

2022/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

IN CONCERT WITH THE COMMUNITY



NEWPORT
CLASSICAL

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2023 Newport Classical Festival Artists at The Breakers



Stella Chen & Henry Kramer at the Newport Classical Recital Hall



Sinta Quartet performs at Bellevue House

ABOUT

NEWPORT CLASSICAL

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.

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., Newport Classical has a rich and adventurous musical legacy, presenting American debuts of international artists and rarely heard works.

GRATITUDE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF
NEWPORT CLASSICAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



After the final curtain came down (figuratively speaking) at The Breakers with the conclusion of the 2023 Festival season, my heart was filled with pride in all that Newport Classical has accomplished this year. I reflected on the exceptional artists, inspirational moments, and beautiful music generated all year round. We have an amazing community here on Aquidneck Island, in the state, and around the world, that supports, appreciates, and contributes to our success.

Our Board of Directors are all very talented and extremely knowledgeable individuals, and without their dedication and hard work, we would not be where we are today. Thank you for your diligence and drive to make this organization strong and always striving for artistic excellence.

Our staff, with the leadership of our incredible Executive Director, Gillian Friedman Fox, has shown yet again their willingness and determination to go above and

beyond in their quest for more and more amazing achievements for this organization. Thank you for all that you do!

Finally, thank you to our wonderful patrons, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters. You are our inspiration, and through you, Newport Classical grows and keeps thriving year after year. Together we all can work and aspire to keeping music alive for the human connection which music creates.



Music...can name the unnamable and communicate the unknowable. ”
-Leonard Bernstein

SUZANNA LARAMEE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 2022/23 season will be remembered for its unprecedented successes, setting new records, and pushing boundaries. Our programs showcase Newport Classical's commitment to the community through meaningful and consistent classical music education in local schools, free and accessible community engagements, a flourishing commissioning initiative, and the presentation of programming that prioritizes artistic excellence and memorable concert experiences.

With the second season of the Chamber Series at our new home, the Newport Classical Recital Hall, we presented eight exceptional concerts featuring the next generation of world-class musicians including Randall Goosby, and Stella Chen who was recently named Young Artist of the Year at Gramophone Awards. This series continued to serve as the framework for our Music Education and Engagement Initiative, which brings our guest musicians into Newport County classrooms each month to provide enrichment and access to exceptional classical music and reached 70% more students than the previous year.

This year, we were so grateful to have earned the support of BankNewport for our Community Concerts Series, which continues to offer free performances in neighborhood-centered locations around Newport County and welcome hundreds of listeners of all ages.

The 2023 Newport Classical Music Festival welcomed over 7,500 patrons over 20 days to 33 performances and events, including 39% first-time attendees! We were so thrilled to experience spellbinding performances together with you, including concerts by H el ene Grimaud, Kelli O'Hara, Cantus and The Knights, to name a few. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 55th Music Festival next summer: July 4-21, 2024 for another array of one-of-a-kind performances.

Newport Classical is proud to be an essential pillar of Rhode Island's cultural landscape, contributing to the prosperity and vibrancy of our community all year long. 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 set the stage for an even brighter future, building on the legacy of the past 55 years.

GILLIAN FRIEDMAN FOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Chamber Series

The Newport Classical Chamber Series delivered an outstanding season of music with eight exceptional concerts featuring **Matthew Lipman and Henry Kramer; Adam Sadberry and Irina Lupines; Parker Quartet; Gabriela Martinez; Randall Goosby and Anna Han; Thomas Mesa and Ilya Yakushev; Kenari Quartet; and Stella Chen and Henry Kramer.**

Average attendance of
79%
up from 57%
the year prior

We are thrilled to report an increase in audience engagement, with an average attendance of 79%, an uptick from the previous year's 57%. This increase in attendance demonstrates the community's positive response to our year-round programming and underscores the growing appreciation for the Newport Classical Chamber Series within Newport County. We are excited to build upon this success in the 2023/2024 season.



Stella Chen at the Newport Classical Recital Hall



Randall Goosby performs at the Newport Classical Recital Hall

Before



The Newport Classical Recital Hall opened in September 2021 with an inaugural performance featuring Thalea String Quartet. Since then, the stage and hall have undergone a revitalization, transforming into the beautiful space seen today.

After



RECITAL HALL RENOVATIONS

The Newport Classical Recital Hall's stage has been thoughtfully revitalized, thanks to the generous support of **Barry M. Berger** and **Kathleen A. Vieweg**. Their contributions have not only facilitated a restoration and redesign but have also played a pivotal role in sustaining our commitment to year-round programming ensuring that the Newport Classical Recital Hall remains the dedicated home for the Chamber Series.

