



OREGON
SYMPHONY®

CARLOS KALMAR
MUSIC DIRECTOR



2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT

MOVING MUSIC **FORWARD**



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Throughout the 2020/21 Season, your Oregon Symphony met our community's need for inspiration, connection, and hope. In the face of an ongoing global pandemic that closed our concert hall, we dramatically expanded our online presence, bringing free artistic experiences to people around the world and sending musicians into the community to spread joy through art. We also celebrated the historic 18-year tenure of Maestro Carlos Kalmar and welcomed his successor, David Danzmayr.

I am pleased to share this report from our fiscal year which ended June 30, 2021. As we return to the stage, we thank the many public and private supporters who made this impact – and our survival – possible.

Scott Showalter, President & CEO



INSPIRING AND DIVERSE ARTISTRY

Our musicians and staff demonstrated flexibility, ingenuity, and commitment to find creative ways of sharing inspiring performances while the coronavirus kept us physically separated. Even during times when all public gatherings were prohibited, Symphony musicians contributed 49 new **minute for music** performances from their homes and neighborhoods, bringing the series up to 85 episodes and growing.

When it was safe to do so, we gathered small groups of musicians to produce and share three original digital series which collectively reached more than 375,000 viewers. **Essential Sounds** provided an artistic response to the pandemic using music, storytelling, and imagery to honor essential workers. Each episode celebrated the essential workers in fields like health care, food service, and education, while also highlighting an Oregon nonprofit partner dedicated to that work. In **Classical Sessions: Carlos@18**, we celebrated the 18 years of Carlos Kalmar's leadership as Music Director. Carlos personally curated this series of chamber and small ensemble

Digital programming is available to watch on demand at Studio 125, the new digital destination for music at orsymphony.org.

performances, and he introduces each piece to share his unique insight and context with the listener. Finally, **Notations** explored the ways that personal histories inspire creative work. Through the lens of five local musicians – all of whom are people of color – viewers experience the deep connection between musical expression, culture, personal heritage, and the individual artist's life journey.

We were honored to receive national recognition for our artistic efforts on two notable occasions this year. Our latest album, *Aspects of America: Pulitzer Edition* was **nominated for a Grammy** in Best Orchestral Performance; our third nomination in recent years. Additionally, *Stride* by Cuban-American composer **Tania León** – a work we co-commissioned with the New York Philharmonic – was awarded the **2021 Pulitzer Prize for Music**. We are proud to continue moving music forward, in part by commissioning works from historically underrepresented voices in the classical music canon.



Percussionist Michael Roberts in Essential Sounds



Violinist Keiko Araki in Notations

We were proud to collaborate during the 2020/21 fiscal year with a diverse selection of some of the most celebrated artists of our time.



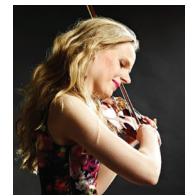
Wynton Marsalis



Gabriela Lena Frank



Gabriel Kahane



Simone Lamsma

A HISTORIC TRANSITION

The 2020/21 Season was the final season under the baton of **Maestro Carlos Kalmar**. Carlos' remarkable tenure has been pivotal to the Oregon Symphony's growing artistic reputation on the national and international scale. His excellence has been recognized with multiple Grammy nominations, a triumphant **Carnegie Hall** debut hailed by *The New Yorker* as a notable performance of the decade, and international recognition for the original multimedia productions the Oregon Symphony has created in recent seasons.

We were thrilled to celebrate Carlos' legacy at at **Gala 2021: The Music Plays On**, during which internationally celebrated guest artists

including **Joshua Bell**, **Wynton Marsalis**, and **Emanuel Ax** and many more contributed special performances and dedications in honor of Carlos. More than 6,800 viewers tuned into this free, virtual concert event.

In February, we announced the selection of **David Danzmayr** as our next Music Director. David is widely regarded as one of the most talented and exciting conductors of his generation. He joins the Oregon Symphony for the **2021/22 Season**, bringing his prize-winning conducting excellence and rich experience working with some of the most prominent orchestras in Europe, North America, Australia, and the uk.



