



**BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**



2022-23

Education
&
Community
Final
Report

YOUTH CONCERTS

The BPO's in-person education programs came roaring back with a robust return to large student audiences. The power of a live orchestra experience was felt by 23,471 youth audience members at 24 concerts this year.



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Longstanding and new partnerships brought BPO musicians out into the schools and community, while pre-concert performances and other projects brought new audiences to Kleinhans and the Orchestra. 4,316 were served.

ACCESS INITIATIVES

In efforts to continually increase its impact, the BPO focused on five main initiatives this year that provided access to music instruction and concert attendance, especially for underserved communities.



CONCERTS



The 24 youth concerts presented during the 22-23 season highlighted a diverse group of composers. In the Musical Passport concert for grades 1-4 and Our Musical Heritage concert for grades 5-8, audiences traveled to many parts of the world through music by **Huang Ruo**, **Agnes Bashir**, **Ary Barroso**, **William Grant Still**, **W.A. Mozart**, **Duke Ellington** and others. A special highlight was the **Buffalo World Connection** concert which brought a unique storytelling journey to a high school audience (live and digital), combining diverse repertoire intertwined with a brand new story about resilience. Students from Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts worked for many months with spoken word artist **Brandon Williamson** on this creative project. Also featured was **Sphinx Competition** winner **Ana Isabella España**, a 16-year-old violinist.



22-23 Youth Concert Attendance (23,471) *



- Buffalo Public Schools (12,283)
- Erie County Public Schools (6,179)
- Chautauqua/Cattaraugus/Allegany Public Schools (1,144)
- Charter Schools (490)
- Other: homeschool, disability services, out of state (601)
- Catholic Schools (1,870)
- Niagara/Orleans County Public Schools (454)
- Genesee/Wyoming County Public Schools (365)
- WNY Private Schools (85)



*Compare to the average in-person attendance of 30,000 before the pandemic.

“The hour went by so fast! I wish it could have lasted longer! The students really hung on to every word you said Amy, and retained a lot of what you said the next time I saw them. I know this will translate to a better, cleaner, and more musical performance in December. Thank you!”



BPO musician Amy Glidden with students from Sacred Heart Academy

School and Community Partnerships

Teaching Artists

Our BPO musician teaching artists made 52 visits to 29 different schools and community centers throughout the 22-23 season, serving a total of 3,766 people. Some of these visits were instrumental workshops and coachings, some were classroom programs such as the *Science of Sound, Meaning, Mood & Movement* or *Conflict Resolution*, and others were professional development presentations for music educators. Schools in Lancaster, Lake Shore and Perry districts hosted a BPO musician for full-day residencies. Fernanda Lastra visited several senior centers through Erie County’s University Express programs as well.

This program allows for unique partnerships with organizations that need more tailoring of services. This year we began a new relationship with **King Urban Life Center** on the East Side of Buffalo which runs an after-school program and provides mental health services for the community. Our musicians created musical engagements for the youth in the afterschool program and provided music for their “Music, Meditation and Mindfulness” program as well.

The BPO also partnered with **SUNY Erie Community College** to present a six-concert lunchtime series bringing live music onto both the City and North campuses. A continued partnership with the **Seneca St. Community Development**

Corporation in the Seneca-Babcock neighborhood will bring music into their summer camp once again. Finally, we have been able to serve **Summit Center’s students with autism** through a residency with specialist Kate Bassett through monthly workshops for students and special engagements for adults.

Community Spotlight

20 school and community groups participated in these pre-concert performances, showcasing a total of 550 performers. In addition, over 500 of their friends and family members purchased discount BPO tickets. All performance groups get a free ticket to the BPO concert that follows their performance. Over the course of the season, performers were also able to meet featured guest artists and conductors.

People Served (4,316)



- Student programs and workshops (2,851)
- College and Community (587)
- Disability groups (256)
- Professional Development (72)
- Community Spotlight (550)

Increasing Access

During the 2022-23 season, the BPO focused on increasing access to music education resources and concert attendance . . .

For Young Musicians

Through a partnership with **Buffalo String Works (BSW)**, four BPO musicians provided weekly violin, viola, cello and bass lessons throughout the spring semester to 13 Advanced Ensemble students at BSW's West Side location. The BPO also donated tickets to each 22-23 Classics and Pops concert for BSW students and families, which resulted in 82 tickets used.

The BPO brought back the in-person side by side with the Buffalo Public students attending the district's arts magnet school, the **Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts (BAVPA)**. BPO musicians coached the music students for four months leading up to the culminating concert at Kleinhans Music Hall. Students from the theater, dance and media arts programs also participated in the concert, serving 110 academy students.

