



CINCINNATI
SYMPHONY & POPS
ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15





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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 an orchestra of world-class stature, 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.

“A world-class symphony contributes to the economic success of this region and is important to the attraction and retention of talent.”

– Tim Maloney, President & CEO of The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation



SETTING THE STAGE

DEAR FRIENDS,

You might have read the May article in *The New York Times* declaring, “The orchestra world is all too familiar with vicious cycles of mounting deficits, dwindling audiences, difficulty raising money and cuts. But at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, things are moving happily in the opposite direction: think crescendo, not diminuendo.”

Six years ago, our organization faced a financial crisis. Our endowment had plummeted in the poor economy with unsustainable draws. We exhausted a line of credit being used to pay the bills and meet payroll. This great orchestra as we know it was in real jeopardy.

In a culture of openness, we came together—musicians, management, Board and members of the philanthropic community—to work on solving this problem. There have been many steps along the way, and we have never lost sight of our mission to seek and share inspiration with this extraordinary community we are honored to serve.

In early 2014, we launched a quiet endowment campaign with the intention of raising \$20 million. This money would allow us to restore 14 full-time, tenure-track musicians to the Orchestra, eliminate our structural deficit and endow two additional weeks of Orchestra services for the Cincinnati Ballet and the Cincinnati World Piano Competition. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our philanthropic leaders, our goal was exceeded at the conclusion of the 2014-15 season. According to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, “The gifts from 26 local families, individuals and foundations will seal the Cincinnati Symphony’s status as one of the great orchestras of America, and provide one more reason why Cincinnati is growing as a destination city.”

The \$26 million raised for the endowment allows us to achieve everything we set out to do, and the additional funds also allow us to reduce the draw rate on our endowment from 5 percent to 4.5 percent, which is widely viewed as a best practice in the non-profit world.

The foundation for these successes is that our musicians, management, supporters, Board and artistic leaders share a vision for our Orchestra. While other orchestras default to contentious strikes and lockouts, in Cincinnati we spend our time listening to one another, understanding one another and working together.

With that, we also announced in May that our musicians and Board ratified a five-year contract agreement that takes us through the 2019-20 season, which is the 125th anniversary of our great orchestra. This contract was ratified four months before the expiration of our existing contract.

This extraordinary story generated international buzz thanks to a comprehensive article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* that was picked up nationally by the Associated Press, and a piece in *The New York Times*.

There is certainly more work for us to do, but I believe that we can lay claim to being the great success story of American orchestras.

Within the pages of this Annual Report, there are numerous examples of how the Orchestra is thriving, innovating and serving. Our story is unique to Cincinnati, and wouldn’t be possible without you.

Sincerely,



Trey Devey
President





“But I think a great institution like the CSO must be a place of experimentation, of injecting fresh blood. Maybe sometimes it doesn’t work. So what? What is important is that we have tried.”

- Louis Langrée on the MusicNOW Festival for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 2015

“It is safe to say ‘The Queen of the West’ is at the epicenter of American musical culture, where Celtic traditions came down from the Appalachians and morphed into bluegrass and country styles, and where music of the spiritual, blues and jazz first made their way north and sowed the seeds of R&B, gospel, and rock and roll...our Cincinnati Pops defines what pops is all about.”

- John Morris Russell, January 2015



John Morris Russell and Louis Langrée thank Orchestra supporters during the annual Conductor’s Circle Dinner.





“...THINK CRESCENDO, NOT DIMINUENDO.”

 **MAY 7, 2015:**

The Orchestra announced the successful results of a quiet endowment campaign and contract negotiation with the musicians' union. The impact is astounding:



\$26 million raised in recent endowment campaign,
exceeding the goal by \$6 million



Orchestra's structural deficit to be eliminated by 2020



Five-year contract negotiated with musicians' union



1.5% annual wage increase for musicians,
as outlined in new five-year contract



14 vacant musician positions restored over the next four seasons,
bringing the complement of full-time, tenured musicians to 90



Endowment draw reduced to 4.5%,
in line with non-profit best practices and ensuring greater long-term sustainability

Charles Samis and Assistant Concertmaster Emeritus Sylvia Samis with Robert Dorsey, who endowed Ms. Samis' chair

CSO musicians Anna Reider, Scott Mozlin, Ted Nelson, Steven Rosen and Ixi Chen perform at a reception honoring the campaign donors.



The contract and endowment announcement was covered by *The New York Times*, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, *ArtsJournal*, *Slipped Disc* and dozens of other mainstream news outlets across the country through the Associated Press.



Violist Steven Rosen and his wife, Nancy, with Melinda and Irwin Simon

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP DONORS:

Anonymous Donor (3)
 Rosemary and Frank Bloom
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 The Harold C. Schott Foundation,
 Francie and Tom Hiltz
 Melinda and Irwin Simon
 Dee and Tom Stegman
 Mary Stern
 Jacqueline and Roy Sweeney
 Sallie and Randolph Wadsworth

These transformational donors will be honored at the Opening Night Gala on September 26, 2015.



CSO President Trey Devey addresses the donors to the recent endowment campaign at a reception in their honor.

“The orchestra world is all too familiar with vicious cycles of mounting deficits, dwindling audiences, difficulty raising money and cuts. But at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, things are moving happily in the opposite direction: think crescendo, not diminuendo.”

– *The New York Times*, May 2015



The generous donors of the recent endowment campaign were honored at the annual Conductor's Circle dinner, hosted by Tim and Leslie Maloney of The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, held at Smale Park by the new Carol Ann's Carousel.

