



# classical **Uprising**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



It has been another exciting year of growth for Classical Uprising:

- We've grown our audiences at our sold-out holiday series Sing We Noël, which this year featured a cast of 100 singers from Oratorio Chorale, Sweetest in the Gale, and Horizon Voices;
- We've grown our stature in the performing arts world, garnering the Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music in this year's American Prize competition;
- We've grown our programming to better serve all ages through expanded enrollment in our Horizon Voices youth choir program;
- We've grown our sources of inspiration and education by bringing GRAMMY-winning soloists and cutting-edge composers to Maine; and
- We've grown our impact on our community through musical outreach programs like our free street-fair style Carnival Concert performed at Reiche Community School.

We are also devoting more time to listening to, and learning from, our singers, audiences, and community members to refine our programming. We launched a strategic planning initiative last year to ensure both Classical Uprising's long-term financial sustainability and our continued ability to deliver outstanding musical experiences that move, challenge, and delight our audience members. Everything we do today shapes our future, and it's you, our donors, grantors, patrons, performers, and volunteers, who keep

**“Everything we do today shapes our future, and it's you, our donors, grantors, patrons, performers, and volunteers, who keep us going.”**

us going. We welcome your continued feedback as we work together to achieve our mission of connecting communities through world-class, immersive classical music.

In our modern world, we need human connections and timeless arts experiences to break through the cacophony of social media, politics, and endless distractions. I feel strongly that our collective focus, strength, and well-being depends on the inspiration and connection that music brings when heard and felt together. We hope to continue to provide these exceptional opportunities that move, challenge, and delight you for years to come!

Looking forward to seeing you in our 2023-2024 season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Studer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jackie Studer  
President, Classical Uprising Board of Directors

## Mission

To enliven, strengthen, and connect communities by creating world-class, immersive classical music experiences for everyone.

## Vision

Inspired by the power of music to strengthen communities and enrich lives, Classical Uprising is a financially stable organization that makes classical and other high-quality music accessible, approachable, and relevant through exceptional performances, distinctive programming, broad outreach, and dynamic educational programs.

## Board of Directors

**Jackie Studer**, President

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## Staff

**Emily Isaacson**  
Artistic Director

**Emily Southard**  
Managing Director

**Meagan Brus**  
Program Coordinator

**Maria Belva**  
Director, Horizon Voices and Sweetest in the Gale

**Scott Wheatley**  
Assistant Music Director, Oratorio Chorale

**Evan Cuddy and Elizabeth Hasbrouck**  
Accompanists



## Letter from the Artistic Director

Two things my dad taught us as kids growing up were: 1) “take your own temperature”—a.k.a. take stock of what you’ve accomplished and how it feels—so that: 2) you can craft an (ever-changing and non-restrictive) ten-year plan with intent and direction.

During the 2022-2023 season, Classical Uprising frequently took our organizational temperature. We reviewed what we’ve accomplished and considered where we are today. It was the third year since the merger of Oratorio Chorale and Portland Bach Experience created Classical Uprising, and the third year since we founded Horizon Voices. It was the second year of a partnership with Bowdoin College, and the first year in which we were (nearly) out of the shadow of COVID-19. And, on top of all that, we were rapidly approaching the 50th anniversary season of Oratorio Chorale.

We assessed what we achieved this season and how it felt:

- We won a national award from The American Prize for our artistry;
- We presented brave and bold artistic productions that reached back in time and out into space;
- We welcomed a nationally respected composer to coach singers and connect with our community; and
- We performed 45 concerts and events, with 22 open to the public free of charge.

On top of that, half of Oratorio Chorale concerts sold out; Sweetest in the Gale has a full roster and a waiting list; Horizon Voices increased enrollment by 20%; 25 grantors and sponsors supported our work; and we collaborated with more than 30 community businesses and organizations.

These numbers matter because they tell us that Classical Uprising is providing the services we all need for connecting, reflecting, and taking our own temperature as we continue to move through a changing world. We are also asking you, through one-on-one interviews, group discussions, and online surveys, what you and your neighbors need from the arts and how Classical Uprising can deliver these distinct, deep, and connective experiences more effectively.

