

2026
Annual Report

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

VIOLIN I

Daniel Szasz, Concertmaster
Catherine Dearnley-Dorothy Happel Chair
Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Amanda Brin, Assistant Concertmaster
Hyperion String Quartet
Diana Pepelea Vardi
Blue Water Chamber Orchestra
Ervin Dede
Harrisburg Symphony

VIOLIN II

Vlad Hontila, Acting Principal Violin II
Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Marius Tabacila
Orlando Philharmonic
Anna Gendler
Tucson Symphony Orchestra

VIOLA

Zakaria Enikeev, Principal Viola
Alabama Symphony Orchestra
Denise Cridge
Greenwich Symphony Orchestra

CELLO

Isabel Dimoff, Acting Principal Cello
Elizabeth (Beth) Dury Master Chair
Virginia Symphony Orchestra
Sara Male, Acting Principal Cello
Elizabeth (Beth) Dury Master Chair
Lancaster Symphony Orchestra
Jonathan Brin
Vermont Symphony Orchestra

BASS

Devin Howell
Philip Albright Chair
Harrisburg Symphony

FLUTE

Anne Harrow
Eastman School of Music

OBOE

Jillian Honn
Cape Symphony

CLARINET

Amitai Vardi
Erie Philharmonic

BASSOON

Thomas English
David Van Hoesen Chair
West Virginia Symphony

HORN

James Rester
Harrisburg Symphony
Mirella Gable
Cape Henlopen Schools

TRUMPET

Zachary Thomas
Toledo Symphony

PERCUSSION

Tony Oliver
Quad City Symphony

STAFF

Emily Dobmeier, *Executive Director*
Chase Hayes, *Operations Manager*
Eric Weller, *Production Manager*
Parker Anthony, *Production Assistant*
Aili Teittinen-Gordon, *Music Librarian*

ABOUT THE SINFONIETTA

Founded in 1917, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta has brought exceptional live music to the Adirondack region for over 100 years. What began as a small, private club orchestra has grown into a full chamber orchestra for the community, with musicians coming from leading orchestras and universities across the country. Each summer, the Sinfonietta presents a blend of free outdoor concerts, ticketed performances, and educational programs, reaching audiences from first-time listeners to lifelong music lovers. Through partnerships with local organizations, outreach in the community, and a commitment to artistic excellence, we enrich the cultural life of Lake Placid and keep the tradition of world-class music alive in the Adirondacks.

Photography Credit: Kyle Fink & Lohr McKinstry

Lake Placid sinfonietta
THE ORCHESTRA OF THE ADIRONDACKS

MISSION
The Lake Placid Sinfonietta, the Adirondacks' orchestra of world-class musicians, unleashes the power of music to entertain, educate, and inspire people of all ages.

VISION
The Lake Placid Sinfonietta unites Adirondack communities and visitors with inspiring music in a beautiful environment.

VALUES
Excellence – Joy – Inclusivity

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robin Baxter, *President*
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Linda Patterson, DMA

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James Rester
Amitai Vardi

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Judy Steinberg, PhD
Nancy Adams Sweet

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Lake Placid Sinfonietta is grateful to the 45 dedicated and generous volunteers who gave more than 500 hours of their time this year!

Want to volunteer? There are many ways to share your time, talents, and passion with the Sinfonietta - you can help greet audiences at a concert, lend a hand with administrative or marketing projects, assist with fundraising, or contribute professional expertise. Whether you are a year-round resident, seasonal visitor, or supporter from afar, we welcome you to join our team of dedicated volunteers by visiting lakeplacidsinfonietta.org/volunteer.

OUR 2026 SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Lake Placid Sinfonietta exists through the generosity of a community that truly believes in and champions its mission. What makes this community so special is the spirit of mutual support — individuals, businesses, and organizations coming together to ensure that the arts continue to thrive. We would like to thank and recognize the many community partners who made this past year possible:

NEXT GENERATION SPONSOR

Providing free Symphony Series tickets to those 18 and under

Adirondack Health
Better Health, Better Lives

ADIRONDACK SERIES SPONSOR

pdg PHINNEY DESIGNGROUP

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LEAF SPONSORED PROJECT
Cloudsplitter Foundation

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Henry II and Mildred A. Uihlein Foundation
Village of Lake Placid

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Town of North Elba
Arts Center Lake Placid
Adirondack Center for Writing
Adirondack Film
John Brown Farm State Historic Site
Olympic Center
Pendragon Theater
PlayADK
Town of Harrietstown
Whiteface Club & Resort
Whiteface Lodge
The Wild Center

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Council on the Arts

LAKE PLACID

essex county Arts Council

The Lake Placid Sinfonietta is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Free Community Park Concerts are supported by funds from the Town of North Elba, the Village of Lake Placid, and the Essex County Arts Council.



