



PORTSMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



| portsmouth
symphony orchestra

www.portsmouthsymphony.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each year, there are milestones to be celebrated and challenges to be acknowledged and learned from. The PSO's 2024-2025 season is no exception.

This season's Main Stage programs—musically demanding, rewarding, and emotionally charged—hit a new high-water mark thanks to the creativity of Music Director John Page and the hard work and dedication on the part of our talented musicians.

Financially, we are especially encouraged by the generosity of our individual supporters, most notably former PSO Board President Dr. Clinton Frederick Miller II and his wife Laurel whose sizable gift established a new Guest Artist Fund. We are also proud to have surpassed both our \$25,000 Annual Appeal goal (raising over \$27,000) and our \$6,000 NH Gives goal (raising just over \$7,000). Foundation support proved critical this year in helping us to meet our goal of expanded educational offerings. In particular, the Fuller Foundation and the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation supported the return of the Explore + Learn school day performance at The Music Hall, and Bangor Savings Bank Foundation helped to underwrite the cost of our small ensemble school outreach concerts.

The PSO supports and celebrates the work of smaller ensembles, like the Principal Winds and the Portsmouth Brass Quintet, who play a vital role in achieving our mission to make classical music more widely accessible to musicians and audiences of today and tomorrow. Furthermore, it was with great pride that we received the news that the Principal Winds had been recognized in June 2025 by the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts for their professional caliber and commitment to music education.

Our business partners continue to play a critical role in making our Main Stage series affordable and we are grateful to those who renewed their support of the PSO this season, or who joined us for the first time. As the cost of performing high quality classical music on the Seacoast continues to increase, investment from our sponsors is vital.

Audience numbers this year continue to be strong, although did dip slightly below last year's post-pandemic rebound, presenting an opportunity for us to refine our engagement strategies for the coming season.

What makes the PSO so special, both musically and as an organization, is the people who devote countless hours and contribute decades of experience to achieving our mission. We were saddened by the loss of PSO board member Lawrence Connell, to whom we are grateful for his service.

As we look back at all that has transpired over the past season, we do so with pride at what we have accomplished and with appreciation for all those who made these successes possible.



David Young
President of the Board

2024-2025 AT-A-GLANCE

“Music is a language that reaches all ears. Our troubled society, especially the children and adolescents of today, need to experience all the benefits that classical music can provide. I volunteer and financially support the PSO because of its positive and dramatic influence in children’s lives.”

Michelle Langa

Past Superintendent of Farmington and Fremont Public Schools



5,000+

Adults and children directly
reached by 2024-2025 programs
costing \$73 per impact

