



Annual Report

2021-22 SEASON

A Season STRETCHING Back AND Forward

The Minnesota Orchestra's 2021–22 season was packed with celebration and reflection, conclusions and renewal—a year that both looked back and charted a way forward. Here was the first opportunity for the Orchestra to reconnect with full-capacity audiences since the pandemic began. At last, it was time to return to weekly performances and launch long-awaited initiatives, like our new summer festival. It was also time to bid farewell to a long-serving music director—and then to pass the baton to a new artistic leader.


When Music Director Osmo Vänskä opened his final season in September 2021 it was on a wave of emotion. Across a tenure that began in 2003, he and the Orchestra built a golden partnership. We celebrated by revisiting some epic accomplishments—including a survey of all seven Sibelius symphonies in icy January—and creating new ones, notably a June finale in which four choirs, seven soloists and the Orchestra joined Osmo to share the magnificence of Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*.

We relished every moment as audiences returned to in-person experiences. February brought the Year of the Tiger, and the Orchestra offered its first Lunar New Year celebration, energizing the Hall with luminous performances. In May, the space became somber as the George Floyd Global Memorial shared its exhibit "Everything is Somebody's Offering" alongside performances of Joel Thompson's choral-orchestral work *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed*. Thousands came downtown in July and August when, guided by Creative Partner Jon Kimura Parker, we unveiled Summer at Orchestra Hall, four weeks designed to savor music and summer in downtown Minneapolis. Through it all, the music connected us, winding through the year to link joy and celebration, poignancy and reflection.

And just as the summer season was about to end, we shared a highly anticipated announcement: Danish conductor Thomas Søndergård, who had transported musicians and audiences to sublime realms in two previous visits, was named the Orchestra's 11th music director. "My impression of the Minnesota Orchestra is that it is an ensemble with tremendous heart," he said.

That heart, no doubt, comes from this loyal community. With audiences enthusiastically returning to the concert hall and donors demonstrating remarkable generosity, the Orchestra has continued to make steady progress in rebounding from the pandemic with our financial position solid and our connection to community stronger than ever.

As we now find our organization looking forward to new horizons, we also remain connected to what came before. In this season of "farewell" and "hello," we were reminded that the lineage of this art form stretches long, with music passing from teacher to student, one player to the next, current audience members to new generations, and one music director to another. We give thanks to this extraordinary community for taking care, year over year, to support the music that links us to the past and future, and to one another.



Joseph T. Green
BOARD CHAIR



Michelle Miller Burns
PRESIDENT AND CEO



A SEASON OF *Farewell.*



A SEASON OF *Hello.*



Vänskä's VALEDICTION



To conclude his two decades of galvanizing artistic leadership, Music Director Osmo Vänskä delivered a season that opened with superstar violinist Joshua Bell—the same soloist from Vänskä's debut with the Orchestra in 2000—featured a Sibelius festival at its midpoint and closed with curtain call after curtain call following Mahler's Symphony No. 8, as tears flowed freely in the audience and onstage. The Gramophone Award for Orchestra of the Year was the cherry on top of a tenure that included the Orchestra's first Grammy Award, headline-making tours of South Africa and Cuba, and countless magical memories for all those who make, hear and support the music. Now as conductor laureate, he will continue to partner with the Orchestra for years to come in an extended coda to a golden age.

SEGUE TO *Søndergård*



Before and during the pandemic, a team of musicians, board, staff and community members undertook an intense yet quiet search for Vänskä's successor. Their charge was to identify a visionary leader who understood what an American orchestra committed to its community could be and become, and who could start at the Orchestra's current peak level of performance and aim still higher. Among the many talented guest artists who led the Orchestra in recent seasons, Denmark's Thomas Søndergård—from his first visit in December 2021—immediately astonished both the Orchestra and audiences alike. In July 2022, President and CEO Michelle Miller Burns announced him as the Minnesota Orchestra's 11th music director, a role he will start officially in fall 2023 after a year as music director designate.



MUSIC IN THE *Hall.*



MUSIC FOR *All.*



Gathered AGAIN



By necessity, the 2020–21 season was focused on smaller numbers of musicians onstage and gradual reintroduction of audiences, but the 2021–22 season was a time to think big again—both in the scope of instrumentation and in addressing matters far larger than musical notes on a page. Several major choral-orchestral works performed with the Minnesota Chorale and other local singers were among season highlights, ranging from Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony to the Orchestra’s first performances of Joel Thompson’s cantata *Seven Last Words of the Unarmed*, in which voices sing the final words of seven Black men killed by police and other authority figures in the U.S.



Audiences filled Orchestra Hall to experience a joyful concert dedicated to one of the most widely celebrated holidays across Asian countries and cultures, Lunar New Year, with conductor Junping Qian leading the premiere of Gao Hong’s pipa concerto *Guangxi Impression*, starring the composer herself. Also making stellar debuts were guest artists such as conductor Karina Canellakis, the Sphinx Virtuosi in a pair of string orchestra works, and talking drummer Massamba Diop rendering the score of *Black Panther* in a film concert, led by Principal Conductor of Live at Orchestra Hall Sarah Hicks.



The Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute returned, culminating in Osmo Vänskä leading a MusicMakers concert of works by seven emerging composers who were present to introduce their music. Another new composition had a poignant premiere with Vänskä conducting: Jaakko Kuusisto’s Symphony, which was only partially finished when the composer passed away. His younger brother Pekka Kuusisto completed the work for a bittersweet capstone to Vänskä’s longtime commitment to contemporary music throughout his music directorship.



An EXTENDED Reach



With field trips paused for many school districts, the Orchestra kept young minds sparked through our innovative online Young People's Concerts. The fun, fascinating Science of Sound program, a partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota and Twin Cities PBS, let students experience how our brains, like magic, turn sound waves into music that moves us. Musicians partnered with Science Museum instructors to learn and demonstrate timbre, frequency and amplitude, all brought gloriously to life through the music of Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann and Zhou Tian, led by Sarah Hicks. So far, that concert and the season's other Young People's Concerts have been viewed more than 11,000 times.

Even as audiences gathered in the Hall, thousands of others watched our captivating livestreams in the Twin Cities and around the world. *This Is Minnesota Orchestra*, the concert series broadcast on television and online, began near the start of the pandemic and is now a firm part of the Orchestra's mission—brought to the next level thanks to a state-of-the-art digital production studio fully integrated with the Orchestra's longstanding broadcast partner, Minnesota Public Radio. The Orchestra has now received its first Upper Midwest Emmy Award in the best "long form entertainment" category for our broadcast and livestream with Minnesota-based indie rock band Cloud Cult. In total, this series received over 300,000 digital and broadcast views in the 2021-22 season.



Lift Up MINNEAPOLIS



Local Partnerships

The Minnesota Orchestra's programming has long drawn from an incredible well of Twin Cities-based artists. During the 2021-22 season, the ensemble broadened and deepened those relationships, partnering with more than 50 local artists, arts organizations and other community groups to create panel discussions, performances, displays and interactive exhibits before and after nearly every concert. In turn, the Orchestra shared the city's cultural riches with the world—onstage, on-air and online. Committed to making the City of Lakes as vibrant as possible, the Orchestra is especially dedicated to helping bring energy and vitality back to downtown Minneapolis.

Summer at Orchestra Hall

For four fun-filled weeks more than 25,000 people came downtown to celebrate Minnesota's sweetest season with family, food and the excitement of live music during Summer at Orchestra Hall. Curated by Creative Partner and pianist Jon Kimura Parker, the programming illuminated "The Beethoven Influence" and celebrated the spirit of fresh musical invention with partners like BRKFST Dance Company, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, The Moving Company, City of Bells and The Cedar Cultural Center.



International Day of Music

During the International Day of Music in mid-July, fans flocked to hear free performances by 20 different ensembles on four stages in and around the Hall, celebrating all types of music. The Orchestra's youngest friends got up-close-and-personal with instruments, and in the day's conclusion, the full Orchestra performed outside on a packed Peavey Plaza for the first time since 2008. As the concert drew to its finish, five downtown churches rang their bells in joyous coordination, resounding throughout the area.



Hall Pass

As audiences returned to Orchestra Hall, donors ensured that families got a special welcome. The Orchestra's Hall Pass program makes free tickets available for young listeners ages 6 to 18 for select concerts to make certain these young people are able to experience firsthand the thrill of live music.



Minnesota Orchestra FINANCIAL REPORT 2021-22

The following financial results are summarized from the Fiscal 2022 audited financial statements.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

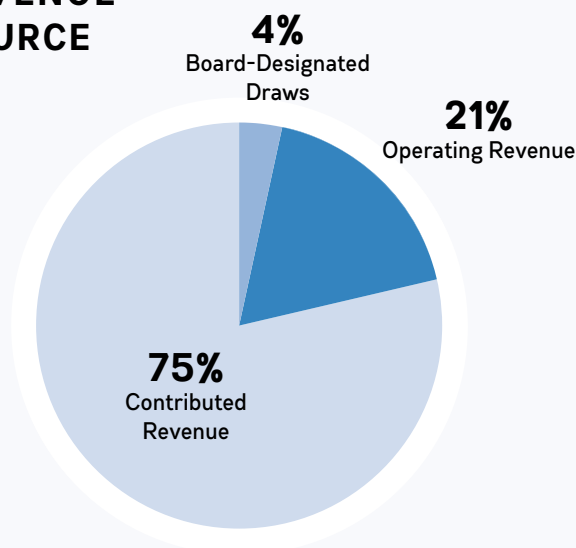
	(\$000 OMITTED)	
	August 31 2022	August 31 2021
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$6,403	\$8,829
Noncurrent Receivables	7,849	1,291
Investments	142,077	138,591
Other Assets	46,934	48,447
TOTAL ASSETS	\$203,263	\$197,158
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	\$12,926	\$8,973
Deferred Concert Revenue	4,337	5,632
Long-Term Liabilities	2,339	2,159
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$19,602	\$16,764
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	\$(22,995)	\$(18,062)
Net Assets With Donor Restriction	206,656	198,456
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$183,661	\$180,394
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$203,263	\$197,158

