

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY



Annual Report 2019 — **IMPACT**



September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019



MISSION

The Worcester Chamber Music Society aspires to enrich the greater Worcester community through exceptional performances and to empower youth through music education programs.

The transformative power of music engages people of all ages and cultures, empowers young musicians, and promotes and preserves the appreciation of classical chamber music. Our goal is to contribute to the vibrant cultural fabric of the Worcester community in a deep and meaningful way.



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As I look back on the highlights of our 2018-2019 season, I am overwhelmed at the generosity of our patrons, donors, and volunteers. Your enthusiasm for local, classical chamber music is what keeps this “little engine that could” running!

Thank you to Music Worcester for inviting us to be a part of their season. Our Mechanics Hall performance of Appalachian Spring under the baton of Worcester Chorus conductor Christopher Sheperd was a highlight indeed.

Our popular Café concerts were full, several selling out months in advance. We added two new venues: Arts Worcester and the Fitchburg Art Museum. Our 10th free Family Concert was once again packed with parents and children. Neighborhood Strings now serves 75 at-risk youth in 3 sites across the city, and many of them participated in our ChamberFest music camp for the first time.

We are fiscally healthy as we seek to grow our endowment at the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and to build a strong foundation for our education work. We were successful this year in attracting outside sources of funding, and those funders look to see that we have strong local support.

Your support allows us to fulfill our mission to engage people of all ages through the transformative power of music.

With gratitude,

Tracy Kraus
Executive Director

2018-2019 CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Special Performances:

2018-2019 season highlights included a performance with Simone Dinnerstein and the opportunity to play Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with Worcester Chorus conductor Christopher Sheperd. Two spring concerts saw collaborations with well-known arts organizations Arts Worcester and the Fitchburg Art Museum, the latter funded in part by the Fitchburg, Gardner, and Templeton Cultural Councils. As a result, 40 seniors from North Central Massachusetts were able to attend the concert for free.



Rohan Gregory (WCMS) and Issa Coubailey (Crocodile River Music) perform at WCMS's free Family Concert March 3, 2019

Our *Vampires and Crocodiles* free Family Concert at Mechanics Hall was performed to a full house with special guests Crocodile River Music. The collaboration featured *Bamako Beyond*, a new work composed for the two ensembles by Derek Jordan. African inspired art created by students from Worcester's East Middle School was shown during the musical performances. We are grateful to all our sponsors: Worcester Arts Council, Bay State Savings Bank, Country Bank, Reliant Medical Group, Saint Vincent Hospital, Karen Amlaw Music, and UniBank, for making this popular community event possible.

NEIGHBORHOOD STRINGS

Ariana Falk, *Director/cello*
Peter Sulski, *Asst. Director/violin*
Debby Greenebaum, *Site Manager/violin*

Rohan Gregory, *violin*
Rajan Kapoor, *cello*
Luke Morrissey, *cello*

Neighborhood Strings is an intensive strings program intended to make a long-term impact on the lives of youth living in Worcester's Main South and Downtown neighborhoods. The program offers private and group lessons, ensembles, and a teen leadership group seeing each child an average of 3-5 hours a week. Last year, the program served 75 youth (ages 7-16) at three sites across Worcester: Woodland Academy, Seven Hills Public Charter School, and Clark Street Elementary School.



Neighborhood Strings performs at Music on Main concert November 7, 2018

Students performed publicly 11 times last season including three performances at the Family Health Center of Worcester. These performances were part of an NS Teen Club project designed to measure the impact of live classical performances on audiences. The students performed in the lobby for FHCW patients and staff. Those in attendance were asked to share how they felt before and after the performance.

NEIGHBORHOOD STRINGS CONTINUED

Newest site serves recent refugees

At the Clark Street School, our newest site, we worked with children who take part in the Worcester Public School's "New Citizens" program. The students are all recent refugees from Puerto Rico, Nepal, Iraq, Chad, Tanzania, Congo, Somalia, El Salvador, Liberia, and Côte D'Ivoire. Many speak little-to-no English. The children are grouped together for three years, where they are taught necessary skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. WCMS teaching artist Deborah Greenebaum worked intensively with these children twice a week in both private lessons and ensemble.