IMPACT

SUMMARY



DETERMINED FOR GREATNESS

32% increase in CSO attendance since 2009-10

34% increase in Pops attendance since 2009-10

36 sold-out concerts since 2009-10

57% increase in individual and Board giving since 2009-10

21% increase in corporate and foundation giving since 2009-10

3 regional awards recognizing outstanding work in diversity



CINCINNATI'S OWN

Dozens of partnerships with organizations throughout the Tri-state

44 performances as the official Orchestra for Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati World Piano Competition and the May Festival

Over 500,000 attended a diverse array of performances at venues and events managed by the CSO's Music & Event Management, Inc.

Over 8,000 students attended concerts free of charge through "Music is the Ticket"

3,000 tickets to LUMENOCITY distributed free of charge through human service organizations



CINCINNATI'S AMBASSADOR

9% of attendees came from outside the Greater Cincinnati region

Over 70 guest artist collaborations

5 city tour of Florida

2 commercial recordings released worldwide

Over 6 million listeners through national radio broadcasts

10 countries tuned into LUMENOCITY 2015 via webcast



A PLACE OF EXPERIMENTATION

3 world premieres

15 CSO subscription premieres

36% of audience members were first-time attendees

3 incredible nights of *American Originals* performances leading to the Pops' first live recording

2 distinct MusicNOW Festival programs featuring Louis Langrée and the CSO with exciting debuts

5 nights of LUMENOCITY, complete with great music, artisans, collaborations, spectacular visual effects and pyrotechnics

 **March 6, 2015:**

The CSO announced that Louis Langrée's contract has been extended through the 2019-20 season.

**6 SOLD-OUT
CSO PERFORMANCES**

CSO SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

**“...I would happily go
to a desert island
with Langrée and his
Cincinnatians...”**

— *Seen and Heard International*, September 2014



Conductor and “the dean of American composers” John Adams takes a bow alongside violinist Leila Josefowicz after the regional premiere of his new work, *Scheherazade.2*. The piece received its world premiere at the New York Philharmonic just weeks before the April performance at the CSO.



Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson perform the world premiere of André Previn's *Double Concerto* with the CSO and Louis at the helm. The work commissioned by the CSO has since been performed by the Kansas City Symphony, Austin Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Pacific Symphony and Toronto Symphony, with upcoming performances scheduled by the Swedish Chamber Orchestra (European premiere) and Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen in 2016.

Revered cellist Yo-Yo Ma greets a young fan after his one-night-only performance on May 13.



Masterworks Series Sponsor: Ascent Series Sponsor: Boundless Series Sponsor:



**CSO SEASON
HIGHLIGHTS**



Always popular with audiences in Cincinnati, Holiday Pops hit the road to Florida between sold-out performances at Music Hall with Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell. (For more information about the tour, see page 14.)

POPS SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

“...the best Pops show that he has ever seen...”

– *Cincinnati Enquirer*, May 2015

**4 SOLD-OUT
POPS PERFORMANCES**

Trumpet legend Doc Severinsen returned in October for the first time since 2009. The longtime friend and collaborator of the Orchestra brought down the house with trumpet standards and even conducted a few pieces.



The Pops season closed with a semi-staged performance of one of America's favorite musicals, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. Will Chase, Betsy Woolfe and a slew of local performers (including staging by Playhouse in the Park Artistic Director Blake Robison), brought *TROUBLE* to Ohio's River City, though many agreed young Trent Donk (left) stole the show as Winthrop Paroo.



Platinum-selling, Grammy-winning music star Amy Grant returned for the third consecutive year. The warm-hearted Christmas program featured an appearance by Ms. Grant's nieces, who playfully threw “snowballs” at the Orchestra.



Pops Series Sponsor: Pops Artist Series Sponsor:



THE OTTO M. BUDIG
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Kelly Clarkson at Riverbend Music Center



MEMI is helping to develop the next generation of artists by presenting up and coming acts (such as the Glass Animals, pictured) in the Taft Theatre Ballroom.

MUSIC & EVENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

DELIVERING MORE TO THE REGION

Music and Event Management Inc. (MEMI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the CSO and provides the Tri-state region with a diverse array of concerts and events with acts ranging from Wynton Marsalis to Jimmy Buffett, Kelly Clarkson to Def Leppard.

MEMI oversaw operations and event site planning for community events like LUMENOCITY and Cincy Cinco.

In addition to Riverbend Music Center, the PNC Pavilion and the Taft Theatre, MEMI also now manages the new Rose Music Center at The Heights, a 4,200 seat fully-covered outdoor amphitheatre located in Huber Heights, Ohio and owned by The City of Huber Heights.

Tim McGraw at Riverbend Music Center



“And the organization (CSO) benefits from Riverbend Music Center, which has two stages, including PNC Pavilion, and which it owns. This year, Pollstar ranked Riverbend seventh among the nation’s amphitheaters.”

– *Cincinnati Enquirer*, February 2015

Sharon Jones at PNC Pavilion



LUMENOCITY®

📅 August 5-9, 2015:

30,000 people across five nights gathered in Washington Park for the third annual LUMENOCITY.



Willis Music was just one local vendor in LUMENOCITY Village. Fans of all ages tried guitar, cello and violin for the first time. With face painting, arts & crafts, LUMENOCITY-branded merchandise, local food and beverage options and even a LUMENOCITY Glow Pale Ale brewed by Rhinegeist, the Village offered a unique experience for the entire community.

“Thanks to @CincySymphony @CincinnatiPops for the wonderful tickets for @FreestoreFB. You help us #MakeADifference for the families we serve!” – Kurt Reiber, on Twitter



The Pops opened the program with guests from the Cincinnati Ballet and Cincinnati Opera. The first half of the concert featured works ranging from “America the Beautiful” to Walk the Moon’s “Shut Up and Dance.”

