

A photograph of two men in dark suits standing on a rocky outcrop overlooking the ocean at sunset. The man on the left is holding a double bass, and the man on the right is holding a violin. The sky is filled with soft, pinkish-orange clouds, and the water is calm. The overall mood is serene and artistic.

Bowdoin International Music Festival

2018 Annual Report

Our 54th season was one of tremendous musical spirit and camaraderie.

Performance traditions continued and new ideas emerged in the electrifying atmosphere of Studzinski Recital Hall and venues up and down Maine's coast.

We savored another sold-out season of Monday string quartets with three guest ensembles—the Brentano, Escher, and Turtle Island—and the resident Jupiter and Ying Quartets. The music of our time, featuring less familiar works, was integrated alongside beloved masterworks throughout the season. Highlights included compositions by visiting guest composers John Harbison and Missy Mazzoli, and the Gamper Festival of Contemporary Music which was anchored by a Sunday afternoon recital by the vibrant Sō Percussion.

The heart of the Subscription Series revolved around the dynamic chamber music collaborations of our exceptional faculty. And to many audience members' delight, we experienced an extraordinary amount of inspirational performances at our Young Artists Series this summer, which becomes increasingly impressive each year. Audiences also reveled in concerto performances by Tchaikovsky Competition winners Narek Hakhnazaryan and Itamar Zorman, backed by an orchestra of the Festival's talented students.

We greatly appreciate the generous support given by the Festival community and come away from each summer deeply inspired by the passion that we all share. The profound way music touches our lives and moves our souls remains forever present at the Festival.

David Ying, *Co-Artistic Director*



2018 Season



“It was absolutely the
best possible experience
we could have imagined
for our son,
both **musically**
and **socially**. ”

Music Institute

For the six weeks of the Festival

the excitement of making music and engaging with communities throughout Maine takes on many forms. But the most important of these is clearly articulated at the beginning of our mission statement: “To provide gifted young musicians from around the globe with an opportunity to study with world-class artists.”

To achieve the best possible outcomes, we have worked to create an intimate and nurturing environment of mutual respect, support, and inspiration for all faculty and students, where we reach for the highest levels of artistry together. This summer, the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the teaching, studying, and practicing of music was at an all-time high, showing us that we are on the right track. The results were experienced everywhere: at concerts and masterclasses, during interactions with distinguished guest artists, and with music soaring from open windows throughout the Festival campus at all hours of each day.

We rely on annual student evaluations to measure our success. The responses showed that the guidance of the Festival’s outstanding faculty and the focused, yet flexible structure of the Festival enables them to accomplish as much in a few weeks as they do during an entire academic year. One student’s note about her teacher exemplifies this: “Her dedication to her students’ musical development as well as personal growth is beyond words. I’ve never felt more efficient, productive, and proud.”

We thank you for your continued support of the Festival and deeply appreciate your role in encouraging and empowering the next generation of musicians.

Phillip Ying, *Co-Artistic Director*

Phillip Ying



“It was a great pleasure to have a group of this caliber perform the National Anthem at one of our baseball games. Their performance was truly outstanding, easily one of the most memorable of the season. We look forward to having them join us again!”

-Portland Sea Dogs



“At the PMA, we’re always looking for new access points to visual art, and live music in particular creates a magical connection in the galleries. Hosting the awe-inspiring musicians from Bowdoin International Music Festival was an absolute highlight of the busy summer; we had members raving days later.”

-Portland Museum of Art



“Having the Festival perform here at the brewery was one of our favorite experiences of the summer! To have such a mix of music, musicians, and members of our community made for a truly unique and wonderful time.”

-Flight Deck Brewing



This season, my personal highlight

was engaging with you in community venues as the Festival spread the joy of chamber music across Maine and beyond. It was a unique and special experience to sip beer at Flight Deck Brewing, eat hot dogs at Hadlock Field, and view artistic masterpieces at the Portland Museum of Art, all while being transported by our students’ inspiring performances.

Community engagement is rewarding for our students as well. They are grateful for the opportunity to perform for appreciative, welcoming, and enthusiastic community members at museums, classrooms, breweries, churches, libraries, care centers, coastal resorts, and even baseball fields.

The Festival also continues to build our global community through livestream, which provides access to world-class chamber music and thought-provoking events to all, regardless of geographic, mobility, or financial limitations.