A ten-year plan as I know it is about creating a bold and expansive vision for the future, and we want to keep hearing from you as we shape those goals. Everything we do hinges on the belief that you and your community will be supported, inspired, and entertained because of our performances, educational programs, and community events. I have lots of plans for five, ten, and twenty years down the road, and I look forward to seeing them flourish as we work together to help our community thrive.



Emily Isaacson  
Artistic Director, Classical Uprising



**“Everything we do hinges on the belief that you and your community will be supported, inspired, and entertained because of our performances, educational programs, and community events.”**



## Oratorio Chorale

Now in its fifth decade, and celebrating its tenth anniversary under the leadership of Artistic Director Emily Isaacson, Oratorio Chorale inspires our community with new music by today's leading composers, masterworks with orchestra, and intimate, interactive performances.



## Young Artists Program

Launched in 2015, Oratorio Chorale's Young Artists Program provides an opportunity for talented high school students to tackle advanced choral repertoire in a supportive environment. Up to six students are accepted into the program per year.



## Sweetest in the Gale

Founded in 2015, "SinG" is an auditioned ensemble that explores the robust repertoire of choral works for women's voices with a focus on technique, musicianship skills, and building community.



## Portland Bach Experience

Founded in 2017, Portland Bach Experience tears down barriers and challenges preconceived notions about classical music by offering immersive events and intimate concerts. PBE presents innovative musical adventures in unexpected places to bring world-class music back into social spaces and people's everyday lives.



## Horizon Voices

Horizon Voices develops the next generation of healthy, thoughtful, and creative citizens through choral singing. Designed for young people in grades K-12, Horizon Voices teaches vocal technique and musicianship while nurturing communication and public speaking skills and joyfully making music together.

**"I was somewhat apprehensive about joining the chorus, but...I can't emphasize enough how rewarding that choice has been. I loved singing as part of a passionate intergenerational group."**

—Oratorio Chorale singer

## Program Overview

# 4,241

In-Person  
attendance

# 45

Concerts +  
Events

**23** TICKETED

**22** FREE

# 2,968

Tickets Reserved

# 1

Artist Residency

Sarah Kirkland Snider

# 5

Emerging  
Artists

from Longy School  
of Music of Bard College

# 57

Volunteers

# 304

Performing  
Artists

# 95

Professional  
Musicians

**“I’ve attended so many of your concerts and have never been disappointed. But last night’s concert, with video, was, in my humble opinion, the most magnificent you’ve ever presented, in sound, voice, and meaning.”**