DEAR FRIENDS OF THE LAKE PLACID SINFONIETTA,

As we reflect on the 2026 season at the Lake Placid Sinfonietta, we are inspired and grateful for the possibilities this year gave us. Last fall, we asked ourselves: What might be accomplished if we spend this year focusing on true partnership within the community around us?

The answer came in many forms. We embraced new collaborations with other nonprofit organizations, performed in beautiful venues throughout the region, invited guest conductors from across the country, and continued our core tradition of sharing exceptional music in this Adirondack community we are lucky enough to call home.

In this report, you will see the many ways we were inspired by the work and missions of our neighboring organizations, bringing the arts alongside education, writing, sport, history, nature, and more. You will also see how we worked to grow and strengthen the Sinfonietta for the future by responsibly managing our resources, strategically expanding year-round programming, and listening to the needs and passions of you—our community.

We are incredibly grateful to the donors, local businesses, volunteers, audience members, partners, board members, and, of course, our incredible musicians who made this year possible. Your generosity, time, encouragement, and enthusiasm allowed us to try new things, build new relationships, and continue investing in this organization. Most importantly, you reminded us that the Sinfonietta is not simply an orchestra that performs in this community, it is an organization shaped and sustained by every person involved.

The greatest part is that there is so much to come as well! In 2027, we will welcome three exceptional Music Director candidates, each spending two weeks with the orchestra in the summer. We will also launch our first-ever chamber music series in the winter and spring months, creating new opportunities to experience the musicians of the Sinfonietta throughout the year.

We hope you will join us for what comes next. As we continue to imagine what is possible, we are excited to do so alongside each of you.

With gratitude,

Robin Baxter, *2026 Board President*

Emily Dobmeier, *Executive Director*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING ACTIVITIES



Lake Placid Film Festival

Palace Theater, Lake Placid - November

Last fall, the Sinfonietta partnered with Adirondack Film for a special screening of *Viva Verdi!* as part of the Lake Placid Film Festival, celebrating the legacy of composer Giuseppe Verdi. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring director and producer Yvonne Russo and Sinfonietta board member Anne Hurd, a retired chorus member of the Metropolitan Opera, offering audiences a deeper look at the connections between film and music.



Winter Fundraising Concert

Whiteface Lodge, Lake Placid - January

The Sinfonietta hosted its first-ever winter fundraiser on January 11 at the Whiteface Lodge, featuring a performance by Sinfonietta oboist Jillian Honn and pianist Linda Patterson. The afternoon brought patrons together for music, community, and a silent auction, raising more than $10,000 in support of the Sinfonietta.



Spring Chamber Music Concert

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid - May

In the spring, the Sinfonietta welcomed violinist Vlad Hontila and cellist Georgia Reine Bourderionnet for a chamber music concert that paired music with poetry. Through a partnership with the Adirondack Center for Writing, Lake Placid Middle School students explored writing ekphrastic poetry to Schubert's *Erlkönig,* and their works were shared with the audience, with free admission provided for participating students and their families.

2026 BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,750 audience members
- 21 performances given
- 17 community partnerships
- 12 concert venues

SUMMER CONCERTS

This summer marked the Sinfonietta's 109th season in the Adirondacks! We welcomed four guest conductors who presented an exciting array of programs across our Park, Symphony, and Adirondack Series concerts: Maurice Cohn, David Bloom, Georgia Mills, and Stuart Malina.

SYMPHONY SERIES

Our six Symphony Series concerts each summer showcase the orchestra through masterworks, new pieces, soloists, and guest artists. Two concerts this season also introduced chamber music to the series, with programs largely curated by the musicians themselves and offering audiences a closer look at the individual artistry within the ensemble.

Even as we navigated a season without our traditional home at the Arts Center, audiences followed us to new spaces throughout Lake Placid and Saranac Lake. And through the launch of our Next Generation initiative, every audience member age 18 and under could attend these performances for free, opening the door for a new generation to discover the power and beauty of live music!



Soloists and Guest Artists

This season featured two of our incredible musicians as soloists: concertmaster Daniel Szasz and oboist Jillian Honn.



In addition, composer Robert Paterson joined us and spoke to audiences about his piece *Book of Goddesses* for flute, harp, and piano.

Chamber Music

Alongside our full orchestra performances, this season welcomed two chamber music concerts, featuring musicians of the Sinfonietta at the beautiful new Pendragon Theater in Saranac Lake and stunning Whiteface Lodge in Lake Placid.



Host a musician during the summer season!

Each summer, the Lake Placid Sinfonietta welcomes musicians from across the country for our six-week season. Many require short-term housing, and the generosity of our community makes their residency possible. If you have a property or rental to offer or lease, you can play an important role in supporting our musicians and sustaining this tradition of hospitality. Contact us to learn more!



PARK SERIES

On Wednesday evenings in the summer, Mid's Park in Lake Placid becomes a little piece of community magic. Families gather on blankets, best friends meet up weekly to claim their familiar spot, and others come and go by paddle board to listen from the water. This Series is woven into the fabric of summer in Lake Placid—a free, welcoming experience where anyone can stop and listen, even if simply passing by.



People often tell us that Park Concerts were their first time hearing the Sinfonietta, or even their first time experiencing a classical concert in general, and that is one of the greatest gifts we can offer: an unexpected introduction to something they may carry with them for years to come.

This season, our Park Series concerts alone welcomed over 1,500 audience members and featured beloved favorites, from Broadway, to pops and film music!



> *The Sinfonietta is the joy of my summer! At the end of June when I finally arrive back in Lake Placid, I start counting the days until the first Wednesday night park concert.*
> *- Patricia, Lake Placid summer resident*

ADIRONDACK SERIES

The Adirondack Series begins with a simple idea: great music should be heard and felt throughout our community. Each year, the Sinfonietta travels around the region, meeting audiences in schools, historic sites, museums, and community centers.

In 2026, four performances invited audiences to experience the orchestra in different settings—from a free children's concert filled with play, to celebrating the Olympic spirit, an afternoon inspired by John Brown Farm, and an evening where music met nature.

Attendance in this series grew approximately 150% compared with previous years, while our children's concert audience doubled from the 2025 season. Every audience represents a new connection and a reminder that the Sinfonietta is not simply an orchestra in Lake Placid, but an orchestra OF the Adirondacks.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to bring my kids to a live orchestra concert conceived specifically for them. They were able to experience all the different instrument sounds and the excitement of the full orchestra. These types of concerts are uncommon in the region, but I believe they play an important role in developing kids' love for music.
- Sarah, Saranac Lake resident

An Afternoon with the Sinfonietta

John Brown Farm Historic Site, Lake Placid
Rain site: Lake Placid Middle/High School



Morning Children's Concert

St. Agnes School, Lake Placid
in partnership with PlayADK
sponsored by Stewart's Shops



Miracles on Ice!

Olympic Center, Lake Placid
in partnership with Adirondack Film
and the Olympic Center



Music & Nature

The Wild Center, Tupper Lake
in partnership with
The Wild Center



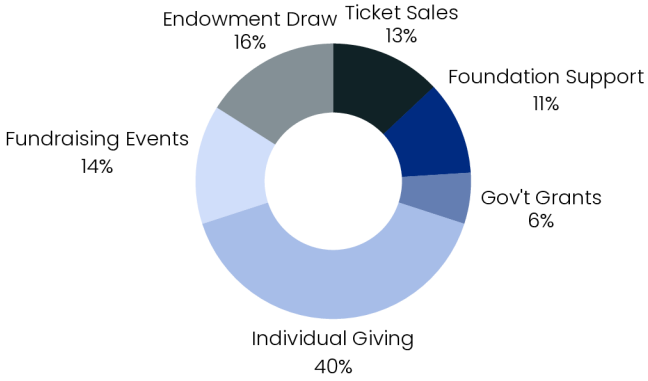
Sinfonietta concerts offer us both cherished reunions with beloved masterpieces and exciting discoveries of lesser-known composers and works. The Lake Placid Sinfonietta stands as the finest ambassador for classical music in the Adirondacks—bringing artistry, passion, and community together in perfect harmony.
- Jean, Lake Placid resident

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Lake Placid Sinfonietta remains committed to careful stewardship of our resources. Our operational revenue and expenses for October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026 are reflected below.

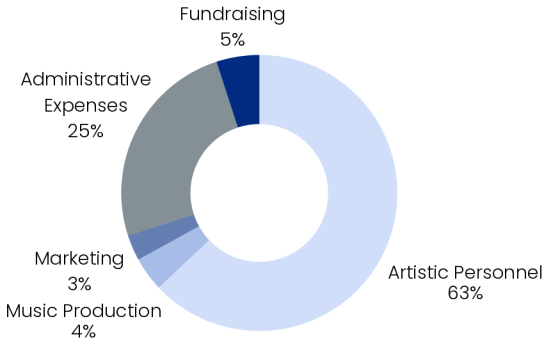
REVENUE

Total Operating Revenue = $410,101



EXPENSES

Total Operating Expenses = $381,706



ENDOWMENT

Second Century Fund at TIAA = $964,660
Second Century Fund at ADK Community Foundation = $339,573

OUR DONORS

– MEMBERSHIP 2026 –
OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Many thanks to the individuals, businesses, and foundations who have made a contribution to the Lake Placid Sinfonietta.