We are proud to break down barriers to classical music access and will continuously strive to bring exceptional performances to even more audiences. *You* are what keeps the Festival a vibrant and rewarding tradition. Thank you.

Casey Oakes,
Director of Development & Communications

CO



There is so much I love about the Festival, which three of my children attended.

Highlights include the accessible faculty, the students' high level of musicianship, an abundance of performance opportunities, extensive concert offerings, and the camaraderie and collegiality that permeates the Festival.

I was unable to visit Maine this summer, but livestreaming brought the Festival to me no matter where I was — whether at home, between flights, or anywhere in the world. What's more, it was so easy for me to share these wonderful concerts with friends and other musicians. It was a treat to see the positive comments and the encouragement of people from all over the globe as they experienced the artistry of our faculty and young musicians — providing an added level of community with our generous digital audience.

Students are now able to share their upcoming concerts with families and friends — something I, as a parent, know is a huge benefit. Several students (whom I know personally) made a point of telling me when they were performing, and I always made sure to tune in.

Next year I will be back in Maine for the Festival, but whenever I can't be there in person, I know the incredible talent is just a click away.

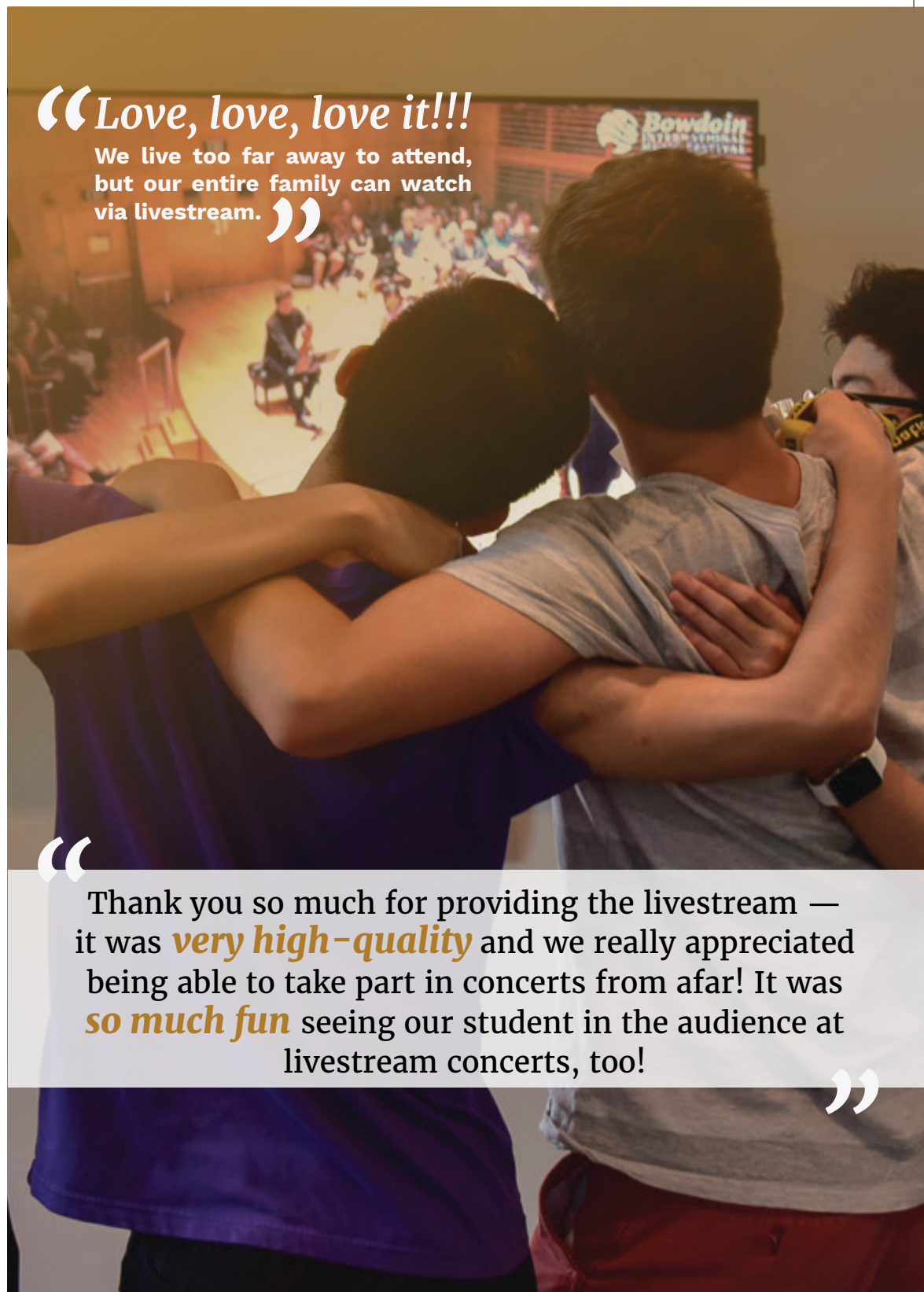
Dominique van de Stadt, *Festival Parent & Trustee*



