



**2017 | 18**

**REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**



## Report to the Community

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## From the President

### Dear Friends:

I arrived last September in the midst of an acclaimed three-week tour of Europe which was immediately followed by the move back to the beautifully renovated Music Hall. What followed was an extraordinary season of artistic triumphs, two Grammy nominations, increased concert attendance, and an increasing commitment both to inspire music fans around the world and draw inspiration from the community we serve. Through it all, we achieved a tenth consecutive balanced operating budget.



I continue to be impressed with the artistry of the Orchestra, the innovative spirit of artistic leadership in Louis Langrée and John Morris Russell, the connection with our audiences, the work ethic of the administrative team, volunteers and our Board leadership. The vibrancy of the region's arts scene and the generosity of this community are vital to sustaining and growing an orchestra of this caliber which speaks volumes about what Cincinnati values. I am grateful to be living in a city where the arts are a priority. You make all of this possible. On behalf of the musicians, staff, Board members of the CSO and MEMI, I want to thank our audiences, volunteers, and donors.

People from outside the area often ask me how a metropolitan region the size of Cincinnati maintains a full-time professional orchestra when many larger markets are unable to do so. The answer is you. You are the driving force. We are successful because of you. Please continue to make this great institution a priority in your life.

It is an exciting time to be part of this organization. While we face some challenges from an evolving and increasingly competitive marketplace, we do so from a position of strength. To sustain this level of strength, the organization continues its strategic plan to communicate a set of goals for many years to come, formatting a vision for the CSO and, orchestral music in the 21st century.

We look forward to sharing this with you soon.

With the CSO and MEMI, I am proud to be part of this community serving the region in many ways. We look forward to seeing you at CSO and Cincinnati Pops performances at Music Hall in the coming season, as well as the diverse array of concert experiences presented by MEMI throughout several unique and conveniently located venues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jonathan Martin  
President, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra



## Mission

To seek and share inspiration

## Vision

We will engage audiences and community better than any other orchestra in the world

## Values

### **Determined for Greatness:**

For Cincinnati to have a top-tier orchestra, it has taken tenacity, perseverance, and a steadfast commitment to extraordinary artistry.

### **A Place of Experimentation:**

From commissioning and premiering daring new works to being the first orchestra featured on a national radio broadcast to LUMENOCITY®, the Orchestra has demonstrated for over a century that it is a place of experimentation.

### **Cincinnati's Ambassador:**

From coast to coast and around the world, people everywhere know Cincinnati as a center of culture and excellence through its Orchestra.

### **Cincinnati's Own:**

By performing in neighborhoods and collaborating with artistic partners and organizations throughout the region, the Orchestra demonstrates a real commitment to serving our community and elevating Cincinnati's vibrant cultural scene.

## By The Numbers

### Determined For Greatness

The CSO album *Concertos for Orchestra* received **2** Grammy nominations, increasing the global awareness of listenership for that acclaimed recording

Over **13,000** audience members experienced live concerts in year one of the three-year Beethoven Revolution, Cincinnati's first concentration of all nine of Beethoven's symphonies over the span of a few years since the 1960's

The Orchestra performed **403** collaborations with a diverse array of artists from throughout the community and around the world

Auditions to be a member of the CSO attracted **382** professional musicians from **10** countries and yielded **8** filled positions in the Orchestra

The Cincinnati Pops achieved **25** percent higher average attendance and the CSO achieved **9** percent average higher attendance compared to the previous season

### Cincinnati's Ambassador

**11** performances in **8** cities across **6** European countries while on tour, reaching nearly **21,000** audience members

The CSO concert broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 reached an international audience of **2 million**

**21** national radio broadcasts on programs including *Performance Today* and *SymphonyCast* reached more than **18 million** listeners across the country

The Orchestra reached a global digital audience of **1.65 million** through American Soundscapes, CSO IN CONCERT and other digital initiatives



Louis Langrée conducts the CSO in San Sebastián, Spain

### A Place of Experimentation

The CSO performed **5** exciting world premiere commissions from **5** diverse composers bringing unique musical perspectives

**109** artists and artisans both on stage and behind the scenes made the stunning conclusion of the three-year *Pelléas Trilogy* come to life through performances of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*

**9** guest artists collaborated with the Cincinnati Pops for American Originals, Volume 2 and for the upcoming album, *American Originals 1918*

**8** CSO/CCM Diversity Fellows performed alongside professional CSO musicians throughout the season, **4** completed the program after the 2017-18 season, and **4** new Fellows from underrepresented populations successfully auditioned and join the program in 2018-19

### Cincinnati's Own

More than **18,000** area students were reached through Young People's Concerts and nearly **7,000** students were reached through visits and performances in schools

**191** students throughout the region participated in the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestras program and **12** young musicians from underrepresented populations participated in the CSYO Nouveau Chamber Players program

