



2023-24  
ANNUAL REPORT



MANITOBA  
CHAMBER  
ORCHESTRA

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



*Cover and above: MCO musicians  
and Music Director Anne Manson in rehearsal.  
Photos: Matt Duboff.*

© MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA  
Y300-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6  
204-783-7377 / info@theMCO.ca

Message from the President.....	3
Message from the Executive Director.....	4
Message from the Music Director .....	5
MCO Board and Staff .....	6
Sponsors and Funders .....	7
About the MCO .....	8
Concerts 2023-24 .....	9
Musicians 2023-24 .....	12
Education .....	13
Community .....	17
Adaptive Strategic Planning.....	21
Fundraising.....	23
Donors & Supporters .....	27
Financial Summary.....	29

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*MCO Board President  
Nick Sloonosky*

**AS PRESIDENT** of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, I'm thrilled to reflect on the progress we've made during the 2023-24 season. This year has been one of growth and resilience as we've worked to align our governance practices with the evolving needs of both our organization and the arts community as a whole.

A key milestone has been our Adaptive Strategic Planning process. With guidance from expert facilitators at Blueprint, our board has focused on strategic priorities like innovation, community impact, and inclusivity. These discussions have not only helped us shape a bold vision for navigating the future, but they've also ensured that every decision we make is in line with the MCO's core values and mission.

The 2023-24 season has been filled with artistic achievement and meaningful community engagement. From unforgettable performances in the concert hall to outreach programs like Fiddlers on the Loose in schools and libraries, the MCO has expanded its reach across Manitoba. These efforts highlight our dedication to making music accessible and creating opportunities for lifelong learning and cultural enrichment for all.

Our board is deeply committed to preserving the MCO's legacy while driving initiatives that ensure its continued relevance and vitality. The success of this season is a direct result of the collective efforts of our board, staff, musicians, and, of course, our patrons and supporters. We are incredibly grateful for your involvement and look forward to sharing even more extraordinary musical experiences in the seasons ahead.

Thank you for being part of this exciting journey!



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*MCO Executive Director  
Sean McManus*

**THE 2023-24 SEASON** has been a transformative year for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, marked by growth, innovation, and collaboration. It has been a year of artistic achievement, organizational progress, and strengthened connections with our community—setting the stage for a bright and exciting future.

Audience numbers continued to grow throughout the season, reflecting a renewed passion for live music. To enrich their experience, we introduced a new lobby bar and hosted gatherings centred around music, fostering connections and enhancing the communal spirit of our events. With dynamic programming blending beloved classics with thrilling new works, we incorporated staging elements and purposeful introductions that welcomed and engaged our audiences. These efforts reinforced the inclusive and vibrant atmosphere that defines the MCO.

Our commitment to community extended well beyond the concert hall. Through programs like adult music appreciation classes, school workshops across Manitoba, and initiatives designed to bring music to diverse communities, we reached participants of all ages and backgrounds. We also celebrated key milestones, including our first-ever public AGM and a special event honouring our dedicated volunteers. These moments underscored the collaborative spirit that drives the MCO forward and its role as a connector in our community.

Internally, this year marked significant strides in building the MCO's capacity and vision. We embraced an adaptive strategic planning framework to navigate current challenges and chart a sustainable path forward. Operational advancements included financial practices, innovative audience engagement strategies, and a deeper commitment to embedding equity and inclusion into every aspect of our work. These accomplishments were made possible by the dedication and talent of our staff, board, musicians, and volunteers, whose passion continues to inspire us all.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our donors, patrons, and community partners. Your belief in the MCO enables us to create exceptional musical experiences and foster meaningful connections. As we look to the future, we are eager to build on this momentum, explore new possibilities, and reimagine what a chamber orchestra can achieve in today's world.



## MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



*MCO Music Director  
Anne Manson*

**THE 2023-24 SEASON** has been an extraordinary one for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra. As Music Director, I am continually inspired by the artistry, passion, and dedication of our musicians and guest artists, and the warm support of our audiences who make every concert an unforgettable experience.

This year, the MCO explored a breadth of musical experiences, bringing to life works that clearly resonated deeply with our community. Timothy Chooi's electrifying performance, Ariel Barnes' emotional interpretation of Glenn Buhr's new cello concerto, and Dinuk Wijeratne reprising the brilliant *Gajaga Vannama* all stood out as highlights of the season. We were also delighted to present the Winnipeg debut of Maria Brea and the rising star Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, whose artistry left audiences in awe.

Our musicians rose to every challenge with a sense of joy and commitment that resonated deeply with our audiences. Whether performing an arrangement of Shostakovich's exquisite Viola Concerto with Sarah McElravy or Lara Secord-Haid bringing drama

and flare to Sid Robinovitch's new song cycle arrangements, their dedication was evident in every note.

Beyond the concert hall, the MCO continued to connect with Manitobans through community and educational programs, bringing music to schools, libraries, and rural communities. These initiatives reaffirm our belief that music has the power to unite and uplift. Thank you for joining us this season and for your continued support of the MCO. Together, we're creating something extraordinary.

## MCO BOARD & STAFF

### Honorary Patron

Her Honour, The Honourable  
Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.  
Lieutenant Governor of MB

### Board Officers

Nick Slonosky  
President

Florence Carey  
Past President

Alison Thiessen  
Vice-President

Michael Li  
Treasurer

### Board Members

Pascale Altes  
Robert Giesbrecht  
Gila Isaacs  
Crystal Kolt  
Yvan Larocque  
Alice MacKenzie  
Alyson Shane<sup>†</sup>  
Walter Silicz  
Eldene Spencer  
Sarah Yates-Howorth

<sup>†</sup>Deceased

### Music Director Emeritus

Simon Streatfeild<sup>†</sup>

### President Emeritus

J.F. Reeh Taylor, Q.C.<sup>†</sup>

### Directors Emeriti

Jeffrey Anderson<sup>†</sup>  
William S. Gange, LL.B.  
Roy Halstead  
Marilyn Huband<sup>†</sup>  
Elaine Levack<sup>†</sup>  
John Loewen  
Elaine Margolis  
Joan Passey<sup>†</sup>  
Nicola Schaefer  
William S. Stewart  
Paul Walsh, Q.C.  
Sonya Wright

<sup>†</sup>Deceased

### Music Director

Anne Manson

### Staff

Sean McManus  
Executive Director  
Elise Anderson  
Office Manager  
Conrad Sweatman  
Director of Marketing  
& Communications  
Heidi Ouellette  
Director of Development  
Suzu Enns  
Director of Education  
& Community Engagement  
Pat Ireton  
Bookkeeper  
Jon Snidal  
Systems & Design  
Boyd MacKenzie  
Concert / Tour Manager  
Michaela Kleer  
Music Librarian

## SPONSORS & FUNDERS

### Funders & Sponsors

Bertrand A. Goodman,  
May Easton Goodman,  
& Dorothy Jean Goodman  
Foundation

Canada Council for the Arts  
Province of Manitoba  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Richardson Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Winnipeg Arts Council

### Concert Sponsors

Gail Asper Family Foundation  
Johnston Group  
LBL Holdings Ltd.  
Pollard Banknote Ltd.

