



COLUMBUS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

EST. 1855

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

2017 - 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

To enrich the lives of our community by providing musical experiences to all people by eliminating barriers that may keep them out of the concert hall.



OUR MISSION

To perpetuate the orchestral tradition through the presentation of creative programs performed at the highest possible level of artistic quality, to develop audience enthusiasm, to educate future generations of concertgoers, and to contribute to the enjoyment and evolution of the art of symphonic music.

RECENT NEWS

- In collaboration with the Empowered Youth of Columbus and Columbus Parks and Recreation, we are **providing free group music instruction to at-risk youth in Columbus** through our Making Music Matters program.
- Since the 2017-18 season, we have **received six new grants** from the Georgia Music Foundation, Georgia Council for the Arts, Columbus Crime Prevention Office, Community Foundation of Chattahoochee Valley, and the Community Spouse's Club of Ft. Benning.
- A private foundation and individual private donations contributed to the purchase of a **new Steinway Concert Grand Piano**, which was purchased in November 2017 and premiered at our season opening concert on September 8th, 2018.
- We have **permanently endowed three musician chairs** thanks to three separate donors.
- In collaboration with the Chattahoochee Public Libraries, we presented **an interdisciplinary concert to approximately 1,000 students and children** featuring the music and literature of the Wild, Wild West.
- We have **increased our ticket base and diversified our audience** by offering pre-concert events and receptions through our Noteworthy Parties and educational programs.
- We benefit from **zero debt**. Contributed revenue goes directly to sustaining and enhancing our artistic and educational programming.



2017-2018 Season Highlights



Masterworks Series

- The first concert of the season featured Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto* and Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and was the **second highest attended opening concert in the past 11 years**.
- In October, Columbus State University alumnus, Nadir Khashimov, performed Brahms' *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra*.
- In January, the CSO collaborated with Up/Down Percussion (a CSU Alumni ensemble) and CSU professor, Paul Vaillancourt, to feature **percussion instruments made of recycled objects** during Jarvlepp's *Garbage Concerto*. This concert featured a "Build Your Own Percussion Instrument" event as part of the educational experience.
- In April, the CSO collaborated with the choirs of CSU, Auburn University, and LaGrange College and **attracted 257 local, regional, and National artists** to participate in the performance. This was our best-attended and largest grossing concert of our season with over 1,300 people in attendance. This concert was also presented by TSYS.



TSYS[®] Legacy Hall Series

- With the success of our previous concerts in Legacy Hall, we expanded our concert season to create **a new Legacy Hall Series** sponsored by TSYS, which featured guest soloists from the CSO's own orchestra personnel.
- The first concert featured CSO flutist Jim Zellers on the Libermann *Concerto for Flute* and Ravel's woodwind masterpiece *Le Tombeau de Couperin* for a packed house.
- For Valentine's Day, the CSO presented **a new concert and dinner package** titled "Baroque Suites and Sweets" for a **sold-out audience**. This concert was our highest grossing concert in Legacy Hall since we started these concerts in 2013.



Young People's Concert

- The CSO partnered with the Columbus Ballet to **present Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty to approximately 1,700 people**, including two school matinee performances. This was our top grossing educational concert of all time.
- Prior to the concert, children had an opportunity to participate in **interactive lobby activities** that included: conducting the orchestra, a musical scavenger hunt, a build your own instrument activity, and several instrument petting zoos.



2017-2018 Season Highlights

Family Pops Concerts

- The CSO provided **247 complimentary tickets** to current and retired **members of the military** and their families at our first Family Pops Concert of the season titled "A Celebration of America's Veterans." This concert also featured *America the Beautiful* performed by Voices of the Valley Children's Choir to provide an opportunity for these students to perform with a professional symphony orchestra.
- In February, the CSO **partnered with the Coca-Cola Space Science Center** during their annual Comic Book Convention to present a concert titled "Super Heroes and Villains."



CSO at Callaway Gardens

- We have a continued partnership with Callaway Gardens to present an **annual outdoor pops concert known as Symphony on the Sand**. Through this community outreach initiative, we performed for over a 1,000 audience members and were able to gain at least 4 known season ticket subscribers.



