



Nois

Annual Report

2022 ~ 2023 Season

Introductory Remarks

from our Board Chair and Executive Director



Fabiola Valenzuela

Board Chair

Associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

I am honored and excited to step into the role of Board President for ~Nois. **With the support of incredible donors, mentors, and patrons,** ~Nois has been able to thrive over the course of the past seven years, bringing intimate collaborations and thoughtful musical experiences to life through their engaging programs. In the next season, ~Nois will continue their Chicago season concerts like CURIOSITY and DISCOVERY, maintain a robust travel schedule with appearances across the United States, and celebrate the release of their new album, Kinds of ~Nois. **Thank you to all of ~Nois' supporters – we look forward to another great season of artistry!**

Jordan Lulloff

Executive Director



Between the four members of ~Nois, there are nearly 10 college degrees, over 50 cumulative years of private lessons, and thousands of hours of practice... **yet every day working for this organization, we all still manage to learn something new.** Over the past seven years, I have witnessed ~Nois grow from an every-day student saxophone quartet, to the non-profit organization we are today. We have **learned from countless mentors** in our community, **taken risks**, pushed ourselves outside of our comfort zones, and **worked together** to bring the collective vision of ~Nois to life.

Often when I get caught up in the day-to-day grind, I don't take the time to pause and be proud of what ~Nois has accomplished in our seven years together. At the recommendation of my therapist (hi Carly), I have recently been making a concerted effort to reflect and be grateful. Through this reflection, **I have seen the reach and impact our organization has had across our city in the communities we embrace and the musical bonds we have formed.** I have also seen the direct impact our commissioning has on the musical community, as groups across the country have begun to champion works that ~Nois has premiered. Finally, I see an organization that is mentoring the next generation of musicians across the country through educational programs that reach students of ALL ages.

This is our first of many formal annual reports from us here at ~Nois Performing Arts Organization NFP. I hope that this report can not only be a reflection on the accomplishments of the past year, but also a celebration of things to come. As ~Nois continues to grow and learn through curiosity and exploration, we hope you'll stick around for the journey. **Your support is forever and always appreciated.**

A Year of Music with ~Nois

A note from our Artistic Director

This past year has been an incredible period of growth for the ensemble to connect, inspire, and elevate our projects to new heights. With each project mounted by the group this past year, **we have strived to dream big** and it has been incredibly fulfilling to see the fruits of our hard work come to life.

This year we saw the establishment of our curated Chicagoland concert series: **CURIOSITY, REFRACTION, & DISCOVERY**. In doing so, we used our platform to cultivate curiosity and community among all our local concert-goers.

The 2023 / 2024 season will see ~Nois debut our **largest volume of recorded media to date**, reflecting upon years of collaboration and commitment to a multitude of varied projects, including our sophomore album *Kinds of ~Nois*, Annika Socolofsky's *I Tell You Me*, Cassie Wieland's *birthday party*, & Osnat Netzer's *I AM FUCKING ZEN*. Each one of these projects will see concert touring and international distribution in the 2023/24 season and beyond.

One of our most exciting upcoming projects will be getting to collaborate with **award-winning composer Nico Muhly** on the premiere of his first ever saxophone quartet, which is supported by a commission from the **Library of Congress and the Koussevitzky Foundation**. It is exciting to witness the growth of this organization as we increase our recorded media output and tackle larger scale artistic projects and touring.



Julian Velasco

Artistic Director

9 States

24 Shows

27 Educational Engagements

2500 Audience Members

1000 Students Reached

4 Large - Scale Residencies

Michigan State University

Princeton University

University of Colorado Boulder

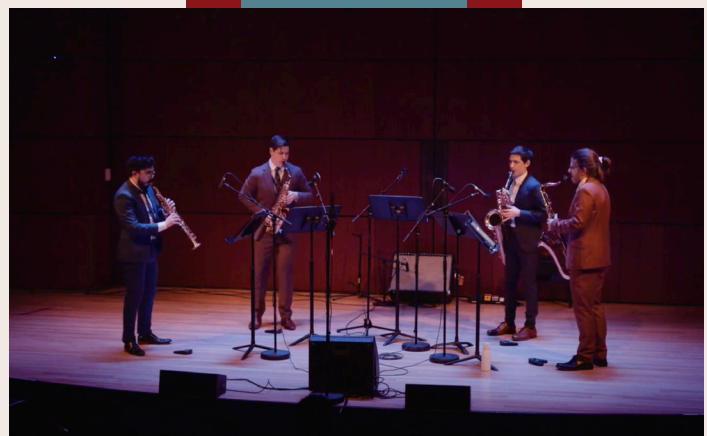
DePaul University



~Nois with students at Texas A&M International University



Ba Yin by Chen Yi with University of Southern Mississippi Wind Ensemble



Culminating concert of Princeton Sound Kitchen Residency

Chicago-Focused Initiatives

Chicago is a unique catalyst for creative individuals and we owe so much to this city's immensely vibrant musical community for supporting our endeavors. Putting the ~Nois in Illinois, we are passionate about learning from and contributing to the artistic fabric of Chicago.

