



VERMONT
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This Annual Report represents the period June 1, 2023 - May 31, 2024.

The twelve months of this report represent fulfillment of our mission under the artistic guidance of VSO's fifth Music Director, Andrew Crust, who joined the company in March 2023.

We welcomed a wonderful diversity of guest artists to the season, including veteran jazz trumpeter Ray Vega, cellist Joshua Roman, violinist Simone Porter, visual artist Julio Desmont, vocalists Kat Wright and Myra Flynn, conductor Michelle di Russo, and more. Our partners ranged from over 28 schools, 30 performance venues, and creative collaborators TURNMusic, Lyric Theatre, Champlain College, Music-COMP, BETA Technologies, and more.

Throughout the year, robust education in music performance and composition reached all ages, from the long running Musicians in Schools for K-6 learners to adult education talks with UVM's OLLI and Vermont Humanities programs. A total of 17,850 people took part in VSO programming, including over 2,900 students who participated in education programs around the state.

As we planned for the orchestra's 90th anniversary season in 2024/25, the VSO staff, Board of Directors, orchestra, and chorus are grateful for the continued enthusiasm for music in Vermont. A list of overall activities is included at the end of this report.



ELISE BRUNELLE

Executive Director (elise@vso.org)



Andrew Crust & Elise Brunelle

MISSION STATEMENT: The Vermont Symphony Orchestra fosters and encourages the love of music throughout Vermont.

VISION STATEMENT: To be the cultural and social leader in Vermont through music.

Our full Values Statement and Strategic Plan can be found at: www.vso.org/about-us/

VSO IN NUMBERS

VSO performed the world premieres of three pieces by Vermont composers, and featured five Vermont guest artists as soloists during the season.

11 free concerts were provided around the state during the season, attended by 1,492 people.

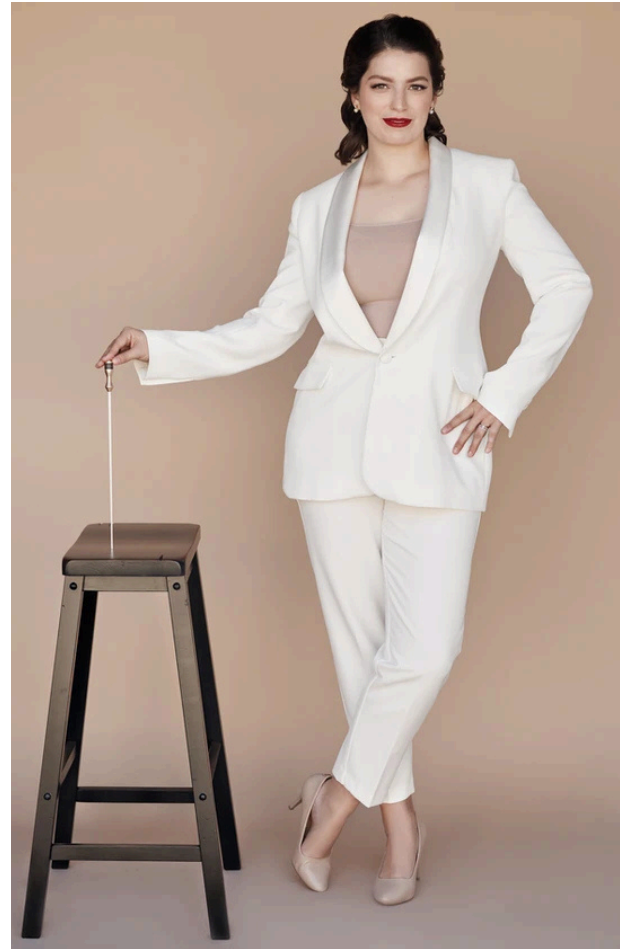
Eight concerts featured works composed by Vermont high school students.

17,850 people attended over 80 concerts and educational opportunities throughout the year.

VSO partnered with 36 venues and other performing arts organizations for its 2023-24 concerts.

395 free tickets were provided to National Guard family members and clients of Vermont organizations for the visually impaired.

Over 790 lbs. of donated goods for area food shelves was procured through holiday concert initiatives.