### Media Sponsors

Classic 107  
Golden West Radio  
Nostalgia Broadcasting  
Co-operative (CJNU93.7)  
Winnipeg Free Press

### Piano Sponsors

St John's Music  
Yamaha Canada Music

### Guest Artist Sponsors

The Asper Foundation  
Margaret Cuddy  
Drs. Bill Pope  
& Elizabeth Tippet Pope  
SOCAN Foundation  
Scott and Sonya Wright

### Reception Sponsor

Elba Haid Realcare Inc.

### Music Director Sponsors

The Cheerful Foundation  
Roger Groening  
In memoriam, Edd Groening  
Mirjana Janzen

RBC Wealth Management  
Neil & Elaine Margolis  
Sandi & Ron Mielitz  
Erin Wolfe & Ryan Palmer  
Stella's Café and Bakery

### Concertmaster Sponsors

Edmond Financial Group  
Maggie Keller,  
In memoriam,  
Dr. Robert Keller

### Education

#### & Community Sponsors

Bertrand A. Goodman,  
May Easton Goodman,  
& Dorothy Jean Goodman  
Foundation  
City of Winnipeg  
Government of Manitoba  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Musicians' Performance  
Trust Fund

Red River Cooperative Ltd.  
SOCAN Foundation  
Telus Friendly Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Mauro Family Foundation  
Winnipeg Public Libraries  
Winnipeg School Division



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



WINNIPEG  
ARTS COUNCIL



TELUS Friendly  
Future Foundation



Winnipeg Free Press



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION





## ABOUT THE MCO

### THE MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

is a vibrant force in Canada's cultural landscape, renowned for innovation, artistic distinction, and deep community engagement. Since 1972, the MCO has presented an annual concert series in Winnipeg, featuring world-class guest soloists alongside Canada's finest orchestral talent. With a repertoire that blends timeless classics and bold premieres, the MCO consistently reimagines what a chamber orchestra can achieve.

Driven by a mission to inspire joy, reflection, and human connection, the MCO actively dismantles barriers to music through inclusive programming, transformative education initiatives, and meaningful collaborations. From schools and seniors' residences to rural communities and neighbourhood stages, the MCO brings music to life for diverse audiences.

The MCO embraces innovation, equity, and sustainability, creating musical experiences that captivate, educate, and inspire. As a catalyst for connection, the MCO fosters a shared love for music that enriches lives and strengthens communities.

### VALUES

- **Innovation**  
Cherishing curiosity and embodying the courage to push our own boundaries on a journey of exploration and learning.
- **Impact**  
Creating life-changing experiences through music, sparking joy, reflection, and connection among audiences and musicians alike.
- **Engagement**  
Connecting deeply with communities by sharing compelling stories and fostering human connections.
- **Belonging**  
Building equitable and inclusive environments, championing diversity through respectful collaboration and open dialogue.

### STRATEGIC THEMES

- ① **Inspiration and Innovation**  
Reimagining the MCO Experience
- ② **Widening the Circle**  
Brand and Market Growth
- ③ **Making an Impact**  
Strengthening Networks and Community Engagement

## CONCERTS 2023-24



*Dinuk Wijeratne leads the MCO  
(photo: Matt Duboff).*

### WOMEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The 2023-24 season celebrated the remarkable artistry of women in music, featuring outstanding soloists and conductors. Soprano Lara Secord-Haid made her MCO debut, delivering a poignant performance of Sid Robinovitch's newly orchestrated *Canciones Sefardies*. Venezuelan soprano Maria Brea graced the Winnipeg stage with a stunning program that included the Canadian premiere of Odaline de la Martinez's *Four Afro-Cuban Poems*. Principal cellist Desiree Abbey stepped into the soloist spotlight, premiering a cello concerto composed for her by Jamaican-Canadian composer Ted Runcie. Canadian violist Sarah McElravy closed the season with a profound interpretation of Shostakovich's Viola Sonata, arranged for viola and strings. On the podium, conductors Tania Miller and Jeri Lynne Johnson led the orchestra with distinction, underscoring the MCO's commitment to showcasing diverse talents in music performance.

### MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Making concert performances accessible to all, the MCO continued its matinee offerings this season. Afternoon performances featured Dinuk Wijeratne and Shawn Mativetsky performing orchestral works featuring tabla, pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, who enchanted audiences with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, and violist Sarah McElravy, whose

rendition of Shostakovich's Viola Sonata left a lasting impression. These matinees provided enriching musical experiences for a broader audience, including school groups and seniors.

### COMMISSIONS, PREMIERES AND REPRISES

Demonstrating our dedication to contemporary composers, the MCO presented several significant premieres and reprises this season. Ariel Barnes delivered an emotionally charged performance of Glenn Buhr's Cello Concerto No. 2, while Dinuk Wijeratne's *Gajaga Vannama*, commissioned by the MCO in 2019, was reprised to great acclaim, blending Sri Lankan rhythms with classical elements. Desiree Abbey performed the world premiere of Ted Runcie's *Cello Concerto*, a piece written specifically for her. The season also featured the Canadian premiere of Jessie Montgomery's *Rounds*, the Grammy Award-winning work for Best Contemporary Classical Composition, and a thrilling performance of Matthias McIntire's evocative *Bluegreen Ecstatic Grey*. We were honoured to have composers present at six of this season's concerts. The MCO remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering innovation and creativity in Canadian concert music.

