



**BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

Report to the Community

Connected by Music

**25
26**

Opening Night with Alexander Malofoev

The season opened with internationally acclaimed pianist Alexander Malofoev performing Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No. 1* under the baton of JoAnn Falletta.



Artistic Leadership



Nikki Chooi

Concertmaster contract extended through 2030-31.



Ron Spigelman

Named Principal Pops Conductor.

Artistry in Full Force



Danny Elfman

The BPO welcomed legendary composer Danny Elfman and percussionist Colin Currie for two weekends spanning Elfman's Percussion Concerto and *Batman* (1989) in Concert.

Beethoven Festival

A two-week Beethoven celebration showcased the orchestra's artistic depth, featuring Concertmaster Nikki Chooi as soloist on the *Violin Concerto* and culminating in the beloved "Pastoral" Symphony.



Carmina Burana & American Soundscapes

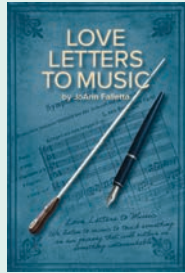
The season closed with the monumental choral power of *Carmina Burana* followed by *American Soundscapes*, celebrating contemporary American voices and the breadth of the orchestra's artistry.



Reaching Beyond the Stage

Publishing & Recording

The BPO continued to expand its artistic reach through internationally released recordings and publications, bringing Buffalo's orchestra to audiences around the world.



JoAnn Falletta's updated poetry collection
Love Letters to Music



The French in Spain
(Naxos)



A Hero's Life
(Beau Fleuve)

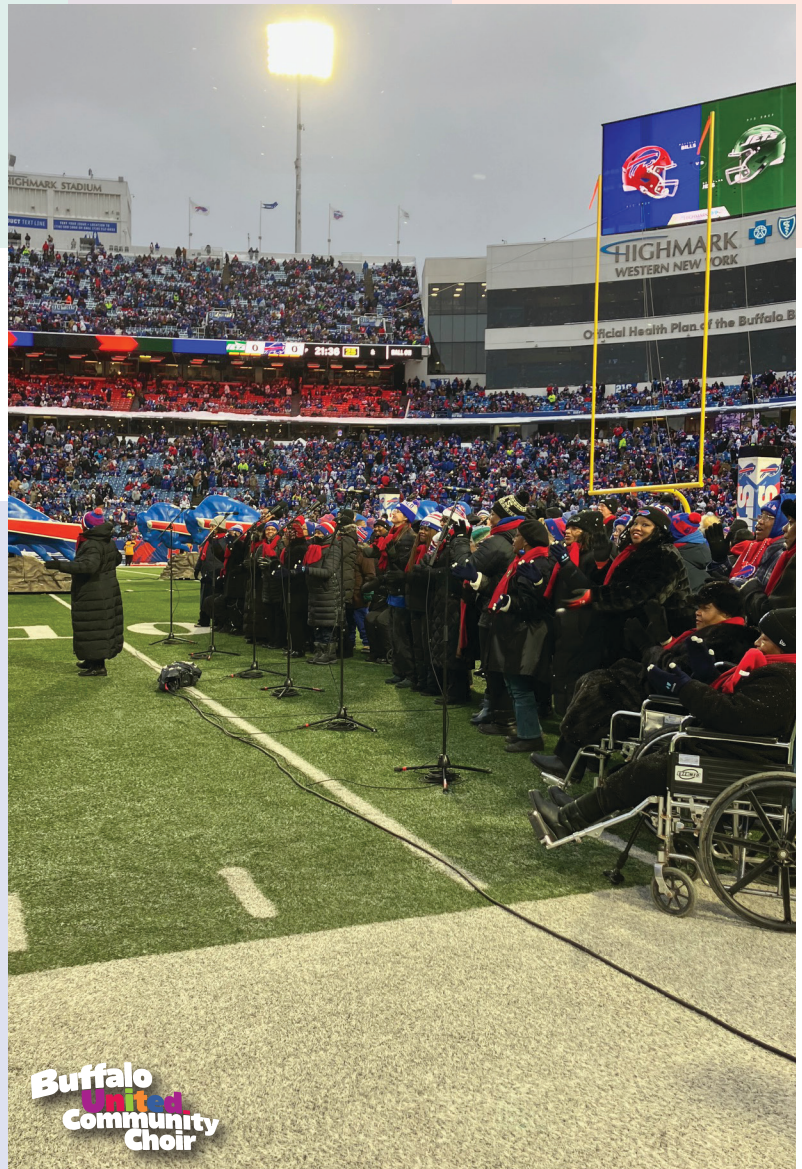
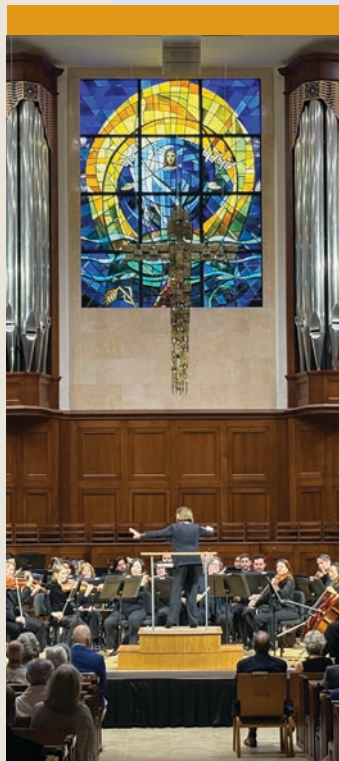
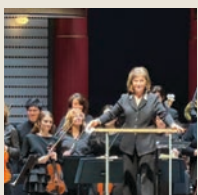
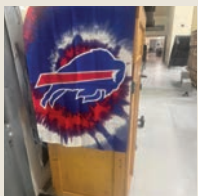