“Thank you, thank you for providing this service!! We watched a lot of the livestreams and so did Ben’s grandparents and teacher. It was wonderful for us all to have the opportunity to do so.”

Livestreaming

“Love, love, love it!!!
We live too far away to attend,
but our entire family can watch
via livestream.”



“Thank you so much for providing the livestream — it was **very high-quality** and we really appreciated being able to take part in concerts from afar! It was **so much fun** seeing our student in the audience at livestream concerts, too!”

This summer was one of the busiest and most rewarding

for the student composers at the Festival. Between outings for lobster rolls and gelato, we still managed to accomplish quite a few things!

1 Guest Ensemble

During the Gamper Festival of Contemporary Music, Sō Percussion read and recorded new student compositions and gave an exhilarating performance at the Festival's first Sunday Matinee.

8 Visiting Composers

These artists gave presentations, masterclasses, and individual lessons. Our renowned visitors included: Samuel Adler, Kati Agócs, David Balakrishnan, Andreia Pinto Correia, Sebastian Currier, John Harbison, Michael Gilbertson, and Missy Mazzoli.

10 World Premieres

Student composers created works inspired by art at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. These original compositions were then performed by Festival students in the Museum galleries.

48 Hours

Students were given two short days to quickly compose, rehearse, and perform new compositions during our annual "Guinea Pigs in Bow Ties" concert.

As you can see, many of our students and faculty collaborated through new music this season. But most importantly, composers left the Festival with new knowledge, experiences, and relationships among musical colleagues and friends. I know these connections will deepen over the years and the composers will regard their Festival experience as a crucial part of their musical education.