Summer Tour guest conductor Michelle di Russo

David M. Wilson Memorial Farmers' Night Concert
Jose Daniel Flores Caraballo, Conductor



STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staff

Elise Brunelle, Executive Director
Andrew Crust, Music Director
Patricia Jancova, Orchestra Manager
Devon Cooke, Development Director
Grace Spain, Director of Audience Engagement
Leslie Blow, Financial Manager
Matt LaRocca, Artistic Advisor & Project Conductor
Hannah Hansen, Education & Chorus Coordinator
Jose Daniel Flores-Caraballo, Chorus Master
Alex Tursi, Cultivate PR, Public Relations

Board of Directors

Betsy Bloomer, Chair, *Rutland*
Bob Kenny, Vice Chair, *Hinesburg*
Randall Sargent, Treasurer, *Richmond*
Simeon Ananou, *Shelburne*
John Canning, *South Burlington*
Alison Clarkson, *Woodstock*
Carol DeVine, *Belmont*
Robert Donald, *Grafton*
Liisa Kissel, *Grafton*
Leslie Black Sullivan, *Burlington*
Cathleen Stadecker, *Burlington*
Abbott Stark, *Burlington*
Matthew Evan Taylor, *Middlebury*
Syndi Zook, *Burlington*

Honorary Members:

Gov. Madeleine Kunin, *Shelburne*
Gov. James Douglas, *Middlebury*

Volunteers

VSO has over 120 volunteers throughout the state who provide everything from free housing for out-of-state musicians to meals between afternoon and evening rehearsals. These volunteers also serve as ushers, ticket takers, parking guards for outdoor concerts, donated food drive coordinators at VSO's Holiday concerts, and orchestra room setup staff. These individuals are integral to the organization's operations.



Summer Festival Tour Shelburne Museum

VSO MUSICIANS

First Violin

Katherine Winterstein,
Concertmaster
Kathy Andrew,
Assistant Concertmaster
David Gusakov
Alexandra Labinska
Jane Kittredge

Second Violin

Woonkuo Soon, *Principal*
Brooke Quiggins
Caroline MacDonald Chair
Laura Markowitz
Sofia Hirsch
Lino Tanaka
Tudor Dornescu
Ellen Flanagan

Viola

Russell Wilson, *Principal*
Glenn & Marga Sproul Chair
Stefanie Taylor,
Assistant Principal
Harold Lieberman
Carrol Lee

Cello

John Dunlop, *Principal*
Morris Block Chair
Jonathan Brin, *Assistant*
Principal
Bonnie Thurber Klimowski

Bass

Luke Baker, *Principal*
John M. Dinse Chair
Eliot Porter, *Assistant*
Principal
Evan Runyon
Alexander Svensen

Flute

Melissa Mielens, *Principal*
Anne Janson

Piccolo

Peggy Friedland

Oboe

Nancy Dimock, *Principal*
Sherwood Wise
Eleanor C. Long Chair

English Horn

Ann Greenawalt

Clarinet

Kelli O'Connor, *Principal*
Gary Wright

Bassoon

Janet Polk, *Principal*
Rebecca Eldredge

Horn

Shelagh Abate, *Principal*
Paulina Dixon
Alan Parshley
Stewart Schuele

Trumpet

Mark Emery, *Principal*

Trombone

Matthew Wright,
Principal
Gabriel Rice
Robert Hoveland

Tuba

Takatsugu Hagiwara,
Principal

Timpani

Jeremy Levine, *Principal*

Percussion

D. Thomas Toner,
Principal

Harp

Heidi Soons, *Principal*

As of the 2023/24 season, nine of VSO's 54 contracted instrument positions were vacant. All positions will be auditioned and filled during the 2024/25 season.

VSO Chorus

The volunteer VSO Chorus includes 70 members from around the state, led by Chorus Master Jose-Daniel Flores Caraballo.

GEOGRAPHIC REACH

Vermont state map

84 Concerts and education programs in 35 locations



- Barre
- Barton
- Bellows Falls
- Burlington
- Cavendish
- Colchester
- East Burke
- Eden
- Glover
- Grafton
- Grand Isle
- Greensboro
- Island Pond
- Lowell
- Ludlow
- Manchester
- Middlebury
- Montpelier
- Mount Holly
- Newport
- North Hero
- Ripton
- Rutland
- Salisbury
- Saxtons River
- Sheffield
- Shelburne
- South
- Burlington
- South Pomfret
- St. Johnsbury
- Stowe
- Warren
- Waterbury
- Waterville
- Weybridge

CONCERT PHOTOS



From top left clockwise: The Hollywood Sound at the Paramount Theatre, Rutland; Brass Quintet & Counterpoint at United Church of Newport; Summer Festival Tour at Saskadena Six, South Pomfret; Jukebox Quartet at BETA Technologies, South Burlington; Holiday Pops at the Flynn, Burlington; Holiday Pops at Barre Opera House



EDUCATION

STUDENT COMPOSITION PREMIERES

In partnership with Music-COMP, U-32 school student Leela McCann, VSO premiered her composition for brass at the Brass Quintet & Counterpoint concerts in December. A second premiere took place with the Farmers' Night Concert in February, with a chamber orchestra work by Montpelier High School senior Callum Robeck.