Locally Presented Shows

Every year, ~Nois self-presents 3-4 concerts in the Chicagoland area.

CURIOSITY focuses on commissioning and presenting Chicago artists

REFRACTION focuses on presenting compelling new works in original and unique ways

DISCOVERY focuses on bringing exciting new works from around the country back to the city and showcasing emerging high school composers.

Chicago Educational Outreach

Every year we provide hands-on educational outreach opportunities for secondary and university students across the city. We have collaborated with local universities such as University of Chicago, DePaul University, Northwestern University, and the University of Illinois Chicago.

In addition to our collegiate educational outreach, we provide a fellowship for high-school creatives called the **~Nois Young Creators Fellowship** (see pg 9). To recruit for this fellowship, we provide free concerts and outreach programming to schools throughout the Chicagoland area, **reaching hundreds of students per year.**

Chicago-focused Programming

59% of the works that ~Nois has premiered have been written by Chicago composers

(52 pieces... for those keeping track at home).

When touring, we focus on championing works from Chicago composers as part of our concert programs in cities through out the country.



~Nois' Chicago Season



Four Unique Concerts

CURIOSITY: The fifth installment of our celebration of Chicago creators



WIRED: An all electro-acoustic night at the International Museum of Surgical Science



DISCOVERY: A year-in-review featuring the winners of our Young Creators Fellowship



REFRACTION: Our brand new "more-than-a-concert-concert" featuring Annika Socolofsky's "I Tell You Me"

~Featured Commission~

I Tell You Me

song cycle for voice, saxophone quartet, and electronics

by Annika Socolofsky

- I. Sugar and Spice
- II. What are little girls made of?
- III. They tell us we



Chicago's Top 10 moments in classical music, opera, and jazz that defined 2021

~Chicago Tribune

Our lives are shaped by the stories we hear and the stories we tell. Stories are often the first things we remember as children and they often influence how we tell our own.

In her work *I Tell You Me*, avant-folk vocalist and composer **Annika Socolofsky** addresses head-on the deeply problematic social themes and issues lurking inside of the stories from our earliest memories -- lullabies and nursery rhymes. The antiquated lyrics of these children's songs have been revised and re-contextualized with entirely original music to re-tell these traditional stories for a new era, to re-work and update these lessons for a more inclusive and accepting present.

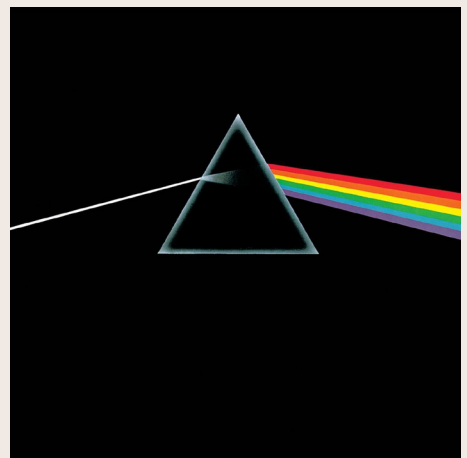
"...among the most captivating compositions I heard the whole festival."

"grotesquely gorgeous"

Hannah Edgar
~Chicago Tribune

The REFRACTION Series

The REFRACTION Series was created to give audiences the opportunity to **listen and examine powerful works** in ways **beyond an ordinary performance** to develop a deeper understanding of the music.



REFRACTION 2023 *I Tell You Me*

This concert featured **two performances** of *I Tell You Me*, first by Amanda DeBoer Bartlett and second by Annika Socolofsky. In the work, Annika draws from her personal experiences in this "feminist rager lullaby for a new, queer era" as she **highlights societal perceptions of femininity and sexuality.**

In between the two performances, a panel conversation led by Chicago's own Hannah Edgar and including Darian Donovan Thomas, Amanda, and Annika discussed the themes of the work to explore queerness and expression through the lens of performance and composition.

REFRACTION: *I Tell You Me* occurred on March 14, 2023 at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre

"Why is it called Refraction?"

A refraction is a phenomenon where light undergoes change upon passing through another object. Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of The Moon* album art comes to mind... Just as a beam of light reflected through a prism reveals many different wavelengths of color, the purpose of the REFRACTION Series is to **take a piece of music and present it through a new lens.** This allows the audience to reflect (see what we did there?) upon the varied experiences that inform our musical expression.

REFRACTION: *I Tell You Me*

"For my entire life, I've been told who I ought to be... But they never asked me who I was."
~ Annika Socolofsky

"Chicago's Top 10 moments in classical music, opera, and jazz that defined 2021".