- The Synovus Toast of the Town is the **largest fundraising initiative** for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. All proceeds contribute to 1/3 of the CSO's annual operating budget.
- In 2018, the event moved to the Columbus Convention and Trade Center to accommodate a **record number of attendees and vendors**. Approximately 1,500 attendees and 100 beer, food, spirits, and wine vendors were present for the event.
- The event raised \$271,232 to benefit the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

- The Aflac Chef's Tent featured Guest Chef, Chris Hastings from Hot & Hot Fish Club in Birmingham, AL. Hastings was the 2012 James Beard Winner for "Best Chef of the South."



For more information about the event, visit:
toastcolumbus.com

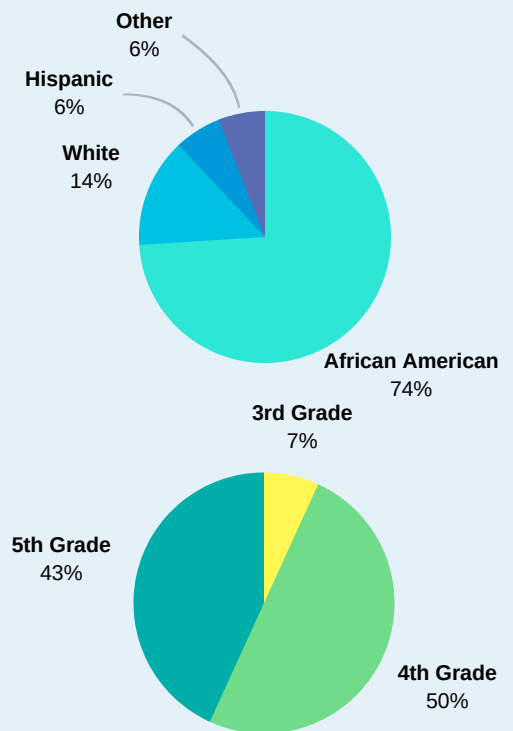
2017-2018 Educational Highlights

Making Music Matters

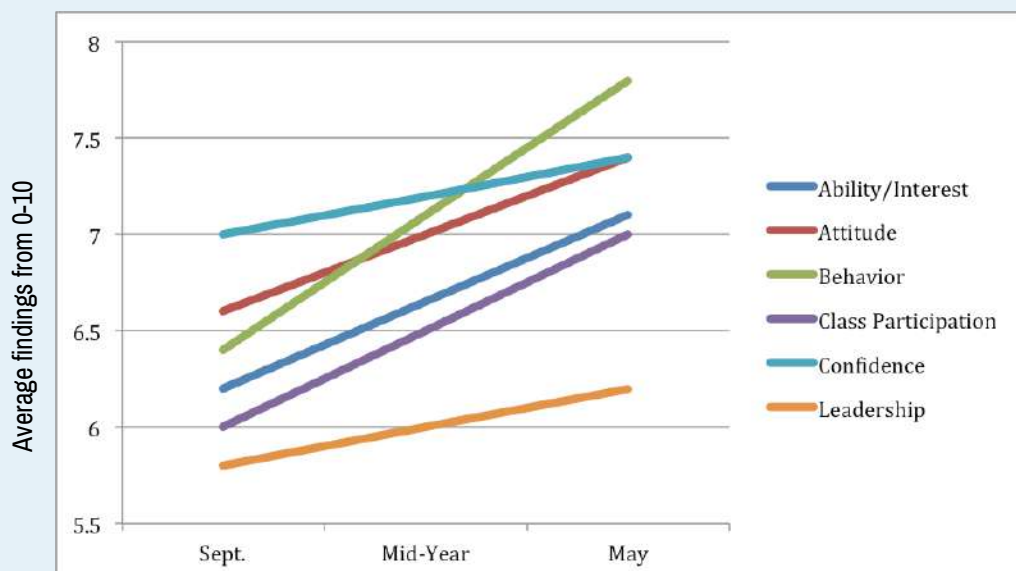
During the 2017-18 academic year, the CSO's Making Music Matters program partnered with three schools, Downtown Elementary Magnet Academy, Dawson Elementary, and Gentian Elementary Schools. Students at each school received **FREE after-school group music instruction** provided by musicians of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra **twice a week** during the months of September to May. Each student was provided an instructor and an instrument purchased by the CSO.