## CONCERTS 2023-24



*Composers Glenn Buhr, Sid Robinovitch,  
Ted Runcie, Jessie Montgomery, Odaline de la Martinez,  
and Alexandre Regnault.*



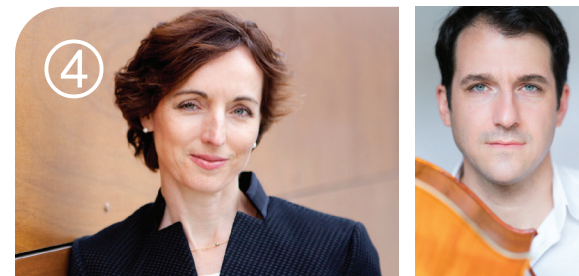
**Anne Manson / Awadagin Pratt**  
7.30pm, Wed, 6 September 2023  
Crescent Arts Centre



**Anne Manson / Timothy Chooi**  
7.30pm, Wed, 4 October 2023  
Crescent Arts Centre



**Dinuk Wijeratne / Shawn Mativetsky**  
1.00pm & 7.30pm, Wed, 25 October 2023  
Crescent Arts Centre



**Tania Miller / Ariel Barnes**  
7.30pm, Thu, 9 November 2023  
Crescent Arts Centre



*The MCO string section in action!*



## CONCERTS 2023-24

### NEW WORKS BY CANADIAN ARTISTS

**Glenn Buhr**  
Cello Concerto No. 2

**Sid Robinovitch**  
*Canciones Sefaradies*  
*Shir Hashirim*

**Ted Runcie**  
*Cello Concertino*

### WINNIPEG PREMIERES

**Jessie Montgomery**  
*Rounds*

**Odaline de la Martinez**  
*Four Afro-Cuban Songs*

**Alexandre Regnault**  
*Symphonic Allegory for Soprano*

**Jessie Montgomery**  
*Source Code*



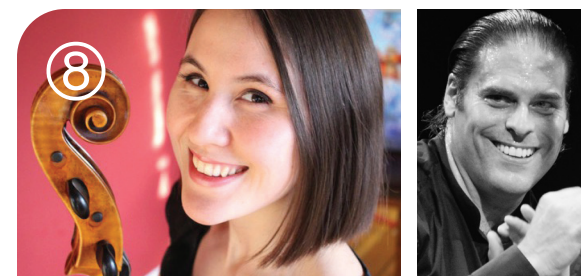
**⑤ Anne Manson / Lara Secord-Haid**  
7.30pm, Wed, 20 March 2024  
Crescent Arts Centre



**⑥ Anne Manson / Maria Brea**  
7.30pm, Wed, 27 March 2024  
Crescent Arts Centre



**⑦ Jeneba Kanneh-Mason / Jeri Lynne Johnson**  
1.00pm & 7.30pm, Wed, 10 April 2024  
Crescent Arts Centre

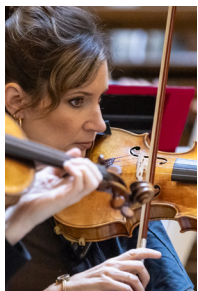


**⑧ Desiree Abbey / Jean-Marie Zeitouni**  
7.30pm, Wed, 17 April 2024  
Crescent Arts Centre



**⑨ Anne Manson / Sarah McElravy**  
1.00pm & 7.30pm, Wed, 29 May 2024  
Crescent Arts Centre

## MUSICIANS 2023-24



*Karl Stobbe, Michaela Kleer,  
Kathlyn Stevens and Mona Coarda.  
Photos: Matt Duboff.*

### **Violin**

Barbara Gilroy  
Boyd Mackenzie  
Chris Anstey  
Erika Sloos  
Hasmik Avdalyan  
Heather Stewart  
Karl Stobbe  
Kathlyn Stevens  
Liudmyla Prysiazniuk  
Mary Lawton  
Maya De Forest  
Momoko Matsumura  
Mona Coarda  
Narumi Higuchi  
Rachel Kristenson  
Sarah Harrington  
Shao Jun  
Trevor Kirczenow

### **Viola**

Heather Stewart  
Jennifer Thiessen  
John Sellick  
Laszlo Baroczi  
Martina Smazal  
Michaela Kleer  
Miguel Stamato  
Momoko Matsumura  
Nancy Enns  
Pamela Fay  
Patrick Horn  
Vijay Chalasani

### **Cello**

Alyssa Ramsay  
Benoit Loïselle  
Bery Barthol Filsaime  
Desiree Abbey  
Emma Quackenbush  
Minna Rose Chung  
Patricia Vanuci  
Sam Nadurak

### **Double Bass**

David Fay  
Martin Blanchet  
Ruslan Rusin  
Taras Pivniak

### **Flute**

Laura MacDougall  
Laurel Ridd

### **Oboe**

Caitlin Broms-Jacobs  
Tracy Wright

### **Clarinet**

Catherine Wood  
Chris Byman

### **Bassoon**

Allen Harrington  
Elizabeth Mee

### **French Horn**

Courtney Prizrenac  
Aiden Kleer  
Callie Oberheu  
Ken MacDonald  
Patricia Evans  
Valérie Tremblay

### **Trumpet**

Chris Fensom  
Matheus Moraes  
Michael Plummer

### **Percussion**

Caroline Bucher  
Ben Reimer  
Brendan Thompson  
Victoria Sparks

### **Piano**

Laura Loewen  
Tadeusz Biernacki  
Tong Wang  
Will Bonness

## EDUCATION



*Above: Percussion in the Library,  
March & July 2024 (photos: Suzu Enns).*

**BROADENING AND STRENGTHENING** our scope of projects and learning outcomes for students of all ages were priorities for 2023-24. From innovative programs for children and collaborative projects and concerts at schools, to performance and learning opportunities for pre-professional musicians and life-long concertgoers, we fostered a vibrant community of learners, participants, educators and musicians. Together, they shared the joy of music and celebrated the power of community.

### **ADVANCEMENTS IN PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN**

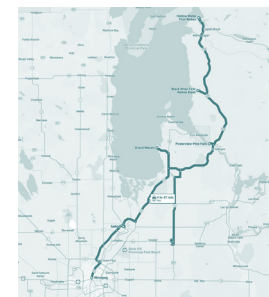
Children, families, and library staff raved about our new Percussion in the Library presentations piloted during March Spring Break and presented again in the summer in our annual partnership with Winnipeg Public Library. Developed as a collaboration with artists Sage Stoyanowski and Victoria Sparks, these presentations invited children to explore a wide range of fun percussion instruments, silly sounds, rhythms, and a delightful storybook brought to life with melodies and sound effects.