Our first graduate

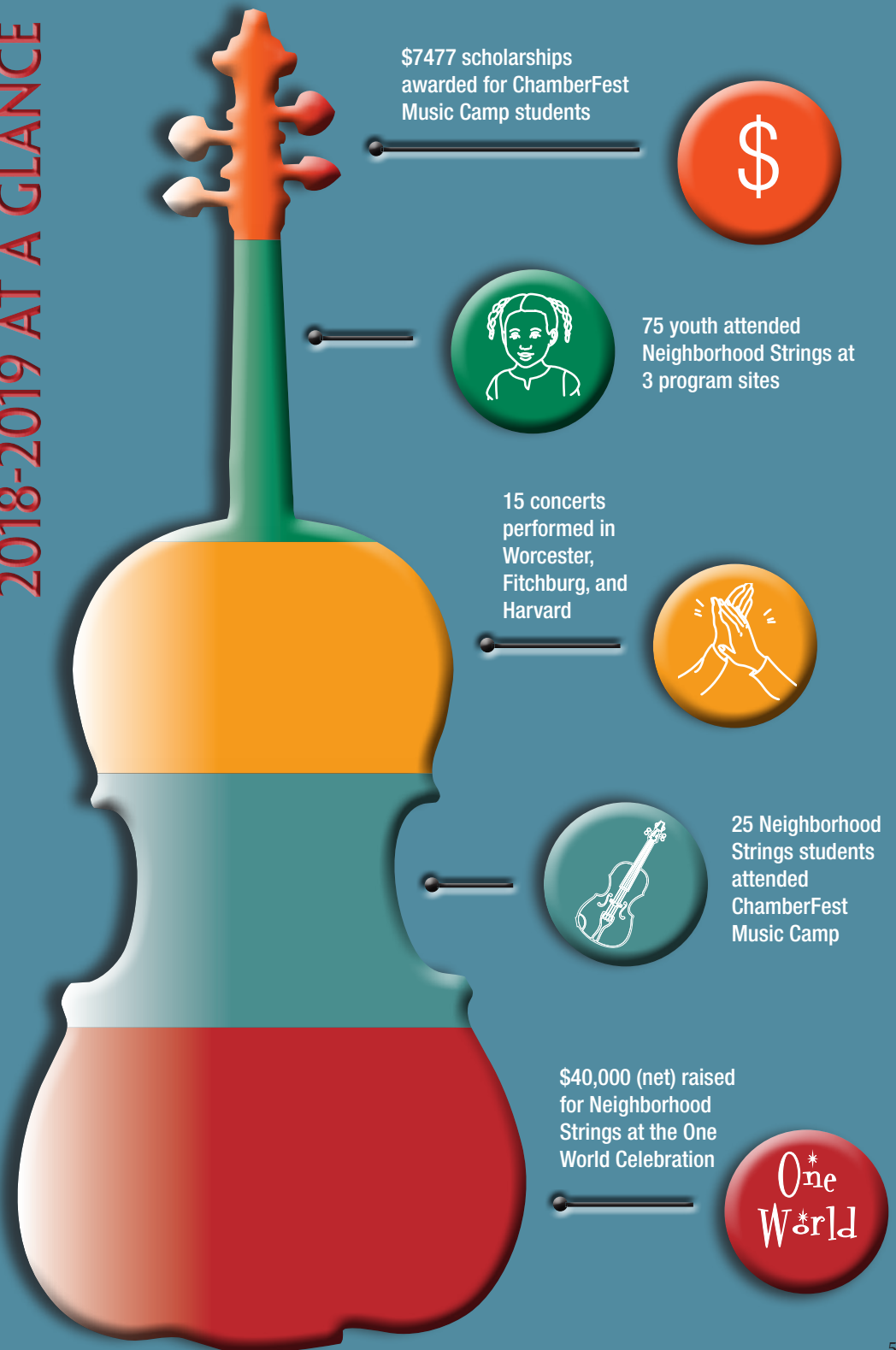
Many of you will recognize Melanie Aguilar by her blue cello. Melanie graduated from Claremont Academy in June and is now attending Worcester State University where she is majoring in Communications. We are so proud of all that she has accomplished and equally pleased to report that Melanie has joined the ranks of our college mentors who help weekly in our program.



Melanie Aguilar

"Neighborhood Strings made a huge impact on my life because I met new people, learned how to play the cello and learned about classical music - I knew very little about either one. Neighborhood Strings has been a wonderful journey that I hope to take with me as I move into the next phase of my life."

2018-2019 AT A GLANCE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019-2020

W. Peter Metz, *President*
Ellen More, *Vice President*
Cheri Carty, *Treasurer*
Jeffrey Paster, *Clerk*
Janet Amorello
Kenneth Bibeau
Nicole Dow
Martha Grace
James Holdstein
William Kadish
Gary Keilson
Elisabet Mandon
Ann Molloy
Conrad Voellings
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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*

ADMINISTRATION

Tracy Kraus, *Executive Director*
Ariana Falk, *Education Director*
Patrick Keenan, *Marketing Coordinator*
Jennifer Higgins, *Grant Writer*
Zoe Chakoian, *Marketing Intern*



Thank you!

