HOUSTON # SYMPHONY

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION









HOUSTON, SYMP#ONY

Letter to Friends	
of the Houston Symphony	03
3 1 3	
Your Houston Symphony	
Orchestra Roster	04
Administrative Staff	05
Society Board of Trustees	06
2022-23 Season	
Artistic Highlights	80
Classical Season	11
Bank of America POPS Series	16
PNC Family Series	20
Live from Jones Hall	
Livestream Spotlight	21
2022-23 Education &	
Community Engagement	
Highlights	23
Student Concerts	24
High School Nights	25
DeLUXE K!ds In Harmony	26
Music & Wellness	28
Special Events	31
Houston Symphony League	32
2023 Financial Report	32
	02
Our Donors	
Annual Support	34
Music Director Fund	45
Young Associates Council	46
Corporate, Foundation &	
Government Partners	47
Houston Symphony Endowment	49
Legacy Society	50
Musician Spansonships	E4



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY

What a 2022–23 Season we've had! Juraj Valčuha's inaugural season as the Houston Symphony's 16th Music Director was a smashing success. From the opening performances of Verdi's monumental Requiem to the breathtaking concert staging of Stravinsky's dramatic masterpiece *Oedipus rex*, your Symphony scaled the artistic heights this past year. We welcomed renowned guest artists—Joshua Bell, Yefim Bronfman, Sasha Cooke, Michelle DeYoung, Augustin Hadelich, and Itzhak Perlman among them—to our Jones Hall stage. And audiences enjoyed Juraj's approach to programming with two festivals—*Riots and Scandals* and *Songs of the Earth*—and a tribute to former Houston Symphony Music Director Sir John Barbirolli.

Our Principal POPS Conductor Steven Reineke created magnificent programs for all of you throughout the year, from the opening Cirque de la Symphonie to The Music of Elton John and Billy Joel. Stellar guests from stages around the country such as Chris Botti, Tony DeSare, Capathia Jenkins, and Jeremy Jordan joined your orchestra for some unforgettable concerts. And audience favorites such as Disney's Fantasia in Concert and Very Merry POPS delighted capacity crowds during the holiday season.

We took our music out into the community with the launch of a new flagship program, DeLUXE K!ds In Harmony, in partnership with the Fifth Ward's storied DeLUXE Theater and American Festival for the Arts. This program sends our Community-Embedded Musicians to provide comprehensive violin instruction in an afterschool setting to upper elementary students. At their final concert on May 15, these amazing young people played eight songs and celebrated all they'd accomplished over the year. It was great to see so many people from across the community turn out to hear them and celebrate with them.

Our Student Concert Series reached nearly 44,000 upper elementary and middle school students this year. I always love hearing from people in our audience and among our supporters that their first experience of the Houston Symphony was coming to Jones Hall with their school as a young person. That's the point of those concerts—to introduce young people to the joys of music, and hopefully to spark a lifelong passion for the Symphony. And we continued our many other Education and Community Engagement initiatives, including partnerships with Houston Methodist, Texas Children's Hospital, and MD Anderson Cancer Center around music and wellness.

Thank you to all of you for your inspiring generosity over the past season. We raised more than \$18 million to support the work of the Houston Symphony at Jones Hall, in our greater Houston community, and, thanks to livestreaming, around the country and the world. We're going to spend this summer in various venues around our city while we continue our renovation of Jones Hall so that we can welcome you back in September with new seats, a new shell over the orchestra, and double the bathrooms on the Hall's courtyard level. And we have an incredible 2023–24 Season in store for you—more Juraj, more Steven, and more of the great guest artists and amazing Symphony musicians you love.

Thank you so much for making 2022–23 such a triumph for the Houston Symphony. We couldn't have done it without you.

With gratitude,

John Mangum

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2023-24 SEASON

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6

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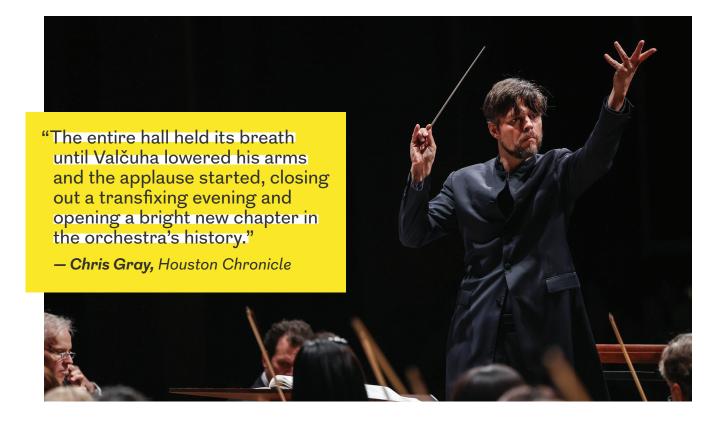
2022-23 SEASON **ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS**

153 CONCERTS 22 HOUSTON SYMPHONY DEBUTS 3 WORLD PREMIERES

102 GUEST ARTISTS/ 28,690 LIVE FROM JONES HALL LIVESTREAM VIEWS



CLASSICAL HIGHLIGHTS



JURAJ VALČUHA & THE ORCHESTRA

During the 2022–23 Season, the Symphony welcomed a new era of leadership with the appointment of Juraj Valčuha as Music Director. In his inaugural season, Valčuha led nine Classical concert weekends—more than any other Music Director in recent history.