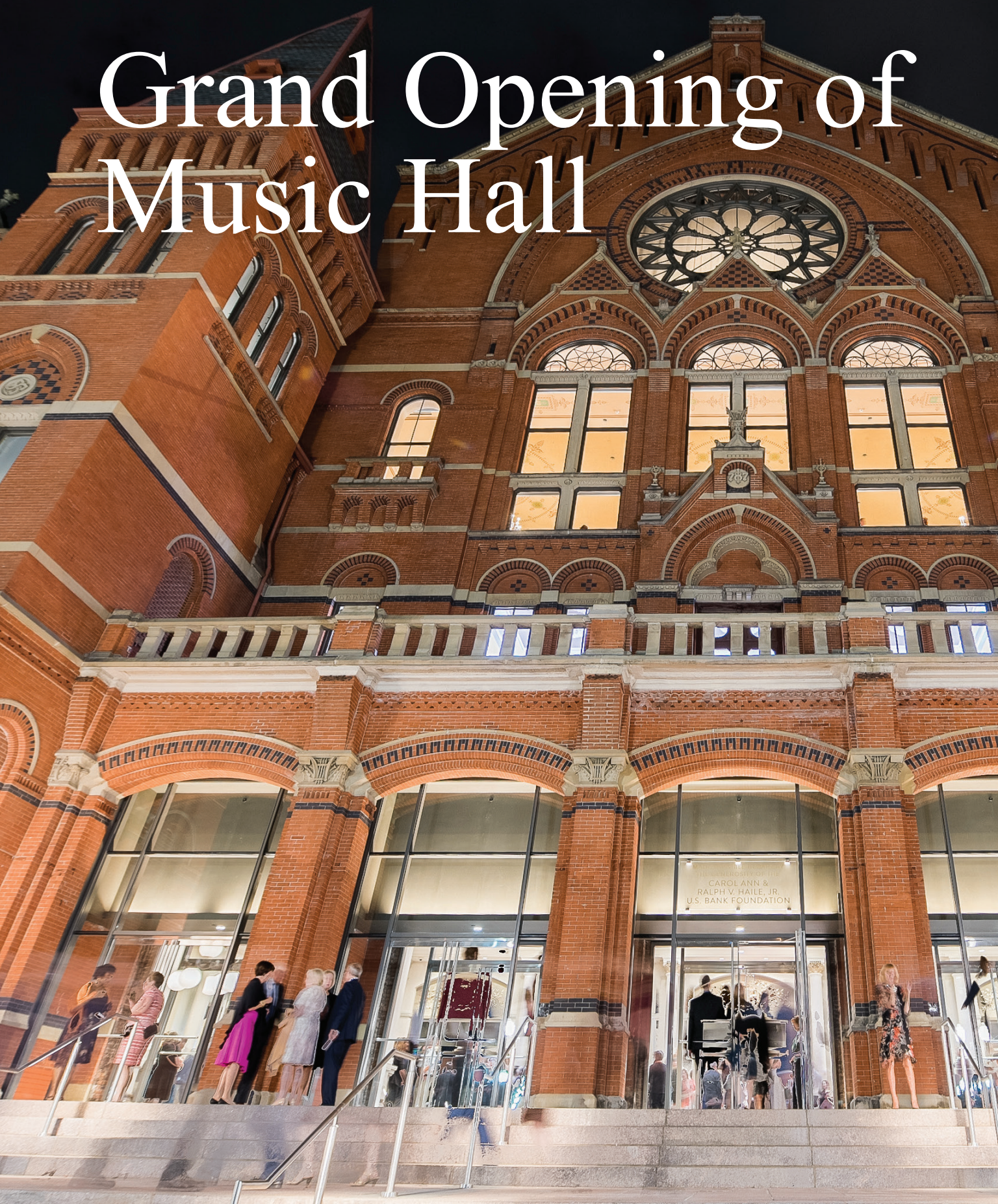
**153** singers from churches throughout the region performed with the Orchestra as part of the Classical Roots Community Mass Choir

**924,000** attendees experienced over **200** events throughout the region presented by Music & Event Management Inc., the CSO's wholly-owned subsidiary

Through Music & Event Management Inc., the CSO contributed to Cincinnati's vibrancy by managing and programming **6** venues and/or concert series

The Orchestra performed in a combined **58** performances with Cincinnati Ballet, May Festival and Cincinnati Opera

# Grand Opening of Music Hall



## RETURN TO



After 18 months out of Music Hall, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra returned for the Grand Opening in October, garnering global attention and ushering in a successful season.

*BBC Music Magazine*, the most widely read classical music publication in the world, highlighted Music Hall and Cincinnati as a musical destination and “*Music’s Queen of the Midwest*” in the October edition, and *The New York Times* showcased Cincinnati in January as one of the “52 Places to Go in 2018” and featured a dramatic photo of a CSO concert at the renovated Music Hall.



Opening night at Music Hall

*“Cincinnati shows the way... Just as the latest Geffen Hall plans were being sent back to the drawing board, this city’s stately 1878 red brick Music Hall was reopening to cheers after a \$143 million, 16-month renovation that restored its High Victorian Gothic grandeur, uncovered bricked-over windows to open its facade to the surrounding neighborhood.”*

– The New York Times

*“Sightlines are improved. Seats and legroom are more comfortable and generous. So much better for everyone... Go experience a new chapter in the history of Cincinnati’s most iconic landmark – our now even more-worthy temple to music.”*

