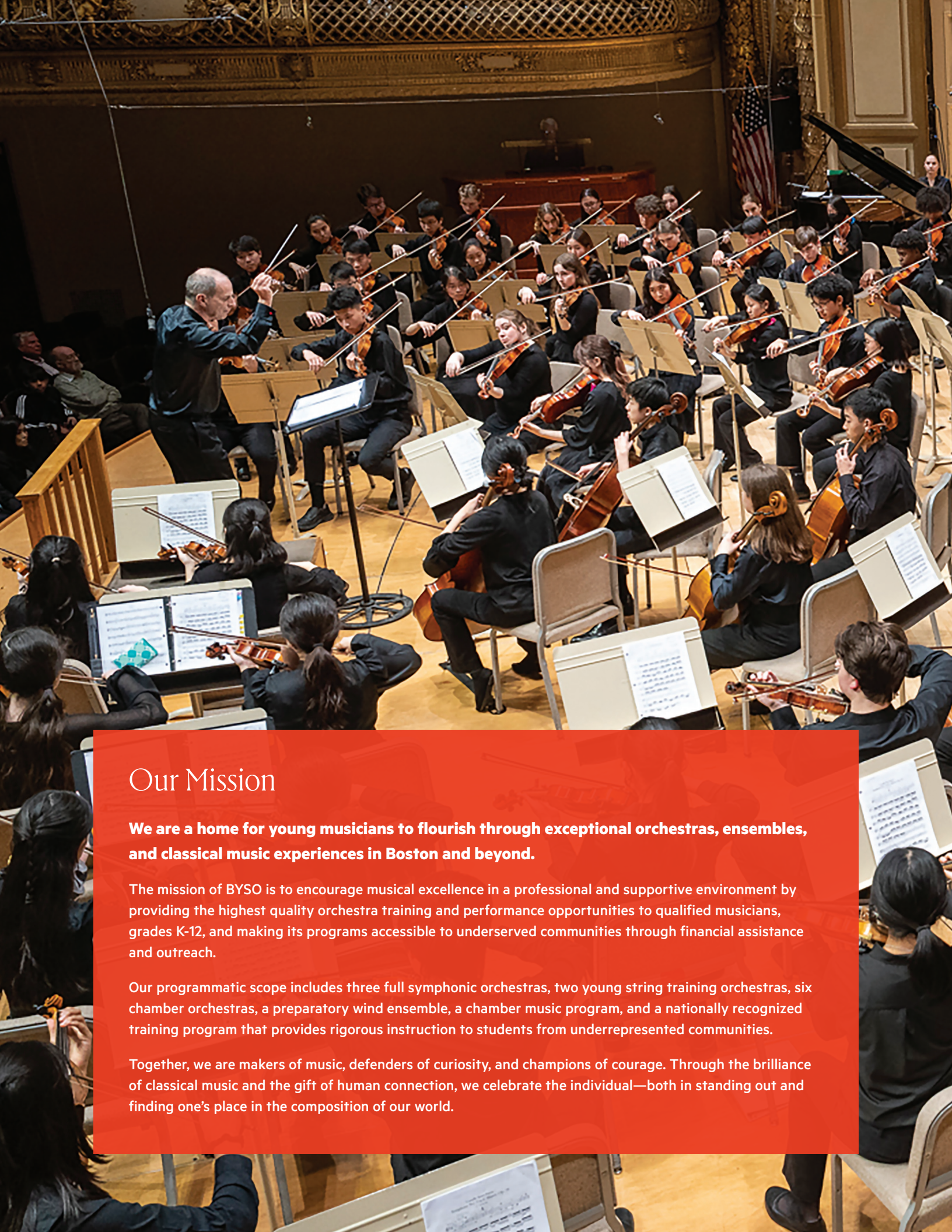




**BOSTON YOUTH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRAS**

2024 Impact Report





Our Mission

We are a home for young musicians to flourish through exceptional orchestras, ensembles, and classical music experiences in Boston and beyond.

The mission of BYSO is to encourage musical excellence in a professional and supportive environment by providing the highest quality orchestra training and performance opportunities to qualified musicians, grades K-12, and making its programs accessible to underserved communities through financial assistance and outreach.

Our programmatic scope includes three full symphonic orchestras, two young string training orchestras, six chamber orchestras, a preparatory wind ensemble, a chamber music program, and a nationally recognized training program that provides rigorous instruction to students from underrepresented communities.

