MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA





A young person gives the violin a try prior to a Relaxed Family Concert, part of FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra's pre-concert activities.

If you've been to a Minnesota Orchestra Relaxed Family Concert, you may have experienced the moment when a child holds a small violin and draws the bow across the strings for the first time, as part of a pre-concert lobby activity. Their faces light up, and you can see a dawning realization: I can make music; this belongs to me. In a year that saw the joyful return of our Young People's Concerts for in-person audiences for the first time since the pandemic, the 2022-23 season was a time in which we celebrated that music emphatically does belong to each of us-and there is space for all of us in the music the Orchestra shares.

We saw over the last season how moments of musical electricity can transpire anywhere. The SPAM Museum in Austin, Minnesota, was the unlikely setting for an Orchestra brass ensemble to convene a music-loving crowd as part of our state-wide Common Chords project in April. The Rise and Remember vigil at George Floyd Square in May was an opportunity for Orchestra musicians to lend musical voices of support for our common humanity. In July, 15,000 people gathered outdoors in Plymouth, as they have nearly every year for the past 50, to savor a patriotic concert at sunset. For 235,000 viewers, their point of connection came through a screen, as they participated in the Orchestra's TV and digital offerings. Never mind the disparate locales, these occasions all served a common purpose: bringing people together around music.



Wynton Marsalis was featured in season-opening performances of his Swing Symphony with the Orchestra and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra conducted by William Eddins.

Of course, we particularly love bringing audiences together at Orchestra Hall, and this happened with renewed strength in the 2022–23 season. Capacity crowds turned out to hear the brilliance of Wynton Marsalis' *Swing Symphony*. Similarly, the venue was packed when Thomas Søndergård led his first concerts as music director designate. (His official tenure as music director began a year later, in September 2023.) We marked holidays with each other through *El Mesías* (The Messiah), Lunar New Year and Juneteenth performances, and together applauded the awesome artistry of Minnesota Orchestra musicians. Community turned out en masse to hear one of the Orchestra's most notable commissions of this century: Carlos Simon and Marc Bamuthi Joseph's *brea(d)th*, which captured the despair and hope of America's unfulfilled promises in the wake of George Floyd's murder.

We're honored that Orchestra Hall is once again a convening site for musical performances beyond those offered by our Orchestra. Youth orchestras, public schools and colleges increasingly made the Hall their musical home over the last season, too, as rental activity quickened its pace after the quiet of the pandemic.

The momentum fueling these concerts and activities led to positive financial results. In Fiscal 2023 audiences returned to Orchestra Hall in the highest numbers since the pandemic began (up to 82% capacity). We're pleased to share that, due to increases in both earned and contributed revenue over the prior year, the Orchestra ended the year with an operating surplus of \$1.1 million. Thanks to tremendous support from donors and audiences, our financial position continues to be solid.

And so we wrap the fiscal year with enormous gratitude to our generous community. The experiences of musical connection that we hold so dear—whether in-person or on television, tiny moments or large-scale ones, for solace or celebration—are only possible because of you. Thank you.

Mancy E. Hindahl

Nancy E. Lindahl
BOARD CHAIR

Michelle UBurns

Michelle Miller Burns
PRESIDENT AND CEO

GREAT COLLABORATIONS AND ARTISTRY

Orchestra musicians' collaborative ethos and great artistry brought to life another

landmark season.

In collaboration with Dr. Louise Toppin of the African Diaspora Music Project, the Orchestra presented its first Listening Project concert, with the aim of performing and recording orchestral works from historically underrepresented composers. Kensho Watanabe conducted pieces by Samuel Coleridae-Taylor, Eleanor Alberga, Hale Smith, Adolphus Hailstork, Margaret Bonds and Florence Price. Concert attendees later received a digital download of each piece from the concert.



The Orchestra premiered composer Carlos Simon and librettist Marc Bamuthi Joseph's brea(d)th, a choral-orchestral work commissioned by the Orchestra after the murder of George Floyd, brimming with equal parts tragedy, history and hope. Led by conductor Jonathan Taylor Rush, the concerts also featured the Minnesota Chorale, Twin Cities Choral Partners and 29:11 International Exchange. A recording of brea(d)th's premiere was issued by Decca Classics in September 2023, significantly expanding the reach of this landmark work and preserving it for posterity. Artists from Minneapolis-based Juxtaposition Arts created a contemplative multi-media installation in the Orchestra Hall lobby based on brea(d)th.