– Movers & Makers



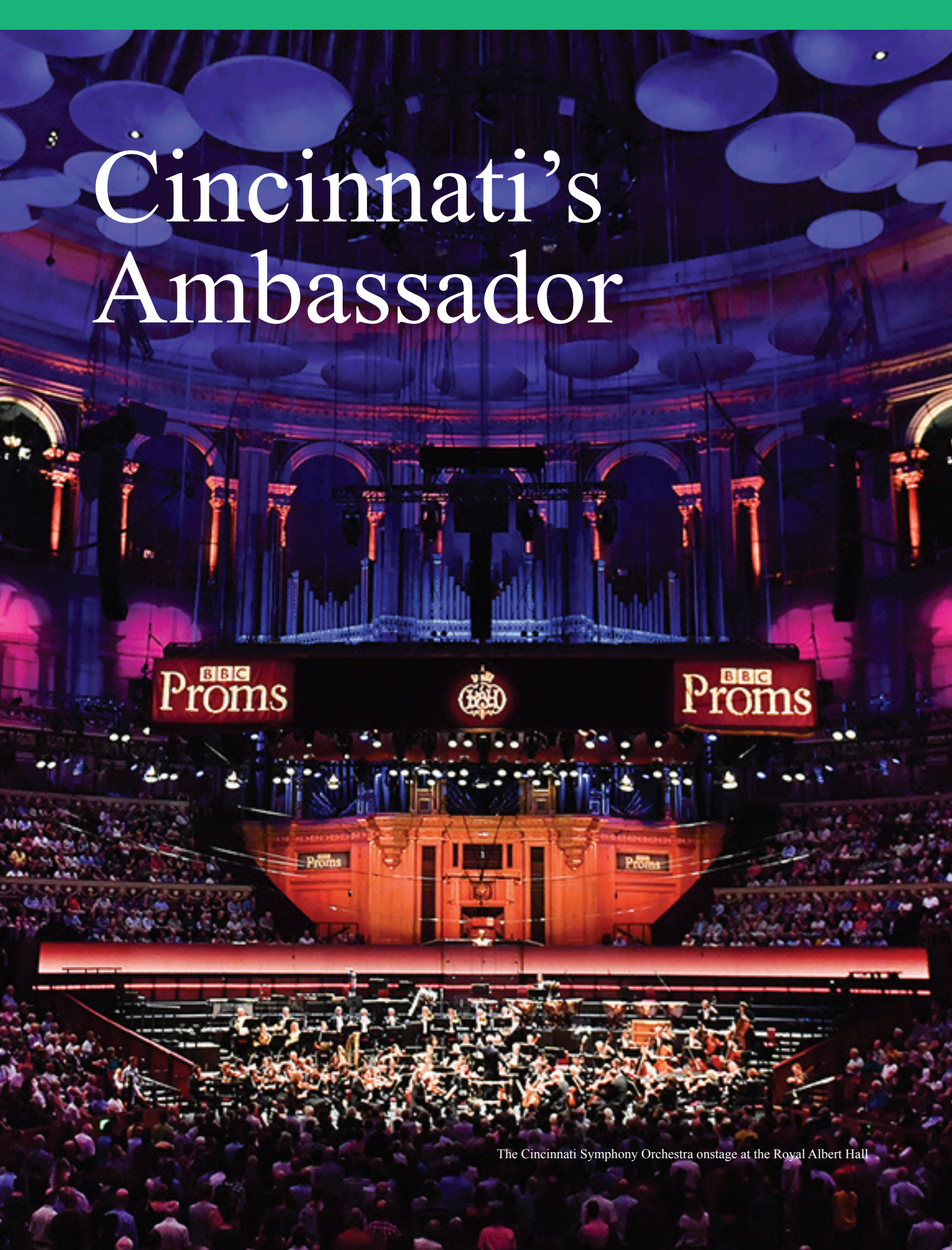
Patrons take in the splendor of the newly renovated Music Hall



## Western & Southern Financial Group

Special thanks to our grand opening sponsor:  
Western & Southern Financial Group

# Cincinnati's Ambassador



The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra onstage at the Royal Albert Hall



The CSO embarked on an 11-concert tour of Europe in August and September of 2017 where the Orchestra received thunderous applause, garnered considerable media attention and earned rave reviews from Scotland and England to Spain, from the Netherlands to Belgium and finally three sold-out concerts in France.



During the European tour, CSO musicians performed a chamber music program dedicated to the contributions of Jewish composers generously sponsored by the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati at the DeSingel International Arts Campus in Antwerp and the Musee d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaisme in Paris



102 musicians traveled 3,700 miles across the Atlantic Ocean for the European tour along with 482 musical instruments and other pieces of equipment in 104 cargo boxes, adding up to over 9 tons

*This touring programme showed us what we have been missing. There's that almost inordinate precision and sparkle...and an intense clarity of colour and line, so telling in the early stages of Copland's Lincoln Portrait.*

– The Times (London)

The CSO's 2017 touring activity was made possible by

**Tom and  
Dee Stegman  
and  
the estate of  
Chuck Yeiser**

These major underwriters were also joined by the following supporters for the European tour: Sheila and Chris Cole; Tom Garber and Family; the late David Herriman; Sandra and Stephen Joffe; Marilyn and Jack Osborn; Dianne and J. David Rosenberg; The Harold C. Schott Foundation/Francis and Tom Hiltz, Trustees; Randolph and the late Sallie Wadsworth.



Affirming the universality and healing nature of music, CSO musicians participate in a cultural exchange with recently displaced Syrian refugees in Utrecht, The Netherlands, during the European Tour

“Not a member of the American ‘Big Five,’ the orchestra plays on a level of quality which many ensembles living on their reputation could envy... Supported by the amazing enthusiasm of the Proms’ audience in the Royal Albert Hall boiling arena, the London performance was a triumph, from the glossy non-aggressive sound of the brass section and percussion in Bernstein and Copland, or the string section expressivity in Tchaikovsky, not mentioning the exceptional principal horn Elizabeth Freimuth. As if it were to deny the flashy and soulless American orchestral sound stereotype.

– Le Figaro (France)



Actor Charles Dance narrating Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait* during a rehearsal on tour with the CSO

## On The Air And On The Web

The CSO continues to reach millions of listeners across the country and around the world annually through radio broadcasts and online streaming including CSO in Concert, a series presented in partnership with 90.9 WGUC.



Over **18,000,000**

listeners experienced the CSO through 21 national radio broadcasts including *Performance Today* and *SymphonyCast*

(September 1, 2017 to August 7, 2018)



John Morris Russell and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra



The Cincinnati Pops introduced “American Soundscapes” in 2016. This online video series takes live Pops performances of single works and makes them available through YouTube and the Cincinnati Pops’ Facebook page.



CET production engineers during American Soundscapes recording of the Cincinnati Pops



The Cincinnati Pops collaboration with Over the Rhine featured on American Soundscapes

“*What I love about American Soundscapes is that it brings the recorded music to where the people consume it these days...on their computers, tablets and smartphones.*

— John Morris Russell

# Determined for Greatness





# Two Grammy Nominations

*Concertos for Orchestra*, released on the Orchestra’s Fanfare Cincinnati label, features three pieces from three different composers commissioned by the CSO and showcases the Orchestra’s artistry.



Nominated for  
**Best Orchestral Performance**  
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra  
Louis Langrée, conductor

Nominated for  
**Best Contemporary  
Classical Composition**  
Zhou Tian: Concerto for Orchestra  
Zhou Tian, composer

“I am so proud of our collective family, every one of whom played a critical role in making this project possible. Bravo to every musician of the Orchestra who played on this recording, every staff member who helped produce it, and every donor who supported the commissions and the recording.

— Louis Langrée, Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

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The commissioning of Zhou Tian’s Concerto for Orchestra, Thierry Escaich’s *Psalmos* and Sebastian Currier’s *FLEX* was made possible by a generous gift from:

**Ann and  
Harry Santen**

The recording of Zhou Tian’s Concerto for Orchestra was made possible by a generous gift from:

**Mace Justice**

The recording of Sebastian Currier’s *FLEX* and Thierry Escaich’s *Psalmos* was made possible by a generous gift from:

**Tom and  
Dee Stegman**

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Grammy nominees, Composer Zhou Tian and Music Director Louis Langrée

“Langrée led a rewarding performance of Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 7*, part of his three-year Beethoven cycle. The conductor illuminated its rhythms in a galvanizing sweep from the opening bars to the powerful climax of the finale.”  
 — Janelle’s Notes



Guest violinist Karen Gomyo performs Prokofiev’s Violin Concerto No. 1 during the second Beethoven Revolution concert weekend of the 2017-18 season



The Cincinnati Pops perform the score to Bernstein’s *West Side Story* alongside the film, closing out the inaugural season at renovated Music Hall



Leading up to the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth in 2020, Louis Langrée and the CSO embarked on an exploration of all nine Beethoven symphonies over three seasons.

## BERNSTEIN CENTENNIAL

As part of the worldwide celebration of the Bernstein Centennial, there were a number of notable performances this year at Cincinnati Music Hall.



Guest conductor Cristian Măcelaru leads works from Bernstein’s *On the Town* and *Divertimento*

## The Best from Around the World

The CSO collaborates with the finest composers, conductors, and soloists from around the globe. In 2017-18, audience members responded enthusiastically to an array of visiting guest conductors and soloists, renowned for their virtuosity and expansive interpretations.



“*[Kit] Armstrong, a dynamic young American pianist with an impressive technique, tackled Beethoven’s runs with clear articulation and more than a little showmanship. The slow movement, one of Beethoven’s most gorgeous, was deeply felt.*

— Classical Voice America

## Auditions

Hundreds of talented musicians from around the world traveled to the Queen City for the highly competitive opportunity to become a full-time CSO musician.

Over the course of the 2017-18 season, eight extraordinary musicians won positions which will begin in the 2018-19 season.

“*It’s a very tough process, a process that sends people to therapists, and that changes your life. It’s almost barbaric, but it is absolutely fair.*

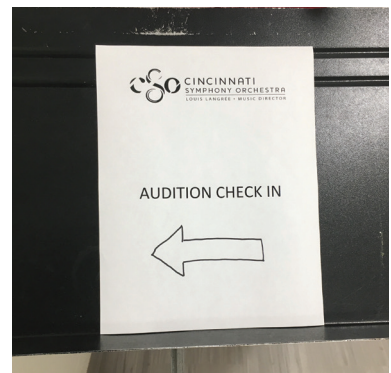
— CSO Principal Viola Christian Colberg in the Cincinnati Enquirer



Six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald captivated audience members during her Cincinnati Pops debut

“*Audra McDonald was simply outstanding. She established such good rapport with the audience. Her stories were entertaining or touching. It was a wonderful evening!*

— Concert Attendee



Auditions for the CSO were held at Music Hall

# A Place of Experimentation

A photograph of an orchestra performing on a stage. The stage is lit with blue and purple lights. In the background, a large video projection shows a man's face. The floor is covered with many lit candles. The orchestra is seated in the foreground, and a conductor is visible on the right side of the stage.

Louis Langrée and the CSO explored different musical and dramatic interpretations of *Pelléas et Mélisande* over three seasons and performances in October of 2017 marked the end of the three-year *Pelléas Trilogy* with a Cincinnati Opera collaboration of Debussy's masterpiece directed by James Darrah with video projections designed by Adam Larsen.



Composer Jonathan Bailey Holland with Louis Langrée after the world premiere of *Stories from Home*. This piece was underwritten by Irwin and Melinda Simon



Composer Emily Cooley takes the stage with Louis Langrée following the *One City, One Symphony* performance of her work, *Abound*. This piece was underwritten by Irwin and Melinda Simon

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## Five World Premiere Commissions

Building on a legacy of introducing the world to new music and expanding the orchestral canon, the CSO commissioned five new works for the 2017-18 season from five different composers.



Composer Julia Adolphe takes a bow following the world premiere of her composition, *Equinox*. This piece was underwritten by the May Festival

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Composer Enrico Chapela receives a standing ovation following the premiere of *Radioaxial*, conducted by James Gaffigan. This piece was underwritten by Irwin and Melinda Simon



The final world premiere of the season, Pierre Jalbert's *Passage* was a response to Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. This piece was underwritten by Ann and Harry Santen

“This is the 3rd performance I’ve attended this season and all of them have been incredible. Moving back into Music Hall seems to have really inspired the entire CSO organization to take it up another notch.

— Concert Attendee



Artists and artisans both on stage and behind the scenes made the stunning conclusion of the three-year Pelléas Trilogy come to life through performances of Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande*. This performance was made possible by: The John A. Schroth Charitable Trust; The Carol Ann and Ralph J. Haile Jr./US Bank Foundation; and Ginger and David W. Warner.

“The set was adorned with dreamy lanterns that faded up and down to accompany the changing moods, and projection designer and photographer Adam Larsen adorned the large back wall of the stage with changing projections. Paired with the textured music of Claude Debussy, the result was a lush world of color and light that you could positively drown in.

— ArtsWave Guide



## Forging New Paths



The groundbreaking CSO/CCM Diversity Fellowship Program is open to exceptional violin, viola, cello, and double bass players coming from populations that are historically underrepresented in classical music. This partnership is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music



Rhiannon Giddens performing *I'm Just Wild About Harry* during an American Originals concert

## More American Originals

A Pops favorite returned to the stage in 2017 with a musical exploration of early 20th century American music with modern twists. American Originals, Volume 2 featured Rhiannon Giddens, Steep Canyon Rangers, and Pokey LaFarge performing with John Morris Russell and the Cincinnati Pops. The performances were captured for an upcoming commercial recording, which was made possible by Anne Heldman, John and Suzanne Bossert, and Otto Budig.

“*It's an apprenticeship that's like nothing else around here. You're just gaining this information by being around it. I've learned so much more in just a few weeks than I did in a lot of years trying to imagine how it might be.*

— CSO/CCM Diversity Fellow Ian Saunders quoted in Soapbox Cincinnati



“*Since it's the Pops, they play with beauty, restraint and abandon in equal measure and become near-perfect collaborators.*

— CityBeat



# Cincinnati's Own

The Classical Roots Community Mass Choir is made up of more than 150 volunteer singers representing dozens of area churches.



Classical Roots paid homage to legendary boxer Ezzard Charles, who fought in the ring located in Music Hall, with students from the Cincinnati Golden Gloves

## CSO | CLASSICAL ROOTS

Classical Roots is a program focused on engaging communities and celebrating African-American musical traditions and musicians, culminating in an annual concert at Music Hall. This year's program, "Under One Roof," was led by John Morris Russell and explored the untold history of Music Hall's Ballroom.



Classical Roots Artist-in-Residence Kelly Hall-Tompkins gave master classes to students from the School for the Creative and Performing Arts and collaborated with Orchestra musicians in a chamber music setting

*“The more we started digging, the more we discovered (Music Hall) had a lot to do with the African-American experience in Cincinnati. The North and South Hall embrace a lot of important African-American history and storytelling. We wanted to have a concert to tell those stories about those remarkable artists who performed under that roof.”*

— John Morris Russell in Cincinnati Business Courier



Audience at Classical Roots Artist-in-Residence performance



The CSO's Melody Contest, part of the Young People's Concert series, invites area students to create melodies, one of which is chosen to become part of an orchestral work performed by the CSO. A melody by John Lawrie, an area student, was selected in the 2017-18 season and became part of a composition by University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music doctoral student Brian Nabors.



Young People's Concerts at Music Hall serve over 18,000 students grades K-12 each year

## The Next Generation

CSO education programs support the work of educators throughout Cincinnati by helping ensure that students develop critical 21st century skills and leveraging arts integration for cross-curricular learning. Above all, the goal is to make music fun and create lifelong listeners and learners out of young audiences.



School Interactive Performances are designed to expose students to a variety of music, familiarize them with orchestral instruments and give them the opportunity to meet the musicians who make up the CSO.



CSO Principal Trombonist Cristian Ganicenco plays with the Brass Trio as part of CSO Musicians in Schools



A student musician warms up backstage before a concert as part of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra Nouveau Chamber Players

## Fostering Talent

Instructional programs by the CSO foster excellence through instrumental performance while reinforcing 21st-century skills in young musicians and providing intensive career advancement opportunities for highly talented pre-professional musicians.



Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra members perform with CSO musicians each year at the Side-by-Side Concert

“For me playing at Music Hall with the CSO was a wonderful experience. Ever since I was younger, Music Hall was always the number one place for me to perform. The space was absolutely beautiful and honestly made me so incredibly happy. When I was a freshman, I didn’t even know we would be performing at Music Hall so when I found out I literally screamed because I was so happy and talked about it for an hour with my parents.

— Ava Dong,  
junior at Indian Hill High School



Cincinnati Pops Orchestra performing during the Lollipops Family Concert of *The Polar Express* in 2017



Lollipops  
FAMILY  
CONCERTS

Lollipops Family Concerts are a fun, interactive, and engaging way to introduce kids ages 2-9 to orchestral music. The Orchestra presented three Lollipops Family Concerts in the 2017-18 season.

“My 9-year-old son was so into the music, he was conducting from his seat. My wife was brought to tears by the performance. BRAVO!

– Lollipops Family Concert Parent



A child enjoys experimenting with instruments in the Music Lab prior to a Lollipops Family Concert



Nine-year-old piano prodigy Sophia Suwiry's Music Hall debut at the Lollipops Family Concert, *Mozart's Neighborhood*, garnered national attention



A favorite CSO guest conductor for the past several seasons, Juanjo Mena made his debut as Principal Conductor of the May Festival in 2018

## Collaborations

The CSO is the official orchestra of the Cincinnati May Festival, Opera, and Ballet, helping elevate the artistry of a vibrant region.



Cincinnati Ballet performance of *The Nutcracker*

*“This was the first chance we’ve had to hear the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra working from the sizeable pit in front of the stage... the arrangement allows the audience to be immersed in the full aural range of Prokofiev’s magnificent score—robust, ebullient, ominous and triumphant.*

— Cincinnati Enquirer review of Cincinnati Ballet’s *Romeo and Juliet*



Cincinnati Opera presented the U.S. premiere of *Another Brick in the Wall*, an opera based on Pink Floyd’s landmark concept album, *The Wall*. Photographer Philip Groshong/Cincinnati Opera



Eun Sun Kim, conducting Verdi’s *Requiem* in U.S. performance concert debut at the 2018 May Festival



Truls Mørk performs Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 1 with Louis Langrée and the CSO at *One City, One Symphony*

“*We love the prompt of just speaking truth through art because that’s what storytelling is. It’s being able to share your truth, your experiences.*

– Concert Attendee

## OneCityOneSymphony

*One City, One Symphony*, the CSO’s community-based creative initiative to bring people together through music, has been a staple since 2012. In 2017 the theme “Speak Truth,” highlighted different Cincinnati artists. The weekend of performances also featured a CSO commission



Baoku Moses playing the drums at Artsville as part of “Speak Truth”



CSO Violist Joanne Wojtowicz performs at “Speak Truth” event in Madisonville



ODESZA performing live at Riverbend Music Center's PNC Pavilion

# MEMI

MUSIC & EVENT MANAGEMENT INC.

by Emily Cooley.

Music and Event Management Inc., or MEMI for short, was incorporated in 2001 and is a

wholly owned subsidiary of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. As the leading promoter of live entertainment in Southwest Ohio, MEMI is the result of a unique combination of experienced professionals responsible for the creation, booking, producing, and marketing of first-class, live entertainment experiences and events.

Current venues/produced events include Riverbend Music Center, PNC Pavilion, Stuart and Mimi Rose Music Center at the Heights, the Taft Theatre, The Ballroom at the Taft Theatre, and The Longworth-Anderson Series at



Patti LaBelle performing at Taft Theatre



Audience at Riverbend Music Center's PNC Pavilion



St. Vincent performing live at Taft Theatre



Brit Floyd takes the stage at the Rose Music Center

“On any given night it's sometimes a struggle for Kesha to get through her emotional, Grammy-nominated Rainbow ballad 'Praying.' The powerful, deeply personal song about forgiveness and triumphantly rising up against all obstacles has been a nightly highlight of the singer's current co-headlining tour with rapper Macklemore. But on Wednesday night (July 11) at Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati, the emotion was amped up to new levels when a legion of her devoted Animals brought the singer to tears with a spontaneous show of support that literally stopped the show.

– Billboard

In 2018 alone, MEMI is presenting or hosting over 200 events, welcoming over 924,000 audience members, and contributing significantly to the vibrancy of the Greater Cincinnati region.



Macklemore performing live at Riverbend Music Center with local artist Eric Nally of Foxy Shazam



KESHA performing live at Riverbend Music Center



Kamasi Washington at the Taft Theater.



Music Director Emeritus Jesús López Cobos conducting the CSO



Maestro López Cobos with violinist Lois Reid Johnson, and cellist Susan Marshall Petersen

## In Memoriam

### Jesús López Cobos

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Music Director Emeritus Jesús López Cobos passed away on March 2 in Berlin at age 78 from cancer. His extraordinary tenure as Music Director in Cincinnati from 1986 to 2001 had a lasting impact and he forged so many wonderful friendships throughout the community. From his Cincinnati debut as a guest conductor in February of 1981, Maestro López Cobos went on to lead the CSO in a record setting 564 performances as well as 26 recordings heard around the world.