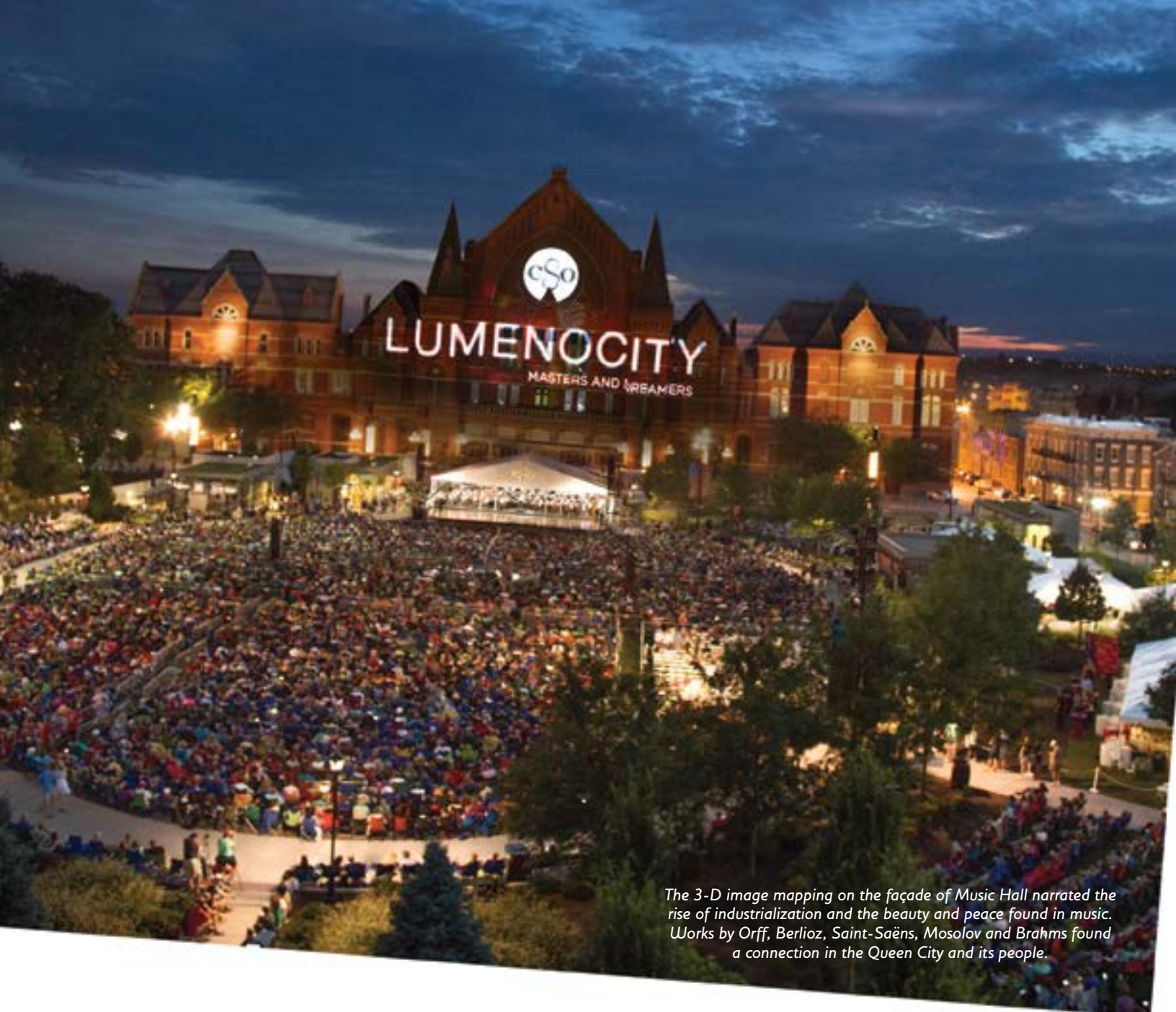


The Saturday, August 8 television broadcast on WCPO and WCET reached 96,000 viewers throughout the Greater Cincinnati region. The Friday, August 7 radio broadcast on WGUC reached thousands more, while the webcast was viewed by fans in 10 different countries on both Friday and Saturday.

37 local vendors, 17 local bands and 8 local arts organizations were represented in LUMENOCITY

“Both Maestro Langrée and Maestro John Morris Russell are Masters and Dreamers! Thank you for a magical LUMENOCITY!”

– A. Maris Bernard, on Facebook



The 3-D image mapping on the façade of Music Hall narrated the rise of industrialization and the beauty and peace found in music. Works by Orff, Berlioz, Saint-Saëns, Mosolov and Brahms found a connection in the Queen City and its people.

Village, courtesy of ArtsWave, spurring economic activity in the neighborhood..

NOT JUST ANY CONCERT

Being a place of experimentation means the Orchestra is privy to a myriad of opportunities for cross-fertilization, pushing the boundaries and welcoming new faces. Two experimental highlights from the 2014-15 season are American Originals and the MusicNOW Festival. Unheard-of artistic collaborations with rock stars and banjo pickers alike spoke to the heart of the Orchestra's mission "To seek and share inspiration."



Sufjan Stevens and Bryce Dessner perform with the CSO at MusicNOW.

In January 2015, American Originals brought together stars from the bluegrass, country, folk and Americana worlds to celebrate the music of Stephen Foster and bring a modern sound to the Cincinnati-bred songwriter's greatest tunes. JMR and the Pops were joined by Rosanne Cash, Joe Henry, Over the Rhine, Dom Flemons, Aoife O'Donovan and the Comet Bluegrass All-Stars.

