



#### Since 1956,

Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) has been nurturing, challenging, and inspiring generations of students, profoundly changing lives and our community for the better. MYSO has grown from one orchestra and 30 students to become the largest after-school youth orchestra in the country, and one of the most respected. We serve 1,000 of the area's young musicians, ages 8-18, who come from more than 200 schools, 60 communities, and as many as 14 counties throughout southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. We also provide outreach programs to an additional 5,000 youth annually.

The importance of MYSO as a catalyst for youth development and community change has not gone unnoticed. In 2015, MYSO received the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, the country's highest honor for after-school youth arts and humanities programs, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. MYSO is the only youth orchestra in the country ever to have received this recognition.

Today we offer more than 40 ensembles and supplemental training options, ranging from symphony, string orchestras, and jazz and steel pan bands to music theory, composition, and international tours, providing quality musical experiences for a wide range of skill levels.

MYSO is a proud founding member of the United Performing Arts Fund.





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FROM THE AFRICAN UBUNTU PHILOSOPHY
THAT CONSIDERS THE SUCCESS OF THE GROUP
ABOVE THAT OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

- Stephen Lundin, Ubuntu





Thanks to your generosity, our musicians had another great year of nurturing their passion for music and challenging themselves to higher levels of excellence.

#### Your belief in our mission allowed us to:

- Foster critical thinking skills, creativity, and collaboration.
- Keep our programming affordable and accessible to the community.
- Provide equity and access to participatory music education for City of Milwaukee children who usually face barriers to such programs.
- Connect our community through collaborative partnerships, resulting in more diverse representation from the region in which we live and work.

Your support is crucial to our capacity to serve our young people, providing them access to nurturing, challenging, and inspiring instruction by the region's most sought-after musicians, music educators, and teaching artists, including members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

At a time when music education and training is increasingly limited, MYSO is committed to ensuring the necessary resources for continued success. In recent years, many of our region's schools offered extremely limited or no music programming. We are very fortunate to have generous community support that enables us to provide high-quality and life-changing programming to youth throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

With gratitude,

Mike Jordan, Board Chair

Linda J. Edelstein,

Executive Director

Mit Jod Jands SEdils Tien



1,000
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

5,000
STUDENTS SERVED

2,500
PROGRAM HOURS
TRANSFORMING LIVES



35%
OF CURRENT ENROLLMENT

ARE MEMBERS/GRADUATES OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

43%
OF CURRENT ENROLLMENT
REPRESENT POPULATIONS OF COLOR





33%
OF MEMBERS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

22,000
AUDIENCE MEMBERS SERVED

BY 80+ PERFORMANCES

# Your generosity

helped make Mystique's musical journey at MYSO possible. She is one example of the many students whose lives you've helped to transform.

Mystique joined MYSO when she was nominated to the Progressions program at age eight by her second-grade teacher. Eight years later, Mystique is a cellist in Senior Symphony, our flagship orchestra. As a sophomore at Rufus King High School, she won a seat in Senior Symphony and is in her second year in this orchestra. Through your generosity, you made many of Mystique's dreams possible throughout her years at MYSO, including participating in an international tour this summer.

The development of young people at MYSO is interdependent on many resources—our curriculum, a child with a thirst for learning, and supportive parents, teachers, and volunteers devoted to a student's positive, transformative experiences.

Here are excerpts of conversations with Mystique, her parents, her Progressions cello instructor, and a Progressions volunteer, all of whom have supported Mystique's journey at MYSO.

#### How did you hear about MYSO and Progressions?

Shannon, Mystique's mother: We received a call from MYSO stating that she had been selected by one of her teachers to possibly participate in the Progressions program and we were very excited. We didn't really know what to expect but the letter said just to come to this meeting... We were very pleased to hear they were going to give Mystique the opportunity to learn an instrument, that she was going to be given private lessons, that she would get group lessons, and that she was going to play in a large orchestra.

Mystique really didn't have anything else going for her in her life at school, so she found something that she has truly grown with academically, socially, and emotionally since her start in Progressions.

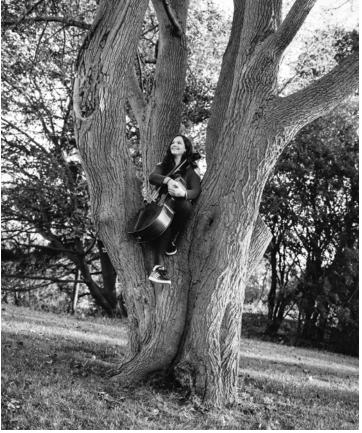
#### On the continuity and structure that MYSO provides

Ravenna, Progressions cello instructor and Mystique's private teacher: Ithink it's such an interesting perspective to have these kids since third grade, and now they're in high school, because something happens to every child in that adolescence. They handle it differently, but it's universal, no matter how bright they are, they have hard times in the middle. And how they get through that, and come out through the other side, requires somebody who's paying attention, who knew them when they were in third grade, who knew what that spark was.