### **AFTERNOONS WITH THE MCO**

It is always a delight to see groups of students arriving for events at our venue, and their smiling faces, excitement, and enthusiastic reception brings joy to all concertgoers. Teachers were also eager to take advantage of our Learning Resources and Pre-Concert Workshops which introduced students and teachers to the sights, sounds, and people they would see at the concert, helping ensure they were confident about what to expect and felt a sense of belonging at the matinee. Months later, the teachers reported that the students were still excited about the concert they attended!



## EDUCATION



Top left: Students and community members enjoying an Afternoon with the MCO, October 2023 (photo: Matt Duboff).

Bottom left: MCO Director of Education & Community Engagement Suzu Enns leads a Pre-Concert Workshop at Rockwood School (photo: Ranchelle Opena).

Top right: Fiddlers on the Loose at the Selkirk Onashiwini Head Start Program on the first day of the 2024 Spring Outreach Tour (photo: Suzu Enns)

Bottom right: FoTL at Hollow Water First Nation during the 2024 Spring Outreach Tour (photo: Suzu Enns).



## EDUCATION

### MCO IN SCHOOLS

Throughout the school year, we visited schools and daycares for workshops, collaborative projects, and concerts. In Fall 2023, we were invited back to Hugh John Macdonald School and collaborated with music teacher Neil Watson and students in The Bridge Program to performing jazz standards. During the frigid weeks of February, schools across the city were treated to unforgettable performances by the MCO's Fiddlers on the Loose.

We had another successful outreach tour in 2023-24, with visits to schools and Aboriginal Head Start Programs in Selkirk, Grand Marais, Hollow Water First Nation, Black River First Nation, Powerview, and Beau-sejour. This tour coincided with the Canada-wide Music Education day of celebration and advocacy, Music Monday, as well as Manitoba Music Month. Our partnerships with school divisions including Frontier School Division continue to evolve and strengthen with each tour and cultural celebration.



*Top: Fiddling students and MCO musicians rehearsing for their concert at École Rivière Rouge, February 2024.*

*Left: Jazz students and MCO musicians performing at Hugh John Macdonald School, October 2023.*

*Above: UM Brass Quintet after their Pre-Concert Recital, November 2023.*

*All photos: Suzu Enns.*

## EDUCATION

### PRE-CONCERT EVENTS

Student performances and pre-concert chats are wonderful additions to our season concerts, offering unique opportunities to deepen relationships with our community, provide important performance opportunities for young musicians, and offer our audience a chance to hear directly from guest artists and composers. For the first time, we featured the recipient of the MCO scholarship at Brandon University. We congratulate and thank the 2023-24 recipient, Tanner Hall, for an incredible performance.

### MASTERCLASSES

We partnered with the UM Desautels Faculty of Music to present workshops and masterclasses with guest artists Shawn Mativetsky (tabla) and Ariel Barnes (cello). We also arranged a special visit with MCO Music Director Anne Manson for an engaging and insightful conversation with students and faculty.



*Top: MCO Brandon University scholarship recipient Tanner Hall with their family, pianist Danielle Guina, and MCO ED Sean McManus.*

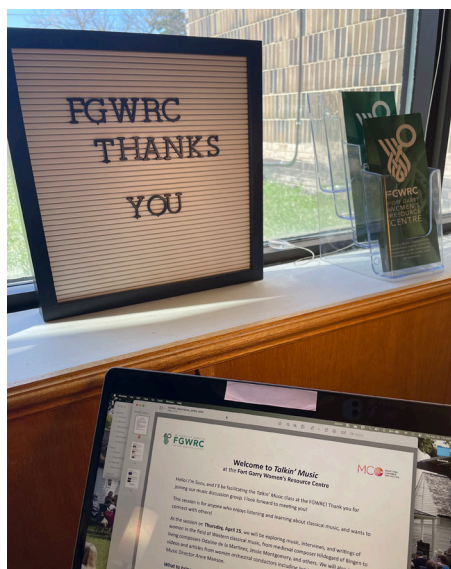
*Left: UM DFOM Associate Professor of Conducting Jacquie Dawson & graduate student Michelle Archibald with MCO Music Director Anne Manson, March 2024.*

*Above: Guest artist Ariel Barnes visits UM for a cello masterclass, November 2023.*

*All photos: Suzu Enns.*



## COMMUNITY



*Above: MCO Director of Education and Community Engagement Suzu Enns visited Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre for a Talkin' Music workshop, April 2024.*

*Right: Class is in session! Suzu and participants visited McNally Robinson for another Music Listening Club in the Community Classroom.*

*All photos: Suzu Enns.*

**OVER THE 2023-24 SEASON**, the MCO experienced transformative growth in our community impact and collaborations. New small-group programs and classes for adults and seniors were introduced to great success, celebrating the joys of life-long learning with members of our community, while carefully considering the needs of learners of all ages and experiences. We met the community where they were at, joyfully delivering classes and workshops in community spaces and seniors' residences. We then hosted those participants at MCO concerts and rehearsals, creating opportunities to foster relationships and strengthen community connections. While maintaining and honouring our existing community and education partnerships, we developed new relationships and initiatives with Thrive Community Support Circle and Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, and delivered a popular year-long course at McNally Robinson's Community Classroom.



## EXPANDING OUR IMPACT, COMMITMENT AND ADVOCACY

Beyond the concert hall and classroom, we remained committed to uplifting and celebrating our extensive network of community partners and colleagues through consistent engagement and participation at events, concerts, and conferences. Building on MCO's growing presence and impact over recent seasons, we proudly joined the Association of Music Administrators of Manitoba (AMAM), enabling us to amplify our voice, impact, and advocacy within a collaborative group of inspiring provincial leaders, stakeholders, and policy makers dedicated to advancing music education.



## COMMUNITY

### COMMUNITY CONCERTS

We kicked off the 2023-24 season with local community performances, including our second annual summer concert at Winnipeg's historic Seven Oaks House Museum. Hundreds of community members came out to enjoy fabulous music from the MCO's Fiddlers on the Loose and a slice of cake to celebrate the museum's 65th anniversary. We presented a popular series of MCO Holiday Concerts thanks to partnerships with The Forks, Gas Station Arts Centre, and Downtown Biz. Through accessible, welcoming, and free live music experiences and collaborating with local partners, we worked to reduce the barriers to accessing the arts. We were able to reach more diverse audiences, families, older adults, and other community members, many of whom experienced the MCO for the first time. We recognized the importance of ensuring this first encounter was joyful, inclusive, and memorable, leaving a lasting impression and fostering a connection to the arts. In 2023-24, we gratefully received support from the Music Performance Trust Fund for MCO Community Concerts.