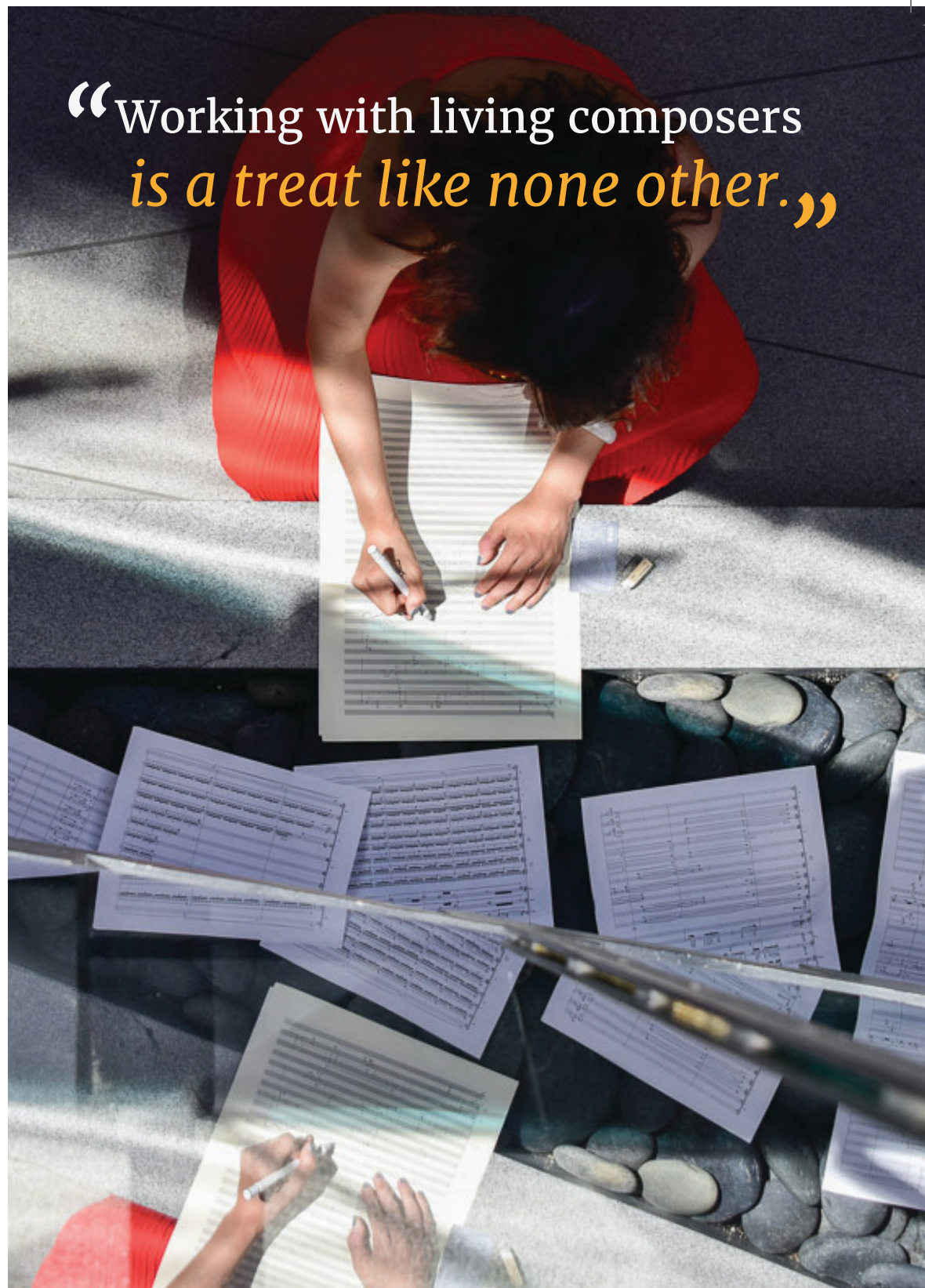
Derek Bermel, *Composer-in-Residence*

Derek Bermel



New Music

“Working with living composers
is a treat like none other.”



Thank you

It was such a pleasure to get to know many of our extraordinary students this summer, witness the joy their performances brought to our Festival community, and observe their personal and musical growth. These reflections from the Ivalas Quartet, Bob & Carol, and Kevin illustrate the power of the partnerships that make the Festival a transformational experience for students and audiences alike. Thank you for being our partner — your generosity has a tremendous impact and is deeply felt by our students and all of us here at the Festival.

Grace Bell, *Director of Admissions & Operations*

Grace Bell



Ivalas Quartet

Pedro Sánchez, Caleb Georges, Reuben Kebede, Anita Dumar

“We wanted to reach out to say thank you for giving us the chance to serve as the fellowship string quartet at the Festival this summer. It was such an inspirational and transformative six weeks for us as a young group, and we are so grateful for all the amazing coaching, performance, and networking opportunities we experienced. We are in awe of the environment you have fostered at the Festival — it gave us a place to learn and grow while being reminded of all the reasons we fell in love with music in the first place.”



Student Sponsors Bob & Carol Briselli + Georgina Rossi, viola fellow

“Sponsoring a young musician brings back memories for Bob of his teen years, when he began playing in various orchestras and learning chamber music. This experience was the basis of a life-long passion for chamber music and is further enriched each summer in Maine. At the Festival, interacting with talented students like Georgina allows us to hear about their dreams and ambitions, as well as offer our thoughts. This program has been uniquely rewarding.”



Kevin Ahfat, piano fellow

“I made so many meaningful personal connections at the Festival, and that’s what made it truly special to be there for six weeks. So, I just wanted to say thank you for one of the most fulfilling summers I’ve spent thus far on all fronts: not only as a musician but also as a person and as an artist. I won’t forget this experience.”

Today, we hold the strongest position in our 55-year history.