SUPPORTERS September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(*Angel, Virtuoso, Encore & Suite*)

Angel (\$10,000 or more)

Amelia Peabody Foundation
Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation
Greater Worcester Community Foundation
Nora Keil+
Tracy & Morey Kraus+
Massachusetts Cultural Council
PEACE Fund of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Virtuoso (\$5,000 or more)

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Claire Ellis & Charles Greenberg+
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Encore (\$2,000 or more)

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Suite (\$1,000 or more)

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 Mary Louise Retelle
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 Melinda Stewart
 Sharon Strzalkowski+
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 Mark Wagner
 Terry and Martin Young
 Charlotte and Manny Zax+
 Joan Zumpfe+

**+ Five Years or More
 (Individual Donors)
 * In-Kind Donations**

WORCESTER CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES

Gifts in Memory of:
Dr. Ted Conna
 The Conna Family

Gifts in Honor of:
Barbara and Roger Kohin
 Nora Keil
 Barbara and Gene McCarthy
 Carol Seager
 William Wallace

**Local Cultural Councils
 (funded by the Massachusetts
 Cultural Council)**
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 Fitchburg, Gardner, Paxton,
 Shrewsbury, Templeton, and
 Worcester

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 Ellen More and Micha Hofri
 Karen Keefe and Jeffrey Paster
 David Schnare and Lisa Piehler
 L & R Sales
 Richard and Phyllis Whitten
 Reliant Medical Group
 Ruth Westheimer
 TJ Woods Insurance

**Very Open Rehearsal
 Hosting (2018-2019)**
 Emily and James Holdstein
 Ruth Westheimer

Season Program Book Advertisers

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 Karen Amlaw Music
 Mechanics Hall
 Music Worcester
 Pakachoag Music
 Salisbury Singers
 Worcester Historical Museum
 Worcester Youth Orchestra

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

Volunteers

Larissa Beecher
 Mark Bibeau
 Berni Birch
 Joan Cross
 Debra Doerfer
 John Girard
 Rob and Barbara Harden
 Maryanna Heister
 Nora Keil
 Rick Kimball
 Noah Magid
 Tom Matis
 Mora McAvey
 Caille Ostrowski
 Ruth Seward
 Judith Sullivan
 Jason Tockey

Community Partners

Arts Worcester
 Clark Street Elementary School
 Clark University
 Fitchburg Art Museum
 Mechanics Hall
 Music Worcester
 Seven Hills Public Charter School
 Straight Ahead Ministries
 Woodland Academy
 Worcester Historical Museum

Neighborhood Strings Mentors

Larissa Beecher
 Ethan Chaves
 Elizabeth Jones
 Callie Ostrowski
 Zac Brennan
 Jojo Mallard
 Izabella Lidrbauch
 Luke Morrissey
 Colette McAndrew
 Peter Lam
 Andrea Jiang
 Alyssa Goins
 Jack Zhu
 Marin Smith

Recognition by our Funders

In August 2018, we were one of five recipients of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation's new Creative Community grant program, made possible in part by the Barr Foundation. The addition of a third site serving recent refugee children at the Clark Street School was a direct result of this funding opportunity.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) recognized the impact of our programming in Worcester and moved the organization into their highest level of funding: the Cultural Investment Portfolio. Funding from the MCC is directly applied to our operating costs. They recognize the importance of funding operations, and we are grateful to them for their forward-thinking!

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION *as of August 31, 2019*

	2019+	2018
Assets		
Operating cash	\$ 102,674	\$ 110,344
Grants and other receivables	\$ 290	\$ 2,922
Prepaid expenses	\$ 13,334	\$ 16,624
GWCF Agency Fund*	\$ 103,407	\$ 102,811
Total Current Assets	\$ 222,454	\$ 232,701
Equipment, net	\$ 32,142	\$ 39,286
Total Assets	\$ 254,596	\$ 271,987

*Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,689	\$ 8,558
Deferred revenue	\$ 13,627	\$ 15,851

Total Liabilities	\$ 22,982	\$ 24,409
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$ 247,578	\$ 130,838
Temporarily restricted	\$ 76,000	\$ 116,740

Total Net Assets	\$ 231,615	\$ 247,578
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 254,597	\$ 271,987
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Revenues

Program revenue	\$ 100,862	\$ 101,963
Contributions	\$ 177,937	\$ 118,834
Grants and foundations	\$ 100,350	\$ 175,304
Investment income	\$ 365	\$ 5,309
Total Revenues	\$ 379,514	\$ 401,410