"grotesquely gorgeous"
- Chicago Tribune



~Nois
Annika Socolofsky
Amanda DeBoer Bartlett
Darian Donovan Thomas
Hannah Edgar

A feminist-rager lullaby for a new queer era

FREE | RSVP Required
March 14 | 7PM
Center on Halsted:
Hoover-Leppen Theatre

Young Creator Fellowship

This season saw the launch of our **new program geared towards aspiring young composers**: the Young Creators Fellowship. This program selects two local high school-aged students to collaborate with us on two new works for saxophone quartet, with each winner receiving a \$500 prize, a series of collaborative workshops with the ensemble, and a professional live recording of their new piece on our season-closing Discovery Series concert. Thanks to our Creative Mentor on the project, Joey Meland, each winner was also able to receive one-on-one composition lessons to help guide them in the process of creating these new works.

Through the creation of this program, our aim was to achieve the following goals:

1. To encourage young artists to create new work.
2. To provide a platform for young artists to have their work performed for a larger audience.
3. To offer **real-world collaborative experience** that will prepare these students for a **future career in music**.

A primary objective for **next season is to expand our recruitment efforts for the Fellowship** by offering a series of **free educational programs** for 5-10 local high schools. This will serve to encourage more students to apply, and will help expand our educational outreach within our local community.

We want to congratulate this year's two selected winners Angel Alday and Julia Flores for not only displaying such thoughtful musicianship, but also for demonstrating a willingness to experiment and an enthusiasm for the collaborative process. Both individuals showed incredible growth during the short three months we worked together, and we are excited to watch the development of their already promising careers in music.

"This is an amazing learning experience and an incredible opportunity for students to boost their careers in composition."

~ Julia Flores



~Nois with 2023 Creative Fellow Angel Alday after his first CSO Music Now premiere

"My favorite moment was our first rehearsal. Getting to hear my piece for the first time and hearing suggestions on how to improve my writing was so helpful."

~ Angel Alday

~Nois' Mission

To create intimate collaborations, performances, and educational opportunities that foster inclusive and meaningful human connection.

~Nois' Vision

Encourage curiosity ~ Build friendships ~ Have fun



Tilde (noun) - A fun squiggly symbol that ruins our SEO, displeases the IRS, and was Jordan's proposed name for the group

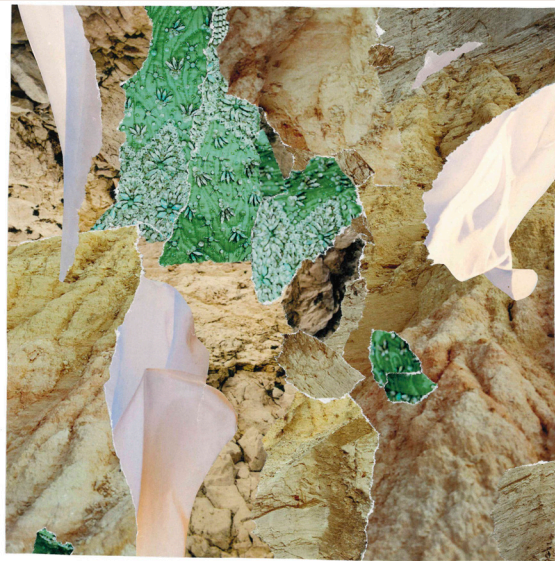
2022/2023 Recorded Media

New Singles

ART: Phong Tran



Night Music (Liquid Crystal Remix)
Phong Tran



ART: Lila Meretzky

Hiatus
Susanna Hancock

ART: Juj Sutton



Gossamer
Cassie Wieland

Coming to a Streaming Service (or CD Player) in the 2023/2024 Season



birthday party
Vines (Cassie Wieland)

August 2023 | Self Released



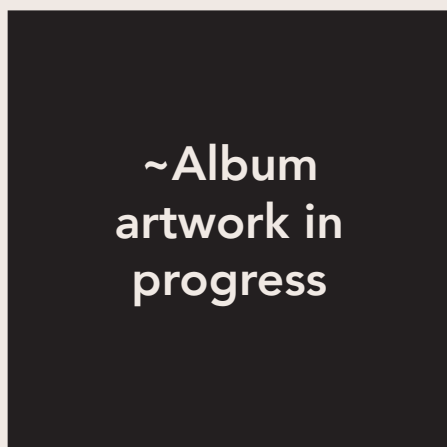
Gossamer (Vines Version)
Vines (Cassie Wieland)