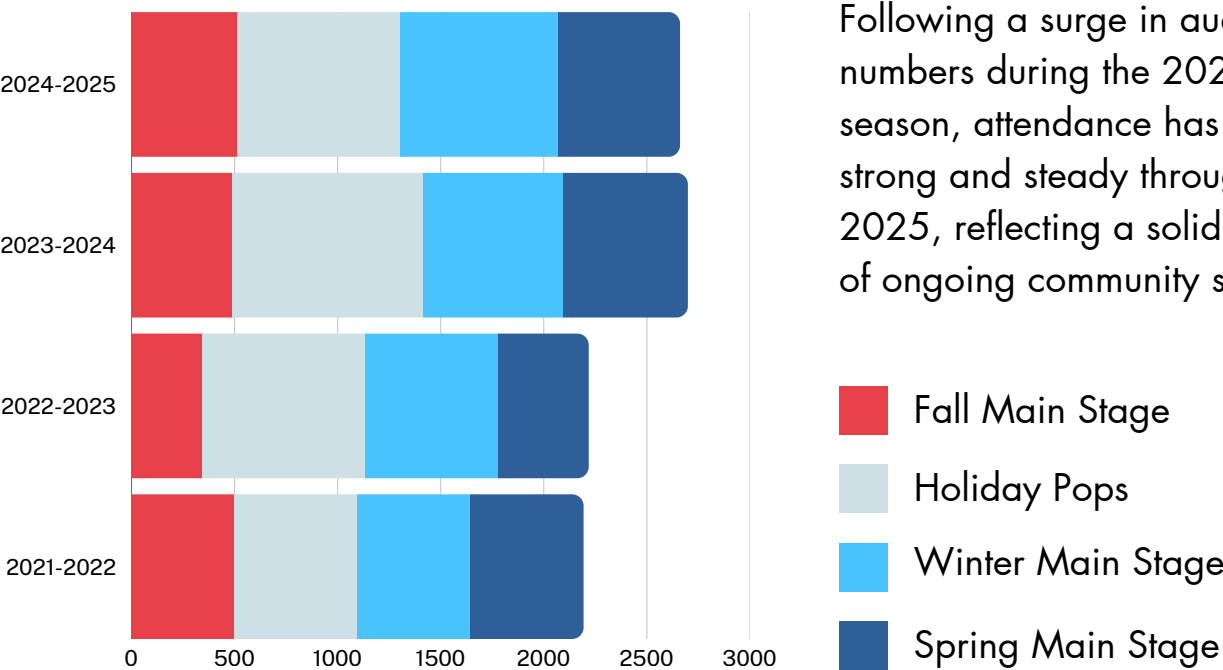


\$238K

Investment in local musicians

2024-2025 AT-A-GLANCE

Attendance at Main Stage & Holiday Pops Concerts



COMMITTING TO EQUITY AND INCLUSION



53%

Female
staff & officers



2X

Increase in number of works
we've programmed by
marginalized composers over
the past 15 years



77%

Guest soloists from
historically marginalized
communities

2024-2025 NEWS



The PSO Principal Winds was added to the NH State Council on the Arts, Arts Education Roster, a recognition of the group's professional caliber and commitment to musical education. These individuals and groups bring unique real-world knowledge and perspectives into the classroom and play a crucial role in the process of arts learning and developing creative thinking.

The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra is saddened by the recent passing of board member Lawrence Connell, who died on June 3, 2025 after a long illness. He was 88 and resided in Rye Beach, NH. Lawrence was a financial regulator, banker, former Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, U.S. Treasury Department senior advisor and consultant and a life-long lover the of the arts. He will be missed.



PERFORMING GUEST ARTISTS FUND



The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra was the recipient of a generous \$300,000 donation from local philanthropist and former PSO Board President Clinton Frederick Miller II, MD and his wife Laurel Ann Miller. This endowment establishes the PSO's new Guest Performing Artists Fund, interest from which will be used annually to help cover professional fees of top-tier artists to perform as guest soloists with the PSO at The Music Hall.

The PSO is honored to be the beneficiary of Rick and Laurel's incredible generosity. "As a pianist and retired neurosurgeon, Rick has always shared his passion for classical music and infused his commitment to excellence in all of his endeavors on behalf of the PSO, including being guest soloist with the orchestra for Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in March 2018" reflected David Young, current PSO Board President. "The power of this gift is immense and will further enhance our ability to bring the highest quality symphonic music to the Seacoast."

Dr. Miller served as a member and President of the PSO board of directors for ten years. During his time on the board, the PSO grew its budget to be able to better attract and retain a mixed complexion of accomplished amateurs, part-time professionals and full-time professional musicians and developed several innovative partnerships with other organizations and musical groups.

"It is nothing short of miraculous that the comparatively small population of Southern New Hampshire and the Seacoast has, for 27 years, produced the wide variety of accomplished and dedicated amateur, semi-professional, and professional musicians who make up this first-class symphony orchestra. Under the charismatic leadership of Maestro John Page, the PSO has helped to create a vibrant arts scene, making the NH Seacoast a destination that rivals any major city," said Dr. Miller. "Attracting top-tier guest musicians to Portsmouth to perform alongside our talented orchestra is the next frontier for the PSO and Seacoast region. Laurel and I, along with our children, are grateful to be in a position to help underwrite this effort, and encourage others to contribute to this fund. We hope this will be a dream come true for Maestro Page, the orchestra members and all lovers of symphonic music in Southern New Hampshire and the Seacoast."

The first concert supported by this new endowment will take place on Saturday, September 20, 2025, featuring renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman.

Donate to the Performing Guest Artists Fund

Donate today to honor Dr. Clinton F. Miller and help the PSO bring world-class talent to Portsmouth!

