



Nashville
Symphony

2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION AND BY THE NUMBERS

The Nashville Symphony inspires and engages a diverse and growing community with extraordinary live orchestral music experiences

124 Ticketed concerts

165 education and community engagement events

6,353 families, corporations, and foundations who donated to the Nashville Symphony

14,837 students and adults reached through free education and community programs

398,168 reached through local performances and education initiatives

\$8.9 MILLION in donations from the community

15.3 MILLION listeners reached internationally through broadcasts, recordings, and digital media.

In addition to widespread community support, the Nashville Symphony's pandemic recovery has been supported through \$16.875 million in multi-year funding from the SBA's Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, the NEA's CARES Act program, the Paycheck Protection Program, Employee-Retention Tax Credits, and federal funds distributions by Tennessee Arts Commission.



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

In 2022, the Nashville Symphony staff and board developed a new Strategic Framework to guide the work of the Nashville Symphony over the next three years, 2023 – 2025. The following primary goals emerged, which clearly articulate our core mission and priorities for our continued emergence from the pandemic closures.

OBJECTIVE

The Nashville Symphony will be a financially robust, leading orchestra fully supported and embraced by the community it serves and recognized by its peers for its innovation and excellence.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS:

GOAL 1: Entertain and educate audiences with varied opportunities to engage with orchestral music.

GOAL 2: Be recognized as a leading arts organization defined by performing an innovative and excellent portfolio distinguished by a commitment to American music, including underrepresented voices.

GOAL 3: Build a diverse, welcoming, and effective organization that is a great place to work and is reflective of the Middle Tennessee community.

GOAL 4: Strengthen diversified revenue streams in order to routinely deliver a balanced operating budget and meet goals for endowment contributions.



ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

Recording & Commissioning Projects

In the 2021/22 season, the Nashville Symphony continued to build on its reputation as one of the most prolific recording orchestras in the United States with two active projects, each performed live at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center:

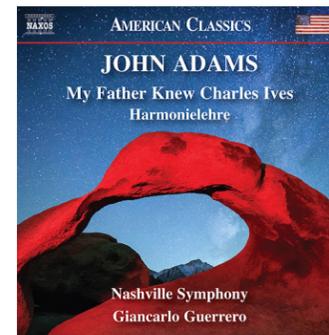
• **Brad Warnaar's Cornet Concerto**, which carries historical significance as the first cornet concerto written for and performed by a professional orchestra. (commission and recording, expected release in 2025)

• **Kip Winger's Symphony No. 1**, the first symphony by rock musician-turned classical composer Kip Winger (commission and recording, expected release in 2025)



Adding to the Nashville Symphony's commissioning projects for the 2021/22 season is a new work by one of the Symphony's own:

• **Continuum**, written by violist and composer Christopher Farrell in celebration of the orchestra's 75th Anniversary season (commission)



The Nashville Symphony also received critical recognition with a 2022 nomination for a "Best Orchestral Performance" GRAMMY® Award for its recording of John Adams' *My Father Knew Charles Ives* and *Harmonielehre*, bringing our total to 14 GRAMMY® Awards and 27 nominations.

Browse a complete list of recordings at NashvilleSymphony.org/recordings.

Performance Highlights



The Nashville Symphony's long-awaited return and 75th anniversary season was celebrated with opening weekend's Fanfare for Music City, which featured the dual pairing of Aaron Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*.

Leaning into the limitations and safety precautions required by the pandemic early in the season, the Nashville Symphony seized the opportunity to present works that shine in unique concert settings for chamber orchestra. Concertmaster Jun Iwasaki led the Nashville Symphony's string sections in "Strings on Parade" featuring Philip Herbert's *Elegy: In Memoriam - Stephen Lawrence*, Piazzolla's *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, and Dvořák's *Serenade for Strings*.



In our ongoing quest to feature the music of American composers, the Symphony presented thirteen works by American composers, including Jessie Montgomery, Philip Herbert, Jennifer Higdon, Florence Price, and Kip Winger, among others.

Other performance highlights included Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, Debussy's *La Mer*, John Adams' *The Chairman Dances: Foxtrot for Orchestra*, Beethoven's triumphant *Symphony No. 9*, and more.



Key Projects

The Symphony was proud to host the 60 dancers and musicians of Ballet Folklórico de México, from their permanent home at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, one of Mexico City’s most historic venues. Founded in 1952 by dancer and choreographer Amalia Hernández, Ballet Folklórico brings together the music, dance, and costume of Mexican folklore from pre-Colombian civilizations through the modern era. Local audiences experienced the rich, authentic culture of Mexico in the heart of Nashville at Schermerhorn Symphony Center.

The Nashville Symphony has broken new ground by becoming one of the first American orchestras to adopt new CBA language (Collective Bargaining Agreement) modeled after guidelines published by the Sphinx National Alliance for Audition Support (NAAS). NAAS offers Black and Latinx musicians a customized combination of mentoring, audition preparation, financial support, and audition previews. The new policies they have shaped are intended to increase the recruitment of diverse audition candidates and eliminate the possibility of personal or collective bias impacting the decision process. Altogether, these changes are decreasing the odds that candidates of color are judged by anything other than their musical prowess and integrity, allowing them to be fairly assessed throughout the blind audition process. The Nashville Symphony also participates annually in the Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions program.