There were a total of **44 students who participated** in the program twice a week for a total of 67 one-hour lessons. 13 violin students participated from Downtown Elementary Magnet Academy, 20 violin students participated from Dawson Elementary, and 11 percussion students participated from Gentian Elementary. There were a total of 3 CSO musicians actively teaching in the classroom as well as our education coordinator who completed teacher observations and conducted student surveys.

With strong correlations between musical and linguistic intelligence based on Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, we have seen an **increase in reading and language arts by 14.5% at Gentian, 15.8% at DEMA, and 67.6% at Dawson** compared to the previous academic year. Teachers have reported a **22% increase in good behavior** since the beginning of the Making Music Matters program. Positive attitudes towards classwork, teachers, and other students continue to grow. We have seen an **increase in student retention** by providing a program after-school that students want to be a part of and look forward to throughout the school day. Our goal is to maintain an average attendance and retention level of 90%. The chart below shows our findings from the surveys taken throughout the year.



2017-18 Survey Results



2017-2018 Educational Highlights

The Orchestra Up Close

The Orchestra Up Close brings small ensembles of CSO musicians into local schools to perform and provide instrument demonstrations for young students. Following the performance, students have the opportunity to make observations, ask questions, and, most importantly, touch and play the variety of instruments in our Instrument Petting Zoo.

This year we have expanded the program to include group workshops and masterclasses with High School and Middle School classrooms to help prepare to benefit students of all ages.

Schools that participated during the 2017-18 Season include:

St. Paul Preschool; Elementary Level: Downtown, Dawson, Dimon Magnet, LK Moss, Blanchard, Wesley Heights, & Wynnton Arts; Middle School Level: Arnold Magnet & Richards; High School Level: Northside, Columbus, & Hardaway; Hunter Road Baptist Church School

We also presented an Orchestra Up Close version of *Sleeping Beauty* with the Columbus Ballet at Columbus Library, South Columbus Library, and North Columbus Library



Tickets for Students

Each concert season, the CSO works with the Partners in Education program through the Columbus Chamber of Commerce to provide **complimentary tickets** to Columbus area students. The following schools attended a CSO concert during the 2017-18 at no expense to the school or students:

Downtown Elementary Parks and Recreation, Double Churches MS, Arnold Magnet Academy, Columbus HS, Brookstone, Hannan Magnet Academy, Harris Co. HS, Hardaway HS, Northside HS, North Columbus, Veterans Memorial, Richards MS, Faith MS, and Gentian Elementary

Open Dress Rehearsals

The CSO's Open Rehearsals of our Aflac Masterworks and TSYS Legacy Hall concerts take place during the daytime in an informal setting that is welcoming to all. The rehearsals are conducted with the performance hall doors open and the house lights on to create a sensory-friendly environment. It is perfect for families with small children to gain exposure to the art form. It is also great for those who may not be able to sit long, are uncomfortable in the dark, unable to attend at night, cannot afford the evening ticket prices and many other barriers that prevent community members from attending concerts and experiencing the performance of a live orchestra. The CSO **breaks the financial barrier** by encouraging attendees to **"pay what they want."** By allowing them to set the price, the Open Rehearsals eliminate hesitation and expose people who have not had the capabilities to partake in the music that is being created here in Columbus. An average of 25-30 members of the community are present for each Open Rehearsal and the attendance continues to grow with awareness. Donations collected from Open Rehearsals go towards furthering our educational programming.