In March 2015 the CSO embarked on its second annual collaboration with the MusicNOW Festival. Two unique concert programs featured two world premiere works (Caroline Shaw's *Lo* and Daniel Bjarnason's *Collider*) as well as the Orchestra performing with the indie rock band The National, So Percussion, Sufjan Stevens and Nico Muhly.



The cast of American Originals



"...both nostalgic and fun, especially when there was banjo pickin' going on."

– *Cincinnati Enquirer* on American Originals, January 2015

Dom Flemons (AKA "The American Songster") picks a banjo with CSO and Pops violinist Paul Patterson.

“Shrieking fans, long lines snaking to the bars, a crush of people surrounding a band in the lobby – those are things you wouldn’t expect at a concert of the 120-year-old Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. But this wasn’t any concert.”

– *Cincinnati Enquirer* on the MusicNOW Festival, March 2015



Both American Originals and MusicNOW boasted a festival-like atmosphere in Music Hall, with bands performing in the lobby before the concerts and during intermission, bourbon tastings and folk art displayed in the lobby.



The National performs with the CSO at MusicNOW.

The American Originals concert performances were recorded live for release in September 2015. Two works commissioned for MusicNOW 2014 were also recently released on the CSO's *Hallowed Ground* recording (see page 16).

Audiences for both concert programs skewed younger than the average concert, and between the two weekends, over 60% of attendees were new to the CSO and Pops.

The mixing of ideas backstage between musicians, conductors and guest artists was commonplace at these concerts. Below- Louis Langrée with Richard Reed Parry (of the band Arcade Fire), composer and pianist Nico Muhly and MusicNOW Festival Artistic Director Bryce Dessner (l-r).



Rosanne Cash at American Originals



ON THE ROAD SINCE 1905



The Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra has been touring across the region, the country and around the world for over a century. As the sixth oldest orchestra in the United States and the oldest in Ohio, the Orchestra maintains its world-class reputation in part through touring. In celebration of the Pops' most recent tour to Florida in December 2014, the Orchestra looks back on a few highlights of its rich history as Cincinnati's ambassador.

January 9, 1917

New York City's prestigious Carnegie Hall welcomes the CSO for the first time. A few days later, the CSO plays for its first recording sessions, also in New York, becoming the third U.S. orchestra to make a commercial recording. The East Coast tour also includes stops at Boston's Symphony Hall, as well as Connecticut, Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

1926, 1927, 1928

The Orchestra performs at Carnegie Hall for three consecutive seasons under Music Director Fritz Reiner.

1906-1917

The CSO tours frequently, presenting over 100 concerts at venues across Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, upstate New York, Missouri and Illinois, under the leadership of Music Directors Frank Van der Stucken, Leopold Stokowski and Ernst Kunwald.



A group of musicians prepares to embark on one of the Orchestra's earliest regional tours.



The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra charter plane used during the historic 1966 world tour

August 5-October 8, 1966

The CSO becomes the first American orchestra to make a world tour sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Stops on the 40-concert trip include Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, Seoul and more. Although Music Director Max Rudolf conducts most performances, then-Assistant Conductor Erich Kunzel also leads some concerts. Soloist Lorin Hollander travels with the orchestra.



CSO 1895 season program cover

1895

The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra is founded and presents its first season of concerts under the direction of Frank Van der Stucken.

December 1905

The CSO embarks on its first tour. As the only orchestra in Ohio at the time, the CSO performs 10 concerts in eight cities across the Buckeye State, plus a performance in Detroit, MI.

NEXT STOP

The Orchestra's next tour will be to New York City in January 2016 to perform as part of the 50th Anniversary of Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series. The CSO will perform the all-Tchaikovsky program the *Cincinnati Enquirer* called "jaw-dropping" from the Thanksgiving weekend concerts in November 2014 with pianist Alexander Gavryluk.

Program cover used
during the 1990 CSO
& Pops Asia tour.



May 16-June 16, 1969

The Orchestra's first European tour includes concerts in Hamburg, Vienna, Frankfurt, Berlin, Luxembourg City, London, Brussels, Lugano and more. Both Max Rudolf and Erich Kunzel conduct concert programs, which include several works by American composers. The final performance of the tour, with Max Rudolf on the podium at the Royal Festival Hall in London, includes Her Royal Highness Princess Irene of Greece as one of two piano soloists.

October-November 1990, November-December 1997, and October 1998

Erich Kunzel and the Pops perform to enthusiastic crowds across Japan and Taiwan, including Taipei, Hamamatsu, Tokyo, Osaka and Okayama.

October 2005

Erich Kunzel and the Pops complete a historic tour to China and Singapore performing in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. The Cincinnati Pops becomes the first U.S. Pops orchestra to perform in China.



Guest vocalist Brian Stokes Mitchell and John Morris Russell put together a holiday program delighting fans at home and in Florida.

April 2008

Paavo Järvi and the CSO travel Europe for three weeks, performing in France, Spain, Germany, The Netherlands and Austria.

December 2015

In December, JMR and the Pops took Cincinnati's favorite wintertime tradition, Holiday Pops, on the road to Florida. With Tony-winning Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell along for the ride, the tour featured the best of popular holiday-themed classic carols and contemporary favorites, delighting fans in St. Petersburg, Ft. Lauderdale, Naples, Ocean Reef and Sarasota. JMR and musicians made time to visit schools in the Sunshine State during the trip as well. The Pops is grateful to the following sponsors who made this tour possible:

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Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Mueller
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Mrs. Thomas Klinedinst, Sr.
Thomas and Adele Lippert
Marilyn J. and Jack D. Osborn
Anne D. and Eddie Thomas

OTHER SUPPORTERS

Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Dierckes, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Jack Hahn
Nydia Tranter

August 2008

Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops perform as part of the Opening Festivities of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

October-November 2009

Music Director Paavo Järvi leads a wildly popular tour to Japan, which includes two performances at Tokyo's prestigious Suntory Hall.