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT AND GALA

Valčuha opened the season September 16 with Verdi's Requiem. In addition to the full orchestra, the program featured stellar opera stars, including Grammy Award®-winning soprano Ana María Martínez, mezzo-soprano Marina Prudenskaya, tenor Jonathan Tetelman, and bass Dmitry Belosselskiy all making their Houston Symphony debut. The orchestra and guest vocalists were also joined by the Houston Symphony Chorus.

Above: Music Director Juraj Valčuha and the Houston Symphony.



SENSATIONAL FESTIVAL WEEKENDS

One of the signatures of Juraj Valčuha's music directorship is his devotion to thematic programming. In January and February, Valčuha led the orchestra in two dynamic festivals: Riots & Scandals: Classical Music that Rocked the World and Songs of the Earth. The first festival, Riots & Scandals, featured two programs, each highlighting a famous work that was controversial at the time of its premiere. The first weekend on January 13–15, 2023, focused on the explosive musical score of Bartók's The Miraculous Mandarin. Acclaimed and admired pianist Yefim Bronfman joined us for Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3—a piece often described as the 'Mt. Everest of concertos'. British composer Hannah Kendall's The Spark Catchers rounded out the program. For the second weekend of Riots & Scandals (January 20–22, 2023), the orchestra performed Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring, a work whose 1913 premiere famously caused a riot, and acclaimed pianist Conrad Tao joined the orchestra for Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1.

In February, the second festival, *Songs of the Earth*, featured programming that melded music from the East with Western compositions. On February 10–12, 2023, world-renowned vocalists **Sasha Cooke** and **Clay Hilley** joined Valčuha and the orchestra for one of Mahler's most stunningly powerful masterpieces, *Das Lied von der Erde (The Song of the Earth)*. The soulstirring meditation on life and death was fittingly paired with Chinese-French composer Qigang Chen's *Itinerary of an Illusion*. The second weekend of *Songs of the Earth* (February 17–19, 2023) paired music from prominent Japanese composers with pieces by Ravel and Debussy. The concert opened with Ravel's well-known *Mother Goose Suite*. Next, Tōru Takemitsu's haunting concerto for two pianos and orchestra, *Quotation of Dream (Say Sea, Take Me)* saw the Houston Symphony debut of Dutch piano duo **Lucas and Arthur Jussen** performing on two pianos. The program also featured Toshio Hosokawa's breathtaking mediation on nature, *Autumn Wind* which featured a shakuhachi (a Japanese and ancient Chinese vertical flute made of bamboo) solo from guest artist **Kojiro Umezaki**. The *Songs of the Earth* festival concluded with Debussy's *La mer*, one of classical music's most unforgettable and immersive experiences.

Top right: Juraj Valčuha conducts the orchestra during the Riots and Scandals Festival, January 20–22, 2023. Middle right: Arthur and Lucas Jussen during the Songs of the Earth Festival, February 17–19, 2023. Bottom right: Kojiro Umezaki plays the shakuhachi in Autumn Wind during the Songs of the Earth Festival, February 17–19, 2023.

"On the podium, Valčuha conducted with a fiery elegance, not wasting a solitary joule of energy. Keeping to a takeno-prisoners tempo, his arms swept wide during the more lyrical interludes; at stormier moments his baton shook with shuddering frenzy. He listened acutely and intensely, tracing melodic contours with his left hand while stoking the second movement into a grand conflagration that resembled both a roaring party and runaway train, blissfully interrupted by a buoyant and charming middle section."

- Chris Gray, Houston Chronicle







BARBIROLLI TRIBUTE

Valčuha paid tribute to former Music Director Sir John Barbirolli, May 12–14, 2023, with a replica of a program performed during his tenure with the orchestra. The concert opened with Paul Creston's *Dance Overture*, followed by guest soloist **Augustin Hadelich** performing Prokofiev's lyrical Violin Concerto No. 1 alongside the orchestra. The program closed with Tchaikovsky's final symphony, Symphony No. 6, *Pathétique*.



