



A *Symphony* of Gratitude

To our audiences, donors & volunteers for what you made possible in the 2015-2016 Season:

- *Magnificent Performances with Outstanding Guest Artists*
- *Renowned Education & Community Engagement Programs*
- *Sound Business Practices & Fiscal Responsibility*

*From all of us,
thank you.*



MADISON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

John DeMain | Music Director

From the *Podium*

2015-2016 Season Reflections from John DeMain

The Madison Symphony Orchestra soared to new heights of artistic excellence in the 2015-2016 Season, as the Orchestra's playing reached new levels of bravura, confidence and technical dexterity. Our Madison Symphony Chorus also made great artistic leaps this season.

We opened the concert season by featuring the orchestra and our principal clarinetist, Joe Morris. As the season progressed, I was thrilled to welcome guest violinists James Ehnes and Alina Ibragimova, cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio, the great pianists Emanuel Ax and Garrick Ohlsson, and six fabulous singers to join our outstanding musicians. The MSO gave its first performances of Copland's *Clarinet Concerto*, Haydn's *Symphony No. 85 "La Reine,"* and Stucky's *Symphony*. Our Christmas concerts, with the Madison Youth Choirs and Mt. Zion Gospel Choir, were once again a festive celebration of Madison and its vibrant musical community. The season ended with nearly sold-out houses erupting into thunderous applause at the conclusion of *Pines of Rome* and *Carmina Burana*. I want to express my sincere thanks to the outstanding musicians of the Orchestra, to the Madison Symphony Chorus and its director, Beverly Taylor—who just completed her 20th season with us—and to our resident organist, Sam Hutchison, for a remarkable season of music-making in Overture Hall.

Apart from our subscription concerts, our education programs continued to reach young audiences at critical points in their lives, hopefully setting them on a lifelong journey of musical participation and enjoyment. The outstanding performances of the four Bolz Young Artist Competition finalists in our statewide "Final Forte" television and radio broadcasts were a wonderful celebration of young Wisconsin talent. Our youth concerts were attended by over 8,000 students in grades K-12. Thanks to our Director of Education and Community Engagement Kathryn Schwarzmann for her diligent oversight of these programs.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the brilliant work of our administrative team, led by Rick Mackie, and thank our audience members, donors, board members and volunteers for your outstanding commitment to the Symphony. We could not do this work in Madison without your loyal support. I look forward to seeing you in Overture Hall for our thrilling 2016-2017 Season.



John DeMain
Music Director



From the *Orchestra*

A note from Linda Kimball, Principal Horn

I've been a member of the Madison Symphony Orchestra for most of my professional life, as assistant principal horn, third horn, and now as principal horn. I experienced the transition from Maestro Johnson to Maestro DeMain and the move from the Oscar Mayer Theater to our beautiful new home in Overture Hall. Through these many changes, one thing has been constant: our wonderful Madison Symphony audience. I know that attending a symphony concert can be a joyful and uplifting experience, but I thought it might be interesting for you to know that it's exciting for members of the orchestra as well! For example:

We've performed all of Gustav Mahler's symphonies and most of Richard Strauss' tone poems (a horn player's dream come true) and we've accompanied many of the world's greatest soloists. We've also played for houses packed with wiggly, excited elementary school students, some of them attending their first-ever symphony concert. This can be a life-changing experience for many of them! We've experienced the nervous energy at our Friday night concerts (when we all hope we're ready) and the fun of Sunday afternoon concerts when we feel we've mastered the repertoire. And most recently, we were thrilled with the extended cheers and applause after our season-ending performances of *Pines of Rome* and *Carmina Burana*.

Sometimes I have to pinch myself to believe it is all real. But it IS real, because of you—the donors and patrons of the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

Maybe you attend the symphony concerts because you have a friend or relative performing, or maybe you bring a young family member to inspire a child or grandchild who is studying music. Maybe you come to hear one of our renowned guest artists, or because one of your favorite compositions is being performed. Maybe a symphony concert presents you with an opportunity to escape for a few hours from the trials and tribulations presented by daily life.



Whatever your reason, every time you come to a Madison Symphony concert you participate in the magic of a live music performance, where each performance is unique and exciting in its own way. Thank you to the patrons and donors of the Madison Symphony Orchestra—you keep the excitement of live music ALIVE!