The Newport Classical Recital Hall in its present-day splendor.



BankNewport Community Concerts Series

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



“

Fabulous
musicians.
Great choice
of music. ”

Audience Testimonial

Artists for the 2022/2023
BankNewport Community
Concerts Series included:
New York Brass Arts Trio
Ivalas Quartet
eGALitarian Brass
Britton-René Collins
Fenway Quintet

These concerts are generously presented as part of the **BankNewport** Community Concerts Series, with additional support from the **Newport County Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island Foundation Community Grant, and Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.**

“

Wonderful musicians who easily engaged with the audience, including the children. Concerts like this will build the audiences of the future. Brilliant! ”

Audience Testimonial

”

“

The performance was exceptional! I consider the ability to attend a concert of this caliber to be an amazing privilege. I truly hope I get the opportunity to see this group perform again. Thank you Newport Classical and each of your dedicated and caring sponsors for making this cultural event open to the public. ”

Audience Testimonial

“

Newport Classical is certainly to be commended for these community concerts. ”

Audience Testimonial

Music Education and Engagement Initiative

In its third year, the Newport Classical Music Education and Engagement Initiative continues to excel in providing no-cost musical enrichment opportunities. This season, the initiative successfully inspired 763 students in local schools, marking a substantial growth in the program's impact. The initiative has experienced a 70% increase in the number of children served compared to the previous year, highlighting its expanding reach and influence. Additionally, over 100 free tickets have been generously provided to the local community, underscoring our dedication to fostering a love for classical music accessible to all. The success of the initiative stands as a testament to our ongoing commitment to inspire the next generation of arts advocates, musicians, and music lovers.



Adam Sadberry performs for young musicians at East Bay Community Action Center's Head Start Preschool.

763

students inspired
in local schools

70%

more children
served this season

100+

free tickets provided to
the local community

Holiday

with Newport Classical



MESSIAH AT THE MANSION

In December 2022 we were proud to partner for the second year with The Choir School of Newport County to present Handel's *Messiah* at Rosecliff Mansion. The two sold out concerts, which featured Ensemble Altera and professional musicians from all over the region, received glowing feedback from patrons and we look forward to continuing this tradition annually.

CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

New last year, we collaborated with Emmanuel Church to present the inaugural Classical Christmas, bringing together musicians from throughout the community in a celebration of the holiday season. This annual tradition will continue in the 2023/2024 season.





Music Festival

Highlights of the 2023 Newport Classical Music Festival included performances by renowned pianists Simone Dinnerstein, Hélène Grimaud, and Charlie Albright; celebrated chamber ensembles including the Hermitage Piano Trio, Aizuri String Quartet, Excelsis Percussion Quartet, Sinta Saxophone Quartet, and Fenway Quintet; acclaimed cellists Zlatomir Fung and Amit Peled; Broadway and opera star Kelli O'Hara (currently starring in HBO's *The Gilded Age*, filmed in Newport); Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra; The Knights; New York Philharmonic principal clarinetist Anthony McGill in a return performance with pianist Anna Polonsky; riveting low-voice acapella ensemble Cantus; charismatic Norwegian violinist Eldbjørg Hemsing; and the world premiere of *The Gilded Cage*, a new work commissioned by Newport Classical from three-time GRAMMY®-nominated violinist/composer Curtis Stewart.

Other highlights included the Festival's popular Opera Night at The Breakers presenting *Così fan tutte* in a bold new un-staged production, Sunrise Meditations concerts, a concert inspired by nature at Norman Bird Sanctuary, a free Fourth of July concert at King Park, and nine performances by the talented 2023 Newport Classical Festival Artists throughout July contributed to the Festival's dynamic and engaging program offerings.

The 54th Newport Classical Music Festival took place from July 4-23, 2023. The successful Festival garnered critical acclaim for the broad range of composers, artists, and sounds from the classical genre.

Anthony Trionfo performs at The Elms



“

The program was really sophisticated. Packed house shows there really is a market for the top end concert experience in Newport. So appreciate Newport Classical maintaining that standard of excellence.”

Audience Testimonial

Hermitage Piano Trio performs at The Breakers



Audience applause at The Elms



7,500 patrons
over 20 days

26 concerts

12 venues

Hélène Grimaud performs at The Breakers



Festival Artists receive a standing ovation at The Breakers



“

Keep doing what you're doing! Outstanding programming.”