"One of the most subjective pieces ever written, the Finale to Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony includes all the emotions of an elegy. Depression, anger, denial, pleading, remorse, acceptance, and resolution are all within this compact movement. Valčuha's rhapsodic approach allowed each of these feelings to emerge, while the Houston Symphony was the perfect vessel to carry and project them. It was impossible to remain unmoved at the conclusion of this concert. Valčuha remained motionless for 30 seconds. after which the audience gave thunderous applause. For two of the many curtain calls the orchestra remained seated in a show of respect for their music director. They will not forget how they felt. Down to the last note."

- Lawrence Wheeler, Slippedisc





EPIC OPERATIC FINALE

Valčuha's inaugural season culminated in epic fashion with *Oedipus rex*, May 19–20, 2023. Adding to the raw and riveting tale were stunning on-stage visuals created especially for these performances by artist **Adam**Larsen and narration by Golden Globe Award-winning actor **Kyle MacLachlan**. Joining Valčuha, the orchestra, and the Houston Symphony Chorus, were world-famous opera superstars, mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung**, tenor **Sean Panikkar**, bass-baritone **David Pittsinger**, baritone **Dashon Burton**, and tenor **Matthew White**.

Above: The Houston Symphony orchestra, Chorus, and guest vocalists performing Oedipus rex, May 19–20, 2023. Far left: Sir John Barbirolli.

ARTISTIC PARTNER ITZHAK PERLMAN

In the midst of his tenure as Houston Symphony Artistic Partner, Itzhak Perlman made three appearances in the 2022–23 Season, beginning with his performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto under the baton of Valčuha, October 20, 22, and 23, 2022. On February 26, 2023, Perlman was joined by friend and pianist Rohan de Silva for a special solo violin recital. Perlman returned on April 1–2, 2023, to lead the orchestra and Houston Symphony Chorus in a choral masterpiece, Mozart's Requiem.

Right: Itzhak Perlman conducts the Houston Symphony in Mozart's Requiem, April 1–2.



HOUSTON SYMPHONY MUSICIANS SOLO WITH THE ORCHESTRA

October 28–30, 2022, Mozart expert **Dame Jane Glover** led the orchestra in her first all-Mozart program with the Houston Symphony. The concert featured Concertmaster **Yoonshin Song** and Principal Viola **Joan DerHovsepian** as soloists, spotlighting the virtuosity of our orchestra musicians.

On April 7–8, 2023, Houston Symphony
Concertmaster Yoonshin Song led the orchestra in
Haydn's Symphony No. 101, "The Clock," and doubled
as a soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 1. Also in
that program, eight musicians joined leader Yoonshin
Song—Principal Flute Aralee Dorough, Principal
Oboe Jonathan Fischer, Principal Clarinet Mark
Nuccio, Principal Bassoon Rian Craypo, Principal
Horn William VerMeulen, Principal Viola Joan
DerHovsepian, Principal Cello Brinton Averil Smith,
and Principal Double Bass Robin Kesselman—joined
forces for a special performance of Louise Farrenc's
Nonet.

Left: Concertmaster Yoonshin Song and Principal Viola Joan DerHovsepian.





HOUSTON SYMPHONY CHORUS

The 2022–23 Season was a demanding one for the Houston Symphony Chorus. The Chorus made appearances in six classical programs, three of which were led by Music Director Juraj Valčuha: Verdi's Requiem (September 16–18), Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin* (January 13–15), and Stravinsky's *Oedipus rex* (May 19–20). The Chorus also performed in Mozart's Requiem (April 1–2), Holst's *The Planets* (November 11–13), as well as holiday performances of Handel's *Messiah* (December 9–11) and *Very Merry POPS* (December 15, 17, and 18).

This season we also welcomed Dr. Allen Hightower as the new Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus. A seventh-generation Texan, Allen is the director of choral studies at the University of North Texas (UNT), and serves as conductor of UNT's A Cappella Choir, Grand Chorus, and the early music vocal ensemble, Vox Aquilae. Dr. Hightower succeeds Betsy Cook Weber, who served as Director from 2014 to 2022.

Top left: Houston Symphony Chorus performing in Messiah. Bottom Left: Dr. Allen Hightower and Houston Symphony Chorus in rehearsals for Verdi's Requiem.

NEW MUSIC

In addition to the diverse slate of composers, conductors, and guest artists the Symphony featured this season, we also performed new music including world premieres from living composers. A special concert at The Hobby Center, Celebrating 75 Years of India's Independence (August 6, 2022), which featured performances from violin icon Dr. L. Subramaniam and vocalist Kavita Krishnamurti, included the world premiere of Subramaniam's Mahatma Symphony. The piece was written to commemorate this historic anniversary and an ensemble comprised of traditional Indian instruments joined the orchestra. The program on September 23-25, 2022, featured the world premiere of a Houston Symphony commission by composer Nico Muhly written specifically for Valčuha's inaugural season, Bright Idea. Finally, at a collaborative performance between the orchestra and the University of North Texas's renowned One O'Clock Lab Band on April 13, 2023, we performed the world premiere of Soundscapes for Solo Saxophones, Jazz Ensemble, and Orchestra by Lab Band Director Alan Baylock.