Throughout the season, Orchestra musicians took center stage as soloists, expressing their talents while being generously supported by their colleagues. No matter the repertoire-from Leonard Bernstein's conversational Serenade (Erin Keefe), to Johannes Brahms' lush **Double Concerto for Violin** and Cello (Susie Park and Silver Ainomäe, pictured). Michael Daugherty's literary Tales of Hemingway (Anthony Ross), or Wynton Marsalis' Concerto for Tubist and Orchestra (Steven Campbell), plus multi-genre programs spotlighting Charles Lazarusthese musician-soloists beautifully demonstrated week after week that their artistry is second-to-none.

MUSIC FOR CELEBRATION

This year saw the return of our popular Lunar New Year concert and introduced a new Orchestra Hall tradition: a program commemorating Juneteenth, the holiday that celebrates the emancipation in 1865 of the last enslaved African Americans in Texas. Through these programs, Orchestra Hall became a community space where new and returning audiences alike gathered to hear music inspired by these traditions.

"While every concert is fabulous, we have really enjoyed the shows celebrating diversity around the world."

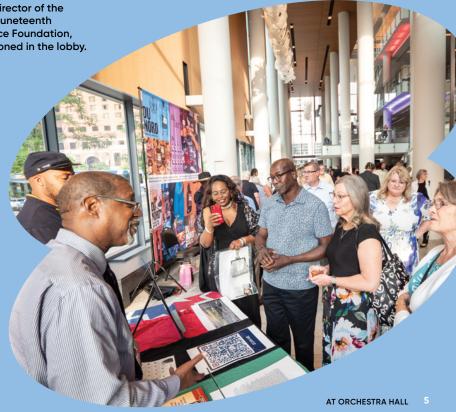
-AUDIENCE MEMBER



The Orchestra's second annual Lunar New Year concert drew throngs to Orchestra Hall to ring in the Year of the Rabbit with a program focused on family traditions and themes of unity and health. Junping Qian conducted and Principal Bassoon Fei Xie served as artistic consultant. curating the program with many works across cultures and generations, while the lobby was home to additional artistry in partnership with the Alliance of Chinese Culture and Arts. The Orchestra's inaugural Juneteenth concert conducted by André Raphel was a star-studded affair: audiences heard poetry from actor, poet and activist Malcolm-Jamal Warner (left), basked in the gravitas of retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan C. Page (center) as narrator in Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait and relished the soaring vocals of Minneapolis music legend Jevetta Steele (right).

Before our Juneteenth performances, several Black-owned businesses, joined by Lee Jordan, Midwest director of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, were stationed in the lobby.





SUMMER IN THE CITY

"Music in Motion" was the theme for this season's Summer at Orchestra Hall festival, curated by virtuoso pianist and Creative Partner Jon Kimura Parker, while Artist in Residence BRKFST Dance Company stepped up with brilliant original choreography, including a piece set to music by Daniel Bernard Roumain. It all kicked off with the International Day of Music, a free celebration of music for all ages, showcasing more than 25 acts across four stages and programmed in coordination with The Cedar Cultural Center. A "Music & Healing" program shone a light on mental health and the restoring power of music, and audience darling Dessa returned for genre-blending concerts conducted by Sarah Hicks.



Around 10,000 people attended this year's International Day of Music, bringing downtown Minneapolis to life with community partners like In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre.



The Orchestra performed a free concert hosted by Creative Partner Jon Kimura Parker, who holds the Marilyn and Glen Nelson Chair. Led by Chia-Hsuan Lin, the performance capped off the International Day of Music.



Throughout Summer at Orchestra Hall, Artist in Residence BRKFST Dance Company appeared with the Orchestra in dynamic performances that enlivened this year's theme. "Music in Motion."

"...this was a thrilling mix of unisons and fugues, the dancers shining in solo settings and clustering to create moving human sculptures."

-ROB HUBBARD, Star Tribune



Audiences turned out for three sold-out performances with Dessa, brought to wider audiences via livestream and a live broadcast on Twin Cities PBS.

A SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



13,569 donors made gifts that fueled the 2022–23 season's spectacular performances and programs. Many donors send personal notes alongside their gifts to share the Orchestra's importance in their lives, including one who said: "Thank you for feeding the souls of Minnesotans with your beautiful music."



30 hours of recording sessions captured the final symphony in the Minnesota Orchestra's Mahler cycle, the massive Third Symphony. The Orchestra also released its recording of Mahler's Ninth Symphony, which BBC Music Magazine called "truly exceptional."



56 local artists, arts organizations and other partners created dazzlina pre- and post-concert activities-including choral and dance performances, lectures and art installations—that complemented and illuminated the Orchestra's performances.



