



HARRISBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

STUART MALINA
MUSIC DIRECTOR



2023-2024 Annual Report

Harrisburg Symphony Association

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► Staff pictured L to R: Michael Murray, Christina Stetler, Greg Woodbridge, Matthew Herren, Cheri Comasco, Tom Acri, Mary Cote, and Stuart Malina

Dear Friends,

What a knockout our 2023-2024 Season was!

At the Forum Auditorium and around the region, we brought you some of the most gorgeous and exciting music ever written, in thrilling performances by our extraordinary musicians.

The season began in June and July 2023 with our Summer Series of concerts in Annville, Lemoyne, Carlisle, Millerstown, and Harrisburg. We love visiting each beautiful setting (weather permitting!) and meeting the fabulous audiences in each town.

Our Masterworks Series at the Forum spanned seven weekends from October to May, and notably featured the Dalí Quartet in Anna Clyne's *Quarter Days*, a co-commission and east coast premiere, in February. In April, we presented the world premiere of Jonathan Leshnoff's *Saul*, with guest soloists and our distinguished colleagues, the Susquehanna Chorale and Messiah University's Concert Choir and Choral Arts Society. Of course, there were also symphonies by Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Mahler, and concerto performances that still ring in our ears by cellist Allison Eldredge, flutist David DiGiacobbe, and pianist Terrence Wilson.

Our Capital Blue Cross POPS Series ran five weekends from October to April and began with the return of audience favorite Byron Stripling for a delightful tribute to Louis Armstrong. Later, we raised the roof with ARRIVAL from Sweden: The Music of ABBA and the series closed with a hit-heavy *Night at the Movies*.

We performed for over 3,000 young listeners in two pairs of Young Persons' Concerts and sent HSO musicians to area high schools and guest artists to area schools and colleges throughout the academic year.

Our Harrisburg Youth Orchestras (HSYO), who continue to grow in membership each season, performed four superb concerts at the Forum and Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill.

Our friends at the Harrisburg Symphony Society, also growing in membership, celebrated Harrisburg Symphony Association Director Emerita Marion C. Alexander in March with *Curtain Call* at the Civil War Museum, which raised over \$65,000 in a lively and fun evening.



Because of your generous support of our mission, we share music with more and more members of our community each season, and we can look forward with excitement as we approach 2024-2025, our 95th season and Stuart's 25th Anniversary on the podium.

We hope you will enjoy this 2023-2024 Annual Report, which highlights our favorite moments and shows your support is in action. Your gifts are behind our every note, and we thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Ferris

Harrisburg Symphony Association Chair

Stuart Malina

Helen F. Whitaker Music Director

Matthew Herren

Rolen & Patricia Ferris Executive Director

Mission Statement

The Harrisburg Symphony Association presents inspiring symphonic performances by its orchestra and provides educational programs for audiences of all ages, both of which foster an appreciation for and knowledge of music, thereby enriching the cultural life of Central Pennsylvania.



Meet the Orchestra

2023-2024 Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

We are proud of our musicians' commitment to the HSO. Those who have been contract musicians with us for more than 25 years are noted in parentheses by their name.

Stuart Malina

Music Director (24)
*Helen F. Whitaker Chair**

Gregory Woodbridge

Associate Conductor

First Violin

Peter Sirotn, Concertmaster (28)
*Frank M. Masters, Jr. Chair in
Memory of Frank M. &
Margaret Wilson Masters**
Dawn Wohn, Associate
Concertmaster
Tallie Brunfelt, Assistant
Concertmaster
*Bill & Beverlee Lehr Chair**
Walter Choi (34)
Ervin Dede
Carl Iba (50+)
Ha-Young Kim
Sodam Kim
Francisco Salazar
Connie Trach (39)
Yehong Xiong

Second Violin

Nicole Sharlow, Principal
*Randy & Ginny Aires Chair**
Justin Gopal, Assistant Principal
Clifford Bernzweig
Gabriel Meza
Rachel Schenker
Chaerim Kim Smith
Rachael Stockton
Lisa H. Welty (43)
Sarah Zun
Patrick Desrosiers (30)

Viola

Julius Worth-Fuentes,
Principal (32)
*Donald B. & Dorothy L. Stabler
Foundation Chair**
Elias Goldstein, Assistant Principal
Alice Bish (32)
Marjorie Goldberg (33)
Adriana Linares
Linda Numagami
Katie Overfield-Zook
Petula Perdakis (29)
Rebecca Rothermel
Derek Smith

Cello

Fiona Thompson, Principal (25)
*Dr. & Mrs. William
Kanenson Chair**
Igor Zubkovsky, Assistant
Principal (25)
Jennifer Devore
Jonathan Fink (25)
Elyssa Gilmar (33)
Naomi Gray
Erik Jacobson
Sheldon Lentz (39)
Daniel Pereira
Todd Thiel

Bass

Devin Howell, Principal
Lena Goodson, Assistant Principal
Duane Botterbusch (50+)
Charles Breau (40)
Peter Paulson (40)

Flute

David DiGiacobbe, Principal (26)
*In Memory of David A. Elias, Jr.
& Marie Graupner Elias**
Karen Botterbusch (49)

Piccolo

Karen Botterbusch (49)

Oboe

Andreas Oeste, Principal
*The Hershey Company Chair**
Thomas Rowe (38)

English horn

Richard Basehore

Clarinet

Eric Just, Principal
*Dr. & Mrs. William M.
Murray Chair**
Linda Farrell (48)
Joshua Kovach

Bassoon

Joseph Grimmer, Principal
Darryl Hartshorne

Contrabassoon

Richard Spittel (41)

Horn

Sara Cyrus, Principal
Joy Hodges
Jonathan Clark
William Hughes (34)

Trumpet

Kevin Gebo, Principal
*Capital Blue Cross Chair
Honoring James Mead**
Scott Sabo (25)

Trombone

Jack Grimm, Principal
*Jeff Woodruff Family Chair**
Timothy Soberick (36)
Philip McClelland (34)

Tuba

Michael Anderson, Principal
*Harrisburg Symphony Society
Chair*

Timpani

Peter Wilson, Principal (26)
*Elsie W. Swenson Chair**

Percussion

Christopher Rose, Principal (26)
*Jerry & Hilary Simpson Family
Chair in Memory of Rodney J.
Sawatsky**
Barry Dove (35)

Harp

Rebecca Kauffman Weaver,
Principal (45)
*Elizabeth J. Dunlap Chair**

Keyboard

Principal
*Ronald & Marjorie Katzman
Chair**

* Endowed in Perpetuity



The Harrisburg Symphony Association and Local 294 of the American Federation of Musicians are pleased to announce the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement, effective September 2024 through August 2029.

This new agreement calls for 19.5% in cumulative increases in musician compensation and greater musician representation in the Artistic Advisory Committee of the Board.

Music Director Stuart Malina's current contract runs through the 2025-2026 Season.

A Salute to Our Military Orchestra Members!

We invite you to meet three of our tenured musicians who serve full-time in various U.S. military bands. Their service to our country allows them the opportunity to travel around the country and the world. We thank them for their service and salute them as members of our Orchestra.

Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Chris Rose

Chris is our Principal Percussionist and the HSO Orchestra Committee Chair, representing the musicians to management. He has been with the HSO for over 26 years, and still loves coming to play every time. "It's more than an orchestra, it's a family, HSO management included. It feels like a reunion every time we're together. And the chance to make great music with fantastic people never gets old."

Chris is a member of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band (assistant principal) and holds the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. The Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization. He will have served in the Marine Band for 27 years this October. The band's mission is to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. In that capacity, they perform all over the Capital region, mainly the White House, but they also have their own concert series, as well as tours of the United States each October.

When looking for musician jobs, Chris states the Marine Band audition was advertised as just a symphony orchestra. It wasn't until he joined the Marine Band that he realized how great a job it was. "The caliber of musician rivals that of any major symphony orchestra, and the chance to serve the country in this capacity is an added bonus." Chris can honestly say that this is not where he saw himself as a young college student, but it has brought him so much more than he ever imagined. He has been able to travel and perform solo in many unique places, including all 50 states, Switzerland, and Japan. He also had the opportunity to perform with some very prominent musicians, including Maestro John Williams, Patti Labelle, and an impromptu freestyle rap with Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton) and President Obama (check it out on YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V1DuouwBZA>).