Top left: Alan Baylock. Top Right: Dr. L. Subramaniam. Bottom left: Nico Muhly.

BANK OF AMERICA

POPS SERIES

This season was Principal POPS Conductor Steven Reineke's sixth with the Houston Symphony and it proved to be one of the most exciting seasons yet with appearances from superstar guest artists like **Jeremy Jordan**, **Capathia Jenkins**, and **Chris Botti**. The Bank of America POPS Series features popular music performances—from movie scores to Broadway hits to rock and roll classics—and is a beloved part of the Houston Symphony's programming. Bank of America's sponsorship helps ensure that the Symphony can continue to provide quality musical performances to Houstonians and demonstrates their commitment to enriching lives through the arts.











Top left: Vocalists Nikki Renée Daniels (pictured) and Hugh Panaro joined conductor Lucas Waldin for Broadway Hits Go To Hollywood, May 5–7, 2023. Bottom left: Michael Cavanaugh delivered electrified renditions of rock and roll fan-favorites in The Music of Elton John and Billy Joel, January 6–8, 2023. Middle: Principal POPS conductor Steven Reineke. Right: Tap dancer and vocalist John Manzari (left), singer and pianist Tony DeSare (middle), and jazz trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg (right) perform at Let's Misbehave: The Songs of Cole Porter, March 17–19, 2023.





Far left: Aerial flyers from Cirque de la Symphonie, September 9–11, 2022. Left: Grammy Award-winner Chris Botti performed with the orchestra, April 14–16, 2023.









Middle top: Broadway star Jeremy Jordan performed musical favorites at *The Best of Broadway with Jeremy Jordan*, February 24–26, 2023. *Middle lower:* Vocalist N'Kenge performed holiday favorites with the orchestra for *Very Merry POPS*, December 15–18, 2022. *Right:* Houston favorite and vocalist Capathia Jenkins brought down the house in *She's Got Soul*, October 7–9, 2022.

PNC FAMILY SERIES

The Houston Symphony welcomed families back to Jones Hall for the 2022–23 PNC Family Series. Designed for children ages two to nine, these casual, interactive concerts allow children the opportunity to dance, move, and engage with family-friendly music, sparking a lifetime appreciation for the art form. The PNC Family Series is enhanced with free lobby activities at every concert, including our popular Instrument Petting Zoo which allows children an up-close, hands-on opportunity to play the instruments they see on stage. Concertgoers are also encouraged to dress in costumes that match the concert's theme. The 2022–23 Series featured four concerts on select Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. led by a host of talented conductors at the podium.

Below: Community-Embedded Musician Rainel Joubert performs Violin Concerto in D major by Saint-Georges at Celebrating Black Composers: Ellington, Marley, Price & More!, October 8, 2022. Below, right: PNC Family Series Lobby Activities.











Far left: Instrument
Petting Zoo. Middle left:
Concertgoers engage with
the music at the PNC Family
Series. Bottom left: Young
concertgoers dress as
princesses for Fairy Tales
for Kids!, May 6, 2023.

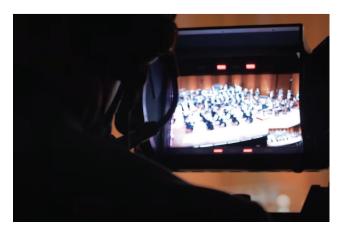
LIVE FROM JONES HALL LIVESTREAM SPOTLIGHT

Following the success of our Living Room Series during the pandemic in May 2020, the Symphony launched the *Live from Jones Hall* livestream series, a concert series that features livestreams of Jones Hall performances Saturday nights at 8 p.m. Even though social distancing has ended, the Symphony has continued our Saturday night livestreams to make the joy of music accessible to a wider audience, in the Greater Houston area and beyond.

This season, we continued to make Classical and Bank of America POPS concerts available for home viewing via ticketed livestream with 24 livestreamed concerts. In the 2022-23 Season, we have received 28,690 livestream views from 17 states and 36 countries including the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Italy, France, and South Korea.

Our Live from Jones Hall livestreams are made possible due to the generous contributions of our Livestream Funding Consortium, Barbara J. Burger, Alana R. Spiwak & Sam L. Stolbun, and John & Dorothy McDonald.

Top right: A livestream camera operator captures a Symphony performance. Center right: A livestream team member monitors a livestream rehearsal. Bottom right: Theo Chandler, Score Director, marks the program's music to specify livestream camera shots.









Scan here for a behind the scenes look at our Livestream content.



