



MYSO 2020 - 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Your support enables MYSO to nurture these life skills in our students, changing our community for the better.



Confidence
Collaboration
Creativity
Discipline
Passion
Perseverance
Resilience
Teamwork

Welcome

Thank you for bringing people happiness through music—and for making a difference in the lives of our musicians—this past year.

Your support enabled MYSO to provide a vibrant artistic and educational experience that few communities across the nation enjoyed. We were fortunate to offer safe in-person rehearsals and virtual offerings for our entire 2020-21 season.

Our musicians were grateful. “This year has reinforced the idea that music can bring people together no matter what, and despite the current predicaments [Covid], you can’t stop people from doing what they love,” said Brooke, a Senior Symphony musician.

Thanks to you, in these challenging times, MYSO continues to promote youth development through our ensemble-based approach, in which communication, collaboration, teamwork, and creativity are essential to success now and throughout their lives. For the ensemble to thrive, it’s not enough that a few musicians play well. Everyone needs to work hard and do their part, ultimately achieving success for all.

With your support, our more than 40 ensemble and enrichment programs flourish. Through participatory ensemble music study, our programs promote diversity and ensure equitable access for all, including students facing barriers to such opportunities. Today 50% of students represent populations of color, and 40% of students receive direct financial aid for membership, private lessons, and more.

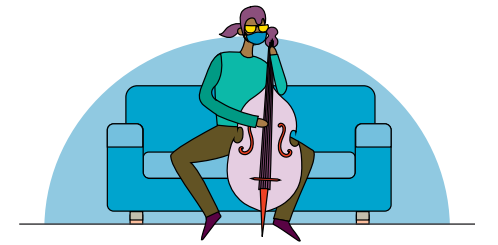
Thank you for helping us to “foster equality, cooperation, tolerance, and shared joy,” as one of our donors put it. “This has always been valuable, but more important than ever in recent years.”

Your support, like our music, is one of the greatest things for us all.

In gratitude,

Nathaniel Lynn,
Board Chair

Linda J. Edelstein,
CEO



“Being able to bring people happiness through playing music is one of the greatest things for me.”

- Maddy, Senior Symphony

Who We Are



800

MUSICIANS WEEKLY,
FROM OVER 200 SCHOOLS

50%

OF MUSICIANS REPRESENT
POPULATIONS OF COLOR



8-18

MUSICIANS'
AGE SPAN

“ More important than the musical skills I garnered, I truly learned how to be a caring friend and a kind person. ”

– Mark, Senior Symphony alumnus

WHAT YOU MAKE POSSIBLE

20%

COME FROM LOW TO MODERATE
INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS
IN MILWAUKEE

40%

RECEIVE
FINANCIAL AID

6K

VIEWS FROM VIRTUAL
PERFORMANCES SHARED
WITH 24 SCHOOLS

A Year of Resilience

ADAPTATION



**BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL
OPTIONS MADE AVAILABLE**



**CREATED 24 SMALLER ORCHESTRAS
AND ENSEMBLES TO ALLOW FOR
PHYSICAL DISTANCING**



**PROVIDED A VIBRANT ARTISTIC AND EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCE THAT FEW COMMUNITIES
ACROSS THE NATION ENJOYED**

“ Because we’ve had to modify our rehearsal times and spaces, I’ve learned to never take our time together for granted. MYSO fosters such an amazing community!

– Zindzi, Metropolitan Symphony ”

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS INCLUDED:



REHEARSALS



MUSIC FESTIVALS & CONCERTS



MUSIC THEORY CLASSES



MASTERCLASSES



INTERVIEWS WITH LOCAL, NATIONAL,
& INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS

“ MYSO has been an enriching and welcoming environment to come to every week. I am looking forward to adapting to current circumstances and sharing our music with others, even during this tough time. ”

– Kaelyn, Wind Ensemble





Concerts

MYSO offered live-streamed recorded concerts for all ensembles for our first two concert series, finishing with an in-person third concert series with limited seating in May.