Stravinsky - Fairy Tales
(Naxos)

Florida Friends Tour

The BPO returned to Florida for its Friends Tour, sharing Buffalo's artistry with longtime supporters and strengthening connections beyond Western New York.

Daytona Beach
Gainesville
Vero Beach
West Palm Beach



Buffalo United Community Choir Sendoff "The Ralph"

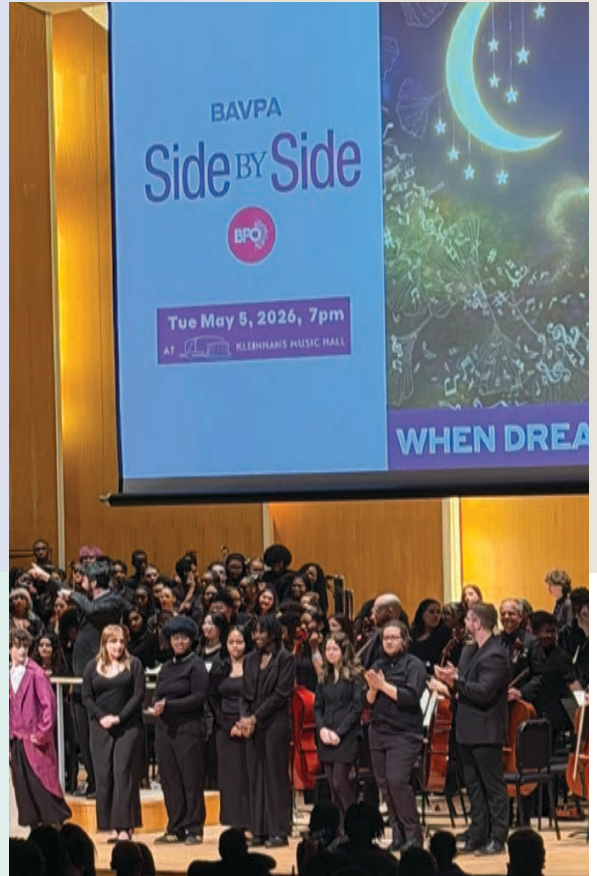
To mark the Buffalo Bills' final season at Highmark Stadium, the Buffalo United Community Choir, an initiative of the BPO's Diversity Council, performed the national anthem on the field in a stirring new gospel arrangement by Director Karen Saxon—helping close an era at one of Buffalo's most iconic venues.

Connecting Our Community



Polish Connections

The BPO strengthened its connection with Western New York's Polish community by welcoming Kraków-born conductor Anna Sułkowska-Migoń. Her appearance, encouraged by Principal Horn Jacek Muzyk, also reflected JoAnn Falletta's commitment to supporting the next generation of women conductors.



Beyond the Music

Patrons came early and stayed late for experiences beyond the concert itself—from artist conversations and dances to festivals, markets, Musician Nightcaps, and our famous Coffee Concert doughnuts.



Side-by-Side Learning

Students from the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra, Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, and SUNY Fredonia performed alongside BPO musicians, while masterclasses with internationