

Instrumental in changing lives



ANNUAL REPORT

2012-13





Message from Patrick Rath, Chair, **Board of Directors**

Since 1958, your contributions have enabled Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra to inspire, educate and shape young lives through the power of music and ensemble training. From a handful of 30 musicians at its beginning, MYSO currently serves nearly 1,000 students from 14 counties, 60 cities and over 200 schools throughout Southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

It is heartening to know that support for MYSO programming remains a priority in the community. In fact, MYSO completed its Fran's Fund campaign in 2012 surpassing its \$2 million goal.

Fran's Fund, a non-endowment scholarship fund whose principal and interest will support hundreds of underserved youth primarily from the City of Milwaukee as they move through MYSO programs, was launched in 2008 with a \$500,000 contribution from MYSO's unrestricted reserves. It was created to provide resources to ensure that any qualified student will have access to MYSO's lifechanging programs, regardless of financial need. In addition, these funds are designed to ensure that those students with financial need can transition from the Community Partnership Programs to more advanced MYSO ensembles and receive support for their financial needs for instruments, advanced instruction, MYSO participation and transportation. This expense can

range from \$1,000 to more than \$5,000 annually, depending on the student's level.

Reflective of this success, we believe that the overall growth of our Community Partnership Programs, as well as MYSO's nationally recognized ensemble training programs, are indeed very strong. I would like to acknowledge and thank Fran Richman, whose dedication and vision led MYSO for 24 years and created a legacy of financial stability to ensure MYSO's long-term success. I would also like to thank the entire MYSO team and all of our students, families, volunteers and the greater community for a great year.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra implemented significant governance changes in 2012-13 to expand its organizational capacity and awareness throughout the community. In January, a streamlined governance structure was created to lead MYSO to its next level of success.

For over 57 years, the greater Milwaukee region has witnessed that MYSO truly is instrumental in changing lives. We look forward to continuing our mission to foster creativity, collaboration and critical thinking skills by engaging diverse young people through artistically excellent, high-impact, outcomebased music education and ensemble training.



Cordially,

Patrick Rath Chair, MYSO Board of Directors Vice President.

Foundation Development Aurora Health Care Foundation

Cover: A MYSO Progressions student prepares for the Progressions Winter Concert. Photo: Emily Stern.

At left: A MYSO musician performs on the stage of Golden Hall, at Vienna's famed Musikverein. Photo courtesy of Summa Cum Laude Festival.

Message from Linda Edelstein, Executive Director

Dear Friends.

What an honor it is to join the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO)! I am deeply grateful to the MYSO Board of Directors, and especially to Fran Richman and the incredible legacy she has left, for developing the organization MYSO is today. From modest beginnings in 1956 to become one of the largest and most artistically excellent youth orchestras, both nationally and internationally, leading this incredible organization is both inspiring and humbling.

I was recently reminded "... this is not a job, this is my passion."

No truer words could be said about my role as the Executive Director for the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Every day I have the good fortune to meet families, children, volunteers and a community who all desire to ensure a bright future for our region's young people.

Not only is MYSO instrumental in changing lives through its 25 ensemble programs and more than 20 enrichment offerings, MYSO embarked upon an extensive and innovative evaluation project, piloted in the 2012-13 season, to identify and measure statistically valid, quantifiable outcomes of our growing Community Partnership Programs. The recently released final report indicates that 46% of the students made "statistically significant growth" as a result of program participation. According to the report, "MYSO offers students *what* they need, *when* they need it." I encourage you to read more about our work in this annual report, or request a copy of the complete study for your review.

I invite you to join me in attending a rehearsal or concert to personally experience the life-changing work of our nearly 1,000 students, representing more than 200 schools, 60 cities and 14 counties. I share the board and staff's pride of accomplishment as we reflect on a remarkable 2012-13 season and look forward to advancing our mission to foster creativity, collaboration and critical thinking skills through our highly successful ensemble and music training programs.

Thanks to the community's support of the United Performing Arts Fund, as well as hundreds of individuals, foundations and corporations, MYSO is thriving and meeting its mission every day. We are grateful to you, for as our partner, you also are instrumental in changing lives!



Cordially,

Linda S. Edutstein

Linda J. Edelstein Executive Director





Above: A MYSO Progressions musician performs at the Giving Kids a Sound Start gala, Photo: Nick Haylik.