Visit our website at www.portsmouthsymphony.org/support/donate/ or scan the QR code



STATEMENT OF FINANCES

REVENUE

Statement of financial activity
for 2024-2025 as of June 30, 2025

Donations	\$ 450,942
Grants	\$ 11,000
Sponsorships	\$ 11,500
Tickets/Performances	\$ 109,139
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 582,581

EXPENSES

Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 50,072
Other Admin	\$ 8,768
Music Director	\$ 53,000
Musicians	\$ 185,866
Other Artistic	\$ 5,170
Marketing	\$ 32,189
Production	\$ 34,406
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$369,471

ASSETS

Statement of financial position
for 2024-2025 as of June 30, 2025

CURRENT ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	\$ 14,931
Accounts Receivable	\$ 500
Other Current Assets	\$ 302,014
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 317,445
FIXED ASSETS (EQUIPMENT)	\$ 25,763
OTHER ASSETS (Accum. Deprec)	(\$ 7,650)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 335,558

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable Accrual	\$ 6,715
Prepaid Sponsorship	\$ 3,500
Loan Payable	\$10,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$ 20,215
EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	\$ 102,130
Net Revenue	\$ 213,114
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 315,243
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 335,558

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FOUR YEAR OVERVIEW

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Donations	‡\$450,942	†\$183,466	\$107,641	\$97,350
Grants	\$11,000	\$5,000	*\$10,000	*\$69,207
Sponsorships	\$11,500	\$19,750	\$1,500	\$18,000
Tickets/Perf.	\$109,139	\$120,875	\$83,559	\$120,465
Total Income	‡\$582,581	†\$329,091	*\$202,700	*\$295,022
<u>Expenses</u>				
Artistic	\$244,035	\$210,834	\$201,921	\$202,428
Administrative	\$58,841	\$73,005	\$31,786	\$39,217
Marketing	\$32,189	\$35,600	\$28,242	\$22,339
Production	\$34,406	\$30,243	\$23,034	\$25,340
Total Expenses	\$369,471	\$349,682	\$284,983	\$289,324

*includes COVID related support

†includes bequest from Josephine Lamprey

‡includes endowment from Dr. Clinton F. Miller II

As we end fiscal year 2024-2025, **we are encouraged by several key indicators of growth and resilience.** Donations remain significantly higher than they were just four years ago, reflecting strong and continued community support. Grant funding has also increased over the past year, demonstrating growing confidence from institutional funders in our mission and impact.

While revenue from tickets sales has declined, a trend affecting arts organizations nationwide, we see this as an opportunity to rethink and reinvigorate our audience engagement strategies. With thoughtful adjustments and continued investment in our core programs, we are confident in our path toward long-term sustainability.

“We are immensely lucky to have such a fine orchestra as the PSO. The March 2025 concert was an outstanding concert with a talented guest cellist who got their start at the PSO.”

SUPPORTERS

COMPOSER

Clinton F. Miller II, MD & Laurel Ann Miller
Donna Saunders & Michael Chubrich
Jameson & Priscilla French
Josephine Lamprey (posthumously)
Martha Fuller Clark

SOLOIST

David & Sarah Young
Fay Rubin
Jeffrey & Penelope Gilbert
Paul Lanzoni
Rosamond Thaxter Foundation
The Allayne & Douglas Wick Foundation

PRINCIPAL

Barbara Sweet
Judith Blake
Katherine Wells Wheeler
Lawrence & Linda Connell
Lorraine Raleigh
Lorraine T. Keazer
Lucinda Spaney
Mike Schwartz & Sharyn Potter
Mrs. Roger M. Doering
Robert & Cyndi Bear

PATRON

Barbara Henry & Nancy Winkley
Bruce Briggs & Katherine Kramer-Briggs
Christopher & Stefanie Daly
Craig & Shirley Peverly
Ellen G. Saas
Jeanne & Derek Stern
Kate & David Murray
Lawrence & Linda Ardito
M. Christine Dwyer & Michael Huxtable
Margot Doering
Mark Schneider
Mulhern & Scott PLLC
QHT Inc.
Steve Cirillo
William Ceruzzi

SUPPORTER

Albert Lantinen
Anthony Coddling
Barbara & Robert Schultz

SUPPORTER CONT.

Carol Seely
Catherine Anderson
Charles Doleac
Edward & Janet Caylor
Elaine & Steven Molleur
Elissa Margolin
Elizabeth Connell Nielsen
Gary Hodges
Jan & David Heirtzler
John & Eimer Page
John Bottomley
Joseph Stieglitz
Kathleen Tutone
Keith Launder
Leslie K. Mast
Lydia & Scott Meade
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's
Prince/Bergh Family Fund
Orlando Pandolfi
Philip D. Winslow
Priscilla Bellairs
Rachel & Nate Swanson
Rinda Madden
Sally Crawford & Peter Wells
Shelley Brass
Sherrill Nixon
Thomas Harford
Anonymous

FRIEND

Abeniqui Country Club, Inc.
Alex Lanzoni
Andrea Sullivan
Anne Saer
Ashley Young
Brian Fitzgerald
Brian Gibb
Bridget Stearns
C&W Chrystal
Caroline & Nathanael Piper
Caroline McElroy
Carolyn Vinica
Charles Bickford
Cliff Mommsen
Cynthia & Michael Harvell
David & Marion Ellis
Edwin Charle
Elaine X. Fuller
Elizabeth Gilbert
Eric Salas
Erin Dubois

FRIEND CONT.