Chris and his wife, Danielle, have been married for eighteen years and live just outside of Washington, DC in Annandale, Virginia. He is an avid golfer and loves baseball.

Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) Chaerim Kim Smith

Chaerim is a player in our 2nd Violin Section. She and her husband, Derek, a violist, both play for the HSO. She has been here for seventeen years and loves the HSO because it feels like a family. Chaerim currently serves as a Gunnery Sergeant (she will be promoted to Master Sergeant in May 2025) in the United States Marine Band, also known as "The President's Own." She will have been on active duty for seventeen years this October.

After auditioning for symphony orchestras around the country for several years following college, a friend who was in the Marine Band suggested she audition when a position opened. She knew very little about the military orchestras in Washington, D.C., however, her friend had nothing but good things to say about the

job. She auditioned and the rest is history.

One of the things she loves about playing in the Marine Band is that every job they do is different.

In one week, they might be playing for a foreign dignitary at a black-tie dinner at the White House; a Tuesday night VIP parade reception at Iwo Jima, Schönberg's *Verklärte Nacht* in a chamber music concert, and then Sousa marches for the annual national Electrical Workers Union convention!

Her favorite events over the years are the private receptions at the White House for the Kennedy Center Honors. These are usually star-studded and are held before the official ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Chaerim shares, "One year, Yo-Yo Ma was an honoree and he decided to SIT IN WITH THE STRING QUARTET to play a piece with us. It was one of the coolest and most intimidating moments of my life." (For my fellow string lovers, we played the 2nd movement of Dvorak's *American* string quartet.)

The next year, she was playing in the string quartet at the White House for the same event when she looked up and saw Sting listening while eating a lamb chop (In her words, "SURREAL"). Finally, at this same event but a different year, she remembers seeing Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones and Wynton Marsalis standing around listening to them.

Chaerim and Derek have been married for fifteen years and are parents to two boys, Oscar (6) and Felix (2) who keep her busy, humbled, and tired most days. She loves to cook and is an avid fiction reader! As a family, they love to go out on their boat, travel, camp, and spend time outside. She is on a mission to have her kids' passports stamped in a different country every year! Spain 2025!!

Master Sergeant (MSG) Kevin Gebo

Kevin is our Principal Trumpet. He won the position in 2022 after subbing with us for fifteen years and auditioning against 75



Pictured L to R: Chris Rose, Chaerim Kim Smith and Kevin Gebo

[continued on page 31](#)



Legacy Society

The Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra's Legacy Society recognizes visionary friends who have planned a special gift to the Orchestra in their will or estate plan. The HSO gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and couples as part of our Legacy Society.

Friend (5)	Patricia & Rolan Ferris	Leslie S. March, Ph.D.	Hilary M. Simpson
Carole E. Anderson [†]	Judy Forshee	Mr. & Mrs. James M. Mead	June L. Shomaker [†]
Jane Best	Susan F. Fulginiti	Randolph E. Michener	James & Jill Smeltzer
Karen Diener Best	Donald Gingrich [†]	Arley & Shirley Miller	Alfred H. Speers, Jr. [†]
Russell A. Bower	Frieda & Ray Gover	Robert A. & Mary E. Mills	Walter Tibbetts
Joan Frey Boytim	James & Jean Grandon	William E. Minsker	Dr. Jonathan & Debra Tocks
Melvin J. Brownold [†]	Jack R. Greenwood	Matthew Monaghan	Florence M. Travitz [†]
Doris Brytz	Estelle Hartranft	Lora Apaliski	Gregg L. Warner
Beth & Truman [†] Bullard	Pat Hartranft	Jim & Phyllis Mooney	James & Rebecca Weaver
Chris & Diane Carvell	Eric & Amy Huck	Mary Anne Morefield	Sharon L Webb [†]
Philip & Nancy Cervený	Harold S. & Ilene S. Hurwitz [†]	William F. Murphey	Sharon L. White [†]
Harvey Danowitz [†]	Caryn & Rob Irving	Joseph Ortyl	Anne J. Yellott
Thomas S. Davis, M.D.	Ronald M. Katzman, Esq. [†]	Harold S. Rabin	Nancy C Zimmerman [†]
Danielle Dersin & Ted Shellhammer III	Rose M. Kessler	Ted & Lori Reese	
Mary Dietrich	Harold L. Leshner [†]	Janet C. Reinhardt [†]	[†] deceased
Wayne L. Dietrich	Dorothy L. Linn	Lisa A. Ritter CPA, CFE	
David Fedele & Matthew Herren	Linda T. Litton, M.D.	Dr. Gil Rogers	
	Dr. Stephen C. MacDonald & Mary C. Warner	Alan & Caren Schein	
		Lee M. Schiller [†]	

Gifts that are planned today will support the Orchestra of the future. We appreciate and encourage donors to consider naming the Harrisburg Symphony Association in your estate plan. Donors are advised to consult with their tax advisor and/or their financial advisor to determine specific tax savings and/or the planned giving opportunity which best fits their particular need. Please feel free to review more options on our webpage at:

harrisburgsymphony.plannedgiving.org

Contact Cheri Comasco, Director of Development, 717-612-4964

Harrisburg Symphony Association Tax ID: 23-1355180

In Memoriam, Truman C. Bullard (1938-2024)



The Harrisburg Symphony family is saddened by the loss of Truman C. Bullard, Ph.D.

A consummate musician, Truman was a bassoonist, composer, conductor, lecturer, keyboardist, and award-winning Professor of Music at Dickinson College from 1965 to 2000. His musical tastes were incredibly broad, but it was when the HSO performed the Russians that Truman was seen sharing his knowledge and passion in our pre-concert lectures. He also appeared in the bassoon section of the Youth Orchestra when called upon and developed lasting friendships as a mentor to this younger generation of musicians.

Truman was a major force in many organizations including The Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, The Buzz Jones Big Band, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Eaken Trio, The Harrisburg Choral Society, The Central Pennsylvania Symphony, Cantate Carlisle, The Carlisle Town Band, The Messiah University Wind Ensemble, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, Market Square Concerts, and Project Share, among others.



Maestro Circle and Legacy Society Dinner

Members of the Maestro Circle* and Legacy Society* are very special to us. Their extraordinary support provides the foundation on which we build our musical future together in Central Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, May 7th we gathered at the West Shore Country Club to thank them for their loyal and generous support of the Orchestra. Live entertainment was provided by Principal Trumpet Kevin Gebo accompanied by Stuart Malina. We wish to thank our sponsors for the evening, Dan and Cheryl Hayward, Danielle Dersin and Ted Shellhammer, III.



**Members of the Maestro Circle donate \$1,200 or more each year to the Symphony Fund. Legacy Society members have named us as beneficiaries in their estate plans.*

Crescendo Club Reception

Crescendo Club Donors **366** 

As a thank you for their generous support, we invited members of our **Crescendo Club**, to a special Open Rehearsal with Maestro Stuart Malina and the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra on Friday, March 15th at the Forum. Donors were treated to a dessert bar while taking the time to enjoy each other's company and have a behind-the-scenes look at how our musicians prepare for a concert weekend.

To become a Crescendo Club member, you must have increased your contribution by ten percent or more than the previous year. We currently have 366 members in the Crescendo Club. We hope you'll join us next year when we celebrate our Crescendo Club members!



Summer Series Sponsors



PennState Health

For over 30 years, the Harrisburg Symphony's Summer Concert Series has offered a crowd-pleasing selection of red, white and blue favorites held in beautiful outdoor settings.

In June and July of 2023, we played five concerts celebrating America and American music.

These concerts would not be possible without the support of many businesses, foundations and individuals in the communities where the concerts were held.

