

newportclassical.org



NEWPORT  
CLASSICAL

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021 / 2022

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Newport Classical is a premier performing arts organization that welcomes people of every age, culture, and background to intimate, immersive musical experiences. We present world-renowned and up-and-coming artistic talents at stunning, storied venues across Newport—an internationally sought-after cultural and recreational destination.

Our iconic summer Music Festival, year-round Chamber Series, and family-friendly, free Community Concerts represent a broad range of composers, formats, artists, and sounds from the classical genre—ensuring there’s something for everyone to enjoy.



Sunrise Meditations at the Chinese Tea House

## About Us

**MISSION:** To celebrate classical music as a living art form through inspiring concerts in intimate and historic locations.

**VISION:** Newport Classical embraces “Timeless Music for Today” through exceptional concert presentations, and prioritizes meaningful education and engagement opportunities that inspire, instill civic pride in the community, and embrace diversity of expression and artistic interpretation.

Originally founded in 1969 as Rhode Island Arts Foundation at Newport, Inc. and previously known as Newport Music Festival (NMF), Newport Classical has a rich and adventurous musical legacy, presenting American debuts of international artists and rarely heard works.



**Suzanna Laramee**  
President, Board of Directors

## GRATITUDE

### from the President of Newport Classical's Board of Directors

This past year at Newport Classical has been one of excitement, wonder, amazing accomplishments, and above all, great music!

None of these things would have happened without a group of incredibly talented individuals, our Board of Directors. They bring integrity, wisdom, dedication, and visionary foresight to this organization. Thank you all for your time, treasure, and meaningful work.

I am filled with gratitude and admiration for our hard-working staff, led by our incredible Executive Director, Gillian Friedman Fox. After completing our first year of year-round programming, it is obvious that Newport Classical's contribution to the community of Newport and Aquidneck Island will only continue to grow and flourish.

And finally, thank you, thank you, to our wonderful patrons, sponsors, volunteers and supporters-without you we would not be here, as you are helping to preserve wonderful music for future generations. For in the words of Edward Bulwer-Lytton:

“

Music once admitted to the soul,  
becomes a sort of spirit, and never dies.”



**Gillian Friedman Fox**  
Executive Director

## Executive Director's Note

Reflecting on Newport Classical's 2021/22 season and the organization's growth and accomplishments can feel overwhelming at times. With the launch of a new name that better reflects our new year-round programming and better differentiates ourselves within Newport's arts landscape, Newport Classical remains committed to the same artistic excellence and Festival experience you've known for over 50 years.

This year we launched the inaugural Chamber Series at our new home, the Recital Hall at Emmanuel Church, presenting eight exceptional concerts featuring the next generation of world-class musicians.

This series served as the framework for a new music engagement program, placing our guest artists into local classrooms each month to provide enrichment and access to exceptional classical music. We also launched the Community Concert series, bringing free concerts to neighborhood-centered locations around Newport County and welcoming hundreds of first-time patrons of all ages. Together with the nearly sold-out Music Festival, which returned indoors at our beloved historic venues, Newport Classical presented 43 concerts last season! Having lived in Newport now for two years, it continues to be an absolute privilege to count myself amongst the incredible community of donors, volunteers, and patrons who continue to build the rich legacy of Newport Classical. I hope that we will see you at a Chamber Series concert this year and be sure to mark your calendars for July 4-23, 2023 for what I can assure you will be one of the most memorable Music Festivals in the history of Newport Classical!

We are committed to celebrating and building upon the foundation of timeless classical music while investing in the future of the genre. Thank you to those whose generosity sustains the organization and makes all this work possible; and if you haven't already done so this season, please consider making a contribution to sustain the organization for generations to come.

**Gillian Friedman Fox**  
Executive Director



2021/22

# CHAMBER SERIES

Fresh from a successful 2021 summer festival, we continued our commitment to ongoing year-round programming with a full season running from September 2021 through June 2022 at the organization's home venue, the **RECITAL HALL AT EMMANUEL CHURCH**.

## EIGHT CONCERT CHAMBER SERIES

Thalea String Quartet  
Sarah Davis Buechner  
Kristen Lee  
Poulenc Trio  
Rodolfo Leone  
Geneva Lewis  
Bridget Kibbey & Alexi Kinney  
Daniel del Pino



Bridget Kibbey & Alexi Kinney



This was an absolutely stunning concert experience for me. The venue and its incredibly clear, rich acoustics, with ample volume.”