WITH GREAT FANFARE

This season, the Orchestra released three recordings on its Fanfare Cincinnati label: *Hallowed Ground* (CSO), *Carnival of the Animals* (Pops) and *The Music of LUMENOCITY 2013* (CSO).



Over 6 million tuned in to the CSO's national radio broadcasts,

including four appearances on *Performance Today*, which reaches 1.4 million listeners each week.



22,800 free downloads

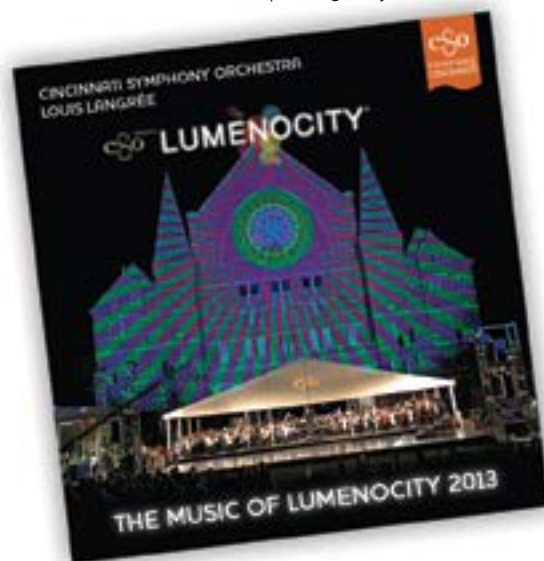
from the Orchestra's website



280,000 listeners

for local concert broadcasts on WGUC

The Music of LUMENOCITY 2013 became available locally in the Bravo Shop in August 2015 on CDs and, for the first time in the Orchestra's recording history, flash drives that also included a vibrant photo gallery.



Hallowed Ground features the two world premieres given at the 2014 MusicNOW Festival, as well as Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* narrated by Dr. Maya Angelou. "Leading the orchestra, Langrée...allowed phrases to breathe and was a seamless partner as Angelou delivered her transporting oratory" (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, November 2014). *Hallowed Ground* was made possible by Macy's, Dee and Tom Stegman, and Frank and Rosemary Bloom.



Carnival of the Animals, a new recording by the Orchestra geared specifically to children and families, reached #15 on the Billboard chart and features John Morris Russell's own orchestrations of Saint-Saëns' classic work, along with *Waiting for Wings*, a new work by Georgia Stitt and Jason Robert Brown. "The sound quality is top-notch...giving the record's soloists maximum opportunity to be enjoyed" (*Edge Media Network*, November 2014). *Carnival of the Animals* was made possible by Anne Heldman.



Thanks to the generosity of Anne Heldman, the Orchestra's latest recording project, *American Originals*, is now available on CD, vinyl and digital outlets.

MAKING CINCINNATI'S ARTS STRONGER


As the official Orchestra of the May Festival, Cincinnati World Piano Competition, Cincinnati Opera and Cincinnati Ballet, the CSO takes the arts in the Queen City to a superlative level. No other orchestra in the country plays in the pit for a Verdi opera one week, only to jam to Pharrell Williams the next. The Orchestra's collaborations with a diverse array of organizations and partners for events including the Macy's Arts Sampler (*presented by ArtsWave*), Opera in the Park and concerts at Greenacres Arts Center elevate the level of artistry in our community and make Cincinnati a more vibrant place to live.

"...the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra gave a stunning performance of this magnificent score. There are so many gorgeous subtleties, from the loudest of gongs to shimmering woodwinds and strings, and they were heard to wonderful effect."

— *Cincinnati CityBeat* review of Cincinnati Opera's *Turandot*, July 2015



CLASSICAL ROOTS: Where friends meet and neighbors unite

 **March 16, 2015:**
Classical Roots 2014
premiered on CETArts.

**“I was inspired and uplifted by the
marvelous combination of talent on stage.”**

– Anonymous Audience Survey Response

March 20 marked the CSO's fifth annual performance of Classical Roots at Music Hall. Joined by vocal ensemble Take 6, guest conductor Charles Floyd and the awe-inspiring 150-member Community Mass Choir, the CSO celebrated this anniversary with an enthusiastic audience.



**“Classical Roots is a very inspiring
experience each and every year;
I must say that I am truly in awe as
I watch so many talented, creative,
dedicated and excited individuals
collaborate to bring together an
incredible, uplifting performance
and meaningful program that
moves audiences to tears.”**

– Edgar Smith, CSO Board Member and
President of WorldPac Paper, Presenting
Sponsor for Classical Roots



ONE CITY, ONE SYMPHONY: Heroes



Supported by the Louise Taft Semple Foundation, “Many Hands” encouraged CSO fans to help make Greater Cincinnati a better place by offering a free concert ticket for volunteering in the community.



Another new element was “Louis’ Listening Party,” during which Louis gave an extended explanation of Mahler’s symphony, followed by a full performance of the work, heard by audiences with a fresh, deeper understanding of the music.

This year’s *One City, One Symphony* theme, “Heroes,” nods to the three works on the CSO’s November 14-15 concert program, each of which depicted a different interpretation of heroism and culminated with Mahler’s First Symphony. New to the initiative this year was the “Many Hands” project, inspired by the heroism evoked in the music.