Audience Testimonial

7 free community events

39% first-time patrons

Charlie Albright performs at Castle Hill Inn



“

Grimaud's epic and masterful performance establishes beyond question her continuation of that great lineage of legendary pianists for audiences still to be thrilled by. ”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“

stunningly radiant, resonant, and joyous. ”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“

the 15 players produced an enormously rich and lush sound in the resonant acoustic of The Breakers. ”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer



Jill and George Kassis with their children



Austin Feeny and Virginia Gambale



Cynthia Sinclair and Jessica Hagen



Betsy Steel, Jason and Hadley Bazarsky, and Frank Steel



Michael Obuchowski and Ingrid Chung



Marilyn and Don Malpass



Terry Morgenthaler and Melanie Niemiec



Trish and Torre Peterson



Ken Scigulinsky and Linda Martin



Joan Sweeney, Alys Krichavsky, and Donald Osborne

FINANCES: OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

The organization continued its path toward long-term financial stability over the course of the 2022/23 season with another balanced budget and healthy cash position. Corrigan Financial, with oversight from the Finance and Investment Committee, has continued to oversee the Capital Reserve, which was valued at \$1,323,078 at the close of the fiscal year. The committee is co-led by Treasurer Melanie Niemiec and Investment Chair Steve Johnson.

As a part of the Newport Classical Board of Directors' governance duties, it formed a separate Audit Committee overseen by Committee Chair Joan Sweeney, and is pleased to share that the Committee completed two successful audits of the financial statements and management policies for fiscal years 2022 and 2023, both resulting in clean opinions and management letters.

Newport Classical also successfully exceeded all fundraising goals, resulting in an operating surplus, which allowed the organization to sustain its operational cash reserve and make a contribution to the Capital Reserve.

The financials shared in this report correlate with the most recent audited financial statements. To request a copy, please contact Executive Director Gillian Friedman Fox at gfox@newportclassical.org



Amit Peled performs at the Newport Art Museum



Craig and Kari Shapero with friends at The Breakers

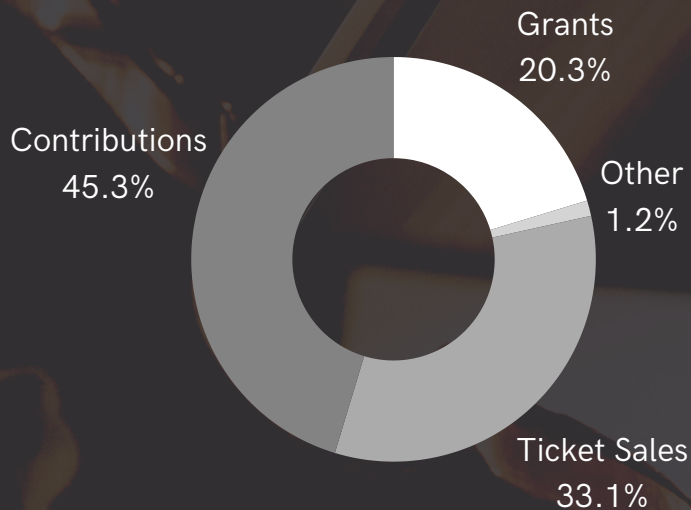


Aizuri Quartet performs at The Breakers



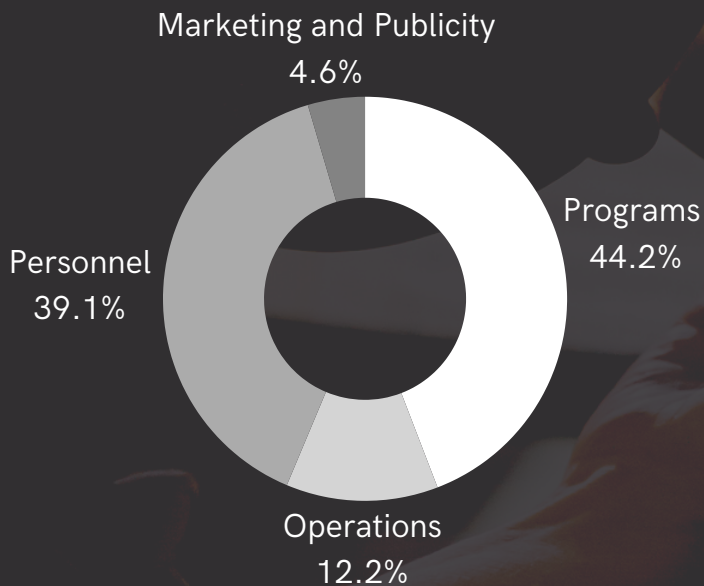
Excelsis Percussion Quartet performs at The Colony House