Music Director Laureate Carlos Kalmar and Music Director David Danzmayr

Learn more about David and watch him introduce the 2021/22 Season on the Oregon Symphony website.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS



Encouraging literacy



Performing in neighborhoods



Celebrating teachers



Thanking health care workers

Our **free digital artistic work** was an important community investment that helped people to connect emotionally through the power of inspiring performance. Additionally, we worked closely with our many school-based and community-based partners to identify specific community needs that we could meet through music.

Symphony Storytime, for instance, supported teachers and families with engaging online educational content. Featuring children's stories that highlighted diverse cultures, we produced 16 Storytime videos in English and Spanish this year, for a total of 29 videos in this series. More than 315,000 viewers across Oregon and around the world have enjoyed these videos.

We also created a wide variety of special opportunities for students. Dozens of our musicians worked directly with school district partners, providing **free online private lessons** for many high-need students throughout Portland and Salem. We made meaningful visits to individual classrooms around the region, both virtually and in person. For instance, **Associate Conductor Norman Huynh** visited a special ed class in Camas, WA at the request of a student interested in conducting, and a staff member with Native American heritage visited the **Confederate Tribes of Warm Springs** to encourage students to pursue careers in the arts. These experiences and many others kept students engaged in a difficult school year.

Symphony musicians spread joy and the healing power of music with free, spontaneous **pop-up outdoor performances**. Small ensembles in Pioneer Square, waterfront park, and neighborhood venues around Portland surprised and delighted hundreds of people with music. Special performances during **National Teacher Appreciation Week** and at the Oregon Convention Center **mass vaccination site** thanked teachers, health care workers, and community members for their heroic work keeping us safe.

This is just a small sample of our community-based work. Visit our website for our full Learning and Community Engagement report.



M. Ward



Jimmie Herod



Edna Vazquez



Johannes Moser



Emanuel Ax



Alicia Hall Moran



Augustin Hadelich

2020/21 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

With the support of our concertgoers, donors, and partners, the Oregon Symphony continues to serve as an artistic catalyst for a culturally vibrant Oregon, bringing joy, inspiration, and healing to hundreds of thousands of community members in our region and beyond. Thank you for helping us achieve this tremendous impact.

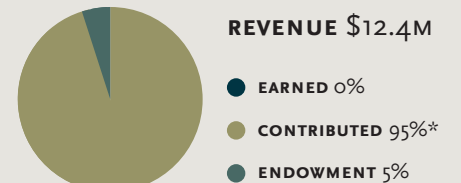
Full-time Musicians: 76
Performances at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall: 0
Pop-up Performances: 120+
Hours of Free Original Digital Programs: 20+
Online Engagement: 640,000+ views
Broadcast Reach: 26 million+ listeners
Unique Donors: 3,977
Gala 2021: 6,800 viewers; \$1.3 million raised

COVID-19 AND FINANCIAL IMPACT

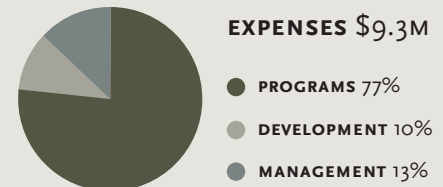
For the first time since World War II, we were forced to cancel the entirety of our concert season due to the pandemic. With no earned revenue and an uncertain timeline, we reduced costs through layoffs and furloughs to preserve organization assets. Emergency funding from the Paycheck Protection Program and CARES Act, foundation partners, and individual donors was critical to our ability to survive this blow and continue

providing a meaningful level of service to our community. We were able to ensure our musicians earned, on average, 80% of their typical salary, and we maintained health care coverage for staff and musicians throughout. After finishing FY20 with a \$2.4M deficit, we closed FY21 with a \$3.1M surplus, helping to stabilize the organization and provide working capital for the upcoming season.

REVENUE



*Includes one-time federal/state pandemic relief funds



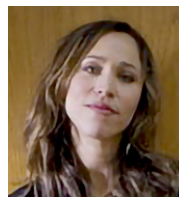
COMBINED UNAUDITED FINANCIALS FOR OREGON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION AND OREGON SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION IN SALEM 7/1/20 THROUGH 6/30/21.



Kenji Bunch



Sarah Kwak



China Forbes



Chris Thile



Andy Akiho



Saeeda Wright



Timo Andres

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