—Concert attendee

## 2022-2023 Season Programming

**Oct. 25 + 26, 2022**

Portland Bach Experience:  
Fire & Grace

**Nov. 4 + 6, 2022**

Oratorio Chorale:  
Arvo Pärt’s *Te Deum for  
Three Choirs*

**Dec. 10 + 17, 2022**

Sing We Noël

**Dec. 11, 2022**

Horizon Voices:  
What Sweeter Music

**Apr. 29 + 30, 2023**

Oratorio Chorale:  
Sarah Kirkland Snider’s  
*Mass for the Endangered*

**May 6 + 7, 2023**

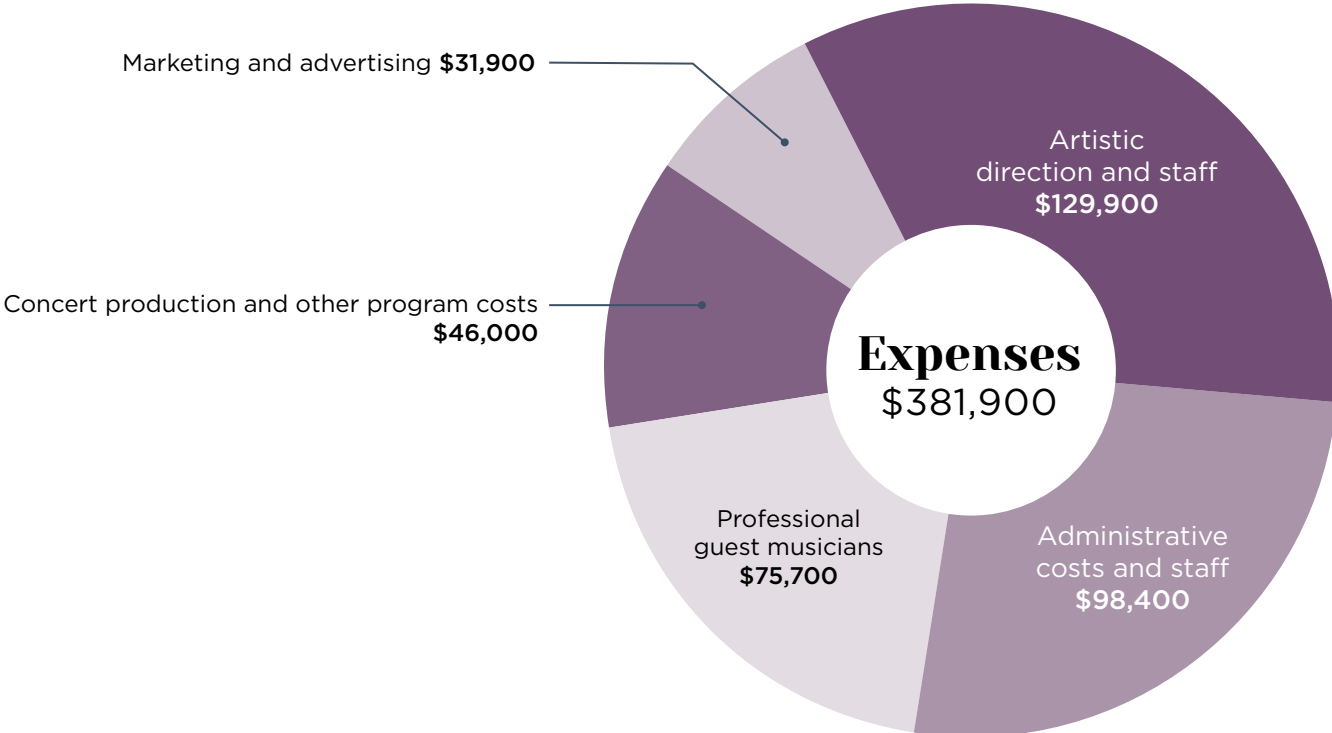
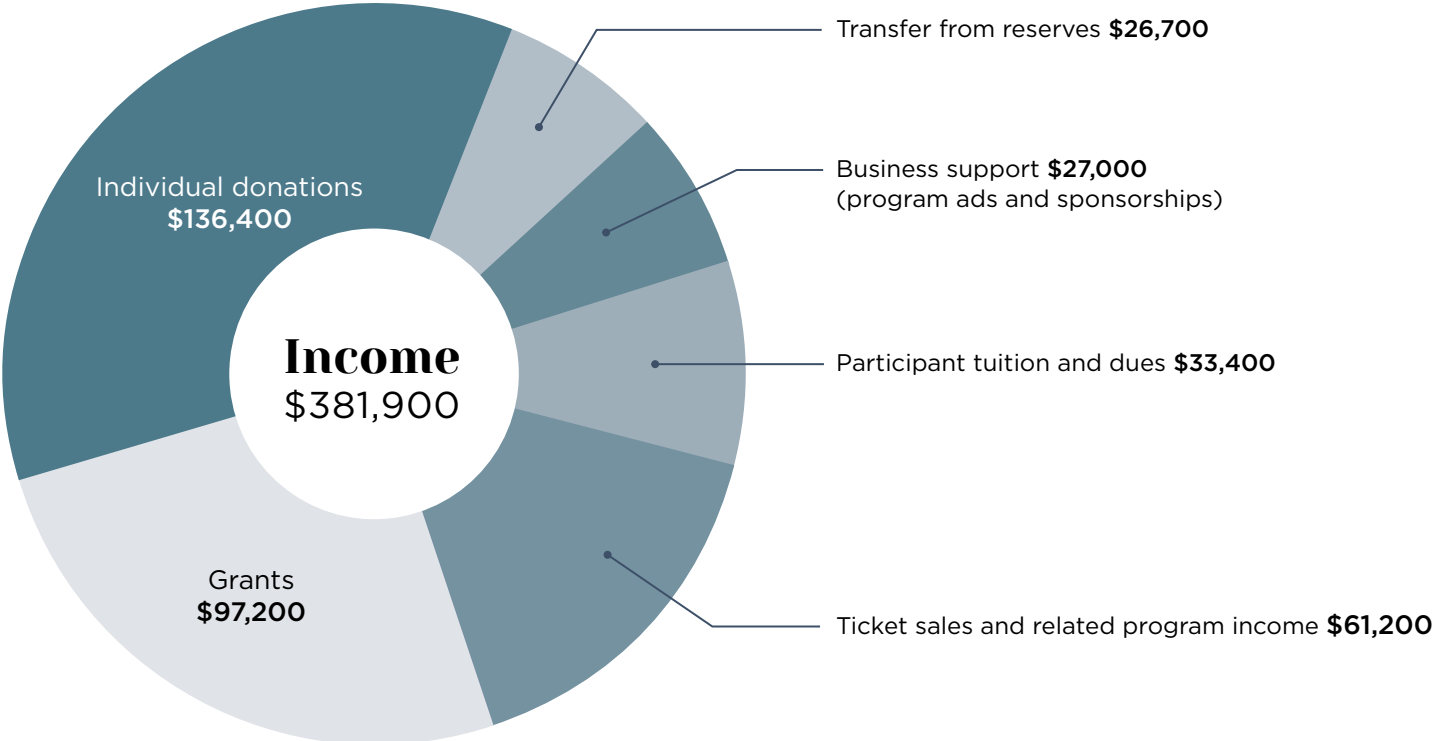
Sweetest in the Gale:  
Her Voice