2017-18 Musicians

MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

George Del Gobbo | *The Dr. Steven & Sydney Leichter Chair*

VIOLIN

Kerren Berz, Concertmaster

The Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ussery Chair

Boris Abramov, Principal 2nd Violin

The Dr. & Mrs. Ken Goldman Chair

Patricia Anderson

The Mrs. Tom B. Black Chair

Ruslan Apostolov

Holly Bryan

The Mrs. Barbara Rothschild Chair

Barbara Careaga-Mitchell

The Mr. & Mrs. Gardiner W. Garrard Jr. Chair

Sharon Crane

David Edwards

The Del Gobbo Family Chair

Elizabeth Ehrlich

The Mr. John & Dr. Angela Sims Chair

Howard Goldstein

The Walter Alan Richards Foundation Chair

Anastasia Golovina

The Ms. Betty Auten Chair

Natalya Klenovskaya

The Mr. and Mrs. Joey Loudermilk Chair

Patrick Ryan

Weiru Sheng

The Mrs. Philip M. Adams Chair

Ela Tokarska

The Mr. & Mrs. Wright B. Waddell Chair

Marina Volynets

The Pat D. Daniel & Stephen J. Hodges Chair

Perry Westmoreland

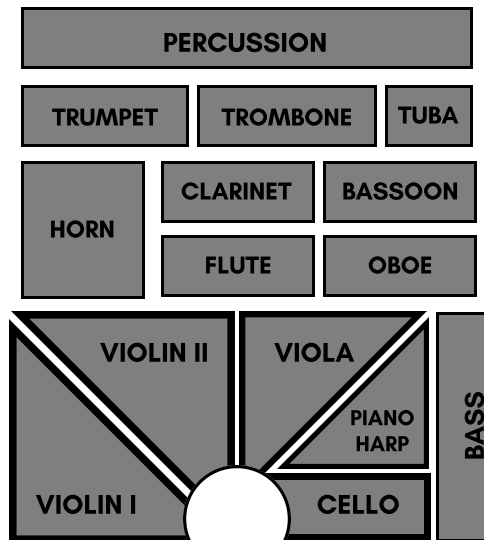
The Mrs. C. Alex Saunders Chair

Lorna Wood

The Dr. & Mrs. Richard Robbins Chair

Tian Xu Watson

The Dr. & Mrs. Pravinchandra Patel Chair



VIOLONCELLO

Erin Ellis, Principal

The John & Sallie Martin Chair

Hilary Glen, Assistant Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Kendall Handy Chair