June 30, Lebanon Valley College, Annville

Lebanon Valley College
Beverlee Lehr
Michael & Amy Long
Stephen MacDonald & Mary Warner
Carolyn & Jim Scott
Dennis Sweigart
Estate of Robert Yannacone

July 1, Negley Park, Lemoyne

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Excel Remodeling
Wendy Schaenen & Anand Jagannath
Gale Gallo
Bill & Sue Rothman

July 2, Summerfair, Dickinson College Campus, Carlisle

The first annual June Shomaker Summerfair Concert, named in memory of Harrisburg Symphony Association Director Emerita and founder of Summerfair, June Shomaker

Presenting Sponsor
G.B. Stuart Charitable Foundation

A Friend (2)
Steven C. Anderson
Kathryn Beck
Dorene Benjamin
Ann E. Benjey
Gordon S. Bergsten
Patricia Carey
Mary W. Carson
Lisa S. Dew
Stephanie Douglas
The Shannon Foster Team, LLC
Harold S Fraker, Jr
Don Franklin
Randolf H. Aires
Joel Hillison
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Patricia Singley
William Spengler
Donald and Jane Steinour
Stephen D. Tompkins
Diane Vaughn
Victoria A. Whitmore
Carol A. Williams
Robert P. Winston
George H. Wirt
Ray Wolfe

July 3, Greenwood Middle/High School, Millerstown

Presenting Sponsor
The Lawrence L. and Julia Z. Hoverter Charitable Foundation

Pennian Bank
Perry County Community Foundation at TFEC

July 4, Reservoir Park, Harrisburg

Dauphin County Commissioners



Special Guests

A night at the Harrisburg Symphony makes for great group fun! We were thrilled to welcome more than 15 groups this past year to the Forum and would like to welcome you and your friends this year. Contact our Box Office at info@harrisburgsymphony.org to learn more about bringing your group to an HSO concert!

2023-2024 Groups in Attendance

Capital Area Science and Arts (CASA)
Central Dauphin East High School Music Students
Friends of Joyce Davis and Christyan Seay
Gettysburg High School Orchestra
Hershey High School Tri-M Club Chapter
Leadership Harrisburg Area Board of Directors

Latino Hispanic American Community Center
Lebanon Valley College Brazilian Exchange Students
Lebanon Valley College Piano Students
Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School Music Students
Messiah University Honor Students

Penn State University -Andreas Oeste's Students
Rotary Club of Harrisburg
St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral Friends
State Street Academy Students
Susquehanna Art Museum Members
West Perry High School Music Students



Principal Oboist, Andreas Oeste met with some of his students from Penn State after the concert.



Gettysburg High School Orchestra students attended a March Masterworks concert with their Music Director, Krista Kriel.

Around the Community



On October 11, 2023, Kim Phipps, Harrisburg Symphony Association Director Emerita, was inducted into the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania. Governor Josh Shapiro recognized ten women in the 2023 class at a luncheon at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg.



On May 8, 2024, Stuart and Matt spoke to Leadership Harrisburg Executive Leadership Series Class of 2024 at WITF Public Media Center.

Thank you Becky Lawson!

The HSO is lucky to have wonderful and dedicated volunteers that help make your experience the best it can be. Let's meet Becky Lawson, one of our volunteers who donates her time to help the Symphony meet its mission.

Becky grew up in Burgaw, North Carolina and attended Meredith College in Raleigh. She met her first husband, Larry, on her 21st birthday in 1968 and they have one son, Tyler, who lives in Sante Fe, New Mexico. Becky went on to meet her second husband, Jim, while they were both working at Princeton University. They then moved to Jim's family home in Mechanicsburg, where he was the fifth generation to live in the home.

After moving to Central PA, Becky worked for the PA Medical Society for 18 years, retiring in 2015. From 1997 until Jim's diagnosis of dementia, they enjoyed traveling to off-the-beaten path destinations.

Jim came to his first Harrisburg Symphony concert in 1995, but Becky's first concert wasn't until 1998. Becky and Jim would attend as many concerts as possible before they became subscribers during the 2014-2015 season.

They enjoyed many years of attending the Harrisburg Symphony together. Although Jim had dementia, music was important to him. He was in the orchestra in high school and a member of the Blue Band at Penn State, and the familiarity of music calmed him and made him very happy. Jim sadly passed away in September 2020.

Becky now volunteers at many events around Harrisburg, using her southern charm to make everyone feel at ease. She can be seen volunteering at her church, the Dauphin County Bar Association, Wilson College, and the St. James School in Hagerstown, MD. Becky began volunteering with the Harrisburg Symphony in 2017 as the Maestro Circle Reception bartender. She also gives her time and talent to the Harrisburg Symphony Society at various functions.

Becky's love of people and her caring demeanor are a true treasure and are one of the very special things about Becky. Please say hi to her when you see her. It means so much for her to help us at the HSO, and we are grateful for everything she does.



Volunteers for the 2023-2024 Season

We are extremely grateful for our dedicated and amazing volunteers! These loyal friends of the HSO give their time and talent to make sure each concert is as welcoming and accessible as possible. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jen Cole, prepares each weekend's concerts by making sure we have enough volunteers scheduled and all is ready for your arrival. Our volunteers' friendly smiles greet you as you enter the Forum and offer their kind assistance as you seek your seat and present you with a program. They are our eyes and ears to make sure anything that needs to be addressed is done so promptly. We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their support of the HSO!

We would love to welcome you to our volunteer family! To join us, fill out the volunteer application at <https://harrisburgsymphony.org/contribute/volunteer/>

Steel Andrews
Bill Balchunas
Melanie Balchunas
Patricia Baughman
Keith Bentzel
Pam Beward
Beth Bitler
Susan Blickstein
Jeanne Bobenage
Suzanne Bower
David Bower
Jon Box
Barbara Boyarsky
Cathy Boyd
Jill Bradley
Susie Brehm
Brian Brightbill
Pam Brightbill
Iris Brown
Peg Bryant
Lois Burns
David Burns
Barbara Cartwright
Ingeborg Coulter
Susannah Croushore
Dawn Darkes

Bill Denham
Sharyn Denham
Patricia Dodd
Lauren Dungan
Jane Earle
Christian Edwards
Margaret Ferraro
Jo Ellen Frist
Holly Gainor
Jim Gates
Kathy Gates
Stephen Gaus
Harry Gerhart
Carmella Gleason
Jim Gleason
Carol Graves
Margaret Green
Clarissa Grunwald
Sue Hanna
Eric Hartranft
Kathy Herring
Cindy Hogeman
Bernadette Howard
Savannah Howard
Barbara Jackle
Don Jackle

Andy Jiang
Anthony Jiang
Ethan Jiang
Shu Jiang
Helen Katz
Cathy Kehler
Rich King
Deb King
Richard Klein
Leann Klingensmith
Keith Lampel
Mindy Lange
Caroline Lange
Randy Lee
Brenda Lee
Mary-Teresa Lee
Janet Levine
Erik Lindquist
Molly Lindquist
Ben Louey
Sue Lucas
Mick Lucas
Jill Marinaro
Rebecca McClinton
Dale McCoy
Kinga McCoy

Denise McEntee
Alicia Mercik
Allan Mercik
Bob Mitchell
Sue Mitchell
Lois Natale
Len Neidig
Ann Ohme
Nancy Patrick
Susan Pennay
Dennis Pfannenschmidt
Debbie Pfannenschmidt
Margie Pierce
Viola Pressley
Traci Pressley
Sue Quigley
Josh Rappaport
Lillian Rappaport
Linda Rhen
Bonnie Rhoads
Evelyn Rixey
Therese Rogers
Marty Rosenbloom
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Paula Unger
Barbara Warfel
Pam Weaver
Carolyn Woods
John Worhach
Mary Beth Yandrasitz
Chandra Yoder
David Yoder
Hualu Hailey Zheng
Luke Zheng
Chris Zuzack



Message from Marketing & Box Office

Hello Friends!

Another season of inspiring music has gone by, and it couldn't have gone better! Thank you for filling the hall and sharing in the fantastic performances by our world-class musicians.