September 2023 | Self Release



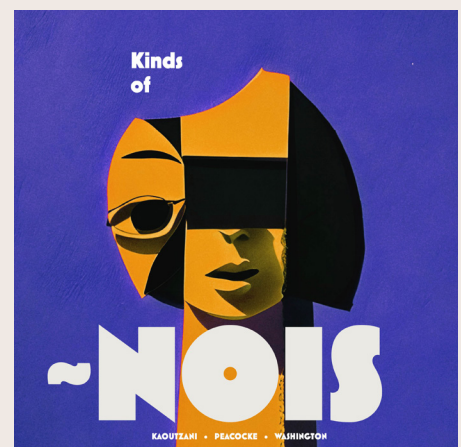
I Tell You Me
Annika Socolofsky

September 2023 |
Carrier Records



Osnat Netzer
Portrait Album

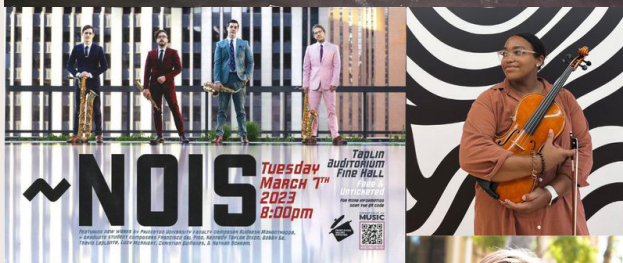
February 2024 | New Focus Recordings



Kinds of ~Nois
~Nois

March 2024 | Bright Shiny Things

World Premieres



The 2022/2023 season saw the largest list of world premieres presented by the group (34!) In addition to our own commissioning, we partnered with Princeton University, CU Boulder, DePaul University, the Composers Alliance of San Antonio, and Fulcrum Point New Music Project on these premieres.

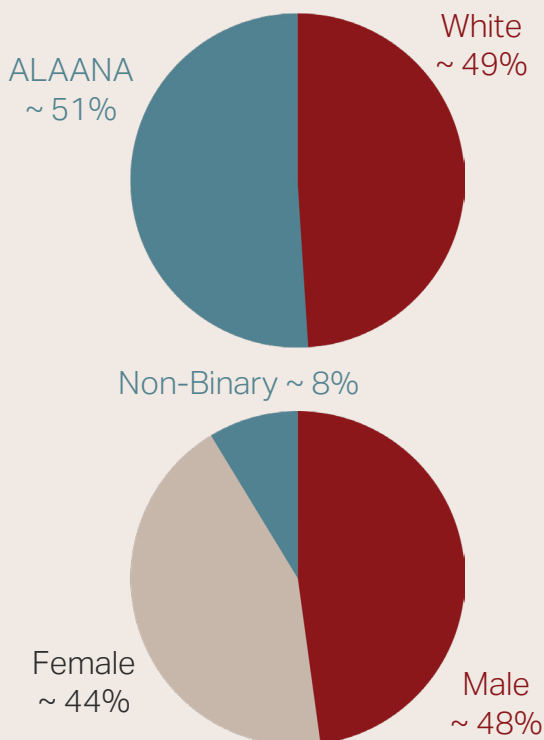
2022 / 2023
Composers

AJ Santillan
Alex Mincek
Angel Alday
Blake Clawson
Bobby Ge
Christian Quinones
Corinne Klein
Darian Donovan Thomas
Dimitar Ninov
Elliott Lupp
Erika Malpass
Francisco del Pino
Ian Blanck
Jessie Lause
Jorge Amado
José-Luis Hurtado
Juan Luis de Pablo Enriquez Rohen
Julia Flores
Justin Torzala
Ken Metz
Kennedy Dixon
Kevin Salfen
Lisa Atkinson
Lucy McKnight
Luke Sailstad
Nathan Schram
Peyton Ashley
Rain Michael
Sam Kudra
Samuel Gaskin
Scott Johnson
Timothy Kramer
Travis Laplante
Yvonne Freckmann

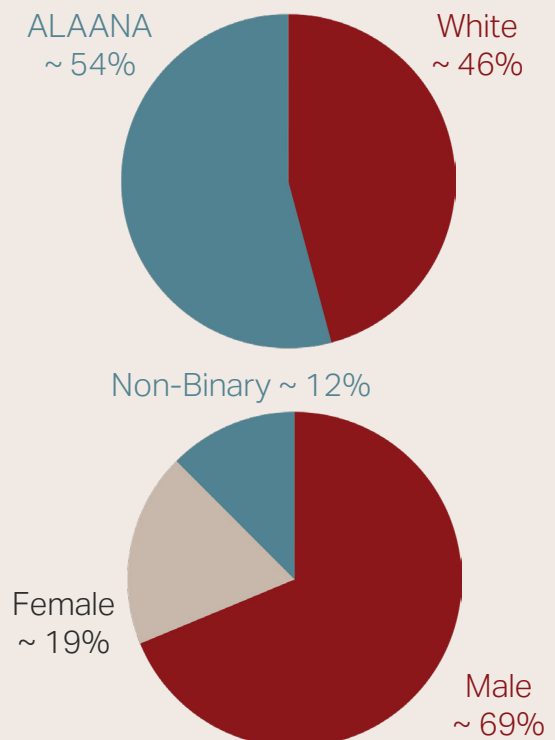
Programming / Commissioning Demographics

~Nois' commissions and programming advocates for the medium of saxophone quartet as an **exceptional avenue for chamber music**, while generating the next generation of repertoire that embraces a more **diverse and equitable future**.

49 Unique Works Programmed at ~Nois Shows Across the Country



34 World Premieres by ~Nois



*ALAANA stands for African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, and Native American individuals and communities.