Together, we are makers of music, defenders of curiosity, and champions of courage. Through the brilliance of classical music and the gift of human connection, we celebrate the individual—both in standing out and finding one's place in the composition of our world.



Thank You

The 2023–2024 season has been truly remarkable. We celebrated not only the growth of BYSO but also the endless accomplishments of our young musicians and alumni, who continue to inspire us with their passion and leadership. Their dedication and talent have been showcased through numerous performances and personal achievements, reminding us all of the power of music to transform lives.



Together, we also created something extraordinary — a new home where children have life-changing experiences through music. This next chapter is not just about a physical space; it is about the endless possibilities it offers to our young musicians and the bright future it promises. The BYSO Youth Center for Music is a place where dreams are nurtured and futures are shaped.

As Chair of the BYSO Board of Directors, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound impact your support has on countless children and families. Because of you, BYSO continues its long legacy of delivering exceptional music education while creating new opportunities for children to grow and transform through music.

I invite you to read on and share in the joy that BYSO brings to so many. Within these pages, you will find stories of perseverance, achievement, and the unbreakable bond that music creates within our community.

Thank you for being an important member of the BYSO family. Your support and belief in our mission makes everything we do possible.

Gratefully,

Margaret Chen

Chair, BYSO Board of Directors

Embracing Ambition

At BYSO, we believe in ambitious dreams. Every season, we find a collective rhythm and create pathways to express ourselves through music. We break down barriers, grow into community leaders, and form a family that shares aspirations, hopes, and dreams. Together, we embrace the power of music to bring out the best in all of us. Together, we are more.

On January 21, 2024, members of Boston Youth Symphony (BYS) and world-class professional vocalists performed **Bellini's Norma** for a sold-out audience at Sanders Theatre. The journey to a successful semi-staged opera begins each year in August at BYSO Maine camp and continues with months of diligent practicing and rehearsals. This transformative experience fosters deep artistic growth and lifelong friendships, often becoming one of our alumni's most cherished BYSO memories.



On March 26th, the **BYSO Youth Center for Music** officially opened with a ceremonial ribbon cutting! Musicians from the Intensive Community Program (ICP) and an advanced BYSO Honors String Quartet performed alongside notable remarks from BYSO leadership, Mayor Michelle Wu, and BSO Pops Conductor, Keith Lockhart. This momentous celebration revealed in the extraordinary growth of BYSO and marked the beginning of our exciting next chapter.

At **BYSO's annual Gala in March**, we raised over \$360,000 to support the incredible experiences that empower our young musicians to accomplish their dreams. This year, BYSO had student speakers Victoria Bretous, Elliana Arielle Chery, Ben Lyczkowski, and Eliana Ortega share their stories and the transformative impact of BYSO on their lives. Victoria Bretous (YPSO, violin) shared, "BYSO has taught me to never be afraid to try something new, and to always be proud of yourself."



In April, Alumni Yeji Cha-Beach '04 participated in the 128th **Boston Marathon**, running 26.2 miles on behalf of BYSO! While Yeji was in Boston, she toured the new BYSO Youth Center for Music with her family and was proud to be able to see the extraordinary growth of BYSO since her life changing time in the orchestras. She shared, "Being able to play with the orchestra, learn from the great leaders who showed so much love and compassion for the music and also the students – I carry that with me to this day... It is a dream come true to have the opportunity to combine my passions for running and music in support of BYSO."



In May, our Petit Ensemble and Young Person's String Orchestra, both conducted by Marta Zurad, performed at the **Museum of Science, Boston** for the first time in BYSO's history! These community-driven performances begin an exciting new partnership that invests in our shared belief in the power of young people and education.





Empowering Confidence and Leadership

This spring, BYSO proudly invited twelve students to become the inaugural BYSO Youth Center for Music Ambassadors and serve as community advocates for our new home. In this unique leadership role, these Ambassadors became the face of our new home, guiding community members on tours, sharing their BYSO experiences, and gaining invaluable insights into the workings of the Center. Their dedication not only left a lasting impression on our BYSO family but also enriched their own journeys, empowering them as confident leaders.

AMBASSADORS

Nora Edouarzin
Oliver Ellsworth
Asia Foland
Caleb Graupera
Robby Hargrove
Dhanvi Kalimireddy
Maggie Kelleher
Kaitlyn Shi
Sonia Le
Nearah Sanon
Regiana Toussaint
Kevin Wu



BYSO Ambassadors gather for a group photo at the BYSO Gala where they spoke with key supporters about their experiences and the new BYSO Youth Center for Music.