FALL CONCERT SERIES

30

RECORDING SESSIONS
IN 10 DAYS



12K

VIEWS IN THE FIRST
MONTH

WINTER CONCERT SERIES

34

RECORDING SESSIONS
IN 2 WEEKS

2,200

VIEWS IN THE FIRST
MONTH



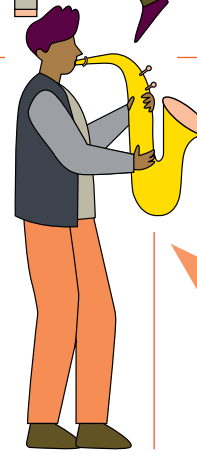
SPRING CONCERT SERIES

28

IN-PERSON CONCERTS
IN 2 WEEKS

COMMUNITY CONCERT SERIES

RESUMED FREE
CONCERT SERIES BY
OFFERING VIRTUAL
ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES
TO 24 SCHOOLS



“ I am looking forward to putting on an amazing show for our virtual audiences. I’m pumped for them to see the joy and passion we all share when performing. ”

– Owne, Metropolitan Symphony



Financials

2020 – 2021

(\$000s)

Revenue

Contributed	\$ 1,213
Earned	503
UPAF	363
Covid Related Grants	138
Restricted Investments	1,950
Total	\$ 4,167

Expenses

Music Education & Performance	\$ 2,064
Management & General	169
Fundraising	185
Total	\$ 2,418

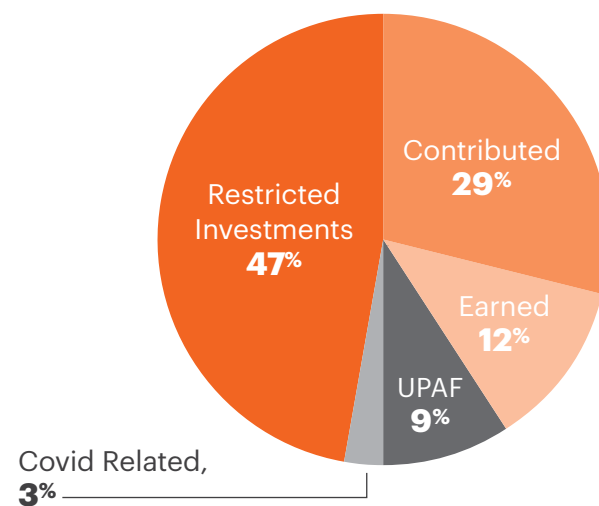
Net Assets

Revenue less Expenses	\$ 1,749
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	7,744
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 9,493

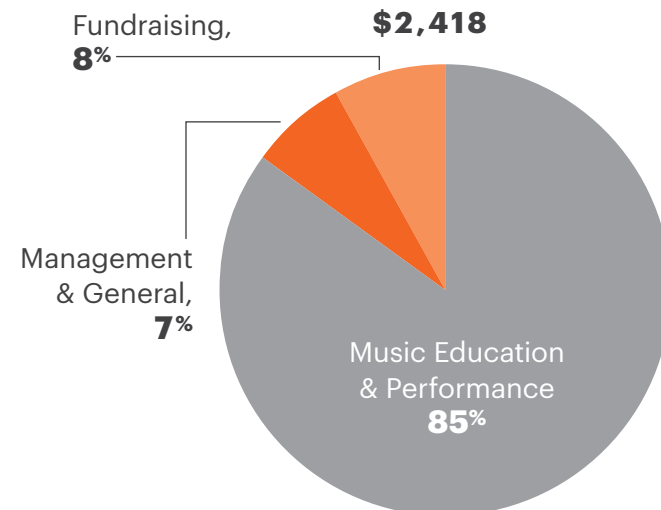
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Our financial statements are audited annually by Wegner CPAs, LLP.

Sources of Revenue:
\$4,167



Use of Funds:
\$2,418



Since 1956,

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) has been nurturing, challenging, and inspiring generations of students, profoundly changing lives and our community for the better.

MYSO is recognized regionally, nationally, and internationally for its artistic and educational excellence. Serving more than 7,000 students through direct programming and community outreach yearly, it is one of the largest after-school youth orchestra programs in the U.S. More than 25,000 audience members are served through more than 100 formal concerts each season.