Thalea String Quartet





2021/22

# COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Newport Classical is proud to bring free, open-air, classical music concerts to community-centered locations across Aquidneck Island.

Welcomed  
over  
**1,500**  
patrons!

**40%**  
First-Time Patrons  
at Community  
Concerts



Community Concert at Miantonomi Memorial Park

**Presented 5 free concerts**

in neighborhood-centered green spaces  
removing price and transportation as a barrier.

NAVY BAND NORTHEAST,  
NEWPORT STRING PROJECT,  
THE WESTERLIES, TRITON BRASS,  
and SINTA QUARTET

## MUSIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Our mission extends into Newport County classrooms, where our monthly Music Engagement Initiative invites our guest artists to inspire students in local schools, developing the next generation of arts advocates and music lovers!



Geneva Lewis performs at Thompson Middle School

**450**  
Students  
Inspired

ranging in age from 3-12  
years old through Music  
Engagement Initiative



# Cliburn-Bound Piano Marathon: Benefit for Ukraine

From April 29 - May 1, Newport Classical hosted a weekend-long marathon featuring nine exceptional amateur pianists, of which four were on their way to the Eighth Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition in October 2022. All proceeds from the Cliburn-Bound Piano Marathon were donated to the World Health Organization's Emergency Appeal for Ukraine.

Additionally, the Saturday evening performance began with a special musical presentation honoring the people of Ukraine featuring duos by violinist Misha Keylin and pianist and Board President Suzanna Laramee, and a performance of the Ukrainian national anthem by baritone and Director of Artistic Planning and Engagement Trevor S. Neal.

Your generous support through ticket sales and donations helped us exceed our Benefit for Ukraine goal, raising **\$20,272.30** for the delivery of urgent healthcare to people across Ukraine and refugees in neighboring countries affected by this crisis, and making us the top WHO Foundation fundraiser for this campaign.

---

Newport Classical is incredibly grateful to all those who made this benefit weekend a huge success - patrons, donors, musicians, staff, and volunteers. We would like to extend a special thank you to those patrons who supported this important campaign with a contribution above and beyond.

Faith Arter | Jonathan Bell | Miles and Carol Bidwell | Andrei Chtcherbina  
Deanna Conheeny | Deirdre Driscoll-Lemoine | Elaine Edelberg  
Sophie and Tom Fair | Larry and Alice Jacobs | Herbert Jeschke and  
Erika Wallington | Rebecca and Randolph Johnson | Suzanna and John Laramee  
Judith Levitt | Patricia Marti | Scott Nanfelt | Thomas Palka | Annette Pelletier  
Debra and Armando Rodriguez | Cynthia Scheller | Cynthia A. Sinclair  
Susan and Dwight Sippelle | Masako Sparks | Paul Tobak | Dorothy Walsh  
Linda D. and Richard Winslow | Kay Winston | Nina You





# Holiday Concerts with Newport Classical

Last December we were proud to collaborate with The Choir School of Newport County, Brown University Chorus, and Providence Baroque Orchestra to present the first performances of Handel's *Messiah* at **Rosecliff Mansion!** The two sold out concerts received glowing feedback from patrons and we look forward to continuing this tradition annually moving forward.

Additionally, we presented **Ensemble Altera at Emmanuel Church** in a beautiful program for feminine voices, harp, and organ, centering on Benjamin Britten's beloved *Ceremony of Carols*.





**2021/22**  
**NEWPORT**  
**CLASSICAL**  
**MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The 53rd Newport Classical Music Festival took place from July 1 - July 17, 2022. The successful festival garnered critical acclaim for the broad range of composers, formats, artists, and sounds from the classical genre.

# Presented 23 concerts

in Blithewold, The Breakers, Castle Hill, Chinese Tea House, The Elms, Emmanuel Church, Great Friends Meeting House, Norman Bird Sanctuary, and Redwood Library & Athenaeum

# +3 free concerts

at King Park, the MLK Community Center, and Newport Art Museum!



Festival Artists perform at the Chinese Tea House during a sunrise concert



Triton Brass Quartet performing on the 4th of July at King Park

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# 34.8%

of attendees were  
first-time patrons

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Gavilán Brothers and a World Premiere at The Breakers

# WORLD PREMIERE

of *Crooked Shanks* by Shawn Okpebholo. This concert was sponsored by **Cynthia A. Sinclair** in loving memory of **Marilyn J. Woloohojian**, and the commission dedicated to Marilyn for her extraordinary generosity and commitment to the future of classical music in Newport.