YOUNG COMPOSERS

The VSO partners with students each year for a two-month workshop to learn composition for instruments within the orchestral family. In partnership with Music-COMP, we worked with six students at Middlebury High School in the spring of 2024 who composed music for woodwind instruments. A final concert of their music was performed live for peers, teachers, and family.

STUDENT INSIDERS: RUTLAND

100 Rutland-area students attended The Hollywood Sound concert at the Paramount in March 2024. This initiative is supported by VSO's South West Friends group, who solicit donations from businesses and individuals to subsidize tickets, and by the Young Cultural Endowment Fund for Rutland.

TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY

\$0 - \$10 tickets for Burlington and Rutland concerts were provided for 485 youth during the year. The Summer Festival Tour offered free tickets for ages 5 and under, and \$5 tickets for ages 6-17. Free tickets were also provided to the VT Association for the Blind, National Guard, and VSO volunteers.

MASTERCLEF COMPETITION

The 2024 MasterClef featured Vermont composer Nico Muhly. Fourteen students submitted their own compositions, based on the melody of a piano concerto by Muhly, and eight were invited to Burlington to workshop their music with Muhly and their peers. Three winners received prizes, and all finalists attended the VSO premiere of Muhly's concerto together with their families.

MUSICIANS IN SCHOOLS

VSO's Musicians in Schools programs for strings, brass, and woodwinds are joined by an actor who weaves together stories about music, science, and math. These ensembles paid 27 visits to schools during the year, attended by 2,565 youth.

ONSTAGE PERFORMANCES

48 Middle and high school singers and instrumentalists from Newport, Manchester, Stowe, Bellows Falls, and Burlington took part in VSO concerts during the year, embedded onstage with the orchestra at the Flynn and performing alongside guest artists Kat Wright and Counterpoint Chorus.

STRINGS WORKSHOPS

In the spring of 2024, Artistic Advisor Matt LaRocca taught improvisation techniques for 25 string students in Montpelier, and VSO's Jukebox Quartet visited St. Johnsbury for an afternoon of teaching 10 Catamount Arts' EPIC music string students.



Catamount Arts' EPIC Music students and VSO Jukebox Quartet

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2024

Statement of Activities (abridged)

Performance revenues	\$390,046
Public support	\$182,412
Private support	\$629,178
Net investment income for operations	\$498,983
Other income	\$25,623
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$1,726,242
Operating expenses	(\$1,978,270)
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Change in net assets before other changes	\$(252,028)
Other changes	
Endowment contributions	\$10,517
Change in value of interest in perpetual trust	\$18,510
Change in beneficial interest	\$2,369
Investment return not designated for operations, net	\$457,906
Total other changes	\$489,302
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Change in net assets	\$237,274
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$5,700,668
Net assets, end of the year	\$5,937,942

Note: a \$125,133 bequest was included as receivable in the FY23 financial review, but realized in FY24 and was part of the FY24 operational budget.

VSO's 990 forms are available on www.guidestar.com.

VSO Endowed Fund Portfolio

VSO's 20 endowed funds held by Maple Capital Management ended FY24 with a total value of \$5,794,126. Donations of \$10,517 were made to the portfolio during the fiscal year.



Top to bottom: VSO at the Flynn soloists Simone Porter (violin) and Joshua Roman (cello); VT Youth Orchestra violinist Emmy Stapleton plays with VSO; VSO staff Patricia Jancova, Matt LaRocca, Devon Cooke, Grace Spain