Our incredible Ambassadors represented BYSO at multiple events this season, including the momentous Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, BYSO's Annual Gala, Opening Day, and more!

“

BYSO has opened my eyes to using my voice and sound to help others... it has helped me grow more confident, and in the future, I want to continue to use the skills BYSO has taught me to advocate for others.”

Regiana



Caleb Graupera and Regiana Toussaint speak with Mayor Michelle Wu at the BYSO Youth Center for Music Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

“

There's very few youth orchestras around here that have a home of their own. To be able to come in the middle of Boston and bring together all of the young voices of tomorrow is a privilege, and I am excited to be a part of that future.”

Caleb



Sonia Lee and Caleb Graupera lead a group tour during Opening Day.

“

Throughout this season, I've been lucky enough to speak to avid BYSO opera fans, BYSO parents, young parents, BYSO alumni and alumni parents, and more. It was awesome to hear their experiences and their connections to BYSO. Really brought a new joy to this experience and this organization!”

Asia



The Ambassadors tour and learn about the history and renovations of the new BYSO Youth Center for Music.



From Stage to Heart: The Pedlikin Family's BYSO Story

BYSO's impact extends far beyond its young musicians. Through exceptional experiences and a nurturing community, the lives of the BYSO family are forever changed. Joel Pedlikin '88 and his brother Ira '92 have long acknowledged the profound impact BYSO has had not only on their own lives but also on their entire family.

Joel and Ira cherish their time with BYSO, recalling performances at Symphony Hall, tours to Japan and Europe, and countless transformative moments with teachers. These exceptional experiences fostered significant personal and musical growth. Joel remarks, "Being part of something inarguably excellent changed me forever. I gained a lot of confidence and it really helped me in a way that nothing else did."

Over the years, they witnessed their parents Howard and Cynthia Pedlikin also become deeply involved at BYSO. They attended every concert, served on the committee that spearheaded the successful search for former Music Director David Commanday, and Howard took on the role as President of the Parents Fundraising Circle. Ira shares, "Our parents' excitement grew with their involvement. The idea that their kids could play in Symphony Hall was unbelievable."

BYSO became a constant presence in their lives, fostering a love for classical music and lifelong connections. "As we continued to be in the orchestras, our love of (G)BYSO and classical music grew. (G)BYSO transformed all of us into lifelong classical music lovers and it also provided us with a cherished community." Joel says. Just as Joel and

Ira remained connected with fellow alumni, Howard and Cynthia remained connected with BYSO, attending concerts and engaging with alumni parents long after their children's time in the orchestras. "The connections and friendships we formed were just as influential as the music we played," Ira notes.

Before the BYSO Youth Center for Music opened, Joel and Ira toured the space we now call home. Ira remarks, "There is no doubt that the new BYSO facility is transformational. There is no substitute for having your own space and set up for what BYSO needs. It's exactly what Boston needs." This year, the Pedlikin family established the Howard Pedlikin Fund to honor their father's legacy. "BYSO has always been an important part of our family's lives and we knew we wanted to support BYSO in a significant way. We hope to give at least one child the opportunity to experience classical music and the life-changing experiences our family enjoyed."



Ira Pedlikin (left) performing with Boston Youth Orchestra at the historic Schauspielhaus in Berlin on the (G)BYSO Central European Tour in 1992.

Expanding Horizons

The BYSO Youth Center for Music stands as a testament to a community deeply committed to the transformative power of music education and dedicated to nurturing the next generation of leaders.

In 2024, we proudly opened the BYSO Youth Center for Music (YCM), welcoming hundreds of young musicians, their families, and the City of Boston to celebrate this exciting and impactful milestone. Our new home builds on a 65-year legacy, embarking on a journey to fulfill our promise of providing unparalleled opportunities to more children and more families.

Establishing our own space goes beyond serving our current young musicians; it reflects our long-term vision of expanding BYSO's programs and deepening BYSO's impact throughout our communities. With a space of our own, the possibilities are endless to offer high-quality music opportunities beyond our traditional orchestras and to children outside of BYSO.



Children ages 6-9 participate in "Musical Kaleidoscope", BYSO's first Dalcroze eurythmics camp where they learn to listen for rhythm, pitch, and more using body movement, voice, and instruments to respond.



A string Quartet rehearses as part of the BYSO Summer Chamberfest, providing string and piano students an intensive chamber music experience and additional classes on musicianship, theory, chorus, and more.



