

TOUCHES HEARTS
♥ & MINDS
SHAPES MOODS
↑ FOSTERS
↑ EMPATHY
EXPRESSES HUMAN SPIRIT
PROMOTES AFFILIATION
TRANSPORTS YOU SPIRITUALLY & PHYSICALLY
FORGES BONDS
MUSIC
CONNECTS
BRIDGES BOUNDARIES
↓
LIVES IN EVERY CULTURE
STIRS * UNIVERSEAL LANGUAGE
EMOTIONS COMMUNAL
CREATES LINKS DISCIPLINE WITH PASSION
PLEASURE
PERSONAL

MYSO 2017 - 18 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

≡1,000≡
STUDENTS ENROLLED

NEARLY 50% OF MUSICIANS
REPRESENT POPULATIONS OF COLOR

CLOSE TO 40% OF MUSICIANS
RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

90%
STUDENT RETENTION

6,000
STUDENTS SERVED THROUGH
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

25,000
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

Our Vision

Uniting us through the power of music, MYSO will be an inviting and inspirational place for young minds that fosters excellence and character through ensemble musicianship, along with lifelong learning about how we see ourselves, each other, and the world around us.



Thank you for your support which continues to allow MYSO to be an influential resource for the entire region—whether you're a member, parent, educator, donor, or partner. You enable MYSO to build community through music, connecting us across boundaries and differences. MYSO musicians and families come from more than 60 communities and as many as 14 counties throughout southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, knitting our community together in ways not otherwise possible.

Through your support, MYSO has become the largest after-school youth orchestra in the US, and a leader in the youth orchestra field. In 2017–18, MYSO trained 1,000 musicians through our more than 40 ensemble and enrichment programs, providing unique high-quality experiences for young musicians ages 8–18. A record number of seniors graduated (108), nearly 20% higher than normal, indicating the strength and commitment of this year's class. In our partnership with Milwaukee city schools (public, private, charter, and choice), our students performed in more than 25 peer-to-peer concerts to more than 6,000 students, introducing and exposing them to the joys of music and the various instruments involved. Our orchestras and ensembles performed for 25,000 people, both domestically and internationally, in more than 100 performances throughout the season.

In MYSO's first performance tour to South America in 2017, 111 people (including 81 musicians) traveled to Argentina and Uruguay. The tour orchestra played in concert halls in Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina, and in Montevideo, Uruguay. Appreciative and highly-educated audiences filled all three venues with enthusiastic response to our musicians' exceptional performances. With deep gratitude, thank you for making it possible for us to nurture, challenge, and inspire our young musicians through music and allowing them to connect to the larger world beyond Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures. The first is Mike Jordan's signature, and the second is Linda J. Edelstein's signature.

Mike Jordan,
Board Chair

Linda J. Edelstein,
Executive Director



KWASI

Kwasi Stampley

Kwasi is an accomplished guitarist in MYSO's Rumba and Apex jazz ensembles. He is currently a senior at University School and is entering his sixth year with MYSO.

Kwasi treasures his MYSO experience and takes the time to help younger players whenever he can. "I'm always trying to give them something because when I was the youngest, people gave me so much knowledge..." People helping one another is "a big part of my connection with MYSO."

MYSO's staff cares about its musicians. "I think a lot of it has to do with the... MYSO culture which is so encouraging... and really builds that chemistry between all of us."

"... if you're serious, MYSO is one of the best things that could happen for a young artist. It gives me a chance to make mistakes and get stronger, then get weaker, and then get even stronger... So at the age I'm at now, I can use all of my resources and experiences to go to that next level... MYSO is great for anybody who wants to just take a chance with music... And this is a safe place to try stuff."

Sabrina Raber

Sabrina is currently in the second year of her master's program in music at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. A flutist, she was in MYSO from 2009–2013. Her current focus is delivering music education to underserved children in public schools who can benefit from what music brings to their whole lives. She is currently the co-founder of a recycled percussion module for kids in the Richland One district after-school program as part of her graduate project.

"I was really fascinated with MYSO's Progressions program when I was a part of MYSO...Being in MYSO showed me that I could be good at something that wasn't just science or math... It essentially changed the trajectory of my career... my whole MYSO family is super supportive and I still talk to some of the people there."