We were thrilled so many groups came out to visit with us! We welcomed CASA (Capital Area School for the Arts), Friends of Joyce Davis and Christyan Seay, Leadership Harrisburg Area's Board of Directors, Latino Hispanic American Community Center students and parents, Lebanon Valley College Brazilian Exchange Students, Messiah University Honors College Students, Rotary Club of Harrisburg, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral Friends, and Susquehanna Art Museum members. We were also joined by many school groups, including Central Dauphin East High School Music Students, Gettysburg High School Orchestra, Hershey High School Tri-M Club, Lebanon Valley College Piano Students, Penn State Double Read Students, State Street Academy Students, and West Perry High School Music Students.

Last year, we partnered with the Susquehanna Art Museum for a wonderful Valentine's Day offer. We also worked with Gretna Music, The Luhrs Performing Arts Center, and Parkside Harmony to share our performances with their friends and give you a chance to learn about new musical opportunities with them.

This coming year we are excited about two new initiatives:

- A. We will be working with the Dauphin County Library System on a program where library card holders can "borrow" tickets to the HSO!
- B. In celebration of Music Director Stuart Malina, we're working with downtown Harrisburg restaurants for special drink offers.

Thank you for making what we do fun! You are the heart and soul of mission, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Forum for our 95th Anniversary and Music Director Stuart Malina's 25th Season!

Gratefully,



Christina M. Stetler

Director of Communications & Engagement



Dear Friends,

What an exciting year it has been! After working part time as a Box Office Associate for a little over a year, I am deeply grateful and excited to be your new full-time Patron Services Manager. Some of you may know me as the "person behind the glass" in the Box Office at The Forum. I really enjoy getting to know you all both over the phone and at concerts, and I appreciate all the support I have received from you as I step into this new role. I look forward to meeting many more of you during the season.

I have a deep appreciation for the arts, having participated in band, choir, and theatre my whole life. After receiving my undergraduate degree in Theatre-Performance from Susquehanna University I moved to Orlando, Florida to participate in the Disney College Program. While there I worked on the world-famous Jungle Cruise, telling jokes on boats, and interacting with guests from all over the world. My biggest take-away from working at Disney was the importance of the guest experience, and I have carried that with me since. I greatly enjoy helping all our Symphony Patrons, and I cannot wait to continue to work with you all this season! Always feel free to give our Box Office a call, or stop by during concerts, to chat about tickets and subscriptions for our 2024-2025 Season.

Please be sure to introduce yourself to me. It is always great to put a face with a name.

See you soon!



Mary Cote

Patron Services Manager



2024-2025 SEASON



SEP 28 | 7:30 p.m. SEP 29 | 3:00 p.m.
Beethoven 5

Johann Strauss Jr. | Overture to *Die Fledermaus*
Eunike Tanzil | *Veni Vidi Vici*
Takashi Yoshimatsu | *Cyber Bird Concerto*
Valentin Kovalev, saxophone
Ludwig van Beethoven | Symphony No. 5



NOV 16 | 7:30 p.m. NOV 17 | 3:00 p.m.
Brahms' Violin Concerto

Avner Dorman | *Tanyaderas*
Igor Stravinsky | *Petrushka*
Johannes Brahms | Violin Concerto
Bella Hristova, violin



JAN 11 | 7:30 p.m. JAN 12 | 3:00 p.m.
Bruch, Coleman, Sibelius

Valerie Coleman | *Umoja*
Max Bruch | *Scottish Fantasy*
Peter Sirotin, violin
Jean Sibelius | Symphony No. 2



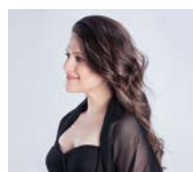
JAN 25 | 7:30 p.m. JAN 26 | 3:00 p.m.
Shostakovich Celebration

Dmitri Shostakovich
Festive Overture
Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad*



FEB 15 | 7:30 p.m. FEB 16 | 3:00 p.m.
Ravel & Bernstein

George Rochberg | Symphony No. 5
Maurice Ravel | *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*
Mark Markham, piano
Leonard Bernstein | Symphonic Dances from
West Side Story



MAR 15 | 7:30 p.m. MAR 16 | 3:00 p.m.
Mahler 4

Jeremy Gill | *Epiphanies*
Gustav Mahler/Klaus Simon | Symphony No. 4
Robin Johanssen, soprano



MAY 17 | 7:30 p.m. MAY 18 | 3:00 p.m.
Malina Madness 2.0

Zev Malina | New Work
George Gershwin | *Rhapsody in Blue*
Stuart Malina, piano
Sergei Prokofiev | Music from *Romeo and Juliet*



OCT 19 | 7:30 p.m. OCT 20 | 3:00 p.m.
MAMBO KINGS Hot Latin Nights!

From the sultry melancholy of **Astor Piazzolla** and the burning Afro Cuban jazz of **Tito Puente** to the rhythmic playfulness of jazz great **Dave Brubeck** and the pop strains of **The Beatles**, Mambo Kings will be your guide on a Latin jazz tour of the Pan American experience, featuring music from the U.S., Perú, Argentina, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.



DEC 7 | 7:30 p.m. DEC 8 | 3:00 p.m.
LET'S GROOVE TONIGHT:
Motown & The Philly Sound –
Greg Woodbridge conducting

Broadway superstar **Chester Gregory** and vocal powerhouses **Ashley Jarry** and **Brik Liam** join us for Philly Sound hits like *Ain't No Stopping Us Now*, *You'll Never Find A Love Like Mine*, *Love Train*, and *You Make Me Feel Brand New* plus Motown classics including *What's Going On*, *I Heard It Through The Grapevine*, *I'm Gonna Make You Love Me*, and *I'm Coming Out*.



MAR 1 | 7:30 p.m. MAR 2 | 3:00 p.m.
A Night at the Movies: Spaced Out!

Unforgettable melodies from iconic movie scores, including *Star Trek*, the *Star Wars* saga, **2001: A Space Odyssey**, and more, with plenty of **John Williams** for the sci-fi film fanatic.



MAR 29 | 7:30 p.m. MAR 30 | 3:00 p.m.
COUNTRY HITS: Songs from Nashville

A showcase of the classic Country hits you know and love, including *Crazy*, *Folsom Prison Blues*, *Devil Went Down to Georgia*, *9 to 5*, *Jolene*, *All My Ex's Live in Texas*, *Wichita Lineman*, *Good Hearted Woman*, and others. Featuring Nashville stars **Emily West** and **Rick Brantley**.



MAY 3 | 7:30 p.m. MAY 4 | 3:00 p.m.
Cirque Goes Broadway!

Prepare to be dazzled as the HSO is joined on stage by Broadway legends **Dee Roscioli** and **Hugh Panaro** and aerialists and acrobats from **Cirque de la Symphonie** performing astonishing feats of grace, beauty, and power. Featuring showstoppers from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Chicago*, *West Side Story*, and more!

For more information on
subscriptions, call 717-545-5598
or email at info@harrisburgsymphony.org



Programs and artists subject to change.



Tickets on Sale Now!

More than **2,500** Symphony patrons have discovered the many benefits of being a subscriber:

SAVINGS - Subscription Pricing provides significant savings over single-ticket prices: “The savings is like getting **FREE** concerts.”

SEATING - Subscribers get the first opportunity to select their seats. “I love my subscription seats. I’m able to sit in the **same seats** concert after concert, year after year!”

FLEXIBILITY - “If I discover that I cannot attend a particular performance, I can **exchange** my ticket for another performance or give my tickets to a friend. They’re transferable.”

EARLY ACCESS - Subscribers get early access to additional tickets - before they go on sale to the general public.

FREE EXCHANGES - New this year, exchange your tickets for free! If you cannot attend a performance, you can now exchange your tickets for another date or performance without the exchange fee.

For more information on becoming a 2024-2025 Season Subscriber, visit our website at www.harrisburgsymphony.org or call the Box Office at 717-545-5598 Wed-Fri 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Single Tickets

Multi-Ticket Discounts

Subscribing to the entire Masterworks or Capital Blue Cross POPS Series may not fit your schedule. You can still take advantage of a multi-ticket discount (by phone or online).

10% Discount - Purchase 4 or more tickets online (in any combination) and receive 10% OFF your order by using the code MTP10 at checkout.