*Top: Holiday fun at the Downtown Biz Holiday Farmers' Market, December 2023.  
Left: Second annual MCO concert at Seven Oaks House Museum, August 2023.  
Above: MCO Holiday Concerts at The Forks EQ3 Lounge, November & December 2023.  
All photos: Suzu Enns.*

## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

### AFTERNOON MATINEES

October 25, 2023  
Dinuk Wijeratne & Shawn Mativetsky  
with the MCO

April 10, 2024  
Jeneba Kanneh-Mason & Jeri Lynne Johnson  
with the MCO

May 29, 2024  
Sarah McElravy with Anne Manson  
& the MCO

### PRE-CONCERT EVENTS

October 4, 2023  
The Triad

November 9, 2023  
UM Desautels Faculty of Music Brass Quintet

March 27, 2024  
Tanner Hall (Brandon University  
Scholarship Recipient)

April 10, 2024  
Chat with composer Matthias McIntire

April 17, 2024  
Chat with composer Ted Runcie  
and cellist Desiree Abbey

May 29, 2024  
Special MB Music Month event,  
featuring Cheryl Ferguson and students  
from Fort Richmond Collegiate

### PRE-CONCERT WORKSHOPS

October 18, 2023  
Meadows West School

October 19, 2023  
N.E.E.D.S. Inc.

April 3, 2024  
École Lansdowne

April 8, 2024  
Rockwood School

April 9, 2024  
N.E.E.D.S. Inc.

### COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

September to November (Fall 2023)  
Music Listening Club at McNally Robinson

October 17, 2023  
Presentation with North Point Douglas  
Seniors Resource Finder

November 27, 2023  
Talkin' Music at Fort Garry Women's  
Resource Centre

January to March (Winter 2024)  
Music Listening Club at McNally Robinson

March 21 & 22, 2024  
Anne Manson at UM DFOM

April 4, 2024  
Pre-matinee workshop in partnership  
with the North Point Douglas Senior's  
Resource Finder

April 5, 2024  
Pre-matinee online workshop in partnership  
with the Rainbow Resource Centre

April to June (Spring 2024)  
Music Listening Club at McNally Robinson

April 26, 2024  
Talkin' Music at FGWRC

May 22, 2024  
Pre-matinee workshop in partnership  
with the Downtown Seniors  
Resource Finder

### FIDDLERS ON THE LOOSE WORKSHOPS

November 16, 2023  
Hugh John Macdonald School

March 4, 2024  
École Rivière-Rouge

May 7, 2024  
Wanipigow School,  
Hollow Water First Nation, MB

May 9, 2024  
Black River Anishinabe School,  
Black River First Nation, MB



## EDUCATION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 10, 2024  
École Powerview School  
Powerview-Pine Falls, MB

May 10, 2024  
École Beausejour Early Years School,  
Beausejour, MB

### GUEST ARTIST MASTERCLASSES

October 24, 2023  
Tabla workshop with Shawn Mativetsky  
at UM

November 10, 2023  
Ariel Barnes cello masterclass at UM

### SCHOOL AND DAYCARE CONCERTS IN WINNIPEG

November 16, 2023  
Hugh John Macdonald School

February 20, 2024  
Stevenson-Brittannica School

February 21, 2024  
UM Campus Childcare

February 26, 2024  
Harrow School

February 29, 2024  
Collicutt School

March 4, 2024  
École Rivière-Rouge

### WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY FAMILY PROGRAMMING

March 25, 2024 / West Kildonan Library

March 26, 2024 / Osborne Library

March 28, 2024 / Charleswood Library

March 28, 2024 / Pembina Trail Library

July 4, 2024 / Sir William Stephenson Library

July 5, 2024 / Transcona Library

July 5, 2024 / Bill and Helen Norrie Library

### COMMUNITY CONCERTS

August 24, 2023  
Downtown Farmers' Market

August 26, 2023  
Seven Oaks House Museum

August 29, 2023  
Wolseley Farmers' Market

October 16, 2023  
Thrive Community Support Circle

November 23, 2023  
The Forks EQ3 Lounge

December 6, 2023  
Downtown Holiday Farmers' Market

December 14, 2023  
The Forks EQ3 Lounge

December 16, 2023  
Gas Station Arts Centre

### SPRING TOUR COMMUNITY CONCERTS

May 6, 2024  
Selkirk Onashiwini Aboriginal  
Head Start Program, Selkirk, MB

May 6, 2024  
Walter Whyte School  
Grand Marais, MB

May 7, 2024  
Head Start Program  
Hollow Water First Nation, MB

May 8, 2024  
Wanipigow School,  
Hollow Water First Nation, MB

May 9, 2024  
Black River Anishinabe School,  
Black River First Nation, MB

May 10, 2024  
École Powerview School  
Powerview-Pine Falls, MB

May 10, 2024  
École Beausejour Early Years School,  
Beausejour, MB



## ADAPTIVE STRATEGIC PLANNING

### THE MCO TEAM CAME TOGETHER

this spring and reached out to stakeholders across different groups important to MCO's sustainability and future. We sought to understand strategic priorities and the organization's future direction. Using the information gathered from these groups, we collaboratively developed goals and strategies boldly focused on taking MCO into the future of concert music in Manitoba.

## Collective Identity

Unique qualities that set us apart



### Innovation

Cherishing curiosity and embodying the courage to push our own boundaries on a journey of exploration and learning.



### Impact

Creating life-changing experiences through music, sparking joy, reflection and connection among audiences and musicians alike.



### Engagement

Connecting deeply with communities by sharing compelling stories and fostering human connections.



### Belonging

Building equitable and inclusive environments, championing diversity through respectful collaboration and open dialogue.

# Blueprint.

**BLUEPRINT INC.** is a full-service stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, facilitation, training and communications firm that is committed to doing things differently. We partner with organizations and leaders that share our passion for making the places we live in and care about better.