Financial Breakdown

János Csontos

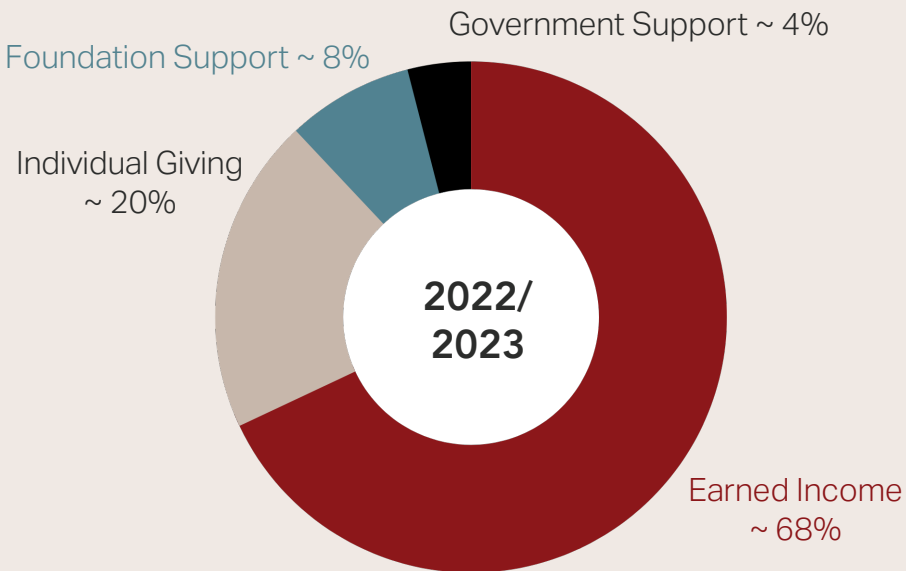
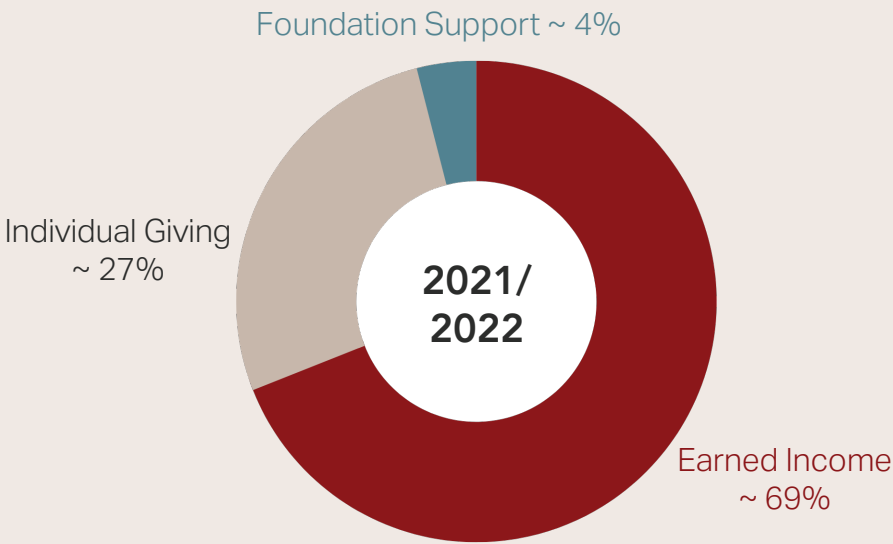
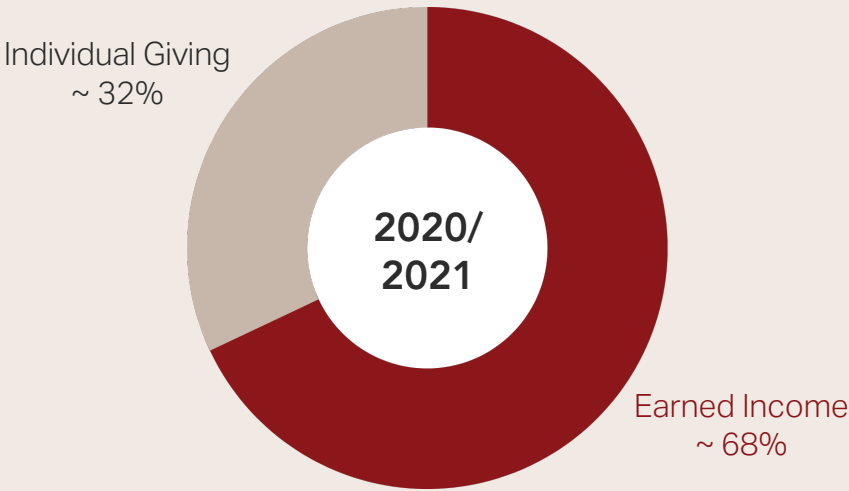
Director of Finance

Over the past three seasons ~Nois has seen substantial financial growth as our communities emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Most excitingly, the group has started to diversify its income streams beyond individual giving and earned income to include both foundation and government support. This newfound support has enabled the organization to pursue more ambitious and exciting projects than ever before.