82% of Orchestra Hall's seats were filled during the 2022-23 season. Nearly 12,000 of our guests were first-time Minnesota Orchestra concertgoers.



28,636 students and teachers from 237 schools attended Young People's Concerts. More than one-quarter of those students attended for free, while others received their ticket for just \$6.25.



129 Minnesota Orchestra concerts were held at Orchestra Hall and beyond. In total, the Orchestra performed 221 pieces written by 120 composers during the 2022–23 season.



>3 million music lovers tuned in to live and recorded Minnesota Orchestra concerts via the Digital Concert Hall, radio and television broadcasts and streaming music services.

CONNECTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Dozens of yellow school buses carrying excited young learners to Orchestra Hall is an iconic sight in Minneapolis and a unique rite of passage for many Minnesota students. This season, those buses once again descended on Orchestra Hall as the long-running Young People's Concerts returned in full force. Nearly 30,000 students got to experience the thrill of live music, many for the first time. "This is the best day of my life!" one attendee exclaimed. Reaching the youngest generation of learners has been a core aspect of the Orchestra's mission since Young People's

The Orchestra is also creating welcoming concert experiences for all to enjoy music in their own ways with friends and family. Thousands turned out for three Relaxed Family Concerts, and Sensory-Friendly Concerts in the Target Atrium expanded to include programming geared towards supporting teens and adults with autism, sensory sensitivities or other types of neurodivergence, in partnership with Minneapolisbased Toneworks Music Therapy, LLC, and the Autism Society of Minnesota.

Concerts began in 1911.



All season long, Young People's concerts brought smiles like these to student audiences from across the state.

Minnesota Orchestra
Fellow and cellist Esther
Seitz socializing with a
concert–goer after the
first Sensory–Friendly
performance for teens
and adults.



MUSIC ACROSS

THE STATE

The Orchestra extended its reach well beyond the walls of Orchestra Hall throughout the 2022–23 season. For a week in early May, the Orchestra hit the road for Austin, Minnesota, and the return of the Common Chords residency program, funded by The Hormel Foundation and Mayo Clinic. Small ensembles "spammed" the Austin community with more than 18 events—attended by some 5,000 Austin residents—specially curated by the Orchestra in partnership with Austin community leaders. The celebratory week was capped off by an Orchestra performance led by Sarah Hicks at Austin High School.

Free, live access to the Orchestra for viewers across the state (and beyond!) is offered through the television and digital series *This Is Minnesota Orchestra*, which provides listeners a best-seat-in-the-house experience from the comfort of home, in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television and YourClassical MPR. Total reported viewership for the season reached 235,000 individuals. In recognition of the artistry and innovation of this series, the Orchestra was awarded an Upper Midwest Emmy in 2022 for its broadcast with indie rock band Cloud Cult.

"Thank you so much for making this concert available online. What a joy to get so close to all the musicians and even see the conductor smiling!"

-THIS IS MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA LIVESTREAM VIEWER





COMMUNITY-WIDE PERFORMANCES

The Minnesota Orchestra brought awe-inspiring musical moments to the community throughout last season. Whether Orchestra musicians were gathered in St. Paul to celebrate Las Posadas, joining neighbors for a festive celebration at Open Streets West Broadway or commemorating the life of George Floyd at the annual Rise and Remember vigil, the music kept bringing everyone together all year long.



Minnesota Orchestra cellists Sonia Mantell and Esther Seitz (center right) joined vocal ensemble Border CrosSing and other community partners to celebrate Las Posadas in an evening of music and fellowship at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in St. Paul, deepening the Orchestra's partnerships with other civic-minded organizations.





LOOK FORWARD

As we look back at another landmark season, it's also important to look ahead. Last July, music presenter First Avenue announced that the Minnesota Orchestra would become a strategic partner in the development and operation of a new 8,000-seat Community Performing Arts Center amphitheater. Located alongside the Mississippi on the city's Northside as part of the Upper Harbor Terminal project, the new venue will offer outdoor concerts for thousands, community programming provided by partners such as by the African American Community Development Corporation and an expanded footprint for music in Minneapolis. With the Orchestra helping to bring the amphitheater to reality, a new era in Minneapolis music-making will begin.

MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-23

The following financial results are summarized from the Fiscal 2023 audited financial statements.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	(\$000 OMITTED)	
ASSETS	August 31 2023	August 31 2022
Current Assets	\$10,588	\$6,403
Noncurrent Receivables	8,570	7,849
Investments	136,537	142,077
Other Assets	45,433	46,934
TOTAL ASSETS	\$201,128	\$203,263

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$15,020	\$19,602
Long-Term Liabilities	3,357	2,339
Deferred Concert Revenue	4,711	4,337
Current Liabilities	\$6,952	\$12,926
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSE	:15	

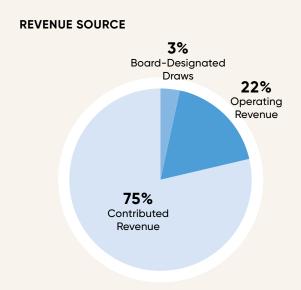
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$201,128	\$203,263
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$186,108	\$183,661
Net Assets With Donor Restriction	\$213,598	206,656
Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	\$(27,490)	\$(22,995)

SUMMARY OF OPERATING RESULTS

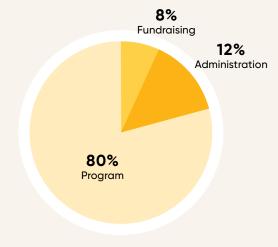
	(\$000 OMITTED)	
REVENUE	Year Ending August 31 2023	Year Ending August 31 2022
Operating Revenue	\$9,545	\$8,187
Contributed Revenue	32,636	28,861
Board-Designated Draws for Operations	1,383	1,477
TOTAL REVENUE	\$43,564	\$38,525

EXPENSES		
Salaries & Benefits	\$28,679	\$27,359
All Other Expenses	13,735	11,822
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$42,414	\$39,181
NET OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$1,150	\$(656)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW







MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA FINANCIAL FACTS AT A GLANCE

Fiscal 2023

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Minnesota Orchestra's steady rebound from the pandemic continued into the 2022–23 season. The Orchestra was able to offer a full slate of concerts, including the return of in-person Young People's Concerts for school and home school groups, a return to full food and beverage service at concerts and events, and a return to more regular rental activity of the facility.

Seeing increases in both operating and contributed revenues over the prior year, the Orchestra ended Fiscal 2023 with an operating surplus of \$1.1 million on an annual budget of \$42 million. The organization's overall financial position held strong with total net assets increasing to \$186 million.

As the limitations of the pandemic recede further into the past, the Orchestra continues to be guided to sustainability by its strategic plan, which calls for careful control over expenses coupled with a multi-year initiative to significantly increase both contributed and earned revenues.

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE

Philanthropic giving remains the cornerstone of the Orchestra's success; it is the extraordinary generosity of this community that supports and sustains the organization's annual operations. Total contributed revenue—comprising annual fund donations, major gifts, Symphony Ball gifts, Oakleaf Trust distributions and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness—reached \$32.6 million in Fiscal 2023, compared to \$28.8 million in the previous year. The increase in contributions was driven primarily by an increase in major gifts and forgiveness of the federal PPP loan from the pandemic.

OPERATING INCOME

Total operating revenue—which includes revenue from ticket sales, fees, rental opportunities, and food, beverage and concession sales—reached \$9.5 million, an increase of 17% from the previous year. The season saw audiences returning to Orchestra Hall in the highest numbers yet since the pandemic began, with total capacity reaching 82%, compared to the previous year's 79%. Although these capacities have not quite reached pre-pandemic levels, which reached 87% in Fiscal 2019, they indicate a steady return and great support from concertgoers. Rental activity returned to the venue at a pace that exceeded budget expectations, with more than 60 rental events filling Orchestra Hall when the Orchestra was not rehearsing or performing.

EXPENSES

Total expenses were \$42 million, compared to the prior year's \$39 million, reflecting a return to full operations and activities following the pandemic.

227,000 guests
attended in-person
Minnesota Orchestra
concerts and an
additional 235,000
watched digitally—
for a total audience
of 462,000.

With streaming listeners included, that total reaches more than 3 million.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

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

PARTNER WITH A SECTION PROGRAM

\$100,000

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Martha Head, Bassoon section
Kathy and John Junek,
Linda and Warren Mack,
Horn section
Al and Kathy Lenzmeier,
First Violin section
Nancy and John Lindahl, Bass section
Marilyn Carlson Nelson,
Second Violin section
Dr. Jennine and John* Speier,
Cello section

PRESENTER'S CIRCLE \$50.000 AND ABOVE

Margaret V.B. Wurtele, Oboe section

Julie and Doug Baker, Jr. Foundation Kathy and Charlie* Cunningham C. Curtis Dunnavan* Dr. Stanley M. and Luella G. Goldberg Rosemary and David Good Arthur Higinbotham Lawrence Family Foundation/ Dr. Mary and Jim Lawrence Doug* and Louise Leatherdale Christina and Terry Schopfer Charles L. Thiesenhusen. M.D.

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