## Goals

### Our calls to collective action

#### Our Goals for Culture

To build toward the future, we cultivate learning, openness and sustainable capacity, while prioritizing the growth and diversification of our audiences and engagement with our communities. All team members, driven by respect for our shared expertise, ensure our actions align with our vision. Our organization not only sustains but flourishes, with a spirit of generosity that resonates broadly, bringing lasting benefits to our stakeholders and community.

#### Our Goals for Our Audience + Participants

The MCO serves the distinctive role of producing a chamber orchestra season, community concerts, music training, and music appreciation workshops in Manitoba communities. Our goal is to support joy, connection, and belonging. This commitment helps our audiences and program participants achieve emotional connections and cultural enrichment by making high-quality musical experiences accessible and enjoyable.

#### Our Goals for Culture

To build toward the future, we cultivate learning, openness and sustainable capacity, while prioritizing the growth and diversification of our audiences and engagement with our communities. All team members, driven by respect for our shared expertise, ensure our actions align with our vision. Our organization not only sustains but flourishes, with a spirit of generosity that resonates broadly, bringing lasting benefits to our stakeholders and community.

## Strategies

### How we'll meet our goals

#### Inspiration and Innovation

Re-imagining the MCO Experience

Evolve the MCO experience through innovative presentation formats, education initiatives, and community partnerships to inspire audiences and challenge perceptions of classical music.

#### Widening the Circle

Brand and Market Growth

Expand the MCO's reach and impact through strategic branding, audience development, and community leadership initiatives.

#### Making an Impact

Strengthening Networks  
and Community Engagement

Deepen the MCO's community impact and relationships through consistent musician and volunteer engagement, strategic partnerships, and accessible programming.

## FUNDRAISING



### GRATITUDE REPORT

The MCO released our inaugural Gratitude Report in the spring of 2023. This initiative is a celebration of the remarkable communities that surround and uplift us. The annual report is a tribute to the dedicated donors, cherished patrons, hardworking volunteers, talented musicians and invaluable community partners whose generous support and passionate engagement ensure we continue to enrich lives and strengthen community through music.

### CINQ À SEPT

We hosted our first 'Cinq à Sept' fundraiser at Sous Sol Restaurant on October 25, 2023. The pre-concert mixer featured stellar hors d'oeuvres and artisanal cocktails and a fascinating dialogue between composer Dinuk Wijeratne and tabla performer Shawn Mativetsky, facilitated by the MCO's Dr. Suzu Enns. The standing room-only event led directly into Dinuk and Shawn's dynamic performance with the MCO later that evening.

### SOIRÉES

**Fall Soirée**, harkening back to the original salons—gatherings of culture, conversation and culinary delight—took place on November 7, 2023 at the historic Moss House. MCO cellist Bery Filsaime welcomed the sold-out crowd with beautiful music. Local chef, Renée Girard created a bespoke menu with stations throughout the elegant home. Composer Glenn Buhr gave a riveting artist talk, a prelude to his premiere with the MCO two days later.

**Spring Soirée** was held on May 23, 2024 at the stunning home of Hazel and Stephen Borys and raised funds for the MCO's education and community programming. We were delighted to welcome partners from Thrive and Seven Oaks. Attendees were treated to charming performances by Fierbois, and U of M flute student, Anna Torquato. Indigenous- and woman-owned Sharecutterie provided an exquisite spread alongside delectable treats by Jenna Rae Cakes. The Borys' extraordinary private art collection provided a stunning backdrop to the evening.

### MCO SPRING 2024 50/50

Another first! The MCO held our first 50/50 raffle during March and April 2024. Tickets were sold online and in-person at 3 spring concerts. The raffle garnered just over \$5,500 and a lucky MCO subscriber won half the pot.

### VINYL VAULT

Once a month, our 15,000 strong record collection opens its doors to collectors. Our 2023-24 Vinyl Vault was a vital fundraiser for the MCO, bringing in nearly \$20,000 in sales—one of its best years ever. After tirelessly leading the Vinyl Vault for many years, Alice MacKenzie stepped down, passing the torch to Kathy Mestery. This initiative's success would not be possible without the tremendous contributions of our dedicated Vinyl Volunteers.

## FUNDRAISING / CINQ À SEPT



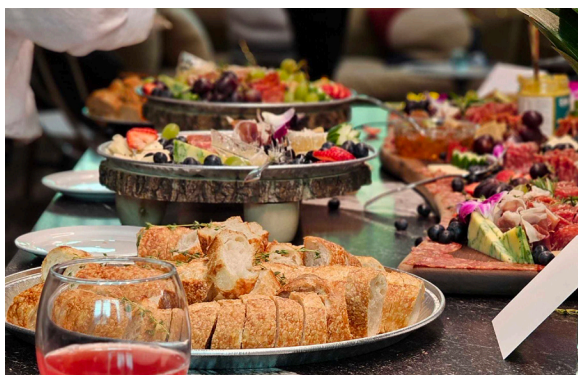


## FUNDRAISING / FALL SOIRÉE





## FUNDRAISING / SPRING SOIRÉE



## DONORS & SUPPORTERS 2023-24

### Public Funders

Canada Council for the Arts  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Province of Manitoba  
Winnipeg Arts Council

### Foundations

Bertrand A. Goodman,  
May Easton Goodman,  
& Dorothy Jean Goodman  
Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Richardson Foundation  
Canadian Bridge Federation  
Charitable Foundation  
Gift Funds Canada Foundation  
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba  
— Marym & Izzy Peltz Fund  
SOCAN Foundation

### Concert Sponsors

Gail Asper Family Foundation Inc.  
Johnston Group  
LBL Holdings Ltd.  
Pollard Banknote Ltd.

### Piano Sponsors

St John's Music  
Yamaha Canada Music  
Guest Artist Sponsors  
The Asper Foundation  
SOCAN Foundation  
Margaret Cuddy  
Drs. Bill Pope  
& Elizabeth Tippet Pope  
Scott and Sonya Wright

### Reception Sponsor

Elba Haid Realcare Inc.