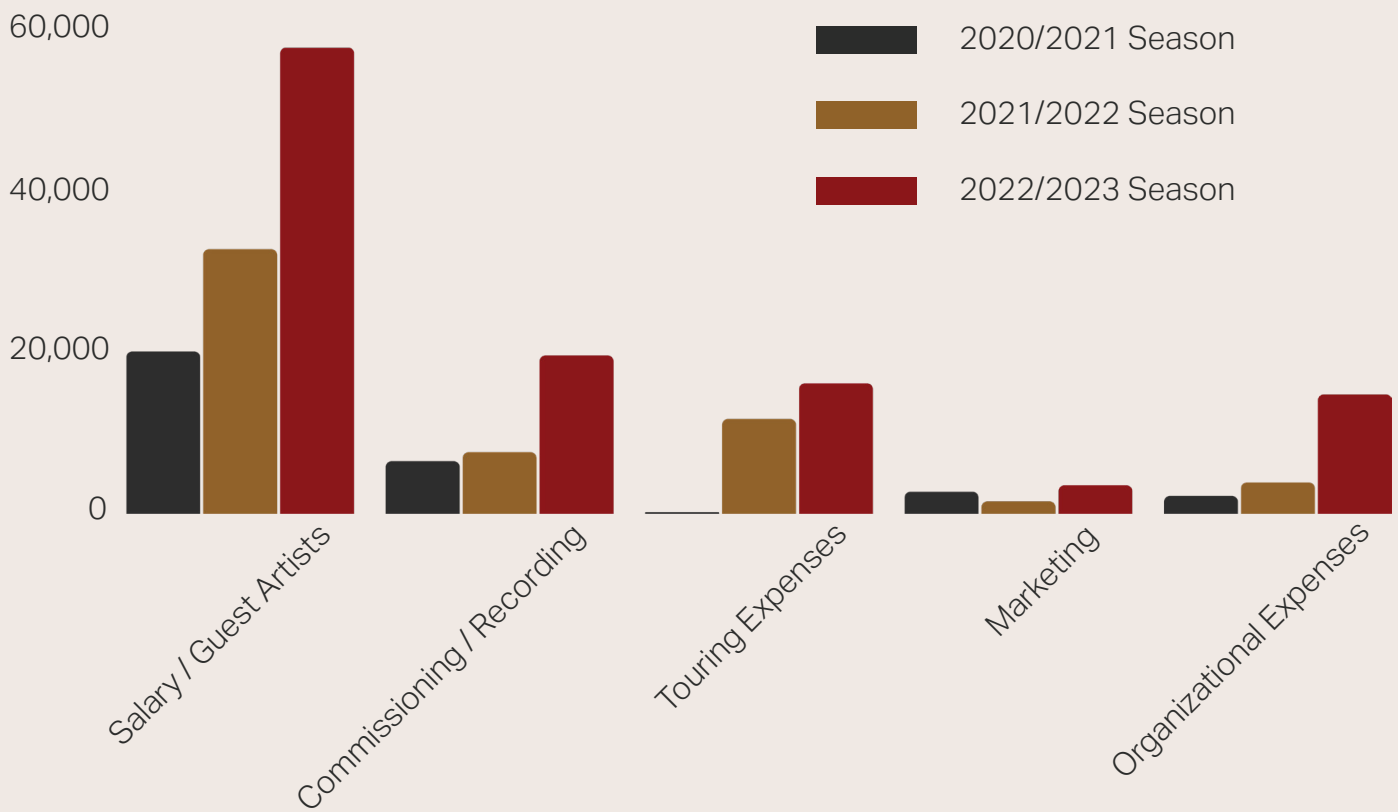


Income Summary

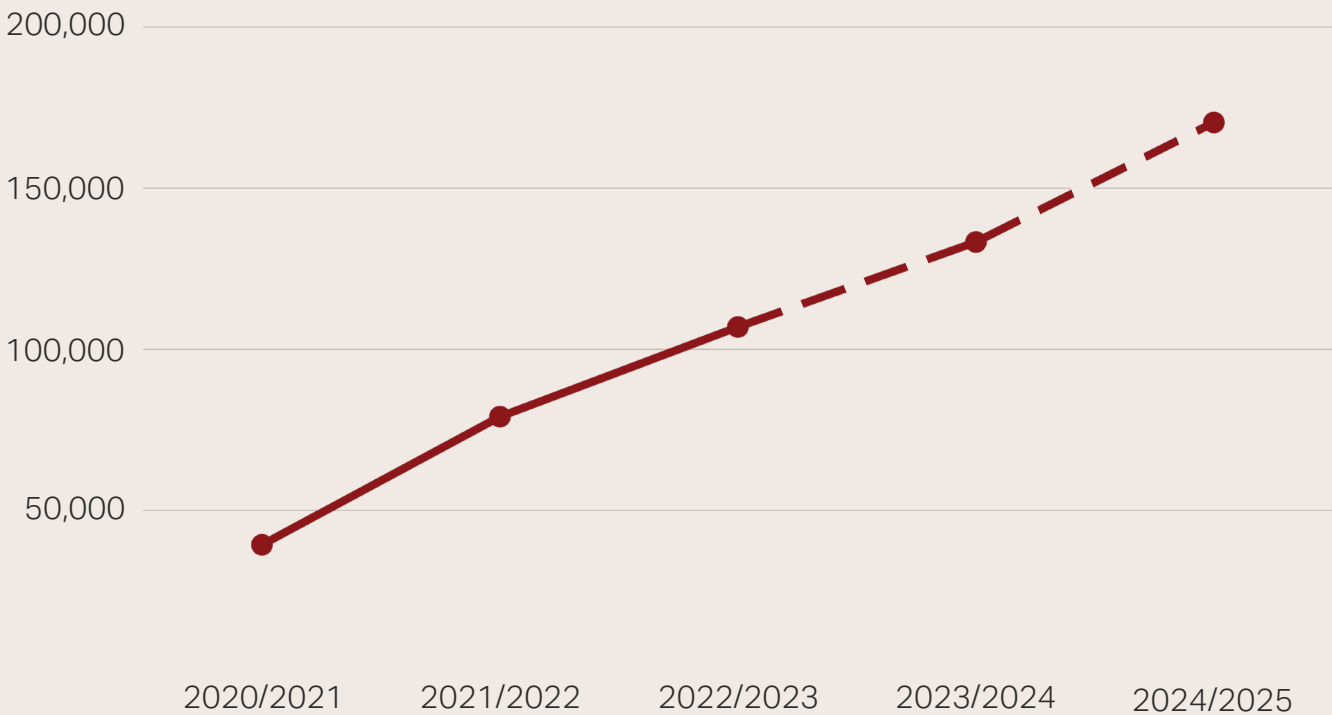
(over the past 3 years)



Expense Summary



Financial Projections



The ~Ensemble



Take your preconceived notions of 'noise' and toss them out the window. Equal parts **"fiendishly good and fiendishly goofy"** (*Chicago Tribune*), ~Nois is a Chicago-based saxophone quartet dedicated to connecting with diverse audiences through the creation of new work. Since its founding in 2016, **"~Nois continues to legitimize the saxophone quartet as a premiere ensemble formation for classical music"** (thank you *Brutal New Music*) through commissioning repertoire that is thought-provoking, engaging, and honestly just really good, by some of today's most inspiring compositional voices.

As proud residents of Chicago, the ensemble members seek to serve the diverse neighborhoods of the city through an annual season of self-presented concerts and programs. Each year, ~Nois' Curiosity Series brings together Chicago residents and artists for an evening of music exclusively featuring the work of composers and performers with strong ties to the city, with a particular focus on advocating for younger creators in Chicago. Additionally, **~Nois serves Chicago youth through their Young Creators Fellowship**, which selects two local high school-aged students each year to collaborate with the ensemble on new works for saxophone.

At the core of ~Nois' ethos is a **fierce dedication to the commissioning of living composers**, with a particular emphasis on developing a personal friendship with all collaborators they work with. In doing so, the ensemble aims to create new works of art that reflect and exemplify the values of human connection, which are central to the quartet's mission. **With more than 100 world premieres to date**, the members of ~Nois have had the privilege of working closely with some of the world's leading voices in composition to create new works for saxophone quartet, including Nico Muhly, Augusta Read Thomas, Shelley Washington, Alex Mincek, Hans Thomalla, and Tonia Ko, among others.

