ANNUAL REPORT

2025 2026



BellevueYouth
Symphony Orchestra



Our Mission

Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra enhances the lives of student musicians by providing dynamic musical experiences, fostering collaboration, confidence, and personal responsibility through the pursuit of artistic excellence.





Leadership Message

Music has a way of arriving exactly when we need it. This season, it arrived in rehearsal halls filled to overflowing, in the hush before a downbeat, in the breath an orchestra takes together before the first note breaks the silence.

We watched young musicians grow this year. Not just in skill, but in confidence. In their capacity to listen to and lead one another and create something larger than themselves. A shy student found their voice in a section they didn't know they belonged to. Families who had never set foot in a concert hall found themselves moved to tears, or to their feet, by young people making something beautiful together.

That is what an orchestra does. It takes individual effort and transforms it into shared meaning.

The numbers on the pages that follow will tell you how far BYSO reached this year. We hope what stays with you is something harder to measure: hundreds of young people discovering what they're capable of, together.

Thank you for being part of this season's music.

Kevin Vortmann
Executive Director

Matthew Salvaggio
Artistic Director













Growing through Music

Students **learn, lead, and perform** in an environment that builds musicianship, confidence, collaboration, and a lifelong love of music.



Students Enrolled **716**

Number of Ensembles **11**







Musical Works Performed **84**

Concerts Performed **13**





Audience Members **4531**

Artistic Excellence









Launched this season, the Spring Masterclass Series expanded learning beyond weekly rehearsals by bringing distinguished artists and educators to BYSO. Free and open to the public, the series created exceptional artistic experiences for students and our community.





Guest Clinicians | Student Musicians | Student Hosts|

10 **44** **15**

Free & Open to the Public

Learning Beyond the Season - Summer Camps







BYSO Summer Camps extend learning beyond the academic year, giving young musicians opportunities to learn, connect, and grow through immersive musical experiences.

177 Campers

3 Summer Camps







Connecting Through Music

Music has the power to bring people together. Throughout the year, BYSO students shared their talent beyond the concert hall, performing at community events that inspired audiences, celebrated local traditions, and strengthened connections across our region.



10
Community Performances







216
Students Performed

72,000+
Estimated Audience Reached







9
Community Partnerships



Expanding Access Through Music

Every student deserves access to a high-quality music education. Through the Bridges Initiative, BYSO **partners** with schools and community organizations to **remove barriers**, create meaningful **opportunities**, and bring **inspiring musical experiences** directly to young people across our community.



"When a working professional sits next to a student and helps them refine their technique, the growth is immediate. That combination of expert feedback and live inspiration builds skill, confidence, and a lifelong love of playing."
— Meagan Mangum, Band Director, Chinook Middle School

"Students consistently came out of their clinics playing with greater confidence, better tone quality, and improved accuracy. The benefits of this partnership were noticeable throughout the year."
— Gwen Barkman, Band Director, Tillicum Middle School



"Bridges brought the professionals to them. The confidence our students gained, along with the sense of belonging they experienced, will make them more likely to stay involved in orchestra as they grow."
— Mollie Ewing, Orchestra Director, Risdon Middle School

Students Served	Instructors	Instructional Sessions
443	17	653

Partner Organizations:

9 Boys & Girls Clubs in Bellevue
6 public schools in Bellevue School District, Lake Washington School District, and Renton School District

Together, We Make Music Possible

The impact of BYSO is made possible by dedicated leaders, generous partners, and organizations that believe in the transformative power of music.



Government & Foundation Partners

4Culture, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, ArtsFund, Eastside Music Festival Foundation, City of Bellevue Arts Commission, The Norcliffe Foundation, Trilogy Musical Notes Club, Ahn Family Foundation, Washington State Federation of Music Clubs

Corporate & Business Sponsors

Bellevue Downtown Association, Bel-Red Storage, Microsoft, Salesforce, Hammond Ashley Violins, and The Mighty Quinn Brass & Winds.



Individual & In-Kind Donors

We are deeply grateful to every donor who supported BYSO during the 2025–2026 season.

Scan the QR code to view and celebrate our **Individual In-Kind Donors, Volunteers & community** who make BYSO's mission possible.

2025-2026 Financials

Every contribution entrusted to BYSO supports meaningful musical experiences for young musicians. We are committed to thoughtful stewardship, ensuring that every dollar advances our mission and strengthens our community.

Where Our Support Comes From - Revenue

Contributed Revenue	Dollars ($)
Contributions & Grants	262,999
In Kind Contributions	37,029
Auction	5,403
Tuition	1,118,157
Ticket Sales	82,348
Advertisement Income	2,625
Investment Income	24,880
Miscellaneous/Other	14,688
Total Revenue	**1,548,129**

How We Invest in Our Mission - Expenses

Program Services	Dollars ($)
Personnel	901,376
Venues Rental	237,575
Programs Support	225,959
Scholarships	69,869
In Kind Expenses	37,029
Total Expenses	**1,471,808**

Net Income*: $76,321

**Does not included unrealized gains on investement.*





A Community of Volunteers



BYSO is strengthened by an incredible community of volunteers. This season, nearly 500 volunteers contributed more than 2,780 hours of service, helping create meaningful experiences for students, families, and audiences throughout the year.

Board Of Directors

2025-26 Board Members	Joined Board / End of Term
Nancy Shen – Co-President	2022 / 2027
Justin Pae – Co-President	2023 / 2027
Priya Devnath – Vice President	2024 / 2026
Kathy Kearny – Treasurer	2016 / 2026
Janani Arvind – Secretary	2024 / 2026
Kyle Kim	2025 / 2027
Sun Lee	2022 / 2027
Xiaohua Ma	2025 / 2027
Michelle Pflaum	2025 / 2027
Gary Purchase	2024 / 2026
Janey Rabon	2025 / 2027
Emily Sorenson	2026 / 2028
Patricia VedBrat	2026 / 2028
Jennifer Yin	2025 / 2027



Calendar 2025-2026

2025	
September 15	Annual Parents' & Guardians' Meeting
September 20	Student Kick-Off Event
September 22 & 23	First Rehearsals of Academic Season
October 1	Bridges Community Initiatives Launch
November 22	Fall Concert Series, Bastyr University
November 23	Fall Concert Celebration, Benaroya Hall
December 6	Dr. Teresa Metzger-Howe Concerto Competition
December 7	Holiday Flute Tour
December 15	Ahn Family Foundation Holiday Concert
2026	
March 13-16	Winter Concert Series, Meydenbauer Center Theatre
April 22 & 29	Spring Masterclass Series
May 9	Garden Party Community Concert
May 15-18	Spring Concert Series, Bastyr University Chapel
June 8-13	2026-27 Season Auditions
July 4	Bellevue Family 4th of July Performance
July 6-10	Summer Strings Camp
July 13-17	Summer Symphony Camp
July 20-24	Summer Music Institute Camp

Every performance, every rehearsal, and every opportunity throughout this season was made possible by a community that believes in the power of music.



Thank you for helping young musicians learn, grow, and inspire others through music.

Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra
1407 116th Ave. NE, Suite 106 Bellevue, WA 98004
https://www.byso.org