With the help of a major Frist Foundation grant, the Nashville Symphony completed a video production upgrade in Laura Turner Hall that will enable the orchestra to stream content using in-house staffing/equipment. This technology will generate new sources of earned income, mitigate potential revenue losses, and support a variety of ancillary programs and activities.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Nashville Symphony is dedicated to serving thousands of children and families from the 41-county Middle Tennessee region, both at Schermerhorn Symphony Center and in local schools and community gathering spaces across the region. These programs feed directly into our mission. Through music, we seek to enrich young people’s lives and connect people of all ages with listening and learning opportunities. We are working every day to build future audiences and inspire joy through the arts.

Young People’s Concerts are live orchestra performances for students in grades K-12 designed to open young people’s minds and ears to a world of ideas and experiences, with accompanying curriculum and lesson plans.

Ensembles in the Schools presented Nashville Symphony chamber music performances at local schools.

After-School Strings Residency brought Symphony musicians to support new strings programs in Metro Nashville Public Schools Elementary classrooms, through weekly, after-school visits –addressing a need for earlier strings education to feed middle and high school strings programs.

Masterclasses, Sectionals, and Lessons provided resources, instruction, and performance coaching for individual musicians and small ensembles of students around Middle Tennessee.

Open Dress Rehearsals offered a look at what goes on behind the scenes at our Classical Series rehearsals before the first public performance.

Free Community Concerts brought the orchestra’s music to neighborhoods across the region, reaching thousands of residents in Nashville, Antioch, Hendersonville, Lebanon, Lafayette, and Brentwood.

Accelerando is a ground-breaking music education program designed to cultivate the artists of the future who are students of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds. Our four 2022 graduates earned a combined \$481,500 in scholarship following their intensive conservatory/ university audition process.

Other programs for adults and children included **We Are Nashville Choir and Orchestra Festival**, presented by the Choral Arts Link program, **Lifelong Listeners** for seniors, **Is it a Fiddle or Violin?**, offered in collaboration with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, our **Family Series** concerts, **Instrument Petting Zoos**, our **Free Chamber Music Series**, and **Soundcheck**, a \$10 student ticket option.



HIGHLIGHTS

In April 2022, Nashville Symphony education staff and Accelerando students attended the first-ever Pathway Festival Orchestra, hosted by Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative and produced by National Instrumentalist Mentoring and Advancement Network (NIMAN). The special event brought together diverse student musicians from around the country for a series of rehearsals and a culminating performance conducted by Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Seven Accelerando students participated in this orchestra following a competitive audition process. The Nashville Symphony will host the Collective in 2024. A Summit and Roundtable will occur simultaneously, bringing together institutional leaders for three days of musical learning, strategic conversations, and collaboration.

“THANKS so much for your kind and expert work with our musicians this evening! ... What I heard and saw you do as coaches was so skilled, encouraging, musical, and helpful. You played, demonstrated, explained, sang, and led in such a compelling and instructive manner. You all have always had my admiration and esteem as players as I’ve heard you perform at Schermerhorn and elsewhere, and I hold that acclaim and appreciation for you as coaches/teachers/leaders.”
 – Chris Norton, Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra, following a sectionals visit from Nashville Symphony musicians

Learn more at NashvilleSymphony.org/education.

NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

July 2022

ASSETS

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$11,171,003
Accounts receivable	\$403,676
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$696,682
Grants receivable	\$496,166
Contributions receivable, net	\$1,529,358
Total current assets	\$14,296,885

Long-term Assets

Contributions receivable, net	\$965,680
Investments	\$3,055,668
Beneficial interests in trusts	\$9,293,116
Property and equipment, net	\$67,614,527
Total long-term assets	\$80,928,991

Total Assets \$95,225,876

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,358,952
Deferred grant revenues	-
Current portion of mortgage note payable	-
Current portion of installment note payable	-
Deferred revenues	\$4,048,401
Total current liabilities	\$5,407,353

Long-term liabilities

Other accrued liabilities	\$812,500
Mortgage note payable	\$20,000,000
Installment note payable	-
Total long-term liabilities	\$20,812,500

Total liabilities \$26,219,853

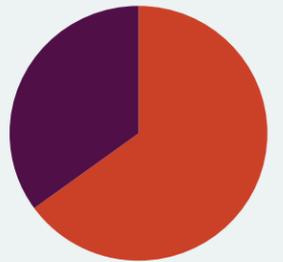
NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions

Undesignated	\$52,432,801
Board designated	\$10,443,429
With donor restrictions	\$6,129,793
Total net assets	\$69,006,023

Total liabilities and net assets \$95,225,876

SOURCES OF FUNDS | 2022

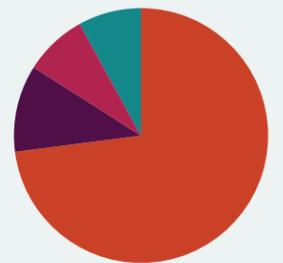


65% SUPPORT
\$18,821,768

35% PROGRAM REVENUE
\$10,137,811

TOTAL REVENUES:
\$28,959,579

USES OF FUNDS | 2022



73% PROGRAMS
\$17,850,810

11% ADMINISTRATIVE
\$2,741,107

8% MARKETING
\$1,812,103

8% FUNDRAISING
\$1,840,757

TOTAL REVENUES:
\$24,244,777

THANK YOU TO OUR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