## Performances by our 5 Festival Artists



Governor Dan McKee opened the 2022 Festival prior to **Orpheus Chamber Orchestra's** performance at The Breakers, and presented Newport Classical with a proclamation.



Gabriela Díaz, Charlie Kim, Ariel Horowitz, Jacqueline Choi, and Jordan Bak



Cocktails and Concert with Johannes Moser and Drew Petersen at the Redwood Library & Athenæum

# PRESS QUOTES

“ a classical music and arts experience that you just can't find anywhere else ”

“ Newport Classical isn't just about fabulous locations and big-name performers. It's about shining a light on underrepresented artists who deserve a wider audience. This summer's programming offers a strong focus on women and BIPOC composers, including works by more than 40 women and the world premiere of a new solo piano work from critically acclaimed composer Shawn Okpebholo, commissioned by Newport Classical. ”

---

- **CLASSICAL POST**

“ In the opulent splendor and magnificent acoustics of the Breakers Great Hall, overlooking the sea, the Grammy Award winning conductorless ensemble delivered with virtuosity, precision, and joie de vivre on a sonic palette rich and vibrant. ”

“ an evening of unforgettable memories and melodies ”

“ The audience clearly responded, the standing ovation demanding multiple bows and acknowledgements. ”

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- **THE BOSTON INTELLIGENCER**

“Violinist Chad Hoopes with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra wowed Friday’s opening night audience of Newport Classical Music Festival.”

- THE BOSTON INTELLIGENCER



# FINANCES: OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

The Newport Classical Board of Directors is pleased to share that the finance committee completed another successful audit of the previous year's financial statements and management policies, resulting in another clean audit and management letter.

The organization continued its path toward long-term financial stability over the course of this past season, having successfully completed the four-year challenge grant from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust, resulting in a \$1M Capital Reserve. Additionally, the finance committee established an investment sub-Committee, tasked with the creation of an Investment Policy and the selection of an investment advisor. The Committee considered eight potential investment advisors, narrowed it down to 4, and on March 30th conducted final interviews. Corrigan Financial was selected as the best choice based on their enthusiasm, expertise, investment philosophy, fee structure and involvement in the community, and was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors in May.

Newport Classical also successfully exceeded all fundraising goals, resulting in an operating surplus, which allowed the organization to establish an operational cash reserve, thereby securing financial sustainability for the future of the organization.

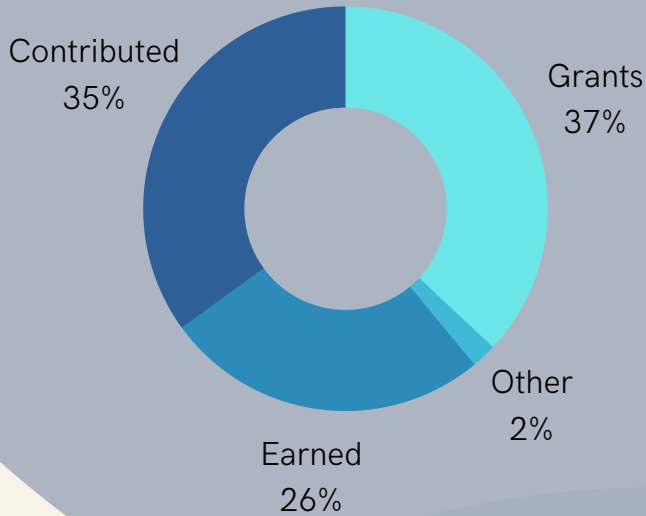


To request a copy of the most recent audited financial statements, please contact Gillian Friedman Fox, Executive Director, at [gfox@newportclassical.org](mailto:gfox@newportclassical.org)

Left to right: Alys D. Krichavsky, Joan Sweeney, Jim Godbout, and Jack Krichavsky