The project also included a Day of Service, during which CSO and Pops musicians, conductors, staff and fans volunteered side by side at different sites throughout the day, as pictured here at Tender Mercies.



OUTCOMES:

- **42** community partnerships were nurtured or newly formed
- **128** volunteers gave more than 2,000 hours at over 115 organizations
- **76%** of volunteer participants were inspired to start/continue giving back to the community
- **85%** of volunteer participants felt pride in the city
- **92%** of volunteer participants felt a sense of connection to the community
- **24%** of listening party attendees had never attended a CSO or Pops concert



FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES



32% increase in Lollipops attendance since 2010



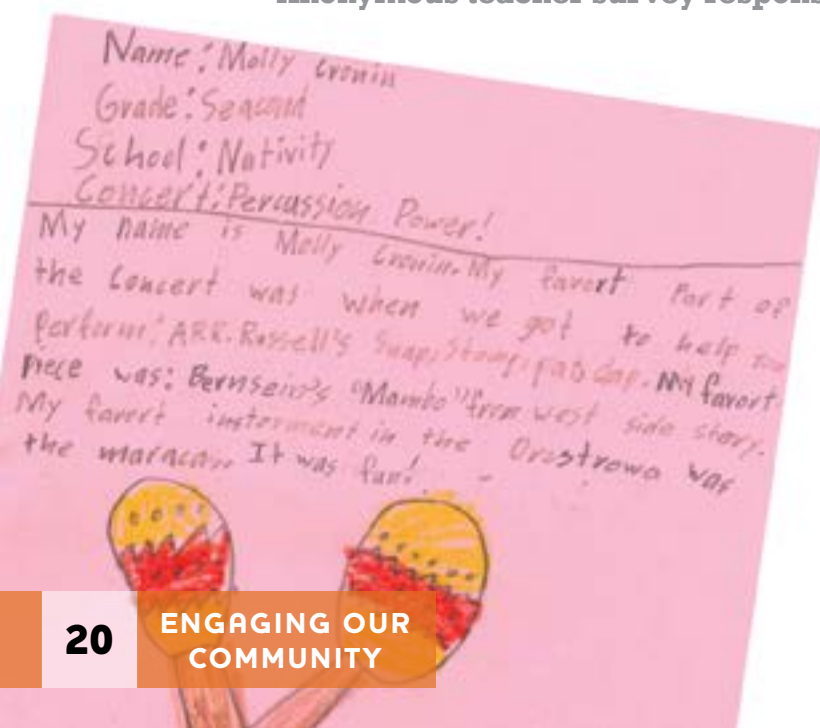
Over 8,000 students attended concerts free of charge with “Music is the Ticket”



“It is a wonderful experience for the students to see Music Hall and to hear a live performance. The Percussion Power concert was wonderfully interactive and provided great information that reinforced classroom instruction. The students were excited about the concert and had a good time.”

– Anonymous teacher survey response regarding Young People’s Concerts

“It is truly evident that there is passion to enlighten the next generation and expose them to all the facets of the fine arts” – Cincinnati Moms Blog, November 2014



“Their sound was instantly transformed.”

– *Cincinnati Enquirer* on Louis Langrée’s coaching session at the School for Creative and Performing Arts, January 2015



110 adults in 2 amateur ensembles (Sycamore Community Band & Queen City Concert Band) participated in Project ROAM (Reaching Out to Amateur Musicians), each of which involved an all-day coaching session with John Morris Russell and CSO musicians and culminated in a performance of high-level repertoire for friends and family.

61 school visits by CSO and Pops musicians, conductors and guest artists impacted over 6,000 students. Emanuel Ax gave a masterclass at The School for Creative and Performing Arts.



In June 2015, the CSYO Philharmonic went on tour to New York City, performing in legendary Carnegie Hall. The program consisted of works by Schnittke and Prokofiev, as well as a new composition by CSYO Conductor (and CSO Assistant Conductor) William White.



An extended collaboration with the high school bands of Indian Hill, Mariemont and Madeira resulted in over 1,000 contacts with students made over the course of the project, which included coaching sessions with John Morris Russell and CSO musicians, rehearsals and a final performance.

The Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra (CSYO) program, which includes the CSYO Philharmonic (top-tier high school orchestra), CSYO Concert (middle school and high school students) and Nouveau Chamber Players (African-American and Latino middle and high school string students) ensembles, formed 212 student-musicians this season, representing 45 area schools.



William White with CSYO Concertmaster Isabella Geis at Carnegie Hall

The CSO/CSYO Side-by-Side concert at Music Hall is a highlight for these student musicians each season.



CSYO alumnus Kazem Abdullah (third from right) made his CSO conducting debut in October 2014. The former CSYO principal clarinet (and first-ever recipient of the Multicultural Awareness Council’s Norman E. Johns Chair scholarship) now leads major orchestras across the globe. Following the concert, Mr. Abdullah congratulated this year’s recipients of the scholarship.



ENGAGING OUR
COMMUNITY

CINCINNATI SYMPHONY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

During the 2014-15 season, the Cincinnati Symphony Volunteer Association (CSVA), under President Linda Miller, raised over \$250,000 for the Orchestra, far surpassing its goal. Several branches of CSVA contribute to its successes in both fundraising and introducing new audiences to the Orchestra.



CSO Encore (chaired by Pete Brown and Nikki Hein) engaged Young Professionals in fresh new ways this season, including hosting a fundraising event in collaboration with the Cincinnati Bacchanalian Society (above). Its endeavors even inspired a former member of Encore to start a similar group with the symphony orchestra of her town of Greensboro.