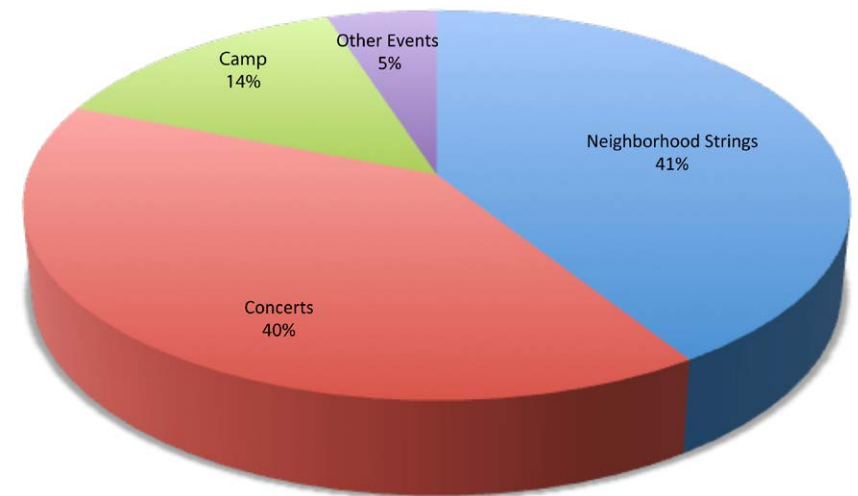
Expenses

Program expenses	\$ 319,221	\$ 287,597
Fundraising	\$ 24,812	\$ 7,227
Administrative	\$ 43,610	\$ 47,702
Total Expenses	\$ 387,643	\$ 342,526

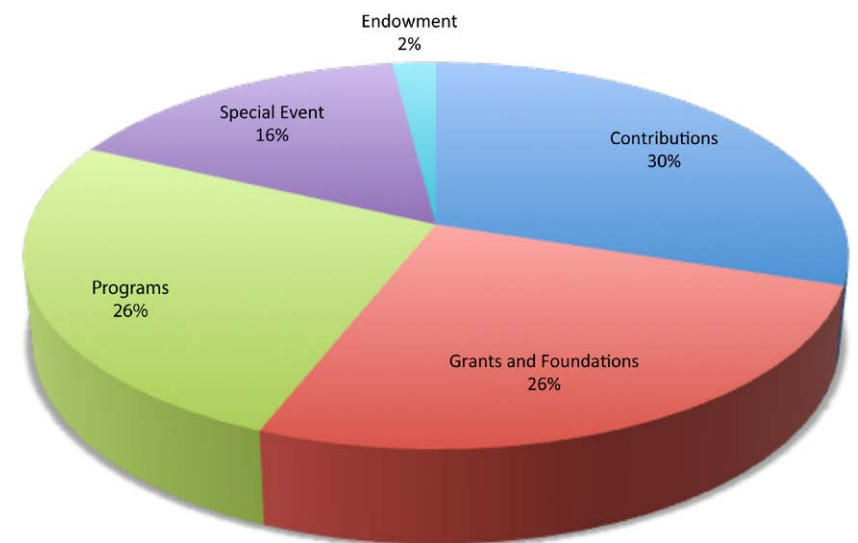
Change in Net Assets

Net assets, beginning	\$ 247,578	\$ 188,694
Net assets, ending	\$ 231,614	\$ 247,578

PROGRAM EXPENSES



REVENUE SOURCES



CHAMBERFEST

Ariana Falk, *Director*
Peter Sulski, *violin/viola*
Rohan Gregory, *violin*

David Russell, *cello*
Jacob Mackay, *cello*
Randall Hodgkinson, *piano*

This past summer, we celebrated the 15th year of camp. ChamberFest began in 2005 by the QX String Quartet (known as the Thayer Chamber Music Festival). Three members of the quartet (Krista Buckland Reisner, Rohan Gregory, and Peter Sulski) were core members of WCMS who took the reigns in 2009.



Neighborhood Strings at camp

Camp has grown to serve youth and adults both locally and abroad. This was the second year of our Neighborhood Strings afternoon sessions, and 20 students participated in a string ensemble, choir, and African drumming. They also came along on a celebratory trip to Rutland State Park on July 4th. Seven Hills 4th-graders Frankie and Adam went swimming in a lake for the first time. We were filled with pride and happiness to see the Neighborhood Strings kids holding their own at ChamberFest. The high social and musical energy they brought to camp was welcomed by all.

THE WCMS EXPERIENCE



“Incredible musical experience last night with the Worcester Chamber Music Society at Assumption College. Their performance was flawless, exciting, transporting, and humbling with their mastery of technique, tightness and balanced sound. The Worcester Chamber Music Society’s touch and genius continues to amaze us. We were awestruck in our seats from start to finish, topped off by the opportunity to meet and talk with the players, who are always warm and inviting. They are a solid cornerstone of Worcester’s ongoing cultural renaissance.”

Tony Smith and Andrea Erickson



Worcester Chamber Music Society | 323 Main Street, Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA 01608
Tickets & info: 508-217-4450 | www.worcesterchambermusic.org