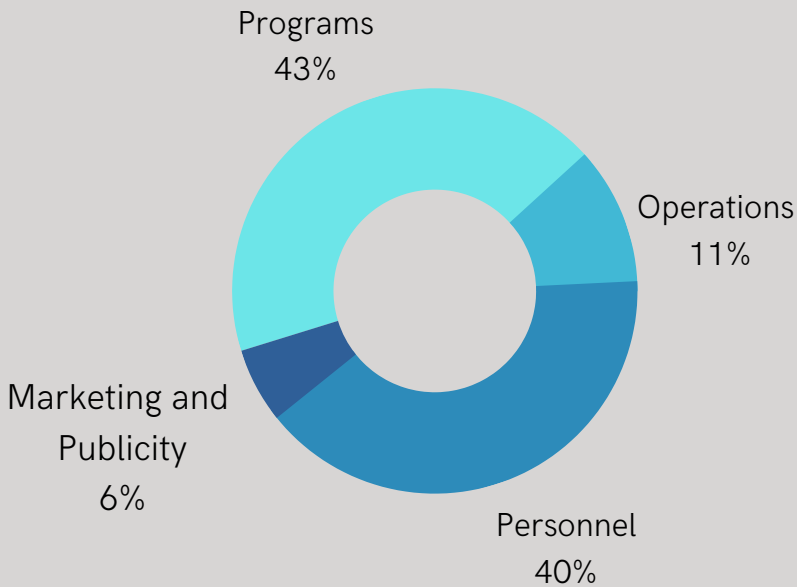
# FY22 Profit & Loss

## INCOME



Earned	399,640
Contributed	531,048
Grants	562,380
Other	29,854
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,522,922</b>

## EXPENSES



Programs	509,421
Personnel	476,246
Operations	125,448
Marketing and Publicity	66,182
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,177,297</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$345,625</b>

<b>Capital Expenses</b>	<b>\$67,310</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) after Capital Expenses</b>	<b>\$278,315</b>

# Staff

Gillian Friedman Fox  
*Executive Director*

Whitney S. Clarke  
*Director of Development*

Robert Dusza  
*Development and Production  
Administrator*

Joyce L'Heureux  
*Business Manager*

Trevor S. Neal  
*Director of Artistic Planning &  
Engagement*

Reggie F. Onorati  
*Marketing & Communications  
Manager*

Gail Skidmore  
*Head of Volunteers*

Christina Jensen  
*Jensen Artists Public Relations*

Larry Brown  
*Resident Piano Tuner*



Left to right: Joyce L'Heureux, Robert Dusza, Gillian Friedman Fox, Trevor S. Neal, Whitney S. Clarke, Reggie F. Onorati.  
Not Pictured: Gail Skidmore, Christina Jensen, Larry Brown

# Board of Directors

Suzanna Laramée  
*President*

Stephen B. Huttler, Esq.  
*Vice President*

Melanie Mason Niemiec  
*Treasurer*

Leslie Mathieu Hogan  
*Secretary*

Randolph R. Johnson, CEBS

Stephen D. Johnson

Alys D. Krichavsky

Donald W. Osborne

Diana Pearson

John J. Winkleman, Jr.

Marilyn Woloohojian



Left to right: Melanie Mason Niemiec, Randolph R. Johnson, CEBS, Alys D. Krichavsky, Stephen D. Johnson, Suzanna Laramée, Donald W. Osborne, John J. Winkleman, Jr., Leslie Mathieu Hogan, Diana Pearson.  
Not pictured: Stephen B. Huttler, Esq. and Marilyn Woloohojian



# Volunteers

Newport Classical thanks the incredible individuals who volunteer. Volunteers play a meaningful role in the Newport Classical community and directly impact the organization's ability to achieve its mission to celebrate classical music as a living art form through inspiring concerts in intimate and historic locations.

Ellen and David Abell  
Douglas and Kathryn Arent  
Barbara and Peter Baum  
Barbara Bellino  
Barbara and James Bentsen  
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Rosalie Goldman  
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# GRATITUDE REPORT

September 1, 2021 - August 31, 2022

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Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust

Bazarsky Family Foundation

EJMP Fund for Philanthropy

Gruben Charitable Foundation

Jennie and Stephen B. Huttler

Suzanna and John Laramee

Melanie and David Niemiec

Cynthia A. Sinclair

Marilyn J. Woloohojian



Randolph and Rebecca Johnson

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Dennis and Roseanne Williams

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Marjorie Yashar and Gerry Gibian

We gratefully recognize the generosity of the following individuals and foundations, whose extraordinary annual support contributes significantly to the organization's artistic programs and education and community engagements. *None of this is possible without charitable support from generous donors and devoted patrons like you! Thank you!*

## SILVER STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

Richard and Karen Calo

Judy and Kim Davis

Ronald and Maureen Early

Karl and Sonya Feitelberg

Elizabeth Leatherman - in honor of her mother

Elizabeth Firestone Willis on her 100th birthday.

Newport County Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation

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Peter and Marcy Kane - in memory of Dr. Mark Malkovich III and in honor of Joan Malkovich and Mark Malkovich IV and their outstanding service to the Newport Music Festival.