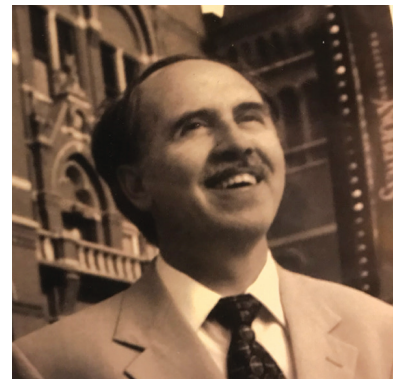
The CSO honored his tremendous legacy with a moment of silence before the March 2 and 3 concerts and by dedicating the performances on March 23 and 24 in his memory with Music Director Louis Langrée paying tribute from the stage.

*“He was a mentor, colleague, and friend and truly lived up to the salutation ‘maestro.’ Jesús was warm, congenial, funny, and possessed and shared the deepest and most abiding love for music and music making.*

— John Morris Russell,  
Cincinnati Pops Conductor.



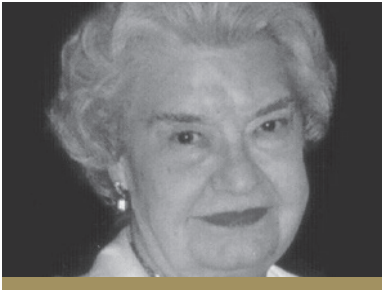
Jesús López Cobos leads a rehearsal at Music Hall circa 1991



Jesús López Cobos circa 1990 in front of Music Hall

## In Memoriam

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Pops honors the legacy of these incredible women, whose dedication and loyal patronage were integral to the continued success of the Orchestra.



**Nancy Walker**, a Director Emeritus of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, passed away at the age of 87 on October 30, 2017. As an Opus 50 member, Nancy was a faithful supporter of the Orchestra. She served on an advisory committee to the search committee that recommended CSO music director Jesús López Cobos (1986-2001) and chaired the search committee that hired his successor, Paavo Järvi. While serving as president of the Cincinnati May Festival Association, she and the Festival made the decision to engage Robert Porco as director of choruses. Her loyal patronage, advocacy of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and volunteerism had an immeasurable impact.



**Sallie Robinson Wadsworth** grew up in Cincinnati, attended Walnut Hills High School, and earned a degree from Smith College. She was a lifelong concert goer with her husband and true partner in life, CSO Director Emeritus Randolph “Duck” Wadsworth. Sallie generously endowed a chair for the longest tenured musician in the Orchestra in memory of her parents, called the Donald & Margaret Robinson Chair. This chair is currently held by Richard Johnson, oboe. Sallie was also one of the Orchestra’s biggest champions. In addition to her endowed chair, she and her husband made pledges and gifts to support CSO’s national broadcasts, Orchestra podcasts, international tours, the Second Century Fund and the *American Portraits* recording.



**Mary S. Stern**, and her late husband Joseph Stern, Jr., were longtime patrons of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Opus 50 members who had been attending concerts for over 60 years. In addition to their frequent concert attendance, they were also staunch supporters of the Orchestra, giving in support of both the annual fund and special projects. During her life, Mary made many incredible gifts to the Orchestra, including her gracious endowment of the Mary & Joseph S. Stern, Jr. Chair for French Horn, currently occupied by Duane Duggar. She also made possible the appearance of several guest artists, including Yefim Bronfman and Midori through her donations to the Fund for Great Artists. Mary passed away June 4, 2018 at the age of 97.



**Debbie Crosset Warkany**, age 68, died peacefully in her sleep on April 26, 2017. Debbie, along with her husband Joseph, was a faithful supporter of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and of Riverbend Music Center, where she loved to enjoy concerts. An Opus 25 member, Debbie had been a subscriber of the Orchestra for at least 25 years. She was a graduate of Indian Hill High School and attended both the University of Cincinnati and Virginia Tech, where she majored in business and journalism. She was very active as a community volunteer and served on the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and participated in leadership roles in fundraising and special events for CSO.



**Mary Ellyn Hutton**, passed away on May 28, 2018, at the age of 77. Mary Ellyn will be remembered as a journalist with unflinching dedication to Cincinnati’s musical arts. Hutton was a meticulous writer who chronicled and critiqued all of Cincinnati’s classical music institutions, large and small. She went on numerous tours with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and was a faithful supporter of the organization. Mary Ellyn was born in Lexington, KY. A classically trained violinist, she played in the Lexington Philharmonic and San Antonio Symphony, before devoting her talents to classical music writing for newspapers, magazines, and her blog *Music In Cincinnati*. Mary Ellyn was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. John J. Hutton.



**Betty Keith Freyhof Johnson**, departed peacefully on Monday, September 18, 2017 at the age of 95. Betty had been a subscriber to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for over 70 years. Betty was a former May Festival board member and a faithful support of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

## From the Board Chair

**Dear Friends,**

I wish everyone could have experienced the excitement following the final notes of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra concert with the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall. The audience of over 6,000 erupted with shouts of adulation for Louis Langrée and our outstanding musicians, and those cheers were carried live to an audience of two million listening to the concert live on BBC Radio 3. It was an indication of great things to come in the 2017-18 season.



