

Leadership & Legacy



2023 Report to the Community 2024



PHOTO: JOE CASCIO

JoAnn Falletta's 25th Anniversary Season

Celebrating 25 years with us, JoAnn Falletta's leadership has been truly transformative. Under her baton, we've experienced tremendous

JoAnn's
25th
ANNIVERSARY

artistic growth, from world premieres to GRAMMY® nominations and awards. The 2023-24 season showcased her deep connection with our community and her pivotal role in elevating us to international acclaim.

Another year of great strides in recording and recognition. Our *Scriabin: The Poem of Ecstasy* album earned a GRAMMY® nomination for

NEW Recording News

Best Orchestral Performance. In celebration of 20 years, 20 albums

from our in-house label Beau Fleuve were made available for streaming world-wide. We also released two albums on the NAXOS label: Lukas Foss *Symphony No. 1* and Kodály's *Háry János Suite*. Finally, *Echoes of Eastern Europe*, a new Beau Fleuve release, highlights the region's rich musical traditions.

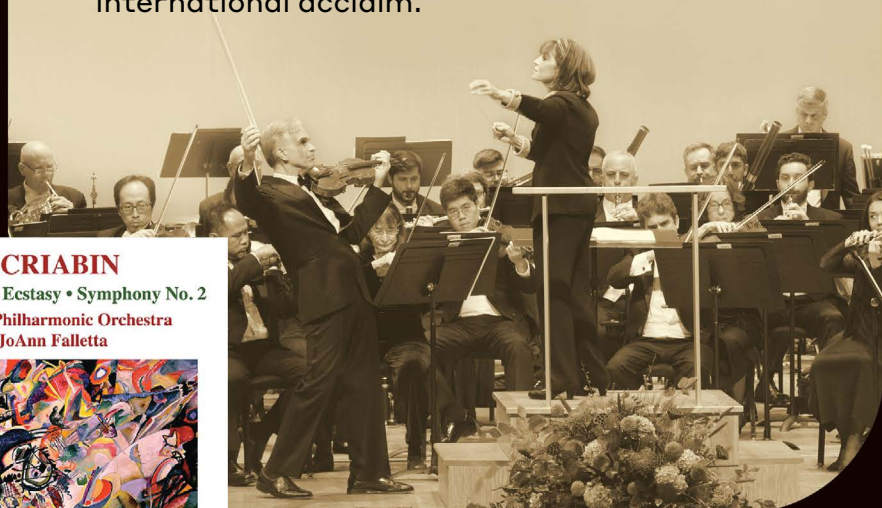
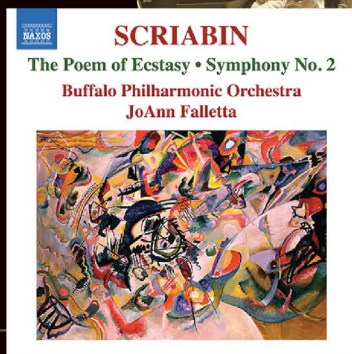


PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE

Guest Artists & Premieres



GIL SHAHAM

D.J. SPARR

HENRY WARD

PHOTOS: BRETT DENEVE

Gil Shaham

Opening the season with a masterful performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, Shaham set a high bar for the season's guest artists.

D.J. Sparr

The performance during Shostakovich & Six Strings showcased Sparr's innovative style with the electric guitar, blending classical and modern elements.

Henry Ward's World Premiere

BPO Principal Oboist Henry Ward took center stage for the world premiere of Randall Svane's Oboe Concerto, a piece that highlighted the orchestra's commitment to new music and its support of contemporary composers.



PHOTO: TRAVIS ESTES

Festivals

In partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, this festival celebrated Hispanic culture through music, reflecting the BPO's dedication to inclusion, diversity, and community engagement.

Encanto Hispano



STEINWAY

PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE

Rachmaninoff

A celebration of Rachmaninoff's works with fan-favorite pianists Alexander Malofeev and Natasha Paremski, this festival drew enthusiasts and showcased the BPO's prowess in interpreting Romantic-era compositions.

Special Events

BPO Gala 2023

This season's gala was a major success, raising funds to support the orchestra's mission while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Buffalo.



PHOTO: JOE CASCIO

JAF Yurtchuk Matching Challenge

This donation-matching fundraising initiative made possible by John and Carolyn Yurtchuk met its goal, raising \$272k by 1,065 donors making new or increased gifts.