15% Discount - Purchase 8 or more tickets online (in any combination) and receive 15% OFF your order by using code MTP15 at checkout.

Student Rush (Masterworks Concerts Only)

Know a college student who would love to experience the HSO? We offer student tickets (\$10 each) for our Masterworks concerts all year. To take advantage of this opportunity, please email info@harrisburgsymphony.org or call the Box Office at 717-545-5598 Wed - Fri, 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the Forum Auditorium Box Office the day of performance. Student rush tickets are not available for Capital Blue Cross POPS concerts.



Message from Development

Dear Friends,

We did it! Together, we not only met but we **exceeded** our fundraising goals this year. **Your support was behind every note during our 2023-2024 Season!** The Symphony family's collective dedication to the growth and development of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra's (HSO) mission is extraordinary.

Every year, we take a moment to thank our incredible community for their support through the Annual Report of Gifts. Once again, the generosity of our donors, foundations, businesses, and partners this past season has been overwhelming. Gifts of all sizes from everyone play a vital role in keeping the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra financially strong.

As you'll read in this Annual Report, our community came together to support the HSO by giving to the Symphony Fund and sponsoring concerts and events, as well as funding educational programs, and the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra. People also made planned gifts to support our future.

We're excited about what's next. As we look ahead, we'll keep working to bring inspiring performances and educational programs to audiences of all ages, which make Central Pennsylvania's cultural life even richer.

Please join us for our 2024-2025 Season as we celebrate **Stuart Malina's 25th Anniversary**, the **HSO's 95th Season**, the **Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra's 71st Season**, and the **Harrisburg Symphony Society's 35th Anniversary**.

It is an honor to work at the HSO! I am blessed to have met so many of you and I look forward to meeting more of you this season. Please be sure to introduce yourself.

Thank you for believing in our mission and giving so generously of your time, your talent, and your resources.

With gratitude,



Cheri Comasco
Director of Development



P.S. To learn more about ways to give or planned giving options, please use the QR code provided or visit our website at <https://harrisburgsymphony.org/contribute/>



Mary, Chris, and Cheri can be seen at The Forum and at many events for the Symphony around the community.

Number of
New Donors

124



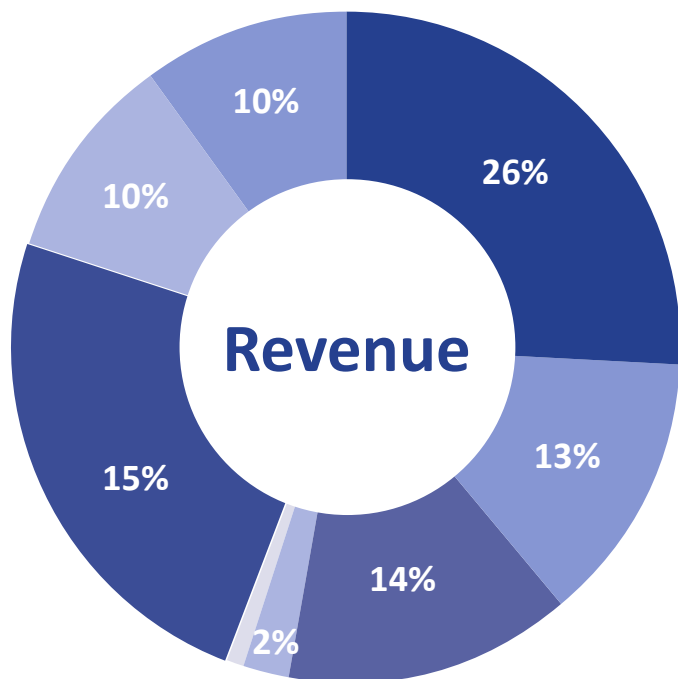
Recaptured
Donors

145



Financial Highlights

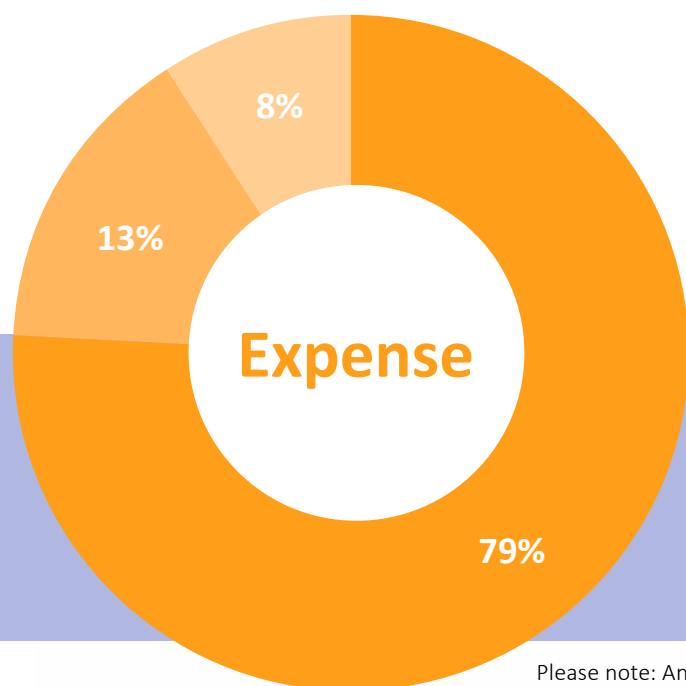
July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



Revenue

Symphony Fund	\$917,415	26%
Grants & Sponsorships	\$444,943	13%
Government Grants	\$500,000	14%
Symphony Society Fundraisers	\$64,000	2%
Other	\$11,000	<1%
Total Giving	\$1,937,58	55%
Ticket Sales	\$887,000	25%
Other Income	\$357,642	10%
Endowment Draw	\$351,000	10%

Total Revenue **\$3,533,000**



Expenses

Artistic	\$2,768,160	79%
Administrative	\$463,840	13%
Fundraising	\$272,000	8%

Total Expense **\$3,504,000**

Net Result **\$29,000**

Bequests (non-operating)

Premanently restricted	\$850,000
Unrestricted	\$55,416

Endowment & Investment balances **\$10,228,594**

Please note: Any gift made after June 30, 2024, will be included in the 2024-2025 Annual Report.

*This is an unaudited report as of August 5, 2024.



Blind Auditions

How do we find the world-class musicians who play with the HSO? It all starts with a process called a “blind audition.” In a blind audition, the auditioning candidate performs behind a screen and is visibly shielded from the audition committee (the Music Director and relevant section principals, including the Concertmaster) who are judging the audition. In this way, the quality of their playing becomes the single deciding factor in the audition, ensuring fairness for all candidates.

Candidates travel from all over the country – approximately 50 to 100 per opening – at their own expense to participate in this highly competitive process. We often hear about the excitement musicians feel when an opening with the HSO happens. Once a musician is chosen for the vacancy, they are given a one-year probationary contract before being granted tenure.

We are pleased to introduce you to the five newest members of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra! We think you will love learning more about them.



Jack Grimm, Principal Trombone

Jack Grimm is our new principal trombonist! He joined the orchestra in September 2023 for the first masterworks concert of the year after a successful audition in June. Jack grew up in Northern Virginia, and like many musicians, got his start playing in band in elementary school. He continued through middle and high school, widening his interests to include the jazz band, marching band, wind symphony, and orchestra at my school, along with a blues band, brass band, and musical theater pit playing outside of school. In college Jack made the decision to pursue orchestral music professionally, and he studied with members of the Chicago Symphony during his undergraduate studies at Northwestern University.

“Playing in the Harrisburg Symphony is surreal because many of my colleagues are musicians in ensembles I grew up watching and admiring, such as the military bands, and the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. It is an absolute pleasure to make music with such colleagues, and I don’t take for granted the talent the orchestra pulls from all over the East Coast,” Grimm says.

Jack chose to audition for the Harrisburg Symphony last year because of its proximity to New York City, where he was living at the time, along with its reputation. Jack’s teacher in the New York Philharmonic spoke highly of the group, and it was close enough for to comfortably go by car to audition. He is happy to have won the position not just for the incredible music, but also because Jack has family who live in Harrisburg and who usher for the HSO, with whom Jack has been able to reconnect.