"... being able to create music is amazing, but kids need that drive and they need that excitement, they need that confidence in themselves to be successful. And I think it's more important than anything that we give these kids reason to be confident and we teach them ways that they can harness that confidence, and perhaps get that confidence on their own without us."

In 2012, MYSO toured Prague and Vienna, where it was awarded second place in the prestigious Summa Cum Laude International Youth Festival and Competition. Sabrina remembers. "I talked to a Dutch musician and I believe there was an orchestra from Japan we spent a lot of time with as well. It was honestly just very enlightening to see that that everyone had similar backstories and similar experiences and just having everybody be tied [together] with that love of music."



SABRINA

Financials | 2017–18

(\$000's)

REVENUE

| | | |
|-------------|----|----------|
| Contributed | \$ | 926 |
| Earned | | 1,215 |
| UPAF | | 419 |
| Investments | | 448 |
| Total | | \$ 3,008 |

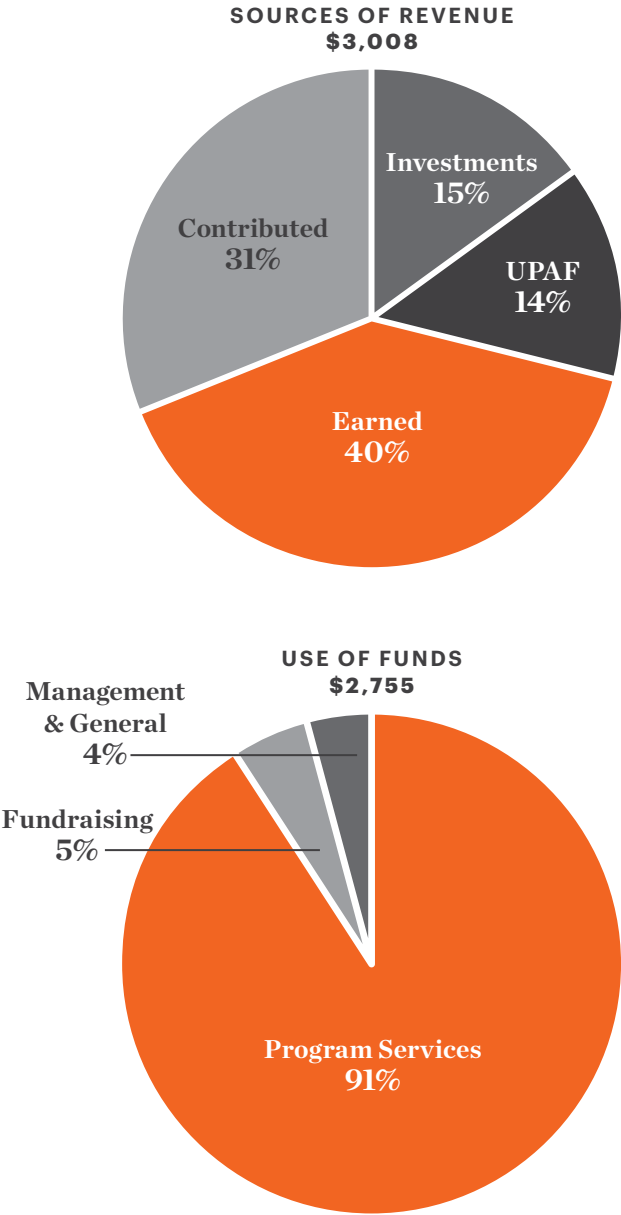
EXPENSES

| | | |
|----------------------|----|----------|
| Program Services | \$ | 2,500 |
| Management & General | | 106 |
| Fundraising | | 149 |
| Total | | \$ 2,755 |

NET ASSETS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-------|
| Revenue less Expenses | \$ | 253 |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year | | 7,441 |
| Net Assets, End of Year | \$ | 7,694 |

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.

Donations to MYSO are the crucial funding source that allow us to nurture, challenge, and inspire young minds, profoundly changing lives and our community for the better. We are tremendously grateful for these important gifts.

This list recognizes gifts of \$250 or more that were received in the 2017–18 fiscal year (between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018). We encourage you to call 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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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 6,000 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 and 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 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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