2022-23 SEASON

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Beyond the Jones Hall stage, the Symphony's Education and Community Engagement initiatives served more than nearly 125,000 people across Greater Houston during the 2022–23 Season. Our goals for Education and Community Engagement initiatives are to inspire students to begin and continue studying music, and to connect the music and musicians of the Symphony with the diverse communities of Greater Houston through our robust array of programs—including hospital visits, free and low-cost community concerts, school visits, and more. These initiatives are led by orchestra musicians and our dedicated

Community-Embedded Musicians (CEMs) David Connor (bass) and Rainel Joubert (violin).

Overall, we collaborated with more than 650 partner organizations to serve populations such as students, senior citizens, refugees and immigrants, veterans, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, low-income families, bereaved families, and more. Through these partnerships, we strive to remove economic and geographical barriers to music so that people from all walks of life can enjoy an inclusive and vibrant cultural landscape in Houston.

125,000

HOUSTONIANS SERVED THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

46 ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS AND COMMUNITY-EMBEDDED MUSICIANS PARTICIPATED IN NEARLY

428

EVENTS IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, SENIOR CENTERS, AND COMMUNITY VENUES

4 FREE CONCERTS AT MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

5 FREE NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT SERIES CONCERTS

5 FREE/LOW-COST CONCERTS AT CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL PAVILION

20 STUDENT CONCERTS

PNC FAMILY SERIES CONCERTS









STUDENT CONCERTS SERIES

This year, we continued our Student Concert Series at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion and Jones Hall. The Student Concert Series, available to upper elementary students (grades 4–5) and middle school students (grades 6–8), allows students in the Greater Houston area to attend interactive Houston Symphony orchestra performances for free or at a heavily discounted rate. Performances take place during the school day and aim to inspire students to begin or continue playing an instrument.

This series kicked off on October 12 with an Upper Elementary Concert at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Upper Elementary Concerts allow students to learn about the orchestra while building their active listening skills. This season's program, entitled Sounds of the Orchestra: Groove, Listen and Move!, included orchestral music from a wide array of composers such as Franz Joseph Haydn, John Williams, Duke Ellington, and more. The Middle School Concerts, presented by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, began on November 30 with a concert at Jones Hall. These 55-minute full orchestra concerts are designed for middle school students who are currently in their school's band or orchestra programs and aim to encourage them to continue playing their instruments. In total, we presented 20 concerts for 43,535 students and educators, exceeding our pre-COVID numbers for students served.

Above & left: Upper Elementary School Student Concert.









HIGH SCHOOL NIGHTS

We introduced a new program for students this year, High School Nights. The High School Nights initiative invites high school students who participate in their school's orchestra and band programs to attend Symphony concerts at Jones Hall. This unique experience allows these students to experience a dynamic classical concert among other students and regular audience members. Before the concert, students and their music directors are also given an excerpt from one of the works in the program so they can learn and practice with their orchestra or band. Learning to play an excerpt and then hearing the same piece performed by professional musicians helps connect the students to what they are hearing and inspires them to continue their musical pursuits. We welcomed 2,071 students from 35 schools to Jones Hall for High School Nights in its inaugural year and we're excited to grow this initiative in the 2023-24 Season.

Left: High School Night students gathered outside of Jones Hall. Below: High School Night students wait for a performance of Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring. Bottom: High School Night students during intermission.

"My students were thrilled by the performance. The variety of styles and historical time periods represented by the program not only kept them engaged in the performance, but also provided motivation to learn about and play in the styles represented."

-Shane Goforth, Band Director, North Shore Senior High School



High School Programming

DELUXE K!DS IN HARMONY

In September 2022, the Houston Symphony, in partnership with the Fifth Ward Cultural Arts District's DeLUXE Theater and the American Festival of the Arts (AFA), launched DeLUXE K!ds In Harmony, a community-based music education program that provides exceptional violin training and social development to elementary students from Houston's Fifth Ward neighborhood.

This intensive and transformational program with curriculum led by Community-Embedded Musician, Rainel Joubert, aims to not only teach children how to play the violin, but also develop teamwork and leadership skills, build relationships, and feel a sense of pride and belonging to a musical community. DeLUXE K!ds In Harmony is a collaborative partnership between the Symphony, AFA, and the Fifth Ward Cultural District's DeLUXE Theater. In its inaugural year, we've seen participation from about 20 students on a consistent basis, taught 72 classes, provided 108 hours of instruction, and put on eight performances with the students—including two in the Jones Hall lobby after a PNC Family Series concert. Houston Symphony musicians also visited classes throughout the year to perform for students, share their experiences as professional musicians, and offer one-on-one instruction. The first year of classes concluded in May with a year-end concert for family, friends, and community members.