The Marra Family Charitable Fund

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Lovie Jackson, Miriam Banks, Toni and Fred Green

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Gavilán Brothers and a World Premiere at The Breakers



The Westerlies at Miantonomi Memorial Park

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**Carol A. Hodges**

Allan Hodges

**Joan Malkovich**

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Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Grimes

Peter and Marcy Kane

Joyce Rosenthal

Cynthia A. Sinclair

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Gail Skidmore

Marilyn Woloohojian

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Newport Classical is grateful for and honored to recognize the following individuals for perpetuating artistic excellence through their planned giving. Thanks to their foresight and generosity, the future of classical music will thrive for generations to come.

Robert H. Connell and Michelle Duffy

Roger Leslie Englander

Gillian and Michael Fox

Rebecca and Randolph Johnson

Suzanna and John Laramee

Frederick M. Lawton

Marilyn and Don Malpass

Robert and Mary Marra

Wendy Shapiro

We are truly grateful to all of our charitable supporters for your generosity and dedication to Newport Classical. The full gratitude report can be found on our website, [newportclassical.org](http://newportclassical.org).

# In Remembrance

Newport Classical mourns the loss of its beloved friends and supporters, who passed during this season.



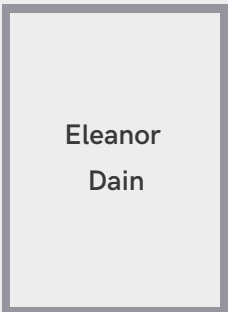
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Malcolm Frederick  
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Claire S. Velardi



## Marilyn J. Woloohojian

Marilyn served on the Board of Directors for thirty years, championing the voices of young artists, encouraging audience development, and advocating for music education in schools and access to classical music for listeners of all ages.

Suzanna Laramee, President of the Board of Directors said, "Marilyn brought joy and vibrancy to the Board of Directors. After thirty years, she continued to be engaged, hands-on, and a true leader of the organization. As a member of the Development Committee, she loved connecting people to the organization and making phone calls to personally thank donors for their generosity. On behalf of the Board of Directors, her loss will be felt deeply for years to come."

Marilyn's long-standing generous philanthropic support of Newport Classical, alongside her loving husband James, was limitless, sustaining the organization for decades. Sponsored artists include A Far Cry, Charlie Albright, Brooklyn Rider, Richard Glazier, and this upcoming summer's Opening Night concert with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and Chad Hoopes. This year's new commission, "On a Tune by Newport Gardner: Crooked Shanks" by composer Shawn Okpebholo was dedicated to Marilyn in recognition of her 30 years of service to Newport Classical, and sponsored by her long-time dear friend, Cynthia Sinclair, in Marilyn's honor.

"Over the past year and a half, Marilyn has welcomed me into the organization with profound support and guidance," said Executive Director Gillian Friedman Fox. "Her support for the future of the organization and direction in which we are headed inspires me. She is so beloved by the staff, and we will miss her dearly and strive to honor her through our ongoing work."

Marilyn often reminded us, "**do not let the music die**" and her work with Newport Classical was her proudest accomplishment. Her passion for the future of classical music was contagious and we are all committed to honoring her through the fulfillment of that mission. To that end, we are proud to launch "The Marilyn J. Woloohojian Emerging Artists Fund," to invest in the next generation of world-class musicians and present their Newport debuts and continue to bring free music education to the students of Aquidneck Island.

## Tia Grietje Scigulinsky


Tia, along with her devoted husband Ken, began volunteering with the Newport Music Festival, as it was formerly known, in 1979 after relocating to Newport from Naples, Italy where Ken served in the Navy, and served as director of volunteers for twenty years. Tia was a teacher at Rogers High School and injected her love of music into her European History classes.

Together, their love of music and close relationships with the artists and other volunteers, led them to become members of the Newport Classical family for over forty years. In recognition of her over four decades of service as a volunteer, Newport Classical was honored to dedicate to her memory, the July 7th evening performance at Castle Hill, featuring pianist Inna Faliks.

Tia was quoted in a 1984 article in The Providence Sunday Journal about her encounters with the festival each summer, saying "**it's a rare and beautiful experience where friendships develop and are revived every year.**"



Marilyn J. Woloohojian, Ken Scigulinsky and Tia Scigulinsky at the 2021 Music Festival



NEWPORT  
CLASSICAL  
**2021-22**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

All photography by Lisette Rooney