From the *Organ Console*

A note from Sam Hutchison, Organ Curator and Principal Organist

Our Overture Concert Organ program once again featured exciting guest artists and continued to attract new audiences – nearly 300 new audience households this past season! Appearances by the brilliant organists Isabelle Demers and Ahreum Han, the return of the Organ Three-for-All, and our discovery of the fine Mansfield University Concert Choir made the 2015-2016 organ season exciting and memorable. Friends' University events included an informative and creative presentation by our organ technician, Bruce Case, about how the organ works. Enthusiastic audiences for our two free hymn sings and more than 1,400 for the annual Carol Sing with the organ added to a most successful season. My sincere thanks to our Friends of the Overture Concert Organ members, board members and volunteers for providing the resources of time and treasure which allow the MSO to keep the "Colossal Klais" accessible to our community.





From the *Community*

Up Close & Musical®

Up Close & Musical is the MSO's in-school residency program for K-3 students. The Hunt Quartet, made up of fellowship students from the UW-Madison School of Music, introduces children to the concepts of rhythm, melody, expression and form through a series of fun and engaging presentations.

“Our school's experience with the Hunt Quartet has been nothing short of amazing. They bring with them a professional level of musicianship and ability to work with young people. Having professional string players explain the details of their instruments, play meaningful musical examples, and give professional level concerts in the comfort of our own building at no cost has been such a great gift to our students. Being that our school is near 30% free and reduced lunch, the fact that this program comes at no cost to our families is extremely important. Bringing in groups of their caliber usually costs well over what my budget would allow. The experiences that the quartet brings to our students are leaps and bounds beyond what I could do with pictures and CD's.” – General Music Teacher

“These professional musicians with their well-conceived programs have exposed our students to instruments and music which many of them would not otherwise experience, and inspired many of them to engage more seriously themselves in making music. Over a third (37%) of our student body is low income, 31% are ELL [English Language Learners], and 15% are special ed. The caliber of music played by the Hunt Quartet reaches across these barriers and speaks to the spirit. This is evident from the high level of interest and attention shown by the children, not only in the all-school performance, but in the small group sessions, where the performers engage students one-on-one to teach and answer questions about the music, their instruments, etc.” – General Music Teacher

2015-2016 Up Close & Musical partner schools:

- Crestwood Elementary (Madison)
- Hawthorne Elementary (Madison)
- Muir Elementary (Madison)
- Eagle Point Elementary (DeForest)
- Yahara Elementary (DeForest)
- West Middleton Elementary (Verona)

Link Up

Link Up, created by Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, unites the classroom with the concert hall. Through a yearlong, in-school curriculum, students in grades 3 through 5 learn to play classical music melodies on the soprano recorder. At the end of the school year, these students join the MSO in an exciting culminating concert in Overture Center's Capitol Theater. Twenty schools participated this past season, some traveling over 80 miles for the final concert.

“We are grateful to have such caring sponsors who understand that schools and parents can't always do it on their own. The Link Up program is incredibly well-suited for any school. Ours has a large number of high needs and students from low income families. The concert was enjoyed by all. The visual, kinesthetic and aural components are so important for us. We never know if we've lit a spark in a student that will grow into a lifetime of music appreciation, but we can know we've made a difference in kids' lives. Thank you so much for giving me and my students the opportunity to be part of a special event.” – Teacher



HeartStringsSM – Celebrating 10 Years

HeartStrings is the MSO's internationally-recognized music therapy-informed program serving individuals with disabilities, long-term illnesses and special living needs. In its 10th Anniversary Season, the Rhapsodie Quartet shared the joy of music with over 3,400 adults and young people through a series of themed, interactive sessions at 12 partner locations in Dane County, and through a residency at the University of Iowa.

“The HeartStrings program allows residents to engage, interact and connect with music at their level with no one judging their appearance or reactions. The responses some residents have to this program are quite powerful. The ability of classical music to awaken senses while relaxing, stimulate while soothing is remarkable. In my almost 20 years in the Occupational Therapy field I have yet to see another program offer what HeartStrings can.”
– Life Enrichment Supervisor, Oakwood Village University Woods

“Not only do the residents enjoy the caliber of the music, they also respond emotionally to it. For one hour a month time transports them to an evening under the stars, or

“The concert was so much fun! Listening to the professional musicians made me feel really happy. I loved playing the recorder and singing and I learned that music can tell stories. Thank you very much!” – Student