The ~Staff



Hunter Bockes

Director of Development



János Csontos

Director of Finance



Jordan Lulloff

Executive Director



Julian Velasco

Artistic Director



Natalia Warthen

~Intern

Board of Directors

Fabiola Valenzuela (Chair)

Associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Amy Boonstra

Executive Director of the Center for Decision
Research at the Booth School of Business,
University of Chicago

Chris Sinta

Client Financial Analyst at
Arthur J. Gallagher International

János Csontos

Director of Finance at ~Nois Performing Arts
Organization

George Hampton

Senior Advisor to the Special Representative of
the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable
Energy for All

Peter Gillette

Director of Development--Corporate,
Foundation, and Government Relations at
Chicago Sinfonietta

SJ Chapman

Partner at Bielski Chapman, Ltd.

Support ~Nois

As a 21st century artist-driven organization, ~Nois relies on contributions, both large and small, to support **innovative programming, high-caliber performances, and education programs** to young musicians and audiences. Your generosity enables us to continue our mission of presenting the **fiercest music of recent decades** and serves as an investment not only in our organization, but also in the future of contemporary music and art. But this isn't just about the four of us — **it's about ALL of us**. By supporting artists, we build bridges between communities and inspire conversations about all of life's complexities. We are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our commissioning efforts, and we strive to use our platform to advocate for the work of underrepresented composers. We work towards **creating a diverse body of repertoire for future generations to perform**.