**May 14, 2023**

Horizon Voices:  
The Welcome Spring

**Jun. 2-24, 2023**

Portland Bach Experience:  
June Festival



## Ensuring Access to Choral Experiences

We believe that an individual's financial position should not prevent them from participating in the arts. Scholarship funding for Horizon Voices participants is graciously provided by the Cornelia and Michael Bessie Foundations. The Carolyn Johnson Fund provides scholarships for Oratorio Chorale and Sweetest in the Gale participants and also fully supports fees for our Young Artists Program.

## Supporters

# Thank you for your support!

August 1, 2022–July 31, 2023

Thank you for your investment in the cultural life of Maine! With the support of over 200 donors, grantors, and corporate sponsors, we are sharing more great music with more communities in Portland, Freeport, Brunswick, and beyond. These performances, workshops, and educational experiences would not be possible without your support.

### **SPONSORS**

#### **Horizon Voices Season Co-Sponsor**

Machias Savings Bank

#### **Oratorio Chorale Season Co-Sponsors**

The Highlands

Penmor Lithographers

#### **Portland Bach Experience Festival Co-Sponsors**

Fathom Companies

Renys

#### **Concert Sponsors**

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OceanView at Falmouth

Starbird Piano Gallery

### **GRANTORS**

Cornelia and Michael Bessie Foundations

Davenport Trust

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Maine Arts Commission

Maine Humanities Council

Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust

Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust

Onion Foundation

PRBB Foundation

Rines Thompson Fund at Maine  
Community Foundation

### **COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS**

240 Strings

317 Main

Ballet Bloom Project

Bowdoin College

Bunker Brewing Company

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Desert of Maine

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary

Falmouth Memorial Library

The Federal

First Parish Church, Brunswick

First Parish Church, Portland

Flying Gravity Circus

Longy School of Music of Bard College

Maine Mineral and Gem Museum

Meetinghouse Arts

MOFGA

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Osher Map Library and Smith Center for  
Cartographic Education

Osher School of Music at the University of  
Southern Maine

Portland Art Gallery

Portland Museum of Art

Portland Parks, Recreation & Facilities

The Press Hotel

Reiche Community School

Reiche Green Team

Sanford Performing Arts Center

Shoestring Theater

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Williston-Immanuel United Church