“Fundraising for the CSO provides a unique opportunity to feel pride in our community, immediately makes you an active part of our community, and builds self-empowerment and responsibility. I cannot play any musical instrument but volunteering for the CSO brings me closer to this expressive art form.”

— Linda Holthaus, volunteer

Co-chaired by Ron Padgett and Patty Wagner, the Parties of Note committee planned 26 parties in venues ranging from bars to art galleries brought together CSO and Pops fans in their shared love of music, with 100% of the proceeds benefitting the Orchestra.



CSO Spectrum (co-chaired by Tim Giglio, Kathy Nardiello, Derek Marks and William Stenger), which celebrates and supports LGBT artists and endeavors at the Orchestra, saw a huge uptick this season, exceeding its fundraising goal by \$10,000.

“The orchestra is a treasure for this city. With the small, intimate parties, we get to enjoy facets that we simply can’t in Music Hall.”

— Guy and Jane Wolf
on Parties of Note



Superstar pianist Lang Lang performed to a sold-out crowd on Opening Night.

The Orchestra's two gala concerts of the season—Opening Night featuring Lang Lang and New Year's Eve with Storm Large—raised over \$181,500 for the Orchestra.



Vocalist Storm Large added her vivacious charisma to the New Year's Eve concert.



The CSO Opening Night Gala was co-chaired by Kim Kline, John Harrison and Mary Ellen Cody.



Members of CSO Encore enjoy the Opening Night after-party with drinks, dessert, dancing and music by The Cincy Brass.

The "Taken By Storm" New Year's Eve Ball was co-chaired by Christianna Stephens and Hengameh Nassef.



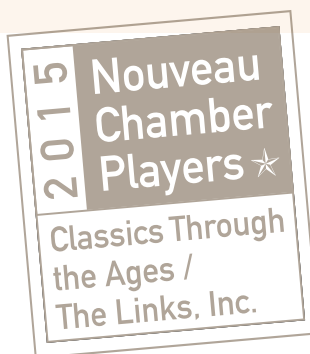
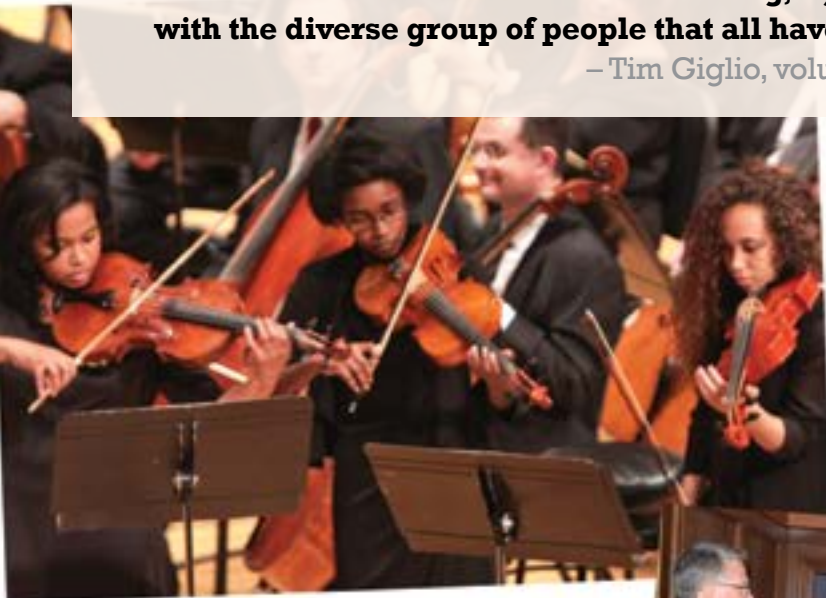
“The mission of MAC is to help bring diverse, multicultural audiences to Music Hall, and to grow awareness about the CSO in the community.”

**– Monica Hampton, Multicultural Awareness Committee (MAC)
Co-Chair with Quiera Levy-Smith**



“When I go to a concert, it is more about experiencing the music. By getting involved with fundraisers and volunteering, I get to meet, know and interact more with the diverse group of people that all have a common passion for the CSO.”

– Tim Giglio, volunteer



Throughout the season, the Multicultural Awareness Council (MAC) provides opportunities for students and adults to become more involved with the CSO while fostering an increased awareness of the CSO's concerts and music education programs throughout Greater Cincinnati. From Classical Roots and the MAC Open Door Concert series to Nouveau Chamber Players and scholarship opportunities such as the Norman E. Johns Chair award, MAC's multi-faceted approach supports the CSO in embracing diversity in the arts.



Friends of the Pops, chaired by Jan Eide, were joined by John Morris Russell for brunch in September 2014. Other FOP events during the 2014-15 season were geared towards fundraising and raising public excitement for the Pops.

“I think it is extremely important for the CSO and for all arts organizations to have volunteers who not only fundraise, but ‘friend-raise’ as well. We need to encourage people to become more involved, and to support our endeavors. Cincinnati has an amazing cultural heritage that we must protect and hand down to future generations.”

– Ronna Willis, volunteer



President Trey Devey, Vicky Reynolds and Board Member Rick Reynolds pose with Brandon Ford, one of two high school interns from De Paul Cristo Rey High School sponsored by the Reynolds. The student workers supported the Marketing and Communications departments with various office tasks ranging from stuffing ticket envelopes to writing articles and web coding.



A new partnership with Melodic Connections, a local nonprofit providing music therapy services dedicated to empowering special learners, has brought several new faces to Music Hall. Volunteers with the Melodic Connections program help with office tasks once a week and occasionally get hands-on experience on stage.