“What an incredible, phenomenal experience...you covered technical and emotional aspects of music that I never heard in my own public school music education experience. It was just so perfectly tailored to the children's age. I have to say, I chaperone a lot of trips with my kids, this one stood out as one of the best!” –Parent

under the big top, or a trip to the city. The therapeutic effects of this type of 'trip' are a sense of well being, a reconnection to a self which may have been lost to the ravages of illness, and an increase of energy to continue on with the struggles that sometimes present themselves with old age.” – Director of Activities, St. Mary's Care Center

2015-2016 HeartStrings partners:

- Avalon Assisted Living Community (Fitchburg)
- Badger Prairie Health Care Center (Verona)
- Brookdale Middleton Stonefield (Middleton)
- Central Wisconsin Center (Madison)
- Heritage Court Memory Care (Monona)
- Heritage Senior Living (Middleton)
- MARC-East (Madison)
- Oakwood Village – University Woods (Madison)
- St. Mary's Adult Day Health Care Center (Madison)
- St. Mary's Care Center (Madison)
- Sandhill Elementary School (Stoughton)
- Sun Prairie High School (Sun Prairie)



From the *Board President* and *Executive Director*

We call it Big Music. Uncompromising performances of monumental compositions are iconic hallmarks of the modern symphony orchestra. Appropriately, these are given by a fully instrumented ensemble offering a comprehensive range of sonic possibilities from delicate nuance to full-throated bombast. We can do this in Madison because ours is a city which has traditionally embraced its orchestra as a core element in our civic culture. And by “embraced,” we mean supported with the outstanding attendance and financial contributions which enable us to put this marvelous ensemble of professional artists on stage year after year. Last season was certainly no exception. In fact, it was one of the most successful seasons in our 91 years. And for this, we say thank you.

The budget of the orchestra has recovered from the Great Recession to the overall total income and expenses of fiscal 2009. The positive financial results we have experienced in all but two years since then have allowed us to maintain the operating reserve and establish a capital reserve. We remain optimistic that we are on track to restoring the ninth concert weekend, an initiative which continues to be our primary artistic and operational objective. In fact, with assistance of a unique concert sponsorship next season, we are implementing a pair of performances of Beyond the Score®, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s renowned multi-media explication of, in this case, *Scheherazade* by Rimsky-Korsakov. And through it all, our educational and community engagement services have continued unabated, expanding impressively with Link Up after invitation from Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute.

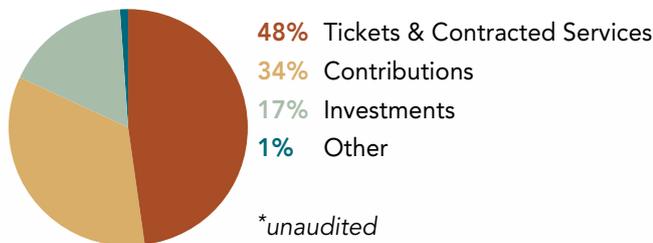
It all adds up to unmitigated success—success derived from our vibrant community of artists, volunteers, and listeners; and especially from our donors who have so generously made this possible with their gifts. So, we say it again: THANK YOU!

Elaine Mischler
Board President

Richard H. Mackie
Executive Director

Visit madisonsymphony.org/board and madisonsymphony.org/administration to view a list of board members and administrative staff.

2015-2016 REVENUES: \$4,516,183*



2015-2016 EXPENSES: \$4,365,355*

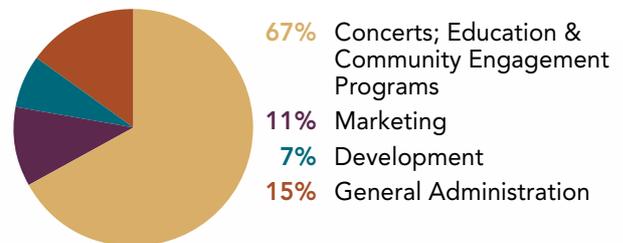


Photo Descriptions and Credits:

Cover: Greg Anderson

From the Podium: Final Forte: James Gill; Orchestra, Chorus & Soloists: Todd Maughan

From the Orchestra/From the Organ Console: Horns at Symphony Soup Concert: Todd Maughan; MSO Chorus: Todd Maughan; Samuel Hutchison & Organ: Bob Rashid

From the Community: Up Close & Musical: Amandalynn Jones; HeartStrings (2): Amandalynn Jones; Link Up: Todd Maughan

Madison Symphony Orchestra

222 W. Washington Ave., Suite 460 | Madison, WI 53703 | (608) 257-3734 | madisonsymphony.org