carter and hosting a retro '80s-themed evening.

There was something for everyone at the BPO this year!



Sandy Cameron, Nikki Chool,
and JoAnn Falletta



Yo-Yo Ma



Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus on Mozart's Masterpiece



Concert for Unity
Mt. Olive Baptist Church



AKG reopening

Community Resonance

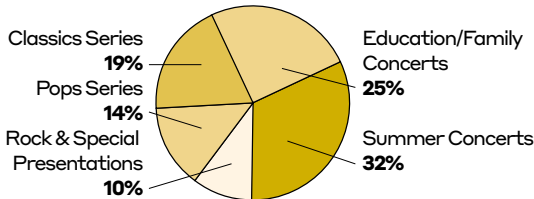
We're proud of how our music has resonated throughout the Buffalo-Niagara community. Almost 50,000 attended our free summer concerts this year.

The Concert for Unity at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and the inaugural performance at Buffalo AKG Art Museum's Great Lawn exemplify just a few magical musical moments in our community.

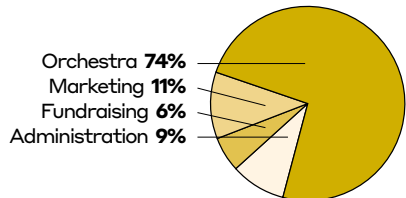
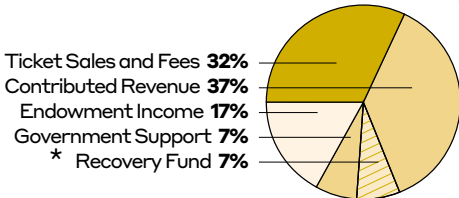
We also enjoyed artistic collaborations with many local cultural organizations and educational institutions, including SUNY Fredonia's Hillman Opera Program.

BPO 2022-23 Stats

133,900 patrons in attendance for **121** performances



Revenue and Expense **\$14 Million**



Preliminary, Unaudited Financial Results

For FY23, **total revenue rose 15%** fueled by strong ticket sales, ongoing support from the community, and rising endowment income. We are encouraged with this progress as we recover from the effects of the pandemic, but it is important to note revenue fell short of covering costs. We will therefore access our special Recovery Fund* (savings accumulated during the pandemic) to finance the shortfall and begin to develop a multi-year financial plan that positions the orchestra for sustainability and a reliably balanced budget.

This year, we also received **\$5 million** in donations, thanks to the incredible generosity of our 3,400 donors. We can't express enough how grateful we are for your unwavering support.

Artistry Meets Engagement

Our projects have sought to blend artistic quality with community involvement. We've taken live music to Buffalo spots like Duende at Silo City and Seneca One Tower through our "Out of the Box - LIVE!" initiative.

The "Musician's Nightcap" series, along with Nikki Chooi's surprise pop-up concerts, added interactive layers to our audience experience.



Musician's Nightcap



Out of the Box



Lezcano soloists



Exceptional Kids Holiday Concert



Dan Brown's Wild Symphony



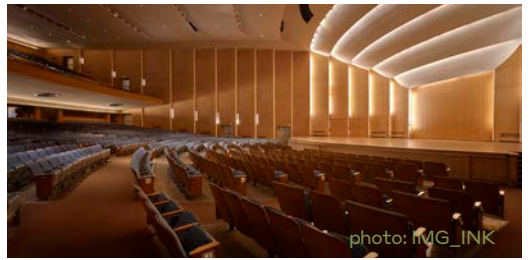
Fernanda Lastra and The Visit Buffalo Niagara Bison

Educational Impact & Archival Growth

This year was robust in educational endeavors, impacting the lives of almost 35,000 students. Led by Conductor Diversity Fellow, Fernanda Lastra, live youth concerts reached over 23,000 students, including all first through sixth grade Buffalo Public School students. Our BPO Kids series served over 5,000 individuals. A reduction in pricing led to greater audiences from both the East and West side of Buffalo and record attendance!

In archival contributions, we added a diverse range of recordings, from works by classical composers like Alexander Scriabin to contemporary voices like Danny Elfman and Adolphus Hailstork.

In all these endeavors, your support has been instrumental. Here's to another year of shared musical experiences through community engagement, artistic innovation, and sublime music.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc. employs and supports a professional major symphony orchestra of artistic excellence that is integral to Buffalo-Niagara's vitality through the presentation of live symphonic music and other musical events, which inspire, educate, and entertain the broadest possible audiences within Buffalo-Niagara and beyond.



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