**“[My daughter] tells me almost every day how much she enjoys singing and how much she likes her choir group. After the Sing We Noël concert this Saturday, [my son] asked me ‘when does the second semester start?’ He couldn’t wait to go back.”**

—Horizon Voices parent

**FOUNDER**

Peter and Harriette Griffin  
Margaret D. McGaughey and George Isaacson  
Bernard Osher

**DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE**

Jackie Studer and Brent Hoots

**SUSTAINER**

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Jeff Emerson and Vicky Lorant  
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John and Cathie Todd  
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Barbara Trafton  
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**ORCHESTRA SPONSOR**

Abigail and Zander Abbott  
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Larry and Maureen Cullen  
Marian Dalton, in honor of Gwyn Palmer  
William and Susan Doughty \*  
Averil and Rol Fessenden  
Kitty and Peter Garlid

**“What a fantastic experience PBE is and a great vision for making classical music relevant in this day and age. It was a great privilege to be part of it with you all.”**

—Musician

Bernard and Phyllis Givertz  
Anneliese and Delia Guzman-Bass \*  
R. Scott Hanson and Meegan Kennedy  
Peter Haynes  
Nancy E. Heiser and Jeffrey Cohen  
Helen B. Holman  
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in honor of Dr. Emily Isaacson

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Jacqueline Oliveri  
Donald T. Osier  
Lesley Palmer, in honor of Gwyn Palmer  
James Parmentier  
Juliana Post and Roy Pfeil  
Lawrence Putterman, in honor of Emily Isaacson  
John Rindlaub  
Mary Jane Rosenfield  
Rosemary and Ron Schmidt  
Susan Schraft and Richard Berne  
Barbara and Peter Shaw

**“Holy cow, this weekend’s performances (both of them!) were transcendent. I genuinely consider them two of my most moving musical experiences of all time.”**

—Concert attendee and Young Artist Program parent

Ruby Shields-Morse, in honor of Gwyn Palmer  
Elizabeth D. Skillings-Coleman  
Beth and Edward Sugarman  
Harvey and Wendy Tzucker  
Peter and Barbara Vickery  
David Warren  
Priscilla Webster  
Eugenia and Nathaniel Wheelwright  
Christine Whittemore

#### **SUPPORTER**

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Julie Faure \*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Filgate  
Margery Goldberg  
Gene G. Grindlinger  
Adam Grogg  
Erick Hagmann  
Caroline Hibbard  
Lydia Hill  
Joanna James, in honor of Robert D. James  
Walter and Judy Kimball  
Mary Kraushar, in memory of Gwyn Palmer

Katherine Jane Kresser  
Carson A. Lutes  
Lisa Martorella  
Sadie McCurry  
Anne Moulton  
Mary Elizabeth Nehf  
Rosemary and David Roberts  
Sharon Ross, in memory of Kathy Ross  
Bradley Russell  
Mr. William Sayres  
Jean Seton Shaw  
Anne and Peter Taylor  
Marguerite Ulmer  
Wanda Webber Snyder and Ervin Snyder  
Brad Wells

\* Monthly donor

\*\* Gift to Carolyn Johnson Memorial Fund

**Gifts received between August 1, 2022, and July 31, 2023**

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#### **GIVING LEVELS**

<b>Founder</b>	\$10,000+
<b>Director’s Circle</b>	\$5,000–\$9,999
<b>Sustainer</b>	\$2,500–\$4,999
<b>Angel</b>	\$1,000–\$2,499
<b>Benefactor</b>	\$500–\$999
<b>Orchestra Sponsor</b>	\$250–\$499
<b>Patron</b>	\$100–\$249
<b>Supporter</b>	Up to \$99

Sing We Noël and Horizon Voices: What Sweeter Music photos by Rene Roy

Oratorio Chorale: *Mass for the Endangered* photos by Andrew Estey

Additional photos by Emily Southard and Christina Wnek

## 2022–2023 Annual Report



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