Bottom left: Houston Symphony Musicians perform for DeLUXE K!ds students in class. Below, right: Houston Symphony musician Marina Brubaker and a student. Bottom right: CEM David Connor assists a student.

"The impact that I have seen this year is truly immeasurable. The students have grown musically, of course, but they've also grown socially, and they've grown to have a great sense of pride for where they come from and who they are."

—Harrison Guy, Director of Arts and Culture for the Fifth Ward Cultural Arts District









"AFA's mission tasks us with enriching the lives of all people through music and one of the ways we reach that goal is by helping out with programs such as DeLUXE K!ds In Harmony. It's really fulfilling to come into this organizational relationship with the Houston Symphony and the DeLUXE Theater, learn from each other, and be able to produce such wonderful programs."

—**Dr. Mark Buller,**AFA Director for Education





Top: A student participates in DeLUXE K!ds. Above: CEMs and students after a PNC Family Series concert. Left: DeLUXE K!ds students perform in Jones Hall lobby.



MUSIC & WELLNESS

Our Music and Wellness partnerships are designed to complement health care throughout the illness trajectory and increase the quality of life for patients, families, and caregivers. This season, the Houston Symphony continued our partnerships with the Periwinkle Arts in Medicine Program at Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers, The University of Texas MD Anderson Children's Cancer Center, and Houston Methodist to enrich patients' lives through music. Throughout the year, our CEMs Rainel Joubert and David Connor visited Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson's Children's Cancer Center bi-weekly to interact with patients at their bedsides and in group sessions alongside board-certified music therapists.

In 2020, the Houston Symphony began a partnership with CarePartners Dementia Day Center to provide monthly interactive concerts for dementia patients. This season, the Houston Symphony expanded our work with dementia patients through our new partnership with Amazing Place. Our CEMs, who were trained on how to engage with individuals with dementia, created a unique series of interactive concerts that includes music from genres and eras conducive to eliciting memories, reducing agitation, and encouraging audience participation.

Above: CEMS chat with concert participants at CarePartners Dementia Day Center.



Top left: CEMs with dementia patients from Amazing Place. Middle left: CEM Rainel Joubert wrapping up a bedside visit with a patient at Texas Children's Hospital. Below: CEMs and CEM Fellows perform for patients at Amazing Place. Bottom right: CEMS and concert participants at CarePartners Dementia Day Center.





"Music has both emotional and behavioral benefits for someone with dementia. And these benefits can last long past when the music stops. I have witnessed firsthand the powerful impact this program has on the emotional and mental health of our participants, and I hope we can continue to grow our partnership in the future."

—Katie Scott,
President, CarePartners



SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout each season, the Houston Symphony hosts a variety of glamourous and exciting special events that all share one unifying goal—to support the Symphony's Education and Community Engagement initiatives. Our 2022–23 special events were great successes, raising more than \$2.8 million!

On September 16, 2022, the Houston Symphony celebrated the start of the 2022–23 Season with the annual Opening Night Concert and Gala, supported for the 36th consecutive year by Concert Sponsor and Lead Corporate Gala Underwriter ConocoPhillips. The event, chaired by **Drs. Susan and Dennis Carlyle**, raised more than \$500,000.

Magical Musical Morning took place on December 4, 2022, at the River Oaks Country Club. The festive holiday gathering, chaired by **Valerie and Tracy Dieterich**, featured family-friendly activities, a delicious brunch, and special musical performance from Symphony musicians. The event raised more than \$58,000 for the Symphony's Education and Community Engagement initiatives.

Our Symphony Ball, *The Golden Age of Hollywood*, was held on January 28, 2023 at the Post Oak Hotel and raised more than \$1 million thanks to chairs Brigitte Kalai, Farida Abjani, Cheryl Boblitt, and Bill King, auction chair Betty Tutor, and Presenting Sponsors Amerapex Corporation and Bashar & Brigitte Kalai.

On April 21, 2023, the Symphony celebrated its annual Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction on the Jones Hall stage. The event and silent auction of rare wines, spirits, and related experiences, chaired by **Bobbie Nau** with Auction Chair **Bob Weiner** and Presenting Sponsor **Sewell Automotives**, raised a record-breaking \$1.12 million.



Left: Ball Chairs Bill King, Cheryl Boblitt, Brigitte Kalai, and Farida Abjani, with Executive Director/CEO John Mangum. Bottom left: Magical Musical Morning Chairs Valerie & Tracy Dieterich and their two daughters, Reagan and Madison, pose with Santa. Bottom middle left: Bobbie Nau, Wine Dinner Chair, and Bob Weiner, Auction Chair. Bottom middle right: Jesse & Betty Tutor, Ball Auction Chair. Bottom right: Drs. Susan & Dennis Carlyle, Opening Night Gala Chairs.