INCOME



Ticket Sales	\$523,031
Contributions	\$715,351
Grants	\$320,600
Other	\$19,580
Total Income	\$1,578,562

EXPENSES



Programs	\$584,452
Personnel	\$517,547
Operations	\$161,034
Marketing and Publicity	\$60,507
Total Expenses	\$1,323,540
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$255,022

Capital Expenses	\$34,918
Net Surplus (Deficit) after Capital Expenses	\$220,104

GRATITUDE REPORT

September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

Newport Classical gratefully recognizes 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.

MAESTRO SOCIETY

Anonymous
Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
BankNewport
Barry M. Berger and Kathleen A. Vieweg
EJMP Fund for Philanthropy
Gruben Charitable Foundation
Jennie and Steve B. Huttler
Suzanna and John Laramee
Ms. Terry Morgenthaler and Mr. Patrick Kerins
Melanie and David Niemiec
Prince Charitable Trusts
Joan Sweeney and Jim Godbout

PLATINUM STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

Ms. Virginia Gambale and Dr. Austin W. Feeney
Irene and Stephen D. Johnson
National Endowment for the Arts
Donald Osborne and Frank Garofolo
Matthew Putman
Ken Scigulinsky
Cynthia A. Sinclair
van Beuren Charitable Foundation

GOLD STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

Bazarsky Family Foundation
Robert H. Connell and Michelle Duffy
Esmond and Jerome Harmsworth
Leslie Mathieu Hogan
Rebecca and Randolph Johnson
Sue Klau
Alys and Jack Krichavsky
Kathy and Doug O'Brien
Diana Pearson
Linda and Jack Purdy
Rhode Island Foundation Community Grant
Maria Elena Vergara and Isaac Valentin
Roseanne and Dennis Williams

SILVER STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

The American-Scandinavian Foundation
Audrain Hospitality Group

SILVER STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

(CONTINUED)

The Brenton Hotel
Karen and Richard Calo
Judy and Kim Davis
Ronald and Maureen Early
Karl and Sonya Feitelberg
Judith G. Holcomb
Don and Marilyn Malpass
Mary and Robert Marra
Torre and Patricia Miller Peterson
Connie Procaccini
Rhode Island Foundation Newport County Fund
George M. and Barbara H. Sage Fund at the
Rhode Island Foundation
Jackie Savoie and Dennis McCool
Dwight and Susan Sippelle
The White Family Foundation
Dorothy and Ken Woodcock
Marjorie Yashar and Gerry Gibian

BRONZE STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

Bernard Chiu
William and Madeleine Choquette
Ingrid Chung and Michael Obuchowski
Melissa Fairgrieve
Nancy and Robert E. Grasing
Hope Foundation
Larry and Kim Ingeneri
James H. & Marilyn J. Woloohojian Family
Foundation
Marcellene S. Doctor Kane
Michael Lemoine and Deirdre Driscoll Lemoine
Louise Levin
Dr. Jane Moffett and Mr. Mark Blycker
NewportFed Charitable Foundation
David and Dianne Piccoli
Artists Development Fund at the Rhode Island
Foundation
Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Sharon and Jim Seymour
Lorna and Jeremiah Shafir
Betsy and Frank Steel
Ingrid and Richard Taylor

STRADIVARIUS CIRCLE

Karen and Stuart Bevan
 Miles and Carol Bidwell
 Laurie and Ruud Bosman
 Joe and Rita Conklin
 Kim and Glenn Darden
 Donald Dwares
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 Gillian and Michael Fox
 Toni and Fred Green
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 Sandra Liotus Lighting Design, LLC
 Marcia Morris and Arnold Hiatt
 Elizabeth Procaccianti
 William Peter Rademsky
 Aldo and Debbi Roldan
 Arlene Lidsky Salomon and Chester B. Salomon
 Barbara and Larry Schoenfeld
 Dr. Cynthia Stack
 Marjorie H. Turley



Frank Garofolo, Whitney Clarke, Donald Osborne, Cynthia Sinclair, and Brenda Calkins

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 M. Therese Antone
 Patricia Antonelli
 Mitchell Berg and Leni Klaimitz
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 Mary Brunell
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 Ron Weintraub and Margo Howard
 John J. Winkleman, Jr.