Above: MYSO Jazz Studies musician performs

at MYSO's 2012 Playathon. Photo: Emily Stern.

"MYSO has been the single most important experience I have had during high school; it truly has changed my life." - MYSO grad Below: A MYSO violinist performs at the

"I've been in MYSO Jazz for a half a year and it has already had a strong Nick Havlik. impact on my life. This environment has taught me to feel more confident in my abilities." - MYSO member

"I had a wonderful time at both Calypso and Sinfonia and I just wanted to thank you for giving my class and me an opportunity to watch and hear the MYSO music. It was wonderful, joyful and awesome!"

- elementary school student audience member of Neighborhood Concert Series

"I never felt more at home than at MYSO. The inspiring coaches and conductors, as well as the enthusiastic students, all synergized into a magnificent program that was truly Instrumental in Changing Lives. As I participated in the rehearsals, concerts and the European trip, I had an opportunity to live in my dreams and to share my joy of music with others around me." - MYSO grad

Giving Kids a Sound Start gala. Photo:

"Working with the students in the Progressions program has been a continually positive experience, and a fantastic complement to my

other MYSO activities. Being in the program has given me valuable experience in teaching and managing young students as they move ahead in their music. I am extremely grateful to have worked with these students and to have helped them grow, and I find that I am better person and musician because of it."

- MYSO member and Progressions intern

'MYSO has taught me how to keep trying, time and time again, even if I fail multiple times..." - MYSO member

"MYSO Progressions has helped our students develop talent and self-esteem. Our Progressions participants have really blossomed and become more outgoing and vocal. We notice that they are learning to present themselves with poise and maturity."

- teacher at a Progressions partner school

"I deeply feel, as a parent, that the MYSO *Progressions* program impacts our communities in many ways. It opens little minds up to something new that not only challenges

them to be great, but also responsible. My daughter has learned so much that will continue to help her along in life, like being able to multi-task. Thank you, MYSO, for opening my daughter's world to the love of music..." - MYSO parent



Above: Junior Wind Ensemble members backstage at Uihlein Hall. Photo: Aaron Apaza.

"...let me tell you, MYSO sure does mean a lot to me. Every week, I look forward to coming here and playing...MYSO challenges me to not only play my instrument well, but to know and understand how music works." - MYSO member



"Being accepted into MYSO was one of the best things that's happened to me. MYSO has really touched my heart and filled it with music." - MYSO member

2012-13 Season Highlights

At right: The
Senior Symphony
and their Music
Director Margery
Deutsch take a
final bow on the
stage of Dvořák
Hall in Prague's
Rudolfinum.
Photo: Emily
Stern.



Senior Symphony performs in Ezech Republic and Austria

Upholding its enviable international reputation for excellence, 107 members of MYSO's flagship orchestra, the Senior Symphony, with their conductors Music Director Margery Deutsch and Associate Conductor Shelby Keith Dixon, embarked upon a 10-day performance and cultural tour of the Czech Republic and Austria in July 2012.

The group's first stop was Prague, where they gave a concert in nearby Teplice, and then it was back to the city for a performance at the famed Dvořák Hall, the home to the Czech Philharmonic—where they received a lengthy standing ovation. Ms. Deutsch remarked that the concert was "perhaps the most amazing performance" she had ever been a part of in her 30-year professional conducting career.

For the second leg of the tour, the group traveled to Vienna to be a part of the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival and Competition. Thirty-four ensembles from 31 countries and 1,500 young musicians were involved in this unique opportunity.

Upon arrival in Vienna, the Senior Symphony was part of the opening ceremony held in the iconic St.

Stephen's Cathedral and participated in workshops led by internationally recognized conductors.

For the competition phase of the Festival, MYSO, the only American symphony orchestra invited to compete, performed in Golden Hall of the famed Musikverein before an internationally renowned jury, which awarded it second place "with outstanding success" in the symphony orchestra category, a category that included groups whose members were up to age 25. With this honor, the orchestra won a performance spot on the sold-out Gala Winner's Concert, the culminating performance event of the Festival, in the Great Hall of the Wiener Konzerthaus.

On top of the Summa Cum Laude Festival performances, the group also performed several outdoor concerts in Austria and our musicians had the chance to socialize with other young musicians from all over the world at the Festival's closing ceremonies, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Vienna, held in Vienna's magnificient City Hall.

The 2012 MYSO tour was sponsored by Badger Meter and the Austria-based Med-El.