Ismail Akbar

The Mr. & Mrs. James H. Blanchard Chair

Barbara Altman

The Mr. William G. Scrantom Jr. Chair

Adam Collins

Daniel Holloway

The Mrs. Richard Hallock Chair

Nan Kemberling

The Mrs. Charles W. Burgin Chair

Robert O'Brien

The Bruce & June Howard Chair

Ina Petkova-Apostolova

The Mr. & Mrs. W. Michael Ogie Chair

Cynthia Sulko

The Ms. Jane C. Steurer Chair

DOUBLE BASS

Jacqueline Pickett, Principal

The Friends of the Symphony Chair

Adam Bernstein

Emory Clements

The Dr. Gavin Spence Chair

Alex Mayweather

Christina Ottaviano

The Ben & Shirley Moon Chair

Vadim Volynets

HARP

Susan Bennett Brady, Principal

The Mrs. Ethel W. Foley Chair

FLUTE

Jim Zellers, Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Ed Kinner Chair

Erica Bass Pirtle

The Dr. Catalina Aranas Chair

Jeana Melilli*, Piccolo

The Mr. & Mrs. John Walden, Jr. Chair

BASSOON

Stephanie Patterson, Principal

The Saint Elmo Chair

Traian Sturza

The Nina & Jerry Elmore Chair

John Grove, Contrabassoon

The Cindy & Spencer Garrard Chair

TROMBONE

Ed Nicholson, Principal

The Woodruff Foundation Chair

Richard Brady, Bass Trombone

The Mrs. Babette Rothschild Chair

TUBA

Donald Strand, Principal

The Jane & Jack Goldfrank Chair

VIOLA

Sarah Chastain, Principal

The Chuck & Arlene Lowery Chair

Josiah Coe, Assistant Principal

Miriam Barfield

Saskia Chowdhuri

The Dr. Mary W. Schley Chair

Charles Griffin

The Mr. & Mrs. Clifford J. Swift III Chair

Elizabeth Hostetter

The Ms. Rose Steiner Chair

Anton Jakovcic

The Mrs. Gail B. Greenblatt Chair

Lenin Pena

The Mr. & Mrs. B. Seth Harp Jr. Chair

OBOE

Erica Howard, Principal

The Marleen & Marc Olivé Chair

Barbara Cook

The Mrs. Pamela Harmann Page & Dr. Edwin L. Page Chair

Susan Tomkiewicz*, English Horn

The Jack & JoRhee Pezold Chair

HORN

Adam Pandolfi, Principal

The Dr. & Mrs. Robert Patton Chair

Julia Gerhardt

The Columbus Marriott Chair

Jason Eklund

The Mrs. Marie Moshell Chair

PERCUSSION

Courtney Bottoms, Principal

The Dr. Eva Sperk Chair

Karen Hunt

The Mrs. Otis B. Burnham Chair

Lisa Morris

The Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sigmund Chair

CLARINET

David Odom, Principal

The Mr. William B. Turner Chair

Sandra Wade

The Dr. Christine Senn & Dr. Jeff Kinglsey Chair

Staci Culbreth, Bass Clarinet

The Dr. & Mrs. Jack Lawler Chair

TRUMPET

Kevin Lyons, Principal

The Mr. Steve Sawyer Chair

Tao Ge

The Andres Guevara Chair

Ryan Moser*

The Dr. Franklin J. Star Chair

TIMPANI

David Morris, Principal

The Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Feighner Chair

PIANO

Janie Lee Bullock, Principal

The Mr. & Mrs. Ray Crowley Chair

* Assistant Principal

Attracting Top Talent

During the 2017-18 Season, we contracted six new local and regional musicians:



Adam Bernstein, Bass
Atlanta, GA



Josiah Coe, Viola
Atlanta, GA



Hilary Glen, Cello
Birmingham, AL



Julia Gerhardt, Horn
Atlanta, GA



Elizabeth Hostetter, Viola
Columbus, GA



Ryan Moser, Trumpet
Atlanta, GA

2017-18 Board of Directors & Staff

BOARD OFFICERS

Theresa Garcia Robertson, President
Joe Young, Treasurer
Ross McDuffie, Assistant Treasurer
Mindy Choppa, Secretary
John Pezold, VP of Development
Brittney Michell, VP of Audience Engagement
Karen Lewis, VP of Education

Brigitte Alvarez
Evelyn Crowley*
Pat Daniel*
Anna Dodd+
Nina Elmore*
Zada Feighner
Janet Handy
Hon. Seth Harp
Genie Hughes
Dr. Joseph Jones
Dr. Ed Kinner

*Director Emeritus

+Musician Representative

Aline Lasseter
Warner Neal
June Patel
Linda Patton*
McDonald Plummer
Dr. Garry Pound
Hon. Bob Poydasheff
Dr. Mary Schley*
Dr. Angela Sims
Dr. Joseph Zanga

CSO STAFF

George Del Gobbo, Music Director & Conductor
Eric M. Thomas, Executive Director
Heather Grover, Finance Director
Kristen Hudson, Marketing Director
Alayna Bell, Operations Director
Barbara Careaga-Mitchell, Education Coordinator

Highlights from our Steinway Tour

In November 2017, CSO Staff & Board Members traveled to NYC to select a new Steinway Concert Grand Piano for the orchestra.



The CSO premiered this new instrument at the Season Announcement in March and then with full orchestra at the Opening Concert on September 8, 2018.

2017-18 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	
Cash, cash equivalents and investments	\$2,642,927
Contributions receivable	\$69,926
Prepaid expenses	\$1,351
Beneficial interest in remainder trust	\$403,873
Property and Equipment, net	\$123,162
	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,241,239
	<hr/> <hr/>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$1,211
Deferred sponsorships and ticket sales	\$87,766
Capital lease payments	\$9,227
Total liabilities	\$98,204
	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$410,068
Temporarily restricted	\$2,732,967
Total net assets	\$3,143,035
	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,241,239
	<hr/> <hr/>

This report was created within the CSO offices at no expense to the organization.