Georgette Pan and Dr. Joseph Weiss

TRIBUTE GIFTS

In Honor of The Bazarsky Family

Betsy and Frank Steel

In Honor of Charlotte Rose

Toni and Fred Green

Joyce Rosenthal

In Honor of Sophie and Tom Fair

Suzanna and John Laramee

In Honor of Gillian Friedman Fox

Liz Drayton

In Honor of Christine Huttler Hayes

Nancy and Bob Grasing

In Memory of Carol A. Hodges

Allan A. Hodges

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Christine Huttler Hayes

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Don and Marilyn Malpass

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Michael J. Moran

In Honor of Terry Morgenthaler and Patrick Kerins

Diana Daly

In Memory of Gerald E. Morris

Edmund E. Lynch Family

In Memory of Richard J. Pope

Judith G. Holcomb

In Honor of Ryle Robinson

Suzanna and John Laramee

In Memory of Joyce Rosenthal

Sue Klau

Patricia Montagnino

Barbara J. Oswald

In Memory of Tia Grietje Scigulinsky

AARP - Newport County Rhode

Island Chapter

Ken Scigulinsky

In Memory of Elinor Bozyan Warburg

Margaret B. Jefferys

In Memory of Marilyn J. Woloohojian

Winifred Brownell

Cynthia A. Sinclair



Evelyne Valkenberg, Ryan Lee Crosby, Noline Valkenberg, & Herber Valkenberg

ENCORE SOCIETY

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.

Anonymous

Robert H. Connell and Michelle Duffy

Roger Leslie Englander

Gillian and Michael Fox

Jennie and Steve B. Huttler

Rebecca and Randolph Johnson

Suzanna and John Laramee

Frederick M. Lawton

Marilyn and Don Malpass

Mary and Robert Marra

Wendy Shapiro

Anne Sherman

Cynthia A. Sinclair

Contributions received after August 31, 2023 will be acknowledged gratefully in future materials.

In Remembrance

Newport Classical mourns the passing of dear friends and steadfast supporters. Their absence is deeply felt within our community, and we remember them for the significant contributions they made. Though their presence is missed, we aim to carry forward their dedication, ensuring that the spirit they brought to Newport Classical lives on through the music and moments we continue to share.



Monty Burnham



Letitia Carter



James J. 'Jim' Gillis



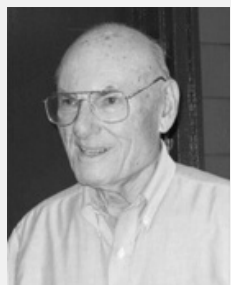
Robyn Holloway



Humbert J. Lucarelli



Bernard Nemtzow



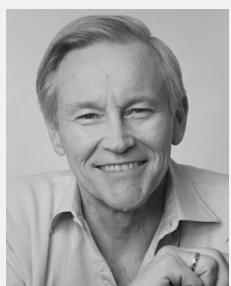
Zalman David Newman



Philip J. O'Connor



Richard Reuning



Casper Roos



Joyce S. Rosenthal



Helen Shannon



David England Steele

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.

Douglas Arent
Kathryn Arent
Barbara Baum
Jim Benson
Rick Best
Mary Brunell
Kristi Chesher
Anna Davis
Betsy De Leiris
Dolores DeCesare
Cristine Fagan
Tom Fedyszon
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Barbara Holland
Edith Klem
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Marie Maisano
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Gretchen Pierce
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Nancy Scott
Wendy Shapiro
Doris Shaw
Gail Skidmore
Anne Spaight
Susan Taylor
Olga Verbeek
Linda Valentine
Danette Walsh
Michael Walsh
Loel Weiss
Patty Weiss
Diana Wood
Bonnie Wynn



Doris Shaw, Linda Valentine, and Gail Skidmore



Tom Fedyszon ushers at The Breakers



Joyce S. Rosenthal was a longtime volunteer and supporter. A joyful and beloved member of our community for decades, she was incredibly passionate about classical music in Newport and remained an active volunteer right up until her sudden passing.



STAFF

- Gillian Friedman Fox.....*Executive Director*
- Whitney S. Clarke.....*Director of Development*
- Trevor S. Neal...*Director of Artistic Planning & Engagement*
- Barbara Warner.....*Business Manager*
- Reginald Onorati.....*Graphic Designer*
- Remy Besson.....*Stage Manager*
- Gail Skidmore.....*Head of Volunteers*
- Larry Brown, Luca Music.....*Piano Technician*
- Lisette Rooney.....*Photographer*
- Christina Jensen, Jensen Artists.....*Public Relations*



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