MYSO performs at National **Governors Association Conference**

In January 2013, Wisconsin's First Lady Tonette Walker personally invited MYSO musicians to perform for an evening reception as part of the culminating events of the 2013 National Governors Association's summer conference in Milwaukee. Held at the Rotary Amphitheater at Discovery World on Saturday, August 3, 2013, MYSO was honored to perform for the nation's governors and their families.

MYSO Artistic and Music Director Carter Simmons led a select group of outstanding MYSO musicians in a patriotric performance set to fireworks! The crowd was on their feet by the end of the performance, enthusiastically demanding an encore and cheering wildly to conductor Carter Simmons' reference to MYSO as the "greatest youth orchestra in the country."



At right: Governor and Mrs. Walker spent several minutes visiting with the group and thanked them for their spectacular performance. Photos: Emily Stern.



Season Highlights

- After a national search process, MYSO named Linda Edelstein as the organizaton's executive director in August 2012.
- Executive Director Fran Richman retired in December 2012. after 24 years of exceptional leadership.

Above: Retiring after 48 years, Ron Melby takes his final bow on a MYSO stage. Photo: Emily Stern.

- After 48 years as a MYSO/MFY conductor, having shaped the lives of literally thousands generations—of musicians along the way, Ron Melby retired as Music Director of Philarmonia in the spring of 2013.
- Thanks to generous community support, MYSO was able to award more than \$200,000 in financial aid for music study and instruments to students with demonstrated need in 2012-13.
- Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra was one of just 22 American orchestras to receive a **Getty Education and Community** Investment grant from the League of American Orchestras. The grant was awarded to help fund the organization's Progressions program.
- MYSO's Calypso Steel Band, musicians from the *Progressions*

- program, the New Orleans Stompers and the Guitar Ensemble, performed at a multitude of events and venues in the summer of 2013, including the Lakefront Festival of Art, Summerfest, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center's Starry Nights series, the Marcus Center's Live @ Peck Pavilion and Bayshore's Chalk Art Festival.
- MYSO offered multiple weeks of summer programming including the Summer Wind Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, Calypso Camp and the New Orleans Stompers.
- MYSO retained a record number of 72 Progressions graduates in its higher level ensembles. This includes the first *Progressions* graduate to reach MYSO's Senior Symphony, and the first Progressions grad to graduate from MYSO.

- In summer 2013, the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. sponsored by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, convened for its inaugural season. The 120 young musicians, ages 16-19, arguably the best young orchestral musicians in the U.S., were chosen from more than 2,000 applicants from across the United States. MYSO's own Kartik Papatla, of Meguon, Senior Symphony co-principal cellist, was selected not only to participate, but was also placed on the first stand of cellos. Mr. Papatla was also the only musician from our state chosen to perform in this elite ensemble which performed in New York, Washington, DC, London and St. Petersburg, Russia.
- In October 2012, MYSO celebrated its significant achievements in community partnership by hosting a weekend residency with the Sphinx Virtuosi, an ensemble of top alumni of the national Sphinx Competition for young Black and Latino string players. The weekend included a special performance by the Virtuosi, masterclasses for MYSO students and a gala celebrating MYSO's scholarship fund achievement and retiring Executive Director Fran Richman.
- MYSO presented more than 50 performances in 2012-13, half of which were free to the community.
- MYSO's Neighborhood and Community Concert series served 25 schools, most of which are City of Milwaukee-based. The concerts are particularly valuable because they offer a forum for peer-to-peer performing and provide music education to student audiences. The 2012-13 Series reached approximately 5,000 area children.



At left:
National Youth
Orchestra and
MYSO member
Kartik Papatla
on the stage
of the Vienna
Konzerthaus
with MYSO's
Senior
Symphony.
Photo: Michelle
Hoffman.

MYSO undertakes longterm impact sindy

After participating in a pioneering emotional intelligence evaluation sponsored by Northwestern Mutual in 2011, MYSO developed its own logic model-based evaluation plan to measure Community Partnership Program outcomes such as personal development, cognitive developent and musical skills, including the skill-based areas of focus, discipline, time management, self-esteem, leadership, teamwork, cognitive skills and self-expression.

For the pilot phase of this evaluation, undertaken in the season, MYSO developed customized surveys for its Community Partnership Program participants and coevaluators, which included MYSO instructors, parents and classroom teachers.