### Music Director Sponsors

Stella's Café and Bakery  
The Cheerful Foundation  
Roger Groening,  
In memoriam, Edd Groening  
Mirjana Janzen,  
RBC Wealth Management  
Neil & Elaine Margolis  
Sandi & Ron Mielitz  
Erin Wolfe & Ryan Palmer

### Concertmaster Sponsors

Edmond Financial Group  
Maggie Keller,  
In memoriam, Dr. Robert Keller

### Media Sponsors

Classic 107  
Golden West Radio  
Nostalgia Broadcasting  
Co-operative (CJNU 93.7)  
Winnipeg Free Press

### Education & Outreach Sponsors

Bertrand A. Goodman,  
May Easton Goodman,  
& Dorothy Jean Goodman  
Foundation  
City of Winnipeg  
Province of Manitoba  
Manitoba Arts Council  
Musicians' Performance Trust Fund  
Red River Cooperative Ltd.  
SOCAN Foundation

Telus Friendly Foundation  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Mauro Family Foundation  
Winnipeg Public Libraries  
Winnipeg School Division

### Founding Patrons

Mrs. Wadworth Doster  
Angela B. Ross

### Honorary Life Members

Ms Gail Asper  
& Dr. Michael Paterson  
John & Bonnie Buhler  
David Johnston  
Peter Letkemann  
John Loewen  
Rita Menzies  
Angela B. Ross  
Dr. Majid Shojania

### Patrons

Abra Family Fund  
Ted Bock & Liane Chalmers-Bock  
Marilyn Burt  
Florence Carey  
Margaret Cuddy  
Kenton Fast Gifting Fund  
Roy Halstead  
Estate of Charles Huband  
George Warren Keates  
Memorial Fund  
Dr. Ann E. Loewen  
John Loewen  
Elaine & Neil Margolis  
Mauro Family Fund  
Susan McCawley  
Sandi & Ron Mielitz  
Ted Paetkau  
Herb Peters & Donna Peters-Small  
Frank Plett

Drs. Bill Pope  
& Elizabeth Tippet Pope  
Barbara Scheuneman  
Dr. M.L. Schroeder  
Wick & Margie Sellers Fund  
Alyson Shane  
Walter & Nicole Silicz  
Nick Slonosky  
& Elizabeth Marr  
Don Streuber  
Alison Thiessen  
& Robert Reimer  
Faye Warren  
Sonya & Scott Wright Fund  
Several anonymous donors

### Benefactors

Darlene Frederickson  
Shelagh Hare  
Pat & Bonnie Ireton  
Maggie Keller  
Crystal Kolt  
Dr. T. Kucera  
Marion Lewis  
Macdonald/Cageorge Fund  
Deborah McCawley  
Heidi Ouellette  
Tannis Richardson  
Nicola Schaefer  
Elinor Simons  
Vern & Christine Warkentin  
Gifting Fund  
Several anonymous donors

### Contributors

Dianne Beaven  
Ernest Bergbusch  
Wendy Boyd  
Gerald Brown  
Coralie Bryant  
Erin Burns-Flett

Robert & Linda Campbell  
Shelley Chochinov  
Joy Cooper  
R.E. Cunningham  
Tracy Dahl  
Elizabeth Derraugh  
Daniel Donahue  
Alex Dyck & Rachel Krause  
Fred & Bev Dyck  
Roberta Dyck  
Monika Franz-Lien  
Robert Giesbrecht  
Judith Hall  
N. & L. Holliday  
Gila Isaacs  
Marlis Jacobson

Gerald Jewers  
Katryn Kolt  
Helen La Rue  
Roberta & John Lewis  
Michael Li  
Judith Littleford  
Keith & Anne Love  
Zana Lutfiyya  
Christie Macdonald  
Melanie McCreath  
Margaret McCulloch  
Paul McCulloch  
Sean McManus  
Andrew Morris  
Morna-June C. Morrow  
Gim Ong  
Shelley & John Page  
Susan Park  
Irene Penner  
Bev Peters  
Lois Powne  
Andrea Ratuski  
Anne Ratuski  
Iris Reimer  
Sean Richens  
Celia J. Rodd

Susan & Jim Shaw  
Leslie Stechesen  
Etoile Stewart  
Tom & Shirley Strutt  
Dr. Jo Swartz  
Rosalie Tennison  
Elaine Toms  
Dr. Suzanne Ulliot  
Roy & Nancy Vincent  
Dr. Alexander Waugh  
Donald Whitmore  
Erika Wiebe  
Karin Woods  
Ted & Sarah Yates-Howorth  
Several anonymous donors

### Donors

Pascale Altes  
Dr. Aubie & Esther Rose Angel  
Alex Bainov  
Cheryl Bartel  
Ed Benjamin  
Bonnie Berry  
Anna Bird  
Helga & Gerhard Bock  
Patricia Bovey  
Caitlin Broms-Jacobs  
Eric Buetner  
Margaret Burnip  
Nicole Cadotte-Worden  
Alison Campbell  
Cathy Campbell  
Donna Cawker  
Jim Chapryk  
Lawrence & Beatrice Cherniak  
Dr. Thor & Mrs. Chrystyna  
Choptiany  
Josephine Chudzik  
Minna Chung  
Amanda Ciavarelli  
Ben & Margit Coltvat

## DONORS & SUPPORTERS 2023-24

Joy Cooper  
Bradley J. Curran  
Alison & Robert Darling  
Linwood DeLong  
Elizabeth Dorey  
Thomson Duprey Fund  
June Dutka  
Judy Elliott  
Barb Enders  
Rachel Erickson  
Marianne Farag  
Linda Fearn  
Karla Ferguson  
Jeannette Filion-Rosset  
Elvira Finnigan  
David Firman  
Linda Freed  
Donalda Fridfinnson  
Jan Gibson  
Jeannie Gilbert  
Valerie Gilroy  
Elizabeth Goossen  
Sandra Gray  
Pat Haldane-Wilson  
David Harms & Bonita Reimer  
Bob & Frances Harris  
Wolfgang Heidenreich  
Helios & Marilyn Hernandez  
Carol Hitchon  
Candace Ikeda-Douglas  
Brian Janzen  
Shannon Johnson  
Michelle Johnston  
Peter Kirby  
Bill Kirkpatrick  
Kiwanis Chateau  
Resident's Council  
David Klassen  
Richard & Karin Klassen  
Jan Kocman  
John Krowina