It continues to be my honor and privilege to serve as Board Chair in a pivotal moment in the life of this orchestra. Following a season at the Taft Theatre and that European tour, the CSO returned to a beautifully renovated Music Hall in October of 2017 to rave reviews from critics and audiences alike, and throughout a season that saw two Grammy nominations, five world premiere commissions, important education and community engagement programs, and of course a diverse array of exciting concert experiences with the orchestra and through the offerings presented by our MEMI subsidiary, this organization continued to advance the mission to seek and share inspiration.

The ongoing success of your orchestra is a testament to the leadership of Music Director Louis Langrée, Pops Conductor John Morris Russell, the extraordinary musicians in our orchestra, the outstanding administrative staff led by President Jonathan Martin, and the fantastic group of volunteers and Board members who support the Orchestra in many ways.

None of this, however, would be possible without a supportive community. We would not be successful if it weren't for many wonderful donors and sponsors.

The Orchestra receives sustaining support from the Louise Dieterle Nippert Musical Arts Fund of the Greenacres Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council, and we also want to thank many of you who support the Orchestra and Cincinnati's vibrant arts and culture scene through the ArtsWave Community Campaign.

Lastly, thank you. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2018-19 season at Music Hall and to great concerts and events throughout the region!

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francie S. Hiltz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "F" is large and loops around the "r", and the "H" is tall and loops around the "t".

Francie S. Hiltz  
Chair, CSO Board of Directors

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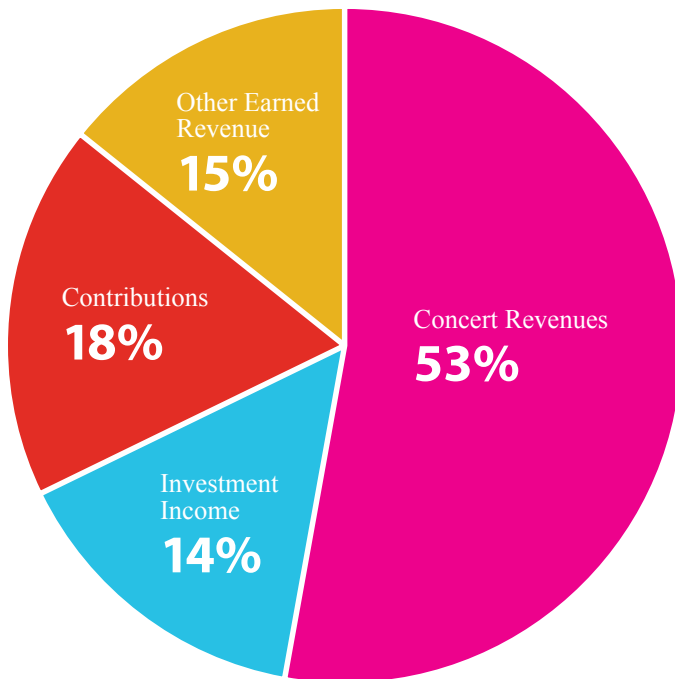
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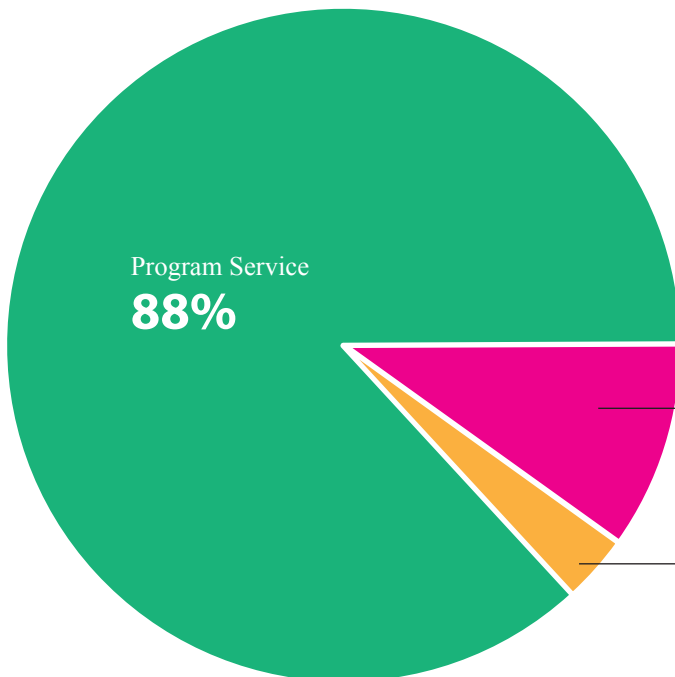


# 2016-17 Audited Financial Report



## Operating Income: \$55,833,099

Concert revenues	\$29,319,696
Other earned revenue	\$8,331,913
Contributions	\$10,278,651
Investment income	\$7,902,839
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,833,099</b>



## Operating Expenses: \$55,832,235

Program Service	\$49,129,270
General and Administration	\$5,331,270
Fundraising	\$1,371,695
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,832,235</b>

General and Administration  
**9.5%**

Fundraising  
**2.5%**

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Erich Kunzel,  
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Keitaro Harada,  
Associate Conductor  
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Assistant Conductor

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*Concertmaster*

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*Acting Associate Concertmaster*  
Tom & Dee Stegman Chair  
Charles Morey†  
*First Assistant Concertmaster*  
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Emilio Carlo, viola  
Dan Wang, viola  
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§ Begins the alphabetical listing of players  
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\* Associate Principal

\*\* Assistant Principal

† One-year appointment

‡ Leave of absence

+ Cincinnati Pops rhythm section

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