Data compiled from this pilot year show that:

- 1. Nearly half (46%) of all student participants registered statistically significant positive gains.
- 2. Significant numbers of students made positive change across evaluation measures of music concepts, cognitive ability and personal development.
- 3. Key findings are supported and replicated by co-evaluators most notably parents and MYSO instructors. What's more, they also echo MYSO alumni feedback as well as findings from the 2011 Northwestern Mutual study.
- Findings support the assertion that MYSO deftly fulfills its primary mission in changing the lives--namely through the musical, cognitive, and personal development--of its students.
- 5. These pilot year results clearly illustrate that MYSO offers students what they need, when they need it. Programs are designed to meet students "where they are" to build personal and musical skills. Through its Community Partnership Programs, MYSO offers personal and cognitive benefits to students, as they gain stronger foundations and mature musically.



- 6. MYSO's trademark takeaways, commonly identified by all groups, are the personal skills of leadership, team work, and self-expression all of which translate into participants becoming positive examples for their friends, family and community. According to data, they also become better classroom students, improved musicians, more focused, harder working and better team players.
- 7. Qualified improvements in the areas of cognitive development, focus, time management, and discipline all set the stage for academic improvement. Several teachers noted academic improvement and better classroom behavior in their qualitative feedback.
- MYSO teaches students to value music and helps to increase their musical skills in a way that is not currently offered at these students' schools. Themes in MYSO teacher feedback identified measurable growth in music skills, understanding and ability, underscores their progress. At the same time, students' feedback reveals a growing depth in musicality and commitment to music which they credit MYSO for developing.

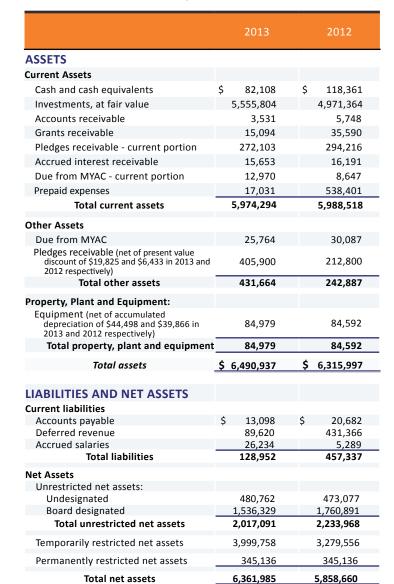
We look forward to growing this important evaluative effort in the coming years.

MYSO surpasses ran's fund Goal

MYSO surpassed its goal of \$2 million for Fran's Fund, a scholarship fund established to provide life-changing opportunities in music for underserved youth throughout southeastern Wisconsin, ensuring that thousands of young musicians, regardless of financial need, can benefit from the intensive music experiences offered by MYSO. This fund, established in 2008, and named for Fran Richman, who served as MYSO's Executive Director from 1988-2012. will support the growing needs of MYSO's Community Partnership Program (an array of urban outreach initiatives designed to diversify MYSO's membership, music and audiences) students and graduates. Thanks to widespread community support for this important effort, the campaign concluded at the end of 2012, and has received more than \$2,096,000 in gifts and pledges. A listing of Campaign supporters is included on pages 14-15.

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc. **Statements of Financial Position**

June 30, 2013 and 2012

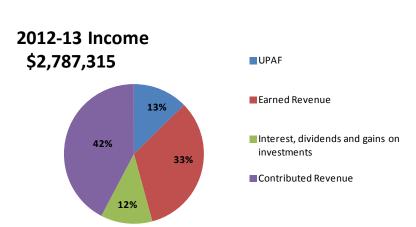


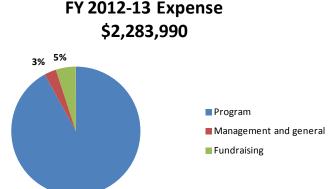


Above: MYSO Senior Symphony member performs at MYSO's Honor Recital. Photo: Michelle Hoffman.

The notes to financial statements, included in the full audit report, are an integral part of these statements.

The financial statements were audited by an independent public accounting firm. For the full audit report, please contact MYSO Finance and Human Resource Director Kim Jankowiak at 414-267-2906.