HOUSTON SYMPHONY LEAGUE

The 2022–23 Season proved to be an exciting year for the Houston Symphony League (HSL). Led by HSL President Cheryl Byington, League members devoted their time and talents to raising funds for the Symphony, volunteering at Symphony Education and Community Engagement programs, and planning social events and other activities for members. Their commitment and generous support are vital to the success of the Symphony.

This season, League members volunteered at various Symphony concerts and events, ensuring that our young patrons had an amazing time at the Symphony. 45 League volunteers worked as greeters at Student Concerts, welcoming over 43,000 students and educators to Jones Hall, and assisted children with fun craft activities and the Instrument Petting Zoo at PNC Family Concerts. League members also participated in and hosted several fundraising events including Conversation with an ICON, a popular luncheon event that welcomed 120 guests and featured Icons Shelby Hodge and Donna Vallone. This season, HSL also won a coveted Gold Award from the Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras for their 2022 President's Luncheon and Style Show. This nationally ranked award recognizes outstanding programs or initiatives that have a significant impact on their orchestras.

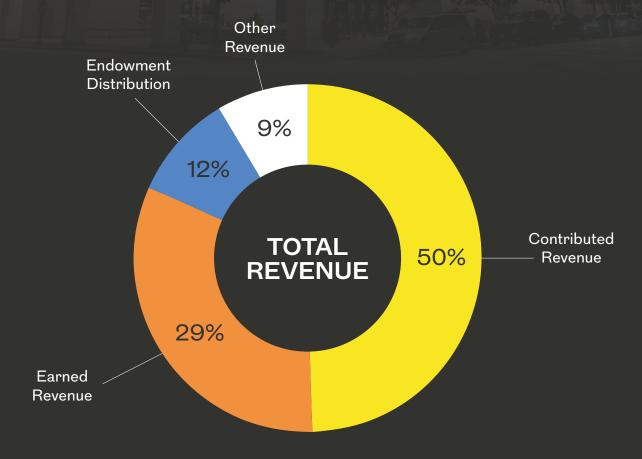


Top left: Conversations With Houston Icons event chairs Elizabeth Stein (far left) and Patti Murphy (far right) with honorees Shelby Hodge and Donna Vallone. Top right: Houston Symphony League volunteer assists children with crafts at a PNC Family Concert. Middle right: Houston Symphony League volunteers at a Student Concert. Bottom right: Tootsies creative director Fady Armanious with April Lykos at the award-winning 2022 President's Luncheon and Style Show.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Although COVID-19 impacted the entire arts sector, nowhere was the effect more direct, deep, and immediate than on the performing arts sector. On average, tax-exempt performing arts organizations experienced a 54% reduction in revenue from 2019 to the 3rd quarter of 2020. The Houston Symphony Society finished the 2022-23 Season with \$34.3 million in revenues, building back with the help of generous donors, ticket buyers, and federal aid.

The Houston Symphony Endowment has been key element of the Society's financial stability. Over the past two seasons, the Houston Symphony has secured more than \$3.6 million in Endowment support. Donations to the Endowment support concert activities, educational and community events, and musician chairs. As of May 31, 2023, the value of the Endowment was \$86.5 million.

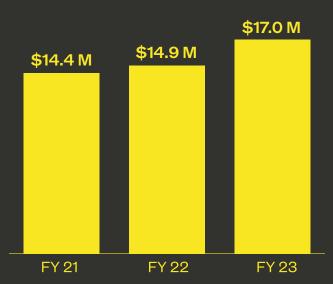


BALANCE SHEET

The Society is entering the 2023-24 Season with a much stronger, less risky balance sheet. Liabilities at the end of FY24 are 60% of the level that they were at the end of the 2019-20 Season, when COVID-19 caused the cancellation of our final three months of concerts. Contributing to the reduction in liabilities was the termination of the Society's frozen defined benefit plan. As of April 1, 2023, all accumulated benefit obligations have been settled, and the Society is now able to direct future revenues to support our future programming, rather than setting aside significant cash annually to satisfy our prior pension liabilities.

CONTRIBUTED REVENUE GROWTH

Our organization experienced significant growth in contributed revenue in FY23. Individual Giving saw an impressive 25% increase from FY22, reflecting the generosity and support of our dedicated donors. The Music Director Fund surpassed its goal, raising \$1.1 million in its inaugural year. It will now be a recurring fund with a generous lead gift from John and Lindy Rydman and Spec's Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods for the upcoming 2023-24 Season. Our Special Events had a remarkable year, seeing a 15% growth in fundraising with the Wine Dinner and Collector's Auction surpassing the previous record by more than \$400,000. Institutional Giving accounted for 40% of our FY23 contributed revenue and we secured several new sponsors this year to support the Symphony's many initiatives. Additionally, we expanded our Musician Sponsorship program by adding 10 new sponsors, bringing the total number of sponsored musicians to 70 and the sponsors' collective contributions to an impressive \$1.3 million.