Evelyn Laux
Frances Ann Houlihan
Frances Bechtold
Fred & Barbara Engelbach
Gary McGath
Glenda & Ed Fischer
Harold & Sheila Cail
Helen Gettelman
Helen Taft
Ingrid Susan Ahlberg
James & Susan Baldini
Joan Pratt
John Ferraro
John Logan
Judith N. Moyer
Kari Vainio
Kathryn Ellis
Kathy Rockwood
Kenneth Clark
Kristin Sullivan
Larry Drake
Linda Cunningham
Lindsey Humes
Lynn DiElsi
Lynn & John Pincomb
M. Janine Quinn & David Frolio
Margaret Sofio
Marjorie Smith
Martha E. Stone
Maureen Bouchard
Melissa Grady
Michael Thiel
Monte Bohanan
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Topping
Mrs. Louise Hirshberg
Nancy Zadravec
Richard Mechaber
Rick Stanton
Robert Westerberg
Roy William Helsel
Seth A Hurd
Simon Baser
Susanne Veal
Suzanne Foley
Tatiana Waterman
Terrie Harman
Victor Bilodeau
Virginia Schneider
Wayne Shirley
Anonymous
Anonymous

**Thank you for helping us keep
the music alive on the Seacoast!**

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Opus Sponsors



Overture Sponsors



Cadenza Sponsors

Kennebunk Savings Bank

Margolin Consulting

Digital Prospectors

Foundation Support

Fuller Foundation
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
Rosamond Thaxter Foundation
NH Charitable Foundation's Prince/Bergh Family Fund

Thank you for investing in classical music!

A WORD FROM JOHN PAGE, MUSIC DIRECTOR

The 2025-2026 season promises to be one to remember, beginning in September with a special event with The Music Hall featuring legendary violinist Itzhak Perlman.

Our October Main Stage concert, featuring two Austrian composers who were both considered masters of harmony, will be performed for the first time in two locations—in Portsmouth, NH and in York, ME. We'll return again to both these stages in December for two afternoon performances of our Family Holiday Pops! concerts.

In March, local pianist Mike Effenberger will be joining us for a performance of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." The program also features Florence Price's *Symphony No. 1* and Jessie Montgomery's *Starburst for String Orchestra*. These historically marginalized composers bring long-overdue representation and cultural relevance to the classical concert stage, creating opportunities for audiences of all backgrounds to see themselves reflected in our programs.

And then finally, bringing the Main Stage season to a fittingly dramatic conclusion in June, are two works by Beethoven and Tchaikovsky that embrace the spectrum of human experience. This will also be our chance to celebrate the talented winner of the 2026 Young Artist competition.

As you plan your time with us this season, I encourage you to join me in The Music Hall for the Inside the Music pre-performance talks, which are meant to heighten the experience and make the musical program more accessible for both life-long and new classical music lovers.

Our work to entertain, educate, and encourage the musicians and audiences of today and tomorrow will continue next season through our small ensemble performances at local schools, and with our Explore + Learn concert that is part of The Music Hall's School Day series.

In addition, you can find our chamber ensembles performing around the Seacoast and we will be partnering with the Portsmouth Public Library to host our Family Matinees series.

I look forward to making musical memories together,
John Page, Music Director

2025-2026 SEASON



MAIN STAGE SERIES

CLASSICALLY ROMANTIC

October 26, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

The Music Hall, Portsmouth, NH

November 2, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

York Community Auditorium, York, ME

FAMILY HOLIDAY POPS!

Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

York Community Auditorium

Sunday, December 21, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

Portsmouth High School

AMERICAN VOICES

March 15, 2026 @ 3:00 pm

TRAGIC PATHOS

May 31, 2026 @ 3:00 pm

FAMILY MATINEES

Join PSO musicians for a series expressly geared towards youth and their families.