\$ 6,490,937

\$ 6,315,997

Total liabilities and net assets

92%

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc. **Statement of Activities**

Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Und	estricted esignated Assets	De	nrestricted esignated et Assets	Res	porarily tricted Assets	Re	ermanently estricted et Assets	
SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS:									TOTAL
United Performing Arts Fund, Inc. contributions	\$	353,539	\$		\$		\$		\$ 353,539
Registration fees		433,196							\$ 433,196
Concert and event income		60,442		10,890		1,994			73,326
Contracted service fees		7,500							7,500
Tour fees				397,774					397,774
Donations		292,215		200		771,437			1,063,852
Interest and dividend income		15,757		41,331		65,657			122,745
Gains on investments		6,127		153	:	203,640			209,920
Playathon		115,632							115,632
Other		8,882		949					9,831
Net Assets released from restrictions									
Satisfaction of donor restrictions		368,196		(45,670)	(332,526)			
Total support, revenues and gains	1	,661,486		405,627		720,202			2,787,315
EXPENSES									
Program services	\$:	1,472,352	\$	630,189	\$		\$		2,102,541
Management and general		66,746							66,746
Fundraising		114,703							114,703
Total expenses		1,653,801		630,189					2,283,990
Change in Net assets		7,685		(224,562)		720,202			503,325
Net assets, beginning of year		473,077		1,760,891	3,	279,556		345,136	5,858,660
Net assets, end of year	\$	480,762	\$	1,536,329	\$ 3,	999,758	\$	345,136	\$ 6,361,985

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Inc. **Statement of Activities**

Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Und	estricted lesignated Assets	De	restricted signated t Assets	Re	mporarily stricted t Assets	Res	manently stricted t Assets	
SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS:									TOTAL
United Performing Arts Fund, Inc. contributions	\$	365,373	\$		\$	19,575	\$		\$ 384,948
Registration fees		415,294							415,294
Concert and event income		50,370		4,316					54,686
Donations		206,332				526,422			732,754
Interest and dividend income		19,594		58,139		65,062			142,795
Gains (losses) on investments		(9,235)		2,324		(77,548)			(84,459)
Playathon		100,152		15,473					115,625
Other		8,011							8,011
Net Assets released from restrictions									
Satisfaction of donor restrictions		345,410		(56,501)		(288,909)			
Total support, revenues and gains		1,501,301		23,751		244,602			1,769,654
EXPENSES									
Program services	\$	1,325,615	\$	16,585	\$		\$		\$ 1,342,200
Management and general		67,924							67,924
Fundraising		104,833							104,833
Total expenses		1,498,372		16,585					1,514,957
Change in Net assets		2,929		7,166		244,602			254,697
Net assets, beginning of year		470,148		1,753,725	3	,034,954		345,136	5,603,963
Net assets, end of year	\$	473,077	\$	1,760,891	\$ 3	,279,556	\$	345,136	\$ 5,858,660

Our generous donors

We are tremendously grateful for these important gifts which allow our organization to serve an ever-increasing number of young people. Our success in achieving our mission of fostering talent, building character and enhancing lives depends heavily on the exceptional generosity of individuals, corporations, foundations and state, county and city government. This recognizes gifts of \$100 or more that were received in the 2012-13 fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Our apologies for any omissions or errors. We encourage you to call MYSO Development and Marketing Director Emily Stern at 414-267-2952 with questions or corrections—or to learn how to make a much-appreciated gift to MYSO.

Triple Forte "three times strong" \$300,000+

##F

United Performing Arts Fund

Appassionato
"passionate" \$100,000-\$299,999
The Burke Foundation

Maestoso "majestic" \$20,000-\$99,999

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Cantabile

"lyrical" \$1,000-\$2,499

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Grazioso "gracious" \$250-\$499

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Above: MYSO Sinfonia members perform at MYSO's 2012 Playathon. Photo: Emily Stern.







George L.N. Meyer Above: MYSO Chamber Flute Ensemble members Family Foundation perform at MYSO's 2012 Playathon. Photo: Emily Stern.

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> Below: MYSO Progressions Orchestra members in rehearsal. Photo: Emily Stern.





Above: MYSO Junior Wind Ensemble member performs at MYSO's 2012 Playathon. Photo: Emily Stern.

Since 1956 Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) has offered the highest level of training in ensemble musicianship to motivated young people from diverse backgrounds across southeastern Wisconsin. Students with varied levels of instrumental skills benefit from the broad range of MYSO experiences, all created to foster talent, build character and enhance lives by nurturing an enduring love of music.

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