Hunter Bockes

Director of Development



As a **mission-focused organization**, ~Nois operates with an incredibly slim **6% overhead** operating budget, meaning the vast majority (**94%**) of our income goes directly to the creation of new art.

Our 2022/2023 season cost \$110,000 to bring to life, and none of this would have been possible without the support of the individuals in the Tilde ~Team and generous grants from the foundations and family funds listed below. **We are eternally grateful for your support!**



PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



The
Alice M. Ditson
Fund

The Tilde ~ Team

At @ Angel (\$1000 and above)

Anonymous
John Bierbusse
Amy & Brian Boonstra
Russ Irwin
Kinds of Kings
Janet & Joe Luloff
Bill, Vicki, & Andrew Morton
Chris Sinta
Finn & Zoe Truckenbrod
Edmund Velasco
Dave Zampa
The Amphion Foundation
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
The Alice M. Ditson Fund
The MacArthur Funds for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at
the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
The Illinois Arts Council Agency
The Reizner Family Fund
The Augusta Read Thomas and Bernard Rands Trust

Percent % Patron (\$500 - \$999)

SJ Chapman
Logan Dougherty
Evanston Space
Michael Glass
David Henderson
Bruce Oltman
Sarah Forbes Orwig & Clark Costen

Dollar \$ Donor (\$250 - \$499)

Holly & Dave Bockes
Mary & Rick Bockes
Penny Capps
Donna Haile
Helen Holman
Grace May
Nick Zoulek

Caret ^ Contributor (\$100 - \$249)

Doyle Armbrust
Ruthie & Chip Bailey
Flora Csontos
Sarolta Csontos-Diab
Robert Dillon
Sally & Bernard Dobroski
Luke Ellard
Dan Gelok
Andre Gonyea
Andrea Moore Healy
Makenzie Hoffmeyer
Therese & David Hueholt
Jason Kalajainen
Maria Kaoutzani
Jackie & Eric Kirchner
Robin Koelsch
Michael Maccaferri
Mark Main
Karol & Patrick Mikula
Donald Nally
Osnat Netzer
Nick Photinos
Agnes Redei
Amanda Simmons
Liza Sobel
Taimur Sullivan
Curtis Vanzandt
Virginia & Don Ward
Nina Williams
Flora Wuellner
Lucy Wuellner
Tyler Young

This list reflects gifts from August 1, 2021 to the present.
Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list.
If you notice an error, please accept our apology and
contact Hunter Bockes, hunter@noissaxophone.com

The Tilde ~Team_{cont...}

Hashtag # Helper (\$1-\$99)

Sam Alvarez
Luis Fernando Amaya
Mathew Arrellin
Timothy Bachman
Nicole Bartell
Leah Benson
Ruth Beresh
John Bielski
Brendan Bockes
Richard Brasseale
Barbara Brotman & Chuck Berman
Rodrigo Bussad
Gavin Chuck
Will Cicola
Harrison Clarke
Nicholas Cline
Sean Connors
Paul Cotton
Paul Dellevigne
Matthew Duvall
Peggy Egli
Megan Elks
Dannel Espinoza
Christine Ewald
Teagan Faran
Alyse Freilich
Xin Gao
Kara & Tim Gazdziak
Grace Gelpi
Casey Grev
Jonathan Hannau
Delan Hao
Deirdre Harrison
Momoko Hasselbring
Alanna Hawley
Marco Herrera-Rendon

Tom Hicks
Jennifer Higdon
Joon Im
Brad Jefferson
Molly Jones
Lisa Kaplan
Diane Krycia
May Lee
Jeffrey Leung
Er-Hsuan LI
Chelsea Lyons
Clara M. Lyon
Peter Martin
Ricardo Martinez
Elaine Martone
Joanne McCoubrey
Rebecca McDaniel
Jobelle Mesa
Connor Mikula
Christopher Miller
Ted Moore
Ben Morris
Christopher Narloch
Giulio Ongaro
Olivia Phaneuf
Wilson Poffenberger
Susan Prange
William Pyle
Brandon Quarles
David Reminick
Debra Richtmeyer
Brenda Rincon
Russell Rolan
Sophia Rollins
Nicki Roman
Claire Ross

Jake Saunders
Julie Schlaifer
Halley Shefler
Chris Sideris
David Skidmore
Sarah Smelser
Philip Snyder
Tami Stoddard
Yu-Lien The
Hans Thomalla
Philippa Thompson
Hannah Truckenbrod
Cindy Tuisku
Seth Van Embden
Kathryn Vetter
P. Kellach Waddle
Dylan Ward
Nowell Warthen
Eli Wilson
Jocelyn Zelasko
Karen Zhang
Eric Zheng
David Zielinski





Nois

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