

# WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY



Annual Report 2016 – **IMPACT**



September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016



# Mission

The Worcester Chamber Music Society enriches the community through professional concerts and educational programs.

We seek to engage people of all ages through our innovative programs, collaboration, and outreach. We strive to uplift youth through music-making and mentorship. Our goal is to contribute to the vibrant, cultural fabric of the Worcester community in a meaningful way.



## Table of Contents

- 1. Letter from the Executive Director
- 2. Program Impact – Neighborhood Strings
- 4. Board of Directors
- 5. List of Supporters
- 8. Financial Statement

## From the Executive Director



*Dear Friends,*

Thank you to all of our donors, community partners and volunteers for making 2016 a year of growth and success!

In 2006, we performed our first concert for 250 people in the basement of St. Paul's Cathedral. Surprised by the size of the audience, it was the sign we needed to pursue our dream of building a "chamber music society" for the Worcester community.

Ten years later, connection and collaboration continue to be the hallmark of our success as an organization. Partnerships with Clark University, Mechanics Hall, and Music Worcester, to name a few, have increased our visibility in the city and helped create unique opportunities that serve our musical community.

Our 10th Anniversary year saw increased attendance in all four of our concert offerings, the addition of a second site for Neighborhood Strings, and statewide recognition for our work in creative youth development. The hard work, passion and dedication of our Board of Directors, musicians, staff and volunteers made all of this possible.

Moving forward, we are developing strategies for sustainability as we continue to grow and serve our community. The power of the arts to enrich and inspire is at the core of our organization. I hope that you will continue this incredible journey with us as we begin our second decade of making music and making our community a better place to live.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Kraus". The script is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Tracy Kraus  
*Executive Director*



## Program Impact – Neighborhood Strings

Neighborhood Strings had a successful fourth year and took many exciting steps toward the goal of connecting Worcester Chamber Music Society musicians with youth from the diverse and underserved communities in Main South and Downtown. The biggest new development was our new teaching site at Seven Hills Public Charter School.



Neighborhood Strings served 38 students, ages 7-14, expanded from 28 students in 2014-15. Our mentors are a critical part of our work; 17 mentors from Worcester high schools and colleges, and graduates attend the program regularly and work intensely with youth, deepening both artistic progress and quality of relationships.

Neighborhood Strings was recognized by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a Creative Youth Development program, and awarded a grant from the MCC's Community Music Initiative, Ser Hacer (To be, To make).

### Results from Neighborhood Strings Evaluation:

- Students are beginning to fulfill social goals—higher expectations, building confidence, recognize options for the future
- Neighborhood Strings students performed well above the school average
- 90% weekly attendance rate
- High parent engagement

## A Mentor's Reflection – Stella Chaves, age 16

**T**he Neighborhood Strings Program has had more of an impact on me than anything that I have ever done before. By mentoring the students in the program, I learned how to be a teacher and role model, how to have patience, be caring, and I realized how important it is to give back and how much of an impact that people can have in the world, just by volunteering their time and talents. The one thing that is certain is that the students of the NS Program have changed my life as I now desire to be a teacher, especially in the area of underserved communities, as my career.



## A Student's Experience – Peter's Story



**W**e met Peter Korfuzi in the first year of Neighborhood Strings. Then nine years old, Peter had a story similar to many children in Main South. His parents are Albanian immigrants, and his family face tough circumstances. Despite significant challenges, Peter is a bright student, and enthusiastically chose to participate in Neighborhood Strings. He picked the viola, and quickly progressed to be one of the top students in the program.

After just three years in the program, and having discovered a real love for music, Peter was ready to attend WCMS's Summer Chamber Music Camp with a full scholarship.

Through connections he made at camp, he was able to attend a two-week overnight orchestra camp in Boston at the Longy School of Music.

The amazing widening of Peter's world that he achieved through music after a relatively short time in the program felt like a realization of the dream we pursue for each child in our program.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2016-2017

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Carol Seager

\* Board President, 2014-2016

## MUSICIANS

Mark Berger, *violin*  
Krista Buckland Reisner, *violin*  
Ariana Falk, *cello*  
Joshua Gordon, *cello*  
Rohan Gregory, *violin*  
Randall Hodgkinson, *piano*  
Tracy Kraus, *flute*  
David Russell, *cello*  
Peter Sulski, *viola*



## STAFF

Tracy Kraus, *Executive Director*  
Ariana Falk, *Education Director*  
Peter Sulski, *Assistant Neighborhood Strings*  
Rohan Gregory, *Teaching Artist, Neighborhood Strings*  
Jason Tockey, *Administrative Assistant/Marketing Coordinator*



“As a Board member, I know the organization is extremely well-run thanks to the collaborative spirit of the executive team, the musicians and the board. Personally, as a donor, I can tell you that your dollars are spent wisely! These past ten years, the organization has become a major cultural asset in our community. I feel so blessed to be a part of it all!”