Finally, the **BPO Symphony Hall Pass for high school musicians** came back in full force. Over 80% of the enrollment this year included new memberships, welcoming 238 students from 30 different schools across Western New York. This includes 113 Buffalo Public students who enjoyed free membership thanks to sponsorship support. Participating students get a pass to most BPO concerts, as well as invitations to special guest artist meet-and-greets and other backstage opportunities.



Through Digital Resources

The BPO's digital resources now include 144 videos with nine new videos added during the 22-23 season. **The Music for Youth Education Hub**, which contains lesson plans and youth concert videos continues to be utilized by 298 teachers from 217 schools, representing all 8 counties of WNY. We also have users from other states including PA, MA, WV, TX and CA. The concert videos received 1,241 new classroom views this year. In addition, our **#PlayOnWNY** and **#SingOnWNY** demonstration videos received 8,298 new views, with a total of over 33,000 views since the project's inception in 2020. Overall use of these resources have decreased this year as in-person engagements have increased.

144 videos, 9,539 new views in 22-23
(compare to 11,869 new views in 21-22)

By Building Musical Bridges

This unique project, called **Building Musical Bridges**, aims to create connection, dialogue and understanding between students of different geographic, socio-economic and cultural environments using music and English Language Arts as the vehicles of exploration and expression. **Orchard Park's Ellicott Elementary was paired with Buffalo's International School #45** in this two-year looping program to serve a total of 175 students. BPO musician Anna Mattix facilitated musical lessons with the tremendous support and facilitation of music teachers Kelly Salas and Brett Ransom from BPS #45 and Heather Holden from Ellicott Elementary. The students met several times throughout the year and finished with a culminating event at Kleinhans Music Hall.



Increasing Access

For Families

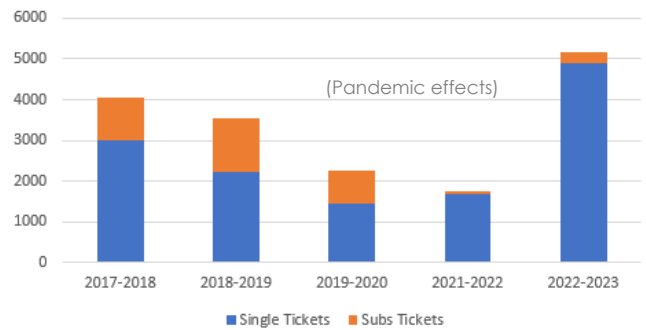
The BPO fully implemented a radical accessibility initiative this year for the **BPO Kids Family Series**, which included a flat \$7 ticket price, free parking, and added supports for families with children that have disabilities or are on the autism spectrum. **BPO Little Kids** expanded the age range to include families with children from birth to age five, all to great success.

Also, through a partnership with the **Buffalo Public Schools' Office of Parent and Family Engagement**, 700 free tickets were offered to Buffalo Public families for the Wild Symphony concert in April, which were all spoken for within hours.

All of these efforts to bring in new families and to be accessible to the whole community brought strong results, including a large increase in attendance for the series and tripled the number of ticket purchasers from underrepresented and low income zip codes (from 244 in 2018-19 to 784 in 2022-23).



BPO Kids Sold Tickets



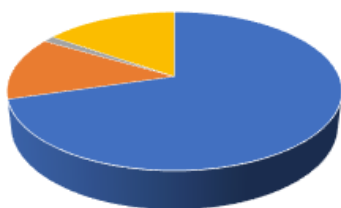
For People with Disabilities

The BPO was thrilled to bring back the **Exceptional Holiday Concert** for individuals with developmental disabilities after the pandemic hiatus. The response was overwhelming with 364 children and adults filling the Mary Seaton Room- an absolute sellout! We welcomed new audience members from Aspire of WNY, Beyond Support Network, The Arc of Erie County, CHC (Center for Handicapped Children) Learning Center, Godfrey Learning Center, and **The Summit Center (which also enjoys a residency)**, as well as several school districts.

We also brought back our annual holiday concert at **St. Mary's school for the Deaf**, serving about 250 students and family members in this beloved tradition.

At the family concerts, we included sensory friendly activities created by **GiGi's PlayHouse Buffalo** - a Down Syndrome Achievement Center, and training for our usher team from staff at **Oishei Children's Hospital Autism Center**.

Attendance Youth and Family (33,313)



- Youth Concerts (23,471)
- School and Community Partnerships (4,316)
- Special Projects (426)
- Family Series (5,100)

The Numbers In Summary

The in-person attendance for youth concerts and education events during the 2022-23 season saw a big jump from last year (more than tripled attendance from 7,500 to 28,200), but is still below pre-pandemic numbers (average of 33,000). However, the family series single tickets sold this year show a 35% increase over the average pre-pandemic ticket sales, and doubled the number from underrepresented and low income zip codes thanks to a radical accessibility initiative.

THANK YOU

TO OUR SPONSORS

This work would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and supporters.

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