OBITUARIES



William A. Friedlander

Described as one who had a deep love and pride for his hometown that inspired a lifetime of giving back, William (Bill) Friedlander will be long remembered for making Cincinnati a better place. While his contributions of wealth, work and wisdom were given to dozens of institutions, the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra is proud and honored to have had a longtime advocate, supporter and friend in Bill. His many decades of generosity and leadership contributed immensely to the institution's ongoing success story. An avid lover of classical music, Bill, along with his wife Sue, chaired the Second Century campaign in 1997 which raised \$45 million for the Orchestra's endowment, and they further demonstrated their commitment to the organization by participating in the recent endowment effort to restore the complement of musicians, support two additional weeks of work and eliminate the structural deficit. Bill's civic-minded attitude came naturally and to the benefit of so many in Cincinnati. Bill passed away on September 10, 2014 at the age of 81, and at the time of his passing, he was serving as a member of CSO's Board of Directors and as Chair of the Board of Overseers.



Iva Brown

Iva Brown, a tireless community volunteer and devoted Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra supporter, passed away on March 7, 2015 at the age of 74. Before joining the Orchestra's Board of Directors in 2012, Iva served as Chair of the CSO's Multicultural Awareness Council (MAC) from 2002 to 2011. In her time as MAC Chair, she was instrumental in building the strong foundation that supports the wildly popular and community-minded Classical Roots concert. She brought together the leaders of the African-American faith community and united them in music. This came naturally as one of her fondest memories was singing in the Classical Roots Community Mass Choir on stage with the Orchestra. In addition to her contributions to the Board and MAC, Iva also played key role in the continued development of audience diversity. Her leadership inspired all around her to be bold and follow their passions.



Snowden Rowe

Snowden Rowe, a patron of the Orchestra since 1982 and member of the Thomas Schippers Legacy Society, was an active member of the Indian Hill community, working closely with the Indian Hill Historical Society. He, along with his wife, Marianne, were frequently found in their regular seats in the Music Hall balcony. Snowden passed away on August 2, 2015 at the age of 86.



Linda Abrahamson

Linda Abrahamson passed away on May 11, 2015 at the age of 77. Linda and her husband, Ira, were devoted Orchestra patrons, passing the love of world-class music on to their children and extended family, having inherited it from their parents. Linda's parents, Irving and Emma Goldman, endowed the Orchestra's Principal Clarinet Chair. Linda and Ira supported both the CSO and great music in Florida, where they had been spending much of their time in recent years. Members of the Thomas Schippers Legacy Society and generous annual donors, their support of the Orchestra has allowed many others to enjoy it today.



Maurice Oshry

Maurice Oshry was an active member of the Thomas Schippers Legacy Society and a long-time subscriber and patron. He was very involved in the Cincinnati and Sanibel, Florida communities, serving as a volunteer for numerous organizations, and was a founding member of the Sanibel Music Festival. Maurice passed away on May 6, 2015 at the age of 98.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Without question, the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra is a source of tremendous pride for our region. Thanks to your unwavering commitment, the Orchestra continues to be admired across the country and around the world for both innovation and artistry.

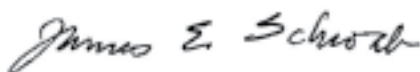
As the chair of the Board of Directors, it is such a privilege to be a part of this organization. The 2014-15 season saw 10 sold-out concerts in Music Hall, extraordinary concert experiences, exciting audience engagement initiatives such as bourbon tastings and backstage tours, community outreach that included the MLB All-Star Game festivities, and world-renowned artists joining the tremendous talents of our musicians on stage.

The Orchestra's accomplishments under the helm of Music Director Louis Langrée, Pops Conductor John Morris Russell and President Trey Devey have elevated one of Cincinnati's most treasured assets—from a glowing article that appeared in *The New York Times* to an invitation to perform at Lincoln Center, a groundbreaking Diversity Fellowship grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to LUMENOCITY, your continued support further ensures the future of this great institution. Of course challenges lie ahead, but we have positioned ourselves well to address these challenges head-on. As we continue to prepare for a newly-revitalized Music Hall, deepen audience engagement and expand our reach as Cincinnati's ambassador in the upcoming season, our list of goals—as well as achievements—grows every day.

In addition to the artistic leadership and outstanding musicians, I want to acknowledge the tireless work of our administrative staff. Their dedication is second to none in this industry. I also want to acknowledge our many volunteers and, of course, you. The support and encouragement of every patron was critical to Orchestra's success this season. The Board of Directors is grateful to you for your participation, encouragement and enthusiasm.

As we anticipate the exciting 2015-16 season at Music Hall, I challenge each of you to bring at least one friend, family member or neighbor who has never attended, and introduce them to the joy we have experienced through the Orchestra. I look forward to seeing you in and around Music Hall soon!

With appreciation,



James E. Schwab
Chair, Board of Directors



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(as of September 1, 2014)

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2013-14 FINANCIALS

Operating Income Statement | Fiscal Year 2013-14

Source of Funds:



Concert Revenues	27,743,341	56%
Other Earned Revenue	6,818,613	14%
Contributions	8,781,900	18%
Investment Income	6,519,082	13%
	\$49,862,936	100%

Use of Funds:



Program Service Expenses	43,961,459	88%
General and Administrative Expenses	4,635,749	9%
Fundraising Expenses	1,265,028	3%
	\$49,862,236	100%

Surplus	\$700
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Audited as of August 31, 2014

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The Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra is grateful to the following individuals and organizations that support its efforts. The Orchestra extends its heartfelt thanks to each and every one and pays tribute to them here.

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§ Begins the alphabetical listing of
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