2023-2024 SEASON

Date	Venue	Town	Event
6/3/2023	Christ Episcopal Church	Montpelier	Montpelier Pride
6/30/2023	Saskadena Six	South Pomfret	Summer Festival Tour*
7/1/2023	Burke Mountain	East Burke	Summer Festival Tour*
7/2/2023	Stowe High School (rain site)	Stowe	Summer Festival Tour*
7/3/2023	Horowitz Hall (rain site)	Saxtons River	Summer Festival Tour*
7/4/2023	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Summer Festival Tour*
7/30/2023	City Hall Park	Burlington	Sunday Classical
8/6/2023	City Hall Park	Burlington	Sunday Classical
8/13/2023	City Hall Park	Burlington	Sunday Classical
8/20/2023	City Hall Park	Burlington	Sunday Classical
8/25/2023	McCullough Student Center	Middlebury	New Filmmakers Festival
8/26/2023	Essex House	Island Pond	Sunday Classical
8/27/2023	City Hall Park	Burlington	Sunday Classical
9/8/2023	South Burlington Library	Burlington	Burlington Pride
9/17/2023	UVM Recital Hall	Burlington	A Joyful Noise
9/25/2023	UVM OLLI online webinar	Online	Adult education program*
9/30/2023	The Flynn	Burlington	A New Beginning*
10/13/2023	Rutland Free Library	Rutland	Adult education program*
10/20/2023	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Jukebox: Color Theory
10/21/2023	Roots Studio Space	Rutland	Jukebox: Color Theory
10/22/2023	Helmholz Art Gallery	Manchester	Jukebox: Color Theory
11/3/2023	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Made in Vermont*
11/4/2023	Spruce Peak Performing Arts	Stowe	Made in Vermont*
11/5/2023	Bellows Falls Opera House	Bellows Falls	Made in Vermont*
11/8/2024	Grand Isle School	Grand Isle	Musicians in Schools (2)*
11/9/2024	North Hero School	North Hero	Musicians in Schools (2)*
11/17/2024	Edmunds, Mater Christi, CP Smith	Burlington	Musicians in Schools (3)*
11/24/2023	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Dionne Warwick
12/8/2023	Barre Opera House	Barre	Holiday Pops
12/9/2023	The Flynn	Burlington	Holiday Pops
12/10/2023	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Holiday Pops

*includes or is an educational program

2023-2024 SEASON (CON'T)

Date	Venue	Town	Event
12/14/2023	Warren United Church	Warren	Brass Quintet*
12/14/2023	Vermont Public Studio	Colchester	Brass Quintet*
12/15/2023	Newport Church	Newport	Brass Quintet*
12/16/2023	Grafton Community Church	Grafton	Brass Quintet*
12/17/2023	Manchester First Cong. Church	Manchester	Brass Quintet*
2/10/2024	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Jukebox: Hammer & Glass
2/11/2024	Zenbarn	Waterbury	Jukebox: Hammer & Glass
2/14/2024	Vermont State House	Montpelier	Farmers Night*
2/28/2024	UVM OLLI online webinar	Online	Adult education program*
3/2/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	The Hollywood Sound*
3/3/2024	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	The Hollywood Sound*
3/6/2024	Mt. Holly, Ludlow, Cavendish schools	Mt. H, Lud, Cav	Musicians in Schools (3)*
3/13/2024	Newport Town, City Schools	Newport	Musicians in Schools (4)
3/20/2024	Sheffield, Newport schools	Newport	Musicians in Schools (2)
4/11/2024	Middlebury High School	Middlebury	Young Composers*
4/11/2024	The Phoenix	Waterbury	Adam Tendler concert
4/12/2024	Roots Studio Space	Rutland	Jukebox: Sound of Science
4/13/2024	BETA Technologies	South Burlington	Jukebox: Sound of Science (mat)
4/13/2024	BETA Technologies	South Burlington	Jukebox: Sound of Science (eve)
4/13/2024	Fairbanks Museum	St. Johnsbury	EPIC Music workshop*
4/14/2024	Fairbanks Museum	St. Johnsbury	Jukebox
4/14/2024	The Phoenix	Waterbury	Adam Tendler concert
4/16/2024	U-32 High School	Montpelier	Strings improv workshop*
4/26/2024	Shelburne Church	Shelburne	OLLI Adult Education*
5/1/2024	Eden, Lowell, Waterville Schools	E, L, W	Musicians in Schools (3)
5/1/2024	Brownell Library	Essex Junction	VT Humanities lecture *
5/3/2024	Burlington City Arts	Burlington	MasterClef*
5/4/2024	Thunder Road	Barre	Ken Squier memorial
5/4/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Mozart, Mazzoli, and Muhly*
5/11/2024	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Open Day
5/21/2024	Glover, Greensboro, Barton schools	G, G, B	Musicians in Schools (3)
5/22/2024	R. Marcotte, Chamberlin Elementary	South Burlington	Musicians in Schools (3)
5/28/2024	Weybridge, Salisbury, Ripton Elementary	W, S, R	Musicians in Schools (3)

*Includes or is an educational program