"The opening of the BYSO Youth Center for Music is the beginning of a new phase. The success of the last 25 years is just a mirror of the success of the next 50 years. The work we have already started will continue and will expand... and there are so many children that will benefit from a home like this one. This milestone is a first step, it is not an arrival point."

Federico Cortese
Music Director

Budget

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024 (unaudited)

REVENUES	FY24
Tuition and Fees	\$2,083,244
Ticket Sales and Advertising	\$160,190
Merchandise Sales and Other Earned Revenue	\$11,091
Endowment Income and Interest	\$385,363
Rental Income from BYSO Youth Center for Music	\$41,250
Foundation Support	\$645,529
Government Support	\$100,700
Corporate Support and Sponsorships	\$134,175
Individual Support	\$432,269
Special Event	\$361,891
Donated Goods and Services	\$230,930
TOTAL	\$4,586,632

EXPENSES	
Orchestra Operations and Rehearsals	\$1,024,870
Concert Production	\$314,630
Intensive Community Program (direct cost only)	\$546,062
Camp	\$308,035
Space Rental	\$255,887
Financial Aid	\$139,993
Administrative Salaries and Benefits	\$991,356
Other Administrative	\$412,368
Marketing	\$51,813
Fundraising (includes special event costs)	\$193,406
BYSO Youth Center for Music Expenses	\$192,547
TOTAL	\$4,430,967

Net	\$155,665
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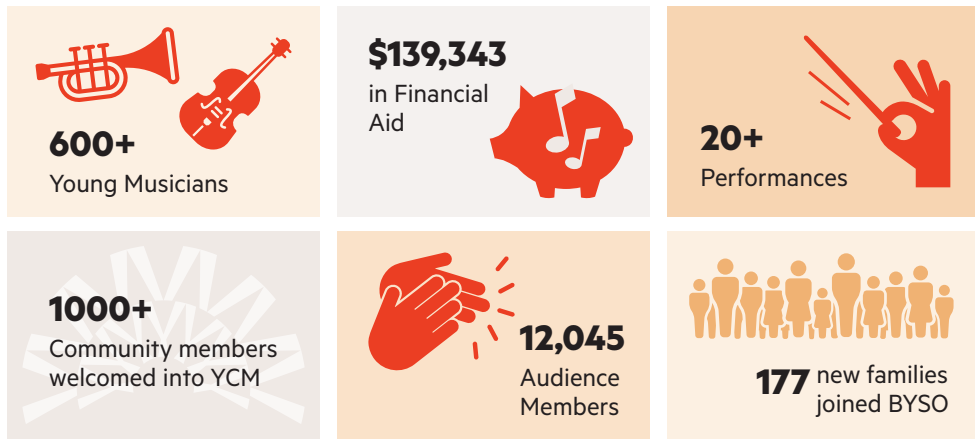
Budget Notes

1. In March of 2024, BYSO opened the the BYSO Youth Center for Music. To do this, BYSO conducted a multi-year capital campaign. The income from this campaign as well as the capital expenses to create it are not shown here.
2. Rental income and building expenses reflect operating income and expense for the approximate 3 months that the building was in use.





The Power of Your Support



As I reflect on this past season, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for what we have accomplished together. Every moment was a powerful testament to the dedication, talent, and passion that defines BYSO—a family united by our love for music and commitment to excellence.



This season also marked a significant milestone with the opening of the BYSO Youth Center for Music, a space that has quickly become the heart of our community. We know that this transition requires more financial and operational support than ever before, and we have implemented three key initiatives to ensure its success:

- Building cash reserves through prudent and conservative budgeting over the past five years, creating a safety net to support and maintain a facility of this magnitude
- Growing our endowment fund to provide sustainable operational support in perpetuity
- Employing a strategic financial plan to make the building self-sustaining within three years, including additional rental income and increased funding

I am deeply grateful to all who contributed to us this year. Your support continues to foster a unique space where we can cultivate generations of young musicians while profoundly impacting our communities. As we embark on our next chapter, I am excited for the journey ahead, confident that we will continue to achieve extraordinary things together.

Thank you for being a part of our beloved BYSO family.

Warmly,

Catherine Weiskel
President and CEO

Our Supporters

BYSO is deeply grateful to the following community members for their gifts made between July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This list excludes gifts supporting the creation of the BYSO Youth Center for Music. For a full list of donors to our campaign, please visit www.BYSOweb.org/YCMSupporters.

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