SUMMARY OF OPERATING RESULTS

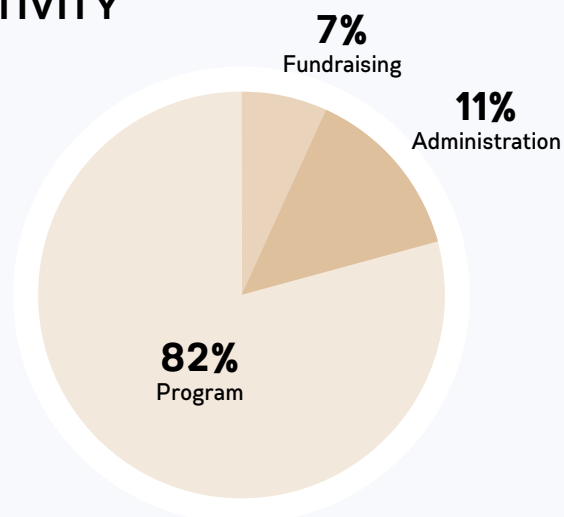
	(\$000 OMITTED)	
	Year Ending August 31 2022	Year Ending August 31 2021
REVENUE		
Operating Revenue	\$8,187	\$662
Contributed Revenue	28,861	18,321
Board-Designated Draws for Operations	1,477	1,579
TOTAL REVENUE	\$38,525	\$20,562
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	\$27,359	\$18,919
All Other Expenses	11,822	7,958
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,181	\$26,877
NET OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$(656)	\$(6,315)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE SOURCE



EXPENSE ACTIVITY



Financial Facts AT A GLANCE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY: EMERGING FROM A PANDEMIC

The 2021-22 season saw the Orchestra steadily rebounding from the most challenging periods of the pandemic. Although COVID safety protocols, precautions and uncertainties remained a factor through most of the year, the Orchestra offered a full season of concerts—including the launch of a new summer festival—that was enthusiastically supported by audiences and donors.

As the organization returned to more regular operations, it continued to be guided by a strategic plan and multi-year financial map designed to improve fiscal results and increase total net assets. To that end, the Orchestra reduced its deficit from \$6.3 million in Fiscal Year 2021 to \$655,575 in Fiscal 2022. Its overall financial position remained strong, with total net assets increasing by \$3 million to reach \$183 million. Despite market volatility and some economic uncertainty, the Orchestra maintained consistent year-over-year improvements, due to loyal audiences and extraordinary donor generosity.

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

Strong philanthropic giving was the foundation of the Orchestra's success in Fiscal Year 2022. Total contributed revenue—comprising annual fund donations, major gifts, Symphony Ball, Oakleaf Trust distributions and a Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG)—reached \$28.8 million in Fiscal 2022, compared to \$18.3 million in the previous year. The increase in contributions was driven by two key factors: an increase in major gifts and federal SVOG funding through the Save Our Stages Act that continued to provide critical support in a season still marked by COVID uncertainties.

More than 14,000 generous donors gave financial gifts to the Orchestra in Fiscal 2022.

OPERATING INCOME

The Orchestra performed a full season of concerts in 2021-22 for the first time since the pandemic began, although facility rentals and food and beverage sales continued to be limited at Orchestra Hall due to COVID precautions. Total operating revenue for Fiscal 2022 reached \$8.2 million, a significant improvement over Fiscal 2021 when the Orchestra was able to perform just 13 ticketed concerts for limited audiences, bringing in total operating revenue of \$661,735. Total capacity for the 2021-22 season reached 79 percent, not yet attaining pre-pandemic levels but indicating a steady return and great support from loyal concertgoers.

More than 25,000 people came downtown across four summer weeks to participate in the Orchestra's inaugural Summer at Orchestra Hall festival, enjoying music in and outside Orchestra Hall.

EXPENSES

Total expenses were \$39 million in Fiscal 2022, reflecting a return to more regular operations compared to Fiscal 2021 (\$27 million) when expenses were significantly lower due to organization-wide salary reductions and the limited number of concerts.

THANK YOU *for your generous support!*

We are grateful to the following individuals, and to the more than 14,000 donors whose Guaranty Fund gifts help sustain the Minnesota Orchestra each year.

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\$100,000

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Linda and Warren Mack,
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First Violin section
Nancy and John Lindahl, *Bass section*
Marilyn Carlson Nelson,
Second Violin section
Dr. Jennine and John Speier,
Cello section
Margaret VB Wurtele, *Oboe section*

Presenter's Circle

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