In 2015, MYSO received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, the highest honor of its kind for after-school youth arts and humanities programming in the nation.

Today we offer more than 40 ensembles and supplemental training programs, ranging from symphony and string orchestras, and jazz and steel pan bands to music theory, composition, and international tours, providing quality musical experiences for a wide range of skill levels.

MYSO is a proud founding member of the United Performing Arts Fund and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra 2020-21 Board of Directors

Nathaniel Lynn, *Chair; The Lynn Group Mortgage Co.*

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Barb Wanless, *Steinway Piano Gallery*

Les Weil, *Les Weil Consulting*



“My favorite part about being in MYSO is the people you are surrounded by who lift you up.”

- Abby, Senior Symphony

Thank You

Donations to MYSO are the crucial funding source that allow us to nurture, challenge, and inspire young minds, profoundly changing lives and our community for the better. We are tremendously grateful for these important gifts.

This list recognizes gifts of \$250 or more that were received in the 2020-21 year (between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021). We encourage you to call Emma Kunz, Philanthropy Operations Manager, at 414-267-2943 with questions or corrections—or to learn how to make a much-appreciated gift to MYSO.

ENERGICO *Energetic, strong* \$350,000 - \$1,000,000

United Performing Arts Fund



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

APPASSIONATO *Passionate* \$100,000 - \$349,999

The Burke Foundation
Molitor Foundation
State of Wisconsin – Department
of Administration

MAESTOSO *Majestic* \$20,000 - \$99,999

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Bader Philanthropies
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the Arts and Humanities



The Richard and Ethel Herzfeld
Foundation

Wisconsin Arts Board with funds
from the National Endowments
for the Arts



WISCONSIN ARTS BOARD
Greatly Inspiring Culture. Community. Commerce.

CON FUOCO *With fire* \$10,000 - \$19,999

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Artistic and Musical
Programming Advisory Council



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National Center for Housing
Management Charities
National Endowment for the Arts



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VIVACE *Lively* \$5,000 - \$9,999

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Bobbi and Jim Caraway Fund
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Family Foundation
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Krause Family Foundation, Inc.
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Maihaugen Foundation
Manpower Foundation, Inc.
Milwaukee Arts Board and
Wisconsin Arts Board with
funds from the State of Wisconsin



Larry & Diana Morton
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Private Wealth Management
U.S. Bank
RCF Renaissance Charitable
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Charitable Trust
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Jodi Peck & Les Weil
Don & Kate Wilson

ANIMATO *Animated* \$2,500 - \$4,999

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Richard Buchband &
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Kent & Marna Tess-Mattner
United Way of Greater Milwaukee
Jan Wade
Steve & Sarah Zimmerman
ZS Architectural Engineering

CANTABILE *Lyrical* \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Linda Czeszler
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Sandy & George Dionisopoulos

CON ESPRESSIONE *With expression* \$500 - \$999

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Chloe Tula & Francesco
Lecce-Chong
Antoinette Vaughn
Paul and Lynn Veldhouse
Frank Nicotera
Ken & Lisa Nowakowski
Dave Wolz

Mark & Evonne Zalewski
Michael & Eileen Zei
Joan Zepecki

GRAZIOSO *Gracious* \$250 - \$499

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Anne Zizzo

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Kristine Prohaska

Eva Barth
Cynthia McCormick

Kara Berquist
Allen Ibsen

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Lucy Dombovy

Aaron McGarry
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Heather Aschoff

Lily Michalski
Ryan Michalski

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Mortimore Family Charitable
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Dr. Benjamin Whitcomb
Wisconsin Philharmonic
Wisconsin State Fair
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wysocki
Zoological Society of Milwaukee



Our Vision

Uniting us through the power of music, MYSO will be an inviting and inspirational place for young minds that fosters excellence and character through ensemble musicianship, along with lifelong learning about how we see ourselves, each other, and the world around us.



myso.org

325 West Walnut Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

414-267-2950

*Photos by Ron Oshima
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