



NASHVILLE SYMPHONY 2023/24 IMPACT REPORT

MISSION

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

BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly **13 MILLION** listeners reached internationally through broadcasts, recordings, and digital media

549,986 reached through local performances and education initiatives

58,467 students and adults reached through free education and community programs

369 education and community engagement events

134 ticketed concerts

83 full-time musicians

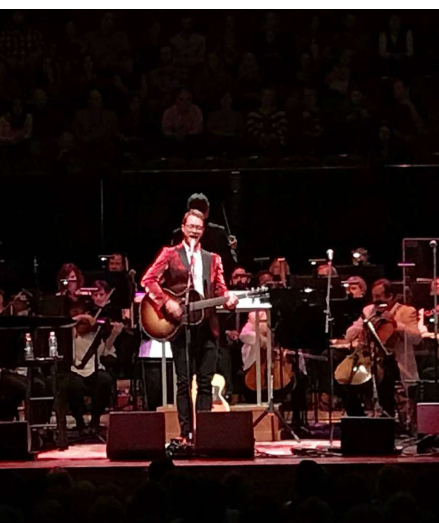
\$8.6 MILLION in donations from the community

\$9.5 MILLION in ticket sales

5,861 families, corporations, and foundations who donated to the Nashville Symphony

165 active volunteers





NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

Throughout the year, the Nashville Symphony celebrated the 100th Anniversary of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, which premiered on February 12, 1924 at a concert called, "An Experiment in Modern Music." The Symphony opened this celebration with Béla Fleck and the Rhapsody reimagined for banjo, performed on the Pops Series by Tony DeSare in January 2024 and continued through the Classical Series by Jean-Yves Thibaudet in April. The Nashville Symphony has announced local artist doughjoe as its inaugural Visual Artist-in-Residence, a yearlong appointment that examines the synergy between visual art and music with the commissioned piece highlighting this celebration of Gershwin, "Rhapsody in BlueGreenFushia."

The Symphony's first ever Lunar New Year was a tremendous success with a full house, including many first-time attendees, new community partnerships. The 2024 Symphony Season launched with *Rite of Spring*, works that stretched boundaries and show the orchestra's extraordinary range. Guest musicians also included cellist Zuill Bailey – Shostakovich's first cello concerto, bookended by two Beethoven Symphonies (Eight and Four).

The Pops Series was especially memorable with performances by Trisha Yearwood, Patti LaBelle and Amos Lee.

Special concerts, in addition to Béla Fleck's opener, included YoYo Ma's sold-out concert (one of 19 sold-out performances during the 2024 season). These concerts include Handel's *Messiah*, the Harry Potter film series, and two spectacular evenings of music making with Ben Rector and Cody Fry.

The season closed with the epic and ever-popular *Carmina burana*.



ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

Recording & Commissioning Projects

In the 2023/24 season, the Nashville Symphony continued to build on its reputation as one of the most prolific recording orchestras in the United States with four active projects, each performed live at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center and recorded for future release on Naxos, the leading classical music label:

- John Corgiliano's *Triathlon*, featuring saxophonist Timothy McAllister
- John Corgiliano's *One Sweet Morning*, featuring soprano Sasha Cooke
- Chick Corea's *Trombone Concerto*, featuring trombonist Joe Alessi
- Antonio Estevez' *Cantata Criolla* with the Nashville Symphony Chorus

[Browse a complete list of recordings at NashvilleSymphony.org/recordings.](https://NashvilleSymphony.org/recordings)

In the 2025 season, the Nashville Symphony released one recording, *Organ Concertos*, featuring Paul Jacobs, while preparing a total of five additional projects. These include the projects such Mason Bates' *Nomad Concerto* with Gil Shaham, Julia Wolfe's *Flower Power* featuring Bang on a Can All-Stars, and C.F. Kip Winger's *Violin Concerto No.1* featuring Nashville Symphony Concertmaster Peter Otto.



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Symphony's nationally recognized Accelerando program celebrated the graduation of five seniors who accepted a total of \$430,000 in scholarships to conservatories and universities, and the list of distinguished schools attended by program alumni now includes USC, Eastman, Colburn, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, NEC, Yale, and Rice.



The month of June was filled with community concerts in Nashville and the surrounding communities followed by July's performances at the Ascend, including the Symphony's July 4th celebration concert, "Let Freedom Sing".

Other memorable and unique presentations included David Foster and Kat McPhee; Boyz II Men and The Reset.

In addition, the Symphony hosted many very successful special education events, including the We Are Nashville Orchestra/Choral Festival which engaged 350 Metro Public Schools students. The Symphony participated in the National Pathways Festival in which 70 students (including six Accelerando students) from across the country auditioned to perform in a side by side with the NSO, conducted by the Nashville Symphony's celebrated conductor, Giancarlo Guerrero.



- **Young People's Concerts:** Dynamic live orchestra performances tailored for K-12 students, complete with accompanying curriculum and lesson plans that align with statewide learning outcomes.
- **Music in My Neighborhood:** A week-long residency in the North Nashville community, featuring free cultural programming and outreach by Symphony musicians in schools, libraries, churches, and community centers.
- **Ensembles in the Schools:** Bringing the symphony directly to local elementary, middle, and high schools through intimate performances by small groups of talented musicians.
- **MNPS String Residencies:** Supporting Metro Nashville Public Schools with focused string education, offering both sectional and side-by-side rehearsal experiences after school.
- **Masterclasses, Sectionals, and Lessons:** Providing invaluable resources, instruction, and performance coaching for aspiring musicians and small ensembles throughout Middle Tennessee.
- **Open Dress Rehearsals:** A unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into our Classical Series rehearsals before the first public performance, demystifying the orchestral process.





- **STEAM Expeditions:** Merging arts and sciences through interactive presentations that explore the physics behind acoustic and electronic instruments.
- **Free Community Concerts:** Bringing orchestral music to neighborhoods, connecting with thousands of residents in Nashville, Antioch, Hendersonville, Lebanon, Lafayette, and Clarksville.
- **Accelerando:** A groundbreaking music education initiative aimed at nurturing the next generation of diverse artists from varied ethnic and racial backgrounds.
- **Sensory Friendly Programs:** Inclusive events designed for children with autism and sensory sensitivities, featuring flexible seating, closed captioning, quiet spaces, trained staff, and additional resources.
- **Engaging Programs for All:** From the **We Are Nashville Choir and Orchestra Festival**, **Lifelong Listeners** for seniors, and “**Is it a Fiddle or Violin?**” in partnership with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, to our **Family Series** concerts, **Instrument Petting Zoos**, **Free Chamber Music Series**, and **Soundcheck**, offering \$15 student tickets.
- **Storytime with the Nashville Symphony:** This original program engages preschool children at day care and early learning center, public parks and community centers and combines interactive, age-appropriate stories with classical music to help children develop a love for reading and an early interest in music.

Together, we're building a vibrant future for the arts and fostering a love of music in every corner of our community!

EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Nashville Symphony is passionately committed to enriching the lives of thousands of children and families across the 41-county Middle Tennessee region. Whether at the iconic Schermerhorn Symphony Center or within local schools and community spaces, our programs are designed to connect people of all ages through music. Every day, we strive to inspire joy and cultivate future audiences through engaging listening and learning opportunities.





Nashville
Symphony

GIANCARLO GUERRERO | MUSIC DIRECTOR