Jack currently lives in Columbus Ohio, where he is also the Principal Trombonist with the Columbus Symphony. When he is not performing in Harrisburg or Columbus, he spends time playing tennis, visiting his girlfriend of 6 years in Chicago, and doing bar trivia with friends! One of the concerts he is most looking forward to this upcoming season is Masterworks 3 with Sibelius’ 2nd symphony – it’s a work he’s loved for a long time but has never had the chance to perform – particularly the soaring brass choir ending!



Eric Just, Principal Clarinet

Eric Just is thrilled to be joining the HSO as principal clarinet! The HSO is his first permanent orchestral position and he shared that he could not have asked for a better group for his first job.

Eric, originally from southern New Jersey, picked up the clarinet at age 10. He continued to play through middle and high school, then attended Temple University in Philadelphia for his undergraduate degree and received his master’s degree in clarinet performance from California State University, Fullerton.

After returning home from grad school, Eric was excited to see an opening with the HSO (especially since it’s only a few hours’ drive from home!). He says, not he shared that winning this position is a dream come true and is looking forward to next season. Eric is especially looking forward to Shostakovich’s 7th Symphony, as he has not yet played any of his symphonies. He is also looking forward to *Rhapsody in Blue* with Stuart as soloist!



Mike Anderson, Principal Tuba

Mike Anderson is currently the Principal Tuba with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra and the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra. Mike has been playing tuba for 15 years, and recently won the 2023 International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Mock Band Competition. He dreamed of playing professionally, so auditioning for and winning a position with the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra brought that dream to life!

In addition to his orchestral work, Mike is pursuing a master's degree in tuba performance and is a graduate teaching assistant at Florida State University. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Mike currently resides in Knoxville, Tennessee with his wife, Grace.

Over this past season, Mike had the opportunity to play a wide range of repertoire with the HSO. Playing Mahler 5 this past May was his personal highlight. He is very excited to play Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* next season, among many other repertoire selections.



Elias Goldstein, Assistant Principal Viola

Elias Goldstein is our new Assistant Principal Viola. A prize winner in numerous international competitions, he has performed in many of the greatest halls of the world including New York's Carnegie Hall, Seattle's Benaroya Hall, Bucharest's Romanian Athenaeum, and Musikiitalo Helsinki. He frequently collaborates with artistic partners including Nobuko Imai, Eli Eban, and the Pro Arte, Shanghai, Latin American, Arianna, and Cavani Quartets. He has achieved critical acclaim as a champion of his instrument as the first violist invited to Carnegie Hall to perform all 24 Caprices by Paganini, a program that later toured the United States and Europe.

Elias holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Master and Bachelor of Music from DePaul University.

Serving on the Executive Board of the American Viola Society, Elias is currently on the Faculty at University of Delaware. He is also principal viola of the Delaware Symphony and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. Elias performs on a beautiful and rare Saint Cecille Vuillaume viola made in 1850. He lives in Landenberg, PA.



Linda Numagami, Section Viola

Linda Numagami is the HSO's new Section Viola. She studied music at the New England Conservatory (BM), The Juilliard School (MM), and the San Francisco Conservatory (PGD).

As a proponent of using music for social change, Linda was awarded a 2016 Juilliard Community Engagement Grant. This grant provided her the opportunity to create a week-long music series of concerts in her hometown of Reading, PA. She, along with fellow musician Katie Althen (flute), brought music to several assisted-living homes whose activity budget was too small to bring in live music. The grant also allowed her to start Silence Speaks, a multi-disciplinary project focusing on awareness around domestic and sexual violence. In 2018, she was awarded a NEC (New England Conservatory) Entrepreneurial Musician Grant and most recently, she was received a 2021 Grow Your Art Project Grant as an alumnus of the New England Conservatory of Music.

Linda currently resides in New Haven, CT, where she works for the nonprofit Music Haven, which provides tuition-free music lessons, and where she performs as violist of the Haven String Quartet. In her free time, Linda enjoys exploring the outdoors, meeting dogs and kitties, and hula hooping. She is eagerly anticipating the upcoming season, particularly looking forward to performing Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with the orchestra.



Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras



Greetings!

I am writing to you wearing my new hat! (How I wish you could see it!) You may know me as the Associate Conductor for the HSO, and Music Director of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra (HSYO). But I have recently added a new title to my signature, that of Director of Education for the HSO. I am taking over for Mark Hunsberger, who left the HSO after eight years as the Director of Education and relocated closer to home this past January.

I am excited about this opportunity to bring together two populations with whom I have spent my career—student musicians and the pros—in mutually beneficial ways that continue to reveal themselves. In addition, the Education department is also ambassador to non-musician stakeholders of all ages, and my job is to meet them at various entry points into the world of symphonic music. I am excited to be that ambassador with the Harrisburg Symphony and preach the incredible beauty of music performed by a live symphony orchestra.

One of the first projects waiting for my attention was the used instrument collection the HSO hosts each year. We take these to local instrument repair shops who fix them up, and then place them with student musicians in the Harrisburg School District. This year we counted around 15 instruments! So, if you have an instrument lying around the house, keep an eye out for our next collection and help make a positive contribution to a child's education.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me as I transition in this new role. I am looking forward to the coming 2024-2025 Season and all we have planned!

See you at the Forum!

Greg Woodbridge

HSO Associate Conductor, HSYO Music Director, and HSO Director of Education



photo by Doug Nicotera

... the Harrisburg Symphony youth orchestra program fosters a culture of learning in an encouraging and friendly environment that helps to strengthen student engagement and grow their love of music. — Peter Sirotn

My students enjoy delving into the varied repertoire, and then having the opportunity to perform with a live orchestra. It is truly a highlight of their year and an experience they talk about for years after. — Christopher Seylar, Choir Director, Sporting Hill Elementary School



HSYO alumnae, Katelyn Estep '19, performed with the HSO in October 2023. She was excited to play with the HSO and to see Mark Hunsberger.



On February 5, 2024 Mark Hunsberger, Director of Education and his wife, Box Office Manager, Tatiana Cassetta, came to their last HSYO concert. Pictured L-R: Cheri Comasco, Matthew Herren, Krista Kriel, Tatiana Cassetta, Greg Woodbridge, Mark Hunsberger and Stuart Malina

Young Persons' Concerts

Our Young Persons' Concerts (YPC's) are how the Harrisburg Symphony engages with young audiences. The first of the two concerts is presented in November and utilizes the music that will be performed at the upcoming weekend's Masterworks concerts. They are conceived, written, conducted, and hosted by our own Stuart Malina (who would and could also sing and dance to them if he had to) and offer 2000 school-aged students a glimpse into the glorious realm of symphonic music.

The second of our YPC's is presented each May and is incredibly special for several reasons. The orchestra is comprised of our entire youth orchestra PLUS select players from the HSO performing side-by-side. It is hosted by Stuart and conducted by me. The repertoire is varied and chosen by the developers of the Carnegie Hall *Link Up* program and is based upon a unifying theme about an orchestra's ability to make us sing, move, swing, or rock. The teachers of our student audience are given expertly prepared materials to teach the songs in which they can participate either on recorders or with their voices. During the concert, adult vocal modelers and an elementary school choir lead the songs in what is a high-energy, feel-good, rip-roaring good time.



Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras

Our flagship experience for young musicians in grades 3 through 12 lies in our youth orchestras. It is comprised of three orchestras of 175 talented musicians from varied backgrounds; public schools, independent schools, charter schools, and homeschools. It is our mission to provide an ensemble experience of the highest quality, starting with the faculty we provide, who thoughtfully choose repertoire that appropriately challenges and rewards the players from a technical and musical standpoint. We also seek to provide a social experience for like-minded kids who come together with a shared love for playing together—and then discover other wonderful things about each other that lead to beautiful friendships, some of which last lifetimes.

Krista Kriel, Director of the Junior Youth String Orchestra, says “Not only did students play difficult and challenging music, like the *Capriol Suite* (pulled from the Harrisburg Symphony library!), but more importantly, relationships were made. It is incredibly beautiful to see students from all walks of life together, laughing, and having a wonderful time on Monday nights.”