Rock & Pops Rock Series Success



The BPO's Rock Series, featuring the music of Phil Collins and Genesis, Fleetwood Mac, and Led Zeppelin, enjoyed outstanding ticket sales, appealing to a broad audience beyond classical music fans.

PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE

Concert Highlights

Holst

Mahler

Beethoven



PHOTOS: BRETT DENEVE

The Planets & Beyond

The BPO's performance of *The Planets* by Gustav Holst showcased the orchestra's innovative spirit, with the project planned over a year in advance to coincide with Buffalo's position on the Path of Totality for the 2024 Eclipse. This cosmic-themed concert featured interactive elements like a Q&A with NASA scientist David Cheney and stunning, music-synched graphics, offering audiences a unique, multi-sensory experience that perfectly aligned with the celestial event.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Garnering robust ticket sales with an inspiring performance by both orchestra and chorus, this concert underscored the community's love for timeless classical masterpieces.

Mahler's Resurrection Symphony

This emotionally charged performance was enhanced by the powerful voices of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, creating a memorable evening that resonated deeply with the audience.

Community Initiatives & Education



PHOTO: BPO



PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE



PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE



PHOTO: ROBIN PARKINSON

Concert for Unity & Gospel Symphony Celebration

These events brought the community together, celebrating diversity and unity through the power of gospel music and symphonic collaboration with the Buffalo United Community Choir.

IDEA/ Opening Doors

The BPO's commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access was evident through various initiatives aimed at making orchestral music accessible to all, including the annual Opening Doors fundraiser.

St. Mary's School for the Deaf

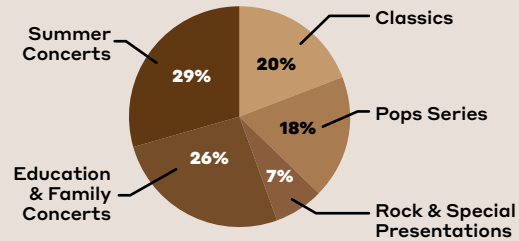
In keeping with our annual tradition, we partnered with St. Mary's School for the Deaf to present a special concert, underscoring our dedication to community outreach and inclusivity. This ongoing collaboration helps foster meaningful connections through the power of music.

BPO 2023-24 Stats

Over the course of 117 concerts, the BPO welcomed 147,000 attendees, reflecting a notable 10% increase in total attendance. This growth highlights the dedication of both our staff and musicians, and the success in attracting new audiences. While revenue did not fully cover costs, we remain confident in our financial strategy. To address the shortfall, we will tap into our Recovery Fund, built up during the pandemic, as part of our ongoing multi-year plan to ensure long-term sustainability and a balanced budget for the orchestra.

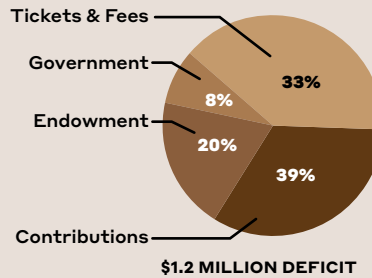
147,000 patrons in attendance for 117 performances

ATTENDANCE

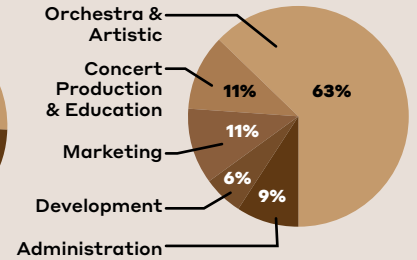


Budget

REVENUE \$12.8 MILLION



EXPENSE \$14 MILLION



Success of Family Concerts



PHOTO: BRETT DENEVE

The BPO's family concerts continued to be a hit, with events like Jingle Bell Jam and Disney: The Sound of Magic delighting younger audiences and their families.

The BPO welcomed several new musicians this season: Anton Shelepov (Assistant Concertmaster), Yeji Kim (2nd Assistant Concertmaster), Zhen Liu and Aleksandar Ivanov (first violins), Andrew Lin and Aika Ito (second violins), Sophia Filippone (French Horn), and Natalya Rose Vrbsky (third bassoon/contrabassoon).

New Musicians



MISSION STATEMENT

The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Society, Inc. employs and supports a professional major symphony orchestra of artistic excellence that is integral to Buffalo-Niagara's vitality through the presentation of live symphonic music and other musical events, which inspire, educate, and entertain the broadest possible audiences within Buffalo-Niagara and beyond.

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