SCHOOL DAY VISITS

Students learn about orchestral instruments and how sound is produced among many other topics. These workshops are the first step to a lifelong relationship with music.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation and sponsorship from Kennebunk Savings Bank.



SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday, September 20, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Itzhak Perlman: Cinema Serenade



PSO CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES

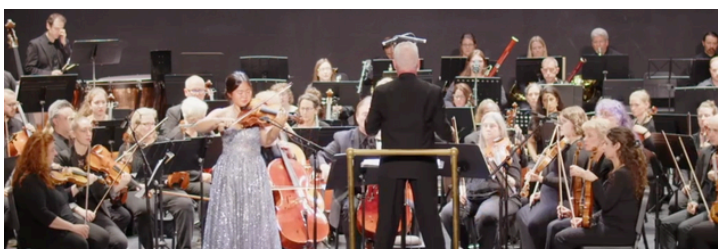
Join PSO chamber ensembles for a series of concerts that showcase the talent, versatility, and passion of PSO musicians in an intimate setting that invites connection between performers and the audience.

EXPLORE + LEARN

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 @ 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Offering school-day programs for students at only \$8 a ticket, these concerts aim to educate and inspire students.

Funded in part by grants from the Fuller Foundation and the Rosamond Thaxter Foundation.



YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Since 2012, the competition has welcomed local high school contestants who perform on orchestral instruments to audition. The winner performs their solo concerto accompanied by the PSO at the final Main Stage concert in June at The Music Hall.

You can learn about all of our season events at www.portsmouthsymphony.org.

GET INVOLVED

CALL *for* VOLUNTEERS

In 2024-2025, **volunteers donated over 15,000 hours of their time** as musicians in the orchestra, through participation on the PSO Board of Directors or on a committee, as ushers at our Family Holiday Pops! concerts, or by using their unique skill set to help the PSO achieve its mission.

**To all of our dedicated volunteers: thank you.
What we do would not be possible without you.**

Interested in sharing your time and talents? Email General Manager Erin Dubois at erin.dubois@portsmouthsymphony.org to learn more about how you can get involved.

Contribute today to keep the music playing!

Like orchestras across the country, ticket sales cover less than half of the PSO's expenses. Your contribution is a vital investment in the cultural health of our Seacoast community - especially at a time when arts organizations like the PSO need your support more than ever.

Because of you, Portsmouth is a place where music thrives: where musicians can build meaningful careers, families can share inspiring experiences, and visitors are drawn by the vibrancy of our cultural life.

Visit our website at www.portsmouthsymphony.org/support/donate/
or scan the QR code



ABOUT THE PSO

Our Mission

The Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra is a community orchestra committed to contributing high-quality symphonic music to the Seacoast community. We are dedicated to entertaining, educating, and encouraging the audiences of today and tomorrow.

Our Values

The PSO believes that fostering an environment that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive is essential to our mission of providing high-quality symphonic music to the seacoast community. We commit to learn, grow, and reflect, and to actively give voice and representation to diverse artistry and perspectives.

Board of Directors

David Young, President
Fay Rubin, Vice President
Jeffrey Gilbert, Treasurer
Jan Heitzler, Secretary

Donna Saunders
Eric Salas
James Mulhern
Lawrence Connell
Melissa Grady
Paul Lanzoni
Rachel Swanson

Staff

Erin Dubois
General Manager

Adam Gallant
Musician Coordinator

Aubrie Dionne
Outreach Coordinator

Caroline Piper
Communications Coordinator

The Seacoast Community Chamber Orchestra began in 1997 as 40 local musicians coming together to play music and occasionally present concerts in area churches. Initially, it was supported financially solely by membership dues. From a few family and friends in a local church, the orchestra now known as the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra is today a 65-piece orchestra comprised of local professional musicians, educators, and advanced community musicians reaching over 4,000 community members annually.

Under the direction of Maestro John Page, internationally-renowned conductor, educator, and recording artist, the orchestra has matured, increasing substantially in size, sound and reach and in 2019 was designated the resident orchestra of The Music Hall in Portsmouth.

Our performance season now includes three Main Stage performances annually at The Music Hall, each with a pre-concert talk by the Maestro, two Family Holiday Pops! concerts at area high schools, two Family Matinees concerts a year, the PSO Chamber Players Series, the Explore + Learn School Day Series, in-school visits by PSO chamber ensembles throughout the year, and an annual Young Artist Competition held at Riverwoods the winner of which is highlighted in the June PSO concert.