Kenneth Kuchma  
Kenneth Kuhn  
Donna Lagopoulos  
Vlasta & Emery Lajtai  
Roberta Lamb  
Ron Lambert  
Mette LaPorte  
Elizabeth & James Lee  
Catherine & François Lentz  
Janet MacPhail  
Priya Mani  
Marr-Slonosky Family Foundation  
Elizabeth Masi  
Nicole Matiation  
Connie Matthes  
Anne-Marie McCarthy  
Bob & Karen McManus  
Barbara Mettrycki  
Sandra Millen  
Nathan & Carolyn Mitchell  
Melinda Moch  
Maurice & Margaret Morissette  
Maureen Morrison  
Kathleen Mulder  
James Mulvale  
Paul Nagelberg  
Elizabeth Nair  
Cindy Pelletier  
Jo-Anne & Harvey Peltz  
Avis Penner  
Brian Pepneck-Joyce  
Beryl & Blair Peters  
Elaine Phillips  
Robert Pruden  
Vivian Rachlis  
Mark Rash  
Herb Ross  
H. Sanford & Deborah Riley  
Sandra Roberts  
Jay Ross

Carol Runions  
Elizabeth Sadler  
Michelle Samagalski  
Bill Sands  
Shane Sanderson  
Kathryn Schwartz  
Jon Seguire  
Jon Sigurdson  
Lindsay Somers  
Peter & Mary Somers  
George E. Spencer  
Pat Stefanchuk  
Jennie Styrchak  
Ruth Suderman  
Gayle Swirski  
Norma Switzer  
Lloyd Talbot  
Monique Thompson  
Betsy Thorsteinson  
Dr. Helen A. Toews  
Meghan Tooley  
Jody Tresoor  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Cathie Ugrin  
Edith Ugrin  
United Way of Canada  
Gloria Waldron  
Diana Waterman  
Nicole Watson  
Allan & Mavis Whicker  
Elizabeth Wilson  
Dorcas Windsor  
Bette Woodland & Tom Lovatt  
Hazel Yates  
Ted & Sarah Yates-Howorth  
Audrey Young  
Kathryn & Robert Young  
Vicki & Graham Young  
Shelag Yovic  
Several anonymous donors

### 2023-24 Endowment Fund Donors

— held at The Winnipeg  
Foundation  
Bison Books  
W. George Baldwin  
Ernest Bergbusch  
Bonnie Berry  
Stephen Brodovsky  
Shelley Chochinov  
Linwood DeLong  
Elizabeth Dorey  
Alex Dyck & Rachel Krause  
Robert Giesbrecht  
Jeannie Gilbert  
Elizabeth Goossen  
Bob & Frances Harris  
Helen LaRue  
Ron Lambert  
Marion Lewis  
James Mulvale  
Andrea Ratuski  
Barbara Scheuneman  
Kathryn & Robert Young  
Several anonymous donors

A full list of gifts to the MCO  
Endowment Fund can be found  
on our website, [themco.ca](http://themco.ca).

### Special Donations

In memory of  
Jeffrey Anderson  
Jeff, Elise & Callum Anderson  
In memory of  
Ken & Eileen Baron  
Jeff, Elise & Callum Anderson  
In honour of  
Susan Bowden Twaddle  
Anonymous

In honour of  
Florence Carey  
Michelle Samagalski  
In honour of Jon Snidal  
Vicki Young  
In honour of  
Vicki Young  
Heidi Ouellette  
In memory of  
Mary Betty Dahl

Tracy Dahl  
In memory of  
Bill Neville  
Shannon Johnson  
Jennie Styrchak  
In memory of  
Dr. Wesley Stevens

Ernest Bergbusch  
Bonnie Berry  
Bison Books  
Linwood DeLong  
Elizabeth Dorey  
Jeannie Gilbert  
Elizabeth Goossen  
Bob & Frances Harris  
Kenneth Kuhn  
James Mulvale  
Kathryn & Robert Young  
In memory of Ray Turner

Kiwanis Chateau  
Resident's Council  
Maurice & Margaret Morissette  
In memory of Scott Wright  
Judith Hall

### Volunteers

Elda Borse  
Susan Burko  
Neil Coligan  
Hedie Epp  
June Finnson  
Flo Friesen  
Beverly Grant-Hastie  
Kim Hamin  
David Harms  
Dave Harron  
Ian Keenan  
Anne Love  
Keith Love  
Shirley McLean  
Myrna Mitchell  
Bonita Reimer  
Marlene Schellenberg  
Gail Singer  
Sally Sweatman  
George Tacik  
Pat Walsh

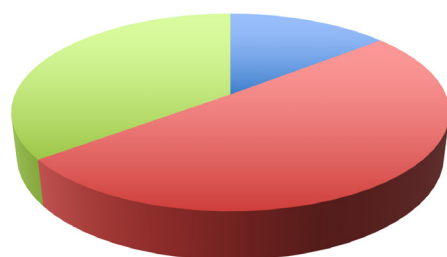
### Vinyl Vault

Alice MacKenzie  
Kathy Mestery  
Lindsay Butt  
Roxanne Byman  
David Carr  
Dennis Henney  
Dean Jonasson  
Daniel Little  
Walter Nykolyszyn

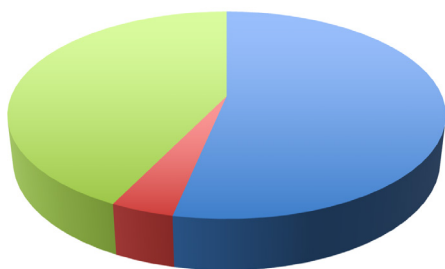
To the many volunteers  
who assist with our concerts  
and special projects  
... thank you!



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



■ Earned Income ■ Fundraising ■ Grants



■ Artistry ■ Publicity ■ Administrative ■ Endowment

### MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

#### BALANCE SHEET

##### Assets

Cash	\$168,981
Accounts Receivable	\$63,870
Prepaid Expenses	\$35,287
Insurance Investment	\$61,488
Capital Assets	\$9,354
	<u>\$338,980</u>

##### Liabilities And Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$6,902
Unearned Revenue	\$123,983
Net Assets Invested	
in Insurance and Capital	\$69,592
Internally Restricted Net Assets	\$102,737
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$35,766
	<u>\$338,980</u>

#### INCOME STATEMENT

##### Income

Earned Revenue	\$151,336
Fundraising and Sponsorship	\$539,393
Grants	\$378,687
	<u>\$1,069,416</u>

##### Expenses

Artistic and Production	\$625,382
Marketing and Development	\$46,500
Administrative	\$501,421
Contribution to Endowment Fund	\$1,950
	<u>\$1,175,253</u>

Difference between revenues and expenses	\$(105,837)
---	-------------

##### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Balance beginning of Year	\$313,932
Difference between revenues and expenses	\$(105,837)
Balance Ending of Year	<u>\$208,095</u>