Michael Gamon, Director of Elementary Strings brings music to life with students in grades 3-5. His joyful nature, encouraging words, and boundless energy help to bring the students' abilities to heights they never dreamt possible.

Together, the three conductors provide educational inspiration, encouragement, and enjoyment to so many students, giving them the opportunity to truly excel. We encourage you to bring your children to our HSYO concerts or to audition for one of our orchestras.

For more information visit www.harrisburgsymphony.org/youth-symphony/



Musician Residency Program



Finally, the Harrisburg Symphony has a continuing goal of sharing the expertise of our musicians with students in the area. This includes both our orchestra musicians and Guest Artists. To foster relationships between the HSO and school music programs, schools 'adopted' a player who visited several times throughout the course of the season. Together with the schoolteachers, they developed a set of goals and materials they could work on to better their ensembles. Connections were made. Not only did the students improve, but they also took in a Masterworks concert and met up with their HSO 'coaches.' David DiGiaccobe (Principal Flute) and Chris Rose (Principal Percussion) and Ai-Lin Hsieh (Cello) were just a few who made this beautiful experience happen.

Our Guest Artists not only performed on the Forum stage, but they also made appearances as masterclass clinicians at Lebanon Valley College and Messiah University, where they worked with advanced high school and college students. Cellist Allison Eldredge (who played the Elgar), Pianist Terrence Wilson (who played

with advanced high school and college students during the 2-hour classes, where the students performed and received technical and musical suggestions for improvement, as well as some stories and life lessons on having a career in music.

In addition to our musicians going out into the schools, the schools also bring their musicians to us! We had attendance at our Masterworks concerts from Mechanicsburg Area Senior High, Gettysburg Area High School, Central Dauphin East High, and Hershey High School. It is always a joy to see students at HSO concerts!

These are just a few examples of how financial support of the Harrisburg Symphony is used by the Education Department and given back to our community. Through your gifts we can create experiences and connections that change lives.

Musical Chairs: Join us at the Masterworks Concerts with your family for just \$45 per subscription!

Immerse your children in classical music at an astoundingly low cost. Offered for families with students in kindergarten through 12th grade, a Musical Chairs Masterworks Subscription is just \$45 per person. With seven concerts included that is less than \$7.00 per person, per concert!

Musical Chairs subscriber also may participate in our Welcome to the Concert program offered at intermission on Sunday's which includes a kid-specific printed program with musical activities and listening guides and an intermission workshop. Through our **Welcome to the Concert**, young listeners learn about the different instrument families in the orchestra, musical forms, and even how to conduct an orchestra.



For more information, contact Greg Woodbridge at Greg@HarrisburgSymphony.org or visit our website and download the application form. (<https://harrisburgsymphony.org/education/musical-chairs/>)

Save the Dates

Fall YPC: Friday, November 15, 2024, The Forum: Join Maestro Stuart Malina and the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra for a dazzling Young Persons' Concert! Maestro Malina will guide students through repertoire selected from the HSO's November Masterworks program to be chosen from Avner Dorman's *Tanyaderas* and Stravinsky's ballet *Petrushka*.

Spring YPC: Friday, May 16, 2025, The Forum: For our Spring YPC, we present Carnegie Hall's *Link Up: The Orchestra Moves!* The Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra sits side by side with members of the HSO for this special presentation that includes works by contemporary and classical composers that will get you moving! Conducted by Associate Conductor Greg Woodbridge and hosted by Stuart Malina, this concert involves audience participation from over 2000 students, led by a team of soloists and an elementary school choir. It's the "Feel Good" concert of the season.

Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras 2024-2025 Concert Schedule at The Forum Auditorium

Monday, November 4, 2024, 7 PM • Monday, February 3, 2025, 7 PM • Sunday, May 11, 2025, 3 PM

Our education and HSYO programs are made possible by support from generous donors, organizations, and foundations. We are grateful for their partnership and support and the impact it has on our community.

Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler foundation
Children's Home Foundation
Charles A. and Elizabeth G. Holmes Foundation
The Hall Foundation
The Harrisburg Symphony Society
The Friends and Family of Gloria Saleh Giambalvo
Harrisburg Public Schools Foundation
Jim and Phyllis Mooney
Mark and Jane Mendlow
Andy Jiang – Kind Insurance Agency

Supporters through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program:
Penn National Insurance
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HSYO Alumni Highlight – Connor Rohrer

Class of 2018



Hello! My name is Connor Rohrer and I'm an alumni bassoonist of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra (HSYO). When in the Youth Orchestra, my experiences refined my skills in ensemble playing and shaped my appreciation for listening to good music. As a bassoonist, I collaborated with my fellow musicians in chamber ensembles, the youth orchestra, and honor bands such as district, regional, and state orchestra. I also had the opportunity to use my skills as a jazz pianist, particularly in the annual LinkUp concerts (a program created by Carnegie Hall where orchestras all over the country participate locally using educational activities to learn about, listen to, and perform great music), which featured a wide variety of music. The experience of playing in a large ensemble with my peers is what I miss most about my time in the HSYO.

Upon graduating from Trinity High School in 2018, I attended the University of Miami, Frost School of Music to pursue an undergraduate degree in jazz piano. Throughout my undergraduate years, I connected and collaborated with student colleagues and faculty, leading to many performance opportunities in the studio and the bandstand. In addition to studying jazz piano with Martin Bejerano and Gonzalo Rubalcaba, I collaborated with Dafnis Prieto, Brian Lynch, Marcus Strickland, Dante Luciani, Melvin Butler, and John Yarling in the studio and on gigs. My performance experience was shaped through the numerous recitals, recording projects, and local gigs during my years of study at UM.

Upon graduating in 2022, after being awarded the Teaching Assistant position for jazz piano, I decided to continue my studies in Music Theory and Composition remaining at UM for my masters. Beginning in September of 2022, I began working with three-time Grammy winner artist, Samara Joy. I continue to work frequently in her rhythm section, touring the United States and Europe as part of her recent octet project.

In October 2023 I competed as a finalist in the Hancock Institute International Jazz Piano Competition. Being selected among 11 semi-finalists, I was awarded 2nd place by the all-star panel of judges, which included jazz piano pillars Herbie Hancock, Danilo Pérez, Hiromi Uehara, Bill Charlap, and Orrin Evans (picture below).

Recently, I've been living part of my time on the road, constantly traveling from city to city, enjoying every moment working with Samara Joy and her incredible band. Although it has been too long since I have picked up the bassoon, it is something I know I can always return to when the time is right.



Harrisburg Symphony Society

Dear Friends,

The Harrisburg Symphony Society had an exciting, busy 2023-2024 Season!

We began with the HSS board members greeting Masterworks ticket holders with a small gift bag of Hershey kisses and a note of welcome to opening night in October. This was followed later in the month by our annual members reception at the historic King Mansion on Front Street. We had a record number of members and guests enjoy an evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres and a very talented violin soloist from the Harrisburg Youth Orchestra.

February's fundraiser, Mamma Mia! – An Abba Celebration was held at Thea Restaurant. This was in anticipation of the Capital Blue Cross POPS's ARRIVAL The Music of ABBA concert at the Forum. Thea was transformed into a disco ballroom by Justine Fabian and our Membership Development Committee. We channeled our inner dancing queen with Greek food, drink, and entertainment. It was fun to see so many dressed in their best 70's disco attire and dancing the night away.

In March we hosted our Fundraiser *Curtain Call Take a Bow! A Lively Evening of Music and Friends Roasting and Toasting Marion C. Alexander* at the beautiful Civil War Museum. It was a wonderful evening celebrating one of Harrisburg's most active community leaders. We had music by Steve Rudolph, Christyan Seay, and HSO Music Director Stuart Malina with a rendition of "Marion the Librarian" not to be missed. A heartwarming tribute by her sons about growing up with their mother and funny stories. Thank you to Carole DeSoto and Alison Coppock for their hard work as co-chairs for the event.