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Lohr McKinstry
Charlie & Kathy Marshall
Jerilyn Wright

A special thank you to Dr. Claude Roland, who launched a $10,000 matching challenge this spring, inspiring our Board of Directors to meet the challenge and together raise $20,000 for the Sinfonietta!

OUR DONORS

HONORARIA 2026

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Marilyn Danzig
In Honor of Elizabeth Baxter
Robin Baxter
In Honor of Patricia Eldridge
Meg & Cris Petersen
In Honor of Barbara Erickson
Mark Erickson
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In Honor of Stuart & Marty Malina
Mary Liz Alexander, PhD
Karen Cohen and D. Graham Holmes
Patricia Eldridge
In Honor of Gregory Quick
Claude Roland & Lidia Mirza
In Honor of Allola McGraw
Ann Feiertag

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Robert & Lindsey Batta
Elizabeth (Betsy) Baxter
Robin Baxter
Brenda K. Jock
Susan & Craig Sheldon
In Memory of Janice Butts
Dean Butts
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Michael & Mary Pat Baker
In Memory of Kathryn & George Sullivan
By their children
In Memory of Louise Weston Wright
Anonymous
In Memory of Meg Yancich
Paul Yancich

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The Albright Family
Gregory & Julia Thompson
In Memory of Gay Grote McMullen
Donald E. McMullen

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The Elizabeth (Beth) Dury Master Chair for Principal Cello
The Philip Albright Chair For Bass
The David Van Hoesen Chair For Bassoon

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David Baxter (1956-2011)
Janet Elliott Huwiler (1932-2007)
May Louise Lockwood (1926-2007)
Herbert Martin Lockwood (1960-1987)
Joyce (1936-2020) &
Vincent R. McLean (1931-2009)
Rolf R. Roland (1911-2007)
Barbara Jacobs Tamerin (1939-2021)
Milan (1921-2007) &
Pauny Yancich (1925-2019)

THE ENCORE SOCIETY
THE LAKE PLACID SINFONIETTA'S LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

This past March, we formally established the Encore Society as a way to recognize and celebrate the patrons who have generously included the Lake Placid Sinfonietta in their will and estate plans. We are deeply grateful to all members of the Encore Society whose generosity ensures that the music of the Lake Placid Sinfonietta will continue to inspire audiences for generations to come.



Members of the Encore Society gathered this summer for a celebration, prior to a Sinfonietta concert in Mid's Park!

CURRENT ENCORE SOCIETY MEMBERS

Anonymous
Annette Albright*
Anne Alsina
Robin Baxter
Don* & Yvette Caldera
Paul Dooling* & Sandra Danussi
Mary & Dean Dietrich
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Carol Nevulis
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Dr. Claude Roland
Susan & Craig Sheldon
Carol Van Hoesen*
**In memoriam*

JOIN THE ENCORE SOCIETY

- Leave a personal, enduring mark on the cultural life of the Adirondacks.
- Celebrate your love of music with special recognition opportunities, including our Annual Report and Program Booklet. *Recognition is optional and may be anonymous at the donor's request.*
- Join this dedicated group of Sinfonietta patrons for an intimate gathering in the summer.

Gifts of all sizes can be made, including naming the Sinfonietta as a primary or contingent (secondary) beneficiary, offering flexibility to align with your personal wishes. Legacy gifts to the Sinfonietta can be made in many ways – including through your will, retirement account, life insurance policy, charitable trust, or the Adirondack Community Foundation.

To learn more about joining the Encore Society, please contact Executive Director Emily Dobmeier at edobmeier@lakeplacidsinfonietta.org or (518) 523-2051.

NEW! 2027 WINTER & SPRING CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Starting in January, we are excited to launch our new Chamber Music Series, inviting musicians of the Sinfonietta back to the region year-round! Be sure to visit our website, mark your calendars, and join us for the spectacular programs we have planned.





Scan the QR code to see our 2027 Chamber Music Series schedule!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our 2027 summer season will run from
July 7 - August 15

Meet our Music Director Candidates

Next summer, we will welcome three exceptional candidates as we continue our search for the orchestra's next Music Director! We invite you to meet each conductor and follow this exciting chapter in the Sinfonietta's story at lakeplacidsinfonietta.org/mdcandidates

JULY 7-18



YANIV SEGAL

JULY 21-AUGUST 1



ANDREW CRUST

AUGUST 4-15



DARKO BUTORAC



Join us in composing the next chapter for the Sinfonietta. Consider making a gift today!

info@lakeplacidsinfonietta.org
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PO Box 1303
Lake Placid, NY 12946