Teaching them how to learn, teaching them how to work with themselves, guiding them in their relationship with their parents, hearing about their  $relationship\ with\ their\ friends.\ All\ that\ is\ relevant\ to\ their\ development...\ I\ am$ not alone in this with Mystique. I share this with good minds fother instructors at MYSO] who've seen lots of kids.







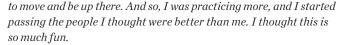
Rufus, Mystique's father: Well, the structure here breeds an environment of achievement, and... it has carried over into her academics. One thing I was worried about was the time commitment. But there wasn't a drop-off in grades, there was an improvement scholastically.

#### On Mystique's love of challenges

Tony, 20-year Progressions volunteer: I can recall an impression I got about her early on. A keen sense of adventure and challenge, that she was saying in her own way, and not necessarily in words, 'I can do this.' And she was just so committed at working hard at it... and I noticed it in her wanting that extra attention to work on a piece. And I worked with her mostly in orchestral rehearsal, and she was really committed to learning those pieces.

#### On personal motivation

Mystique: I'm very competitive. And when I got a chair, the chair was kind of in the back. I couldn't see, I couldn't hear. And I wanted



#### What are some of the lessons you've learned at MYSO?

Mystique: I guess I've learned a work ethic... because it takes so much time and energy and effort to make sure you're prepared for every audition, make sure you're perfect or as best as you can get to that, and make sure you do your best so you can get the best spot. That's what all instrumentalists want and when we do get that, it's like yay! Now we must work for the next thing. So, it's always moving forward and making sure that you're on top of everything for the next step. And that's prepared me for moving on to high school, and to college, and even after that.

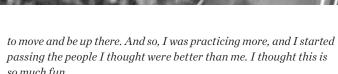
#### Where the journey leads

Tony: I sat in on the Senior Symphony rehearsal last night, and just listened to the marvelous sounds of that group. And of course, I'm

scanning the room for the players, and I look in that cello section and I see Mystique, and I had the biggest smile that I could probably produce because *I know she's contributing to this wonderful sound, and I know where* she came from, and I know most of the ingredients that's contributing to that... and that's just one student. And I know what we invested in that to have that beautiful sound be a part of that orchestra. And you multiply that by all the students who have come through. Yes, this is what we can do. Look at what they can do!

#### What gives you joy at MYSO today?

Mystique: What gives me joy is the music that we play. There are lots of times where I've played the music before... at my school in easier versions. And then I come here and play the more difficult versions, and I get to share the experience over again with people that I am very fond of and whom I like a lot.





# Financials | 2016 - 17

#### REVENUE

76
12
43
18
19

#### EXPENSES

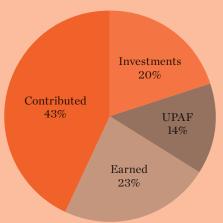
Total	\$ 2.15
Fundraising	 17
Management & General	89
Program Services	\$ 1,89

#### NET ASSETS

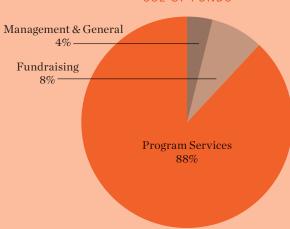
Revenue less Expenses*	\$ 1,052
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,389
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 7,44

\*primarily due to market value increase in endowment investments

#### SOURCES OF REVENUE



#### USE OF FUNDS



Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Our financial statements are audited annually by Wegner CPAs, LLP.

### Our deepest thanks to our generous donors.

We are tremendously grateful for these important gifts which allow our organization to nurture, challenge, and inspire young minds, profoundly changing lives and our community for the better. Gifts to MYSO support 6,000 area youth, 40 ensemble and enrichment programs, and allow our programming to be as affordable and accessible as possible.

This list recognizes gifts of \$250 or more that were received in the 2016-17 fiscal year (between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017). Our apologies for any omissions or errors. We encourage you to call our Development Director, Emily Lukasek, at 414-267-2952 with questions or corrections—or to learn how to make a much-appreciated gift to MYSO.

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#### Energetic, strong

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United Performing Arts Fund



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