- **Lisa Piehler**, recently retired *Executive Director of the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross*

# Thank you!

## SUPPORTERS *September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016*

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

*(Virtuoso, Encore & Suite)*

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Charles Severens

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*We sincerely thank all of our  
donors and corporate sponsors  
for their support. We apologize  
for any errors or omissions in  
this listing. Please contact us so  
that we may address the error  
for future publications.*



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of August 31, 2016

	2016	2015
<b>Assets</b>		
Operating cash	\$ 83,302	\$ 80,829
Grant and other receivables	\$ 1,843	\$ 4,600
Prepaid expenses	\$ 5,052	\$ 4,084
GWCF Agency Fund*	\$ 81,725	\$ 46,221
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 171,922</b>	<b>\$ 135,734</b>

\*Greater Worcester Community Foundation

## Liabilities & Net Assets

### Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 8,202	\$ 9,194
Deferred revenue	\$ 17,227	\$ 3,515

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 25,429</b>	<b>\$ 12,709</b>
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### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 122,493	\$ 90,025
Temporarily restricted	\$ 24,000	\$ 33,000

<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 146,493</b>	<b>\$ 123,025</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 171,922</b>	<b>\$ 123,025</b>
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## Revenues

Program revenue	\$ 130,614	\$ 108,966
Contributions	\$ 136,333	\$ 142,952
Grants and foundations	\$ 74,330	\$ 66,943
Investment income	\$ 3,289	\$ (2,778)

<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 344,566</b>	<b>\$ 316,083</b>
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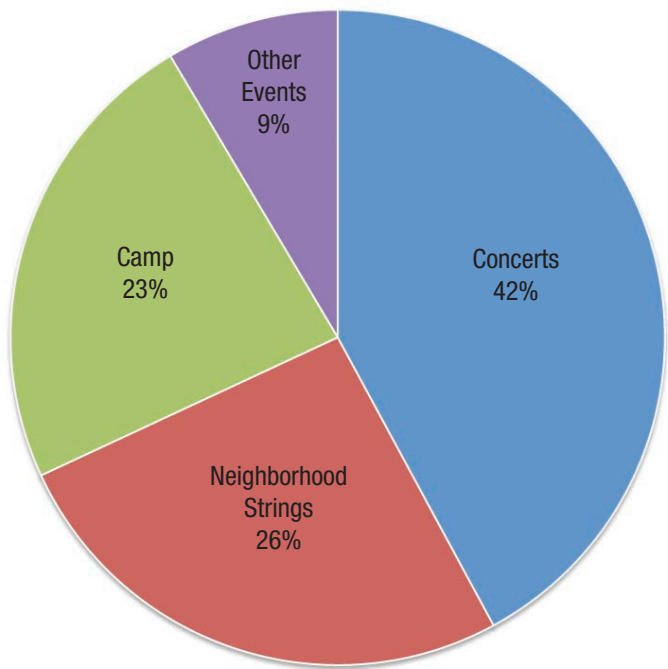
## Expenses

Program expenses	\$ 246,740	\$ 230,358
Fundraising	\$ 39,493	\$ 11,949
Administrative	\$ 34,865	\$ 14,153
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 321,098</b>	<b>\$ 256,460</b>

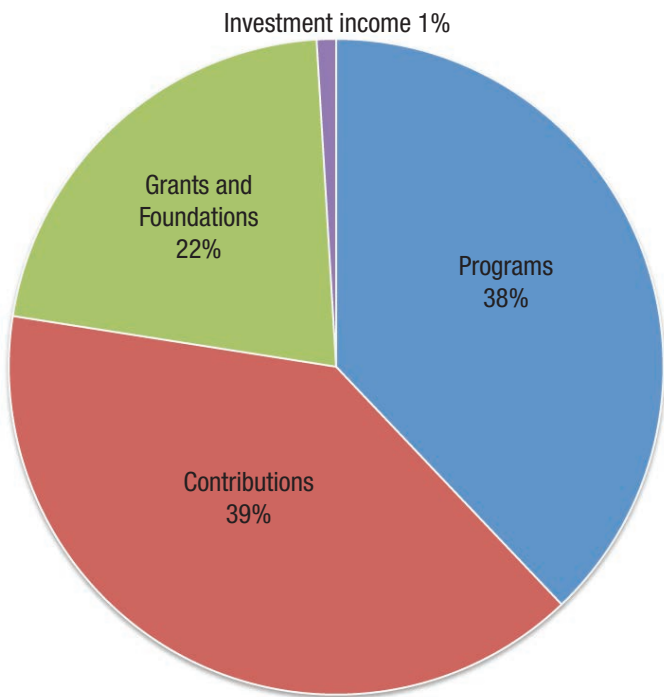
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 23,468</b>	<b>\$ 59,623</b>
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Net assets, beginning	\$ 123,025	\$ 63,402
Net assets, ending	\$ 146,493	\$ 123,025

**PROGRAM EXPENSES**



**REVENUE SOURCES**



“ I give to WCMS because the musicians are GREAT. Because music makes a difference in children’s (and adults’) lives. Because the world has been very good to me and it is time to give back. Because my dollars at a small organization like WCMS make a big difference. Because their music makes the world a better place. It would be hard to imagine Worcester without them. ”

- *Nora Keil, a long time WCMS supporter*



Nora Keil (right) receives the Music and Community Award at the 10th Anniversary Gala. Photo with Lisa Piehler (left).