Our institute has become world-renowned and highly selective, as indicated by a remarkable increase in applications and overwhelmingly positive evaluations from our students. In 2018, we presented more than 100 free performances, lectures, seminars, and classes in all kinds of venues such as Bowdoin College's state-of-the-art recital hall, local libraries, museums, care centers, breweries, and more. For the first time, dozens of these events were livestreamed globally. Meanwhile, we have maintained steady financial growth and positive cash flows. In light of this, in September 2017, Festival leadership chose to design a plan to harness our current strengths and design our future. After months of extensive research and feedback sessions conducted by newly established Board subcommittees, an outside consultant, and the staff, the Board of Trustees adopted the five-year strategic plan in July of 2018.

Daniel Nitsch, *Executive Director*



1 Meet 100% of Student Financial Need

Expand scholarship, lower application fees, implement diversity & inclusion plan

2 Ensure the Continued Excellence of our Faculty

Provide free, quality housing to all faculty, increase compensation

3 Strengthen our Civic Role as a Vital Cultural Resource in Maine

Enhance awareness of free events, establish an advisory council, nurture our partnership with Bowdoin College

4

Expand our International Recognition as a Premiere Chamber Music Festival

Expand livestreaming, establish year-round activity, increase national media coverage



A Comprehensive Fundraising Plan

These objectives require a significant increase in annual income. We will partner with inspired and committed individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies to help us achieve our vision.



Organizational Capacity

We will ensure that these strategic initiatives and financial resources are stewarded by dedicated trustees and professional staff. The Festival will continue to improve and expand our professional infrastructure and capacity to operate effectively and efficiently.



Vision

To become the premiere summer institute for the study and performance of chamber music

We welcome your participation. To request a full copy of the 5-Year Plan, please email dan@bowdoinfestival.org

“Classical musicians have added dimension to my life. I’m grateful and *want to return the favor as best I can.*”

Some decades ago my parents

discovered a small chamber music festival held at Bowdoin College. The facilities at the time were often uncomfortable but the music was good. Over time, the Festival became a center for my parents’ life in Maine. The Festival grew and the facilities became the show pieces we have today. During the last summer of my dad’s life, my brothers and I brought him to Maine to attend Festival concerts one more time. It was then that the magic of the Festival struck home for me. Here in Brunswick was world-class chamber music played to an adoring audience by talented faculty, guest artists, and students. It was a real community. I was hooked, and a year later I joined the Board of Trustees.

I began to sponsor two students for six weeks each in my parents’ memory. Sponsoring students and getting the chance to know them has become one of the great joys of my life. Just this week I visited with a former student who has gone on to a successful performing career. Other Festival alumni have started festivals and chamber groups of their own; performing across North America, Europe, and Asia. Others have active performing and recording careers underway. Still others have teaching careers at conservatories and music schools. All of them credit their time at the Festival as being important in their artistic and professional development. I get to be part of that.

I was also fortunate to be named Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2016. It is work, yes. But, for me and all the trustees, I know it is truly a labor of love. Through our contributions of time and money we help bring music to life and foster the human aspiration to create beauty in the world. In an often confusing and chaotic world, helping to facilitate artistic endeavors is a high calling for me. I am pleased to support the Festival financially through student scholarships and concert sponsorship. I am equally pleased to have a role in leading the organization under the inspirational artistic direction of David Ying and Phillip Ying, and the creative and energetic leadership of the entire Festival staff.

Elliot Rosen, *Board Chair & Festival Supporter*

Elliot





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2018

ASSETS

Cash and Other Current Assets	215,964
Receivables	16,307
Investments	3,582,516
Equipment	31,608
Total Assets	3,846,394

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	384,661
Accrued Expenses	19,473
Total Liabilities	404,134

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	1,840,112
Temporarily Restricted	127,598
Permanently Restricted	1,474,550
Total Net Assets	3,442,261

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,846,394
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STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2018

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Student Revenue	954,443
Contributions and grants	
Unrestricted	439,255
Restricted	66,227
Concert Revenue	194,910
Return on investments	97,845
Total public support and revenues	1,752,680

EXPENSES

Programs: Education, Performances, Outreach	1,422,268
General and Administrative	150,767
Fundraising	149,726
Total Expenses	1,722,761

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	29, 919
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,412,342
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	3,442,261

\$410,000 in scholarships

By the Numbers

Benefactors strengthen the Festival's capacity to present inspiring performances and meaningful education. Your financial partnerships support student scholarships, faculty and guest artist fees, concert production, facility rentals, endowment, and operational facilities.

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