Thank you to our hospitality chair, Ellen Crompton, and those that provided snacks to the musicians during the rehearsals. This is one of the most meaningful ways we support the Orchestra.

Thank you also to Sarah Bauder and Shelly Page who edit our tri-annual newsletter, and to Kathy

Santiago, our representative to the HSO's Education Committee. We enjoy volunteering for the children's concerts and other opportunities that support the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra activities. Finally, thank you Karen Best, our membership chair, for creating the membership directory and keeping us on track.

We have a fabulous board and membership of which I am so proud.

As we look ahead with excitement and anticipation for next season, we invite you to mark your calendar and join us April 5, 2025 for our *Gala Symphony in Silver* celebrating Stuart Malina's 25th, the Orchestra's 95th, and the Harrisburg Symphony Society's 35th Anniversaries at the Willows at Ashcombe Mansion.

Warmest Regards,

Debra Yates
President of Harrisburg Symphony Society



To become a member of the Harrisburg Symphony Society, go online
<https://harrisburgsymphony.org/symphony-society/become-a-member/> or use the QR code.



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Mama Mia: An ABBA Celebration Friendraiser

We had a Fun night at the **HSS Mama Mia, An ABBA Celebration** event Sunday, February 18th at Thea Restaurant with over 80 attendees. Many of our guests dressed in their best 70's attire and danced to the Dancing Queen and other Abba songs, performed by the *Villones*.

Thank you to **Chef AnnMarie Nelms** for her amazing food. The chef and her staff went above and beyond to help make it successful.

This was a friendraiser by our Membership Development Committee. Thanks to **Justine Fabian, Jen Neely, Holly Leggett, Asha Makam, and Kathy Santiago of the Membership Development Committee**. They did a fantastic job decorating and transforming the restaurant into a disco dance club. We had a substantial number of guests sign up for Society memberships and everyone was excited with anticipation for the upcoming sold-out concerts Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, *Arrival from Sweden*.



Annual Fall Reception

The Harrisburg Symphony Society's Fall Membership Reception was held October 17th at Historic King Mansion. Members and friends socialized as the sun set beautifully over the Susquehanna River. The elegant riverside setting was the perfect venue for an enjoyable late afternoon of delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts provided by our Board. Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra emerging young artist of exceptional talent and promise, Bryant Lu performed Bach and Paganini. The HSS welcomed twenty new members in 2023-2024. The event provided a beautiful opportunity for old members to mix with new members.



CURTAIN CALL...

A Lively Evening of Music and Friends Roasting & Toasting Marion C. Alexander

CURTAIN CALL was the place to be on Sunday, March 24th at the National Civil War Museum as over 220 people came to celebrate Marion C. Alexander. The lively evening of music and friends was a “roast and toast” of Marion who has given over fifty years of community service to numerous non-profit organizations throughout Central Pennsylvania.

Thank you to **Alexander Building Construction Co.** for being the Exclusive Premier Sponsor for the event which raised over \$65,000 to be donated to the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

With their charisma and sparkling wit, **Chris Baldrige** and **Dave Skerpon** co-hosted the program which included roasts and toasts from long-time friends, **Jim Mead, Joe Capita** and **Tim Fatzinger, Alice Anne Schwab** and **Ann Moffit, Marilyn Kauffman, Jessica Ritchie, Tina Nixon**, and Marion’s sons, **Rob and Charles Alexander** who brought down the house with the inside scoop on their mother! All speakers were hilarious in their roasts and heartfelt in their toasts.

As guests gathered in the ballroom, they were greeted with music by **Steve Rudolph** and **Hassan J.J. Shakur**. The roasts and toasts were interspersed with performances by popular Harrisburg tenor, **Christyan Seay** and **Maestro Stuart Malina**. Malina’s grand finale for the program was a rousing rendition of Music Man’s, “Marion the Librarian”, with new “Marion” words scripted by **Alison and Paul Coppock**.

CURTAIN CALL Co-Chairs: Alison Coppock and Carole DeSoto

Members of the planning committee: Karen Best, Susan Coble, Cheri Comasco, Justine Fabian, Amy Hall, Holly Leggett, Jenifer Neely, Shelly Page, Debra Ryan, Chris Stetler, Jane Waite, Deb Yates

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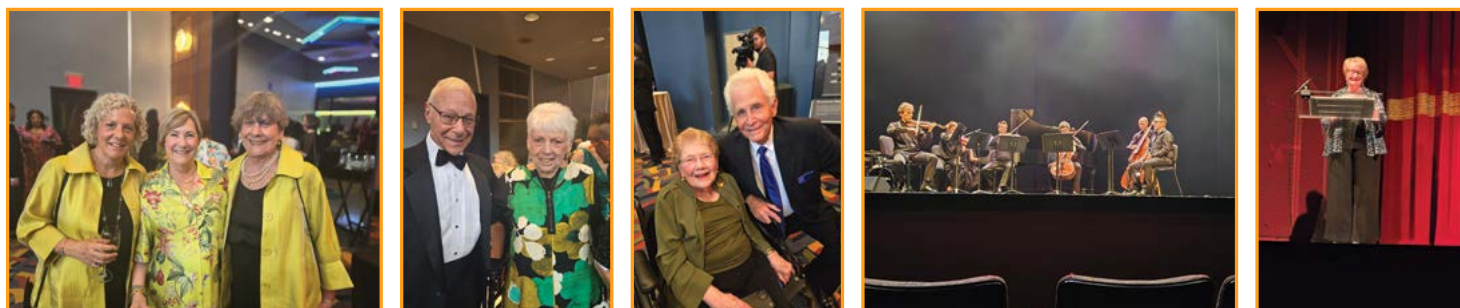
CURTAIN CALL...



Carole DeSoto honored at Arts Awards



Former Symphony Association Board Member and Symphony Society President Carole DeSoto was honored for her distinguished service to the arts in the Capital Region at Theatre Harrisburg's 30th Arts Awards, June 1, 2024 at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. The event was co-chaired by Symphony Society President Debra Yates and Harrisburg Enterprises CEO Brad Jones and featured a performance by members of the HSO.



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We sincerely appreciate all donors who support the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. Ticket revenue covers about one-third of the Symphony's operating costs, and donor support of our Symphony Fund allows us to attract and retain world-class artists, while keeping ticket prices affordable.

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by his parents,
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The Dali Quartet with Maestro
Malina before their performance.

A Salute to Our Military Orchestra Members! ... continued from page 5

other trumpet players! Kevin chose to audition for the Harrisburg Symphony because it has always held a special place in his heart. He says Stuart is not only an incredible conductor and leader, but he is also a genuinely nice person. The atmosphere and the culture Stuart has fostered within the orchestra is truly exceptional. Since the is HSO a part-time orchestra, everyone comes into town for performance week and there is always wonderful camaraderie. There is no place like it.

Outside his work with the HSO, Kevin is a Master Sergeant (MSG) and Principal Trumpet in the U.S. Army Brass Quintet, having served in the Army for the past 17 years. Since its inception in 1972, The U.S. Army Brass Quintet has gained a reputation as one of the most highly respected and sought after groups of its kind performing all over the area from the White House, Pentagon, and Capitol to tours across the United States and Korea.

When asked why he chose the military, he stated, "the military music job is the best in the world. Not only do I get to collaborate

with world-class musicians daily, but we also receive the benefits of active-duty military for both me and my family. Additionally, I have the unique opportunity to perform at events and venues that are typically inaccessible to civilian musicians."

One of Kevin's most memorable experiences with the Army Band was performing for President George H.W. Bush's funeral as part of the ceremonial band. He stood at the base of the Capitol steps, playing hymns as the casket was carried up to be received by his son, President George W. Bush. Regardless of political views, it was a profoundly powerful and touching moment that he will never forget. Kevin is married to his best friend Leana, who is a nuclear pharmacist. They live in North Bethesda Maryland with their two children, Celia (6) and Luca (3), and their chocolate lab, Stout.

Disclaimer: These three musicians' performances with the HSO are in a civilian capacity and neither the United States Marine Corps, the United States Army nor any other component of the Department of Defense has approved, endorsed, or authorized this activity.





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