TICKET TRENDS

The Symphony had a successful season at the box office this year! Ticket sales for the 2022-23 Season reached the second-highest ticket revenue in Symphony history at more than \$10 million. Holiday single ticket sales were the highest in Symphony history. We welcomed 15,765 first-time buyers to Jones Hall—this increase in new audience members represents 111% growth year-over-year and 53% growth from FY19.



THANKS TO OUR DONORS

ANNUAL SUPPORT

The Houston Symphony gratefully acknowledges those who support our artistic, educational, and community engagement programs through their generosity to our Annual Fund and Special Events. For more information, please contact Tim Richey, Director, Individual Giving, at Tim.Richey@HoustonSymphony.org or 713.337.8531.

As of June 7, 2023

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The purpose of the Music Director Fund is to provide leadership support to Maestro Juraj Valčuha and his artistic endeavors as Music Director. The Symphony extends our special thanks to Board President John Rydman, along with his wife, Lindy, and Spec's Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods, for kicking off the campaign with the first gift to the fund. To join the Music Director Fund, supporters make a leadership gift of \$100,000 above and beyond their annual giving.

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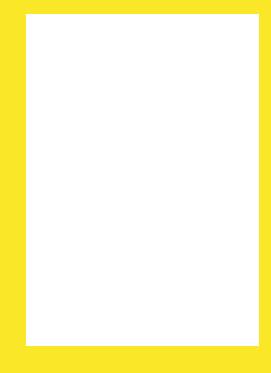
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Farida Abjani Dr. Antonio Arana* Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Aron George* and Betty Bashen Dorothy B. Black* Kerry Levine Bollmann Ermy Borlenghi Bonfield Zu Broadwater Dr. Joan K. Bruchas* and Mr. H. Philip Cowdin* Mr. Christopher and Mrs. Erin Brunner Eugene R. Bruns David Neal Bush Cheryl and Sam* Byington Sylvia J. Carroll Dr. Robert N. Chanon William J. Clayton and Margaret A. Hughes Mr. and Mrs. Byron Cooley The Honorable* and Mrs. William Crassas Dr. Lida S. Dahm Leslie Barry Davidson Susan Feickert Ginny Garrett Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Gendel Michael B. George Mauro H. Gimenez and Connie A. Coulomb

Bill Grieves* Mr. Robert M. Griswold Randolph Lee Groninger Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Hamaker Gloria L. Herman* Timothy Hogan and Elaine Anthony Dr. Gary L. Hollingsworth Dr. Edward J. and Mrs. Patti* Hurwitz Dr. Kenneth Hyde Brian and Catherine James Barbara and Raymond Kalmans Dr. James E. and Betty W. Key Dr. and Mrs. I. Ray Kirk Mrs. Frances E. Leland Samuel J. Levine Mrs. Lucy Lewis Sandra Magers David Ray Malone and David J. Sloat Mr. and Mrs. Rodney H. Margolis Jay and Shirley* Marks James G. Matthews Mary Ann and David McKeithan

Dr. Tracey Samuels and Mr. Robert McNamara Mr. and Mrs. D. Bradley McWilliams Catherine Jane Merchant* Marilyn Ross Miles and Stephen Warren Miles Foundation Sidney and Ione Moran Janet Moynihan* Richard and Juliet Moynihan Gretchen Ann Myers Patience Myers John N. Neighbors* in memory of Jean Marie Neighbors Mr.* and Mrs. Richard C. Nelson Bobbie Newman John and Leslie Niemand Leslie Nossaman Dave G. Nussmann* John Onstott Macky Osorio Edward C. Osterberg Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund and Megan Pantuliano Christine and Red Pastorek Peter* and Nina Peropoulos Linda Tarpley Peterson

Sara M. Peterson Jenny and Tadjin* Popatia Geraldine Smith Priest Dana Puddy Patrick T. Quinn Lila Rauch* Ed and Janet Rinehart Mr. Floyd W. Robinson Walter Ross Dr. and Mrs. Kazuo Shimada Lisa and Jerry Simon Tad and Suzanne Smith Sherry Snyder Marie Speziale Emily H. and David K. Terry Stephen G. Tipps Steve Tostengard*, in memory of Ardyce Tostengard Jana Vander Lee Bill and Agnete Vaughan Dean B. Walker Stephen and Kristine Wallace Geoffrey Westergaard Nancy B. Willerson Jennifer R. Wittman Lorraine and Ed* Wulfe David and Tara Wuthrich Katherine and Mark Yzaguirre Anonymous (8)



HOUSTON, SYMP#ONY

PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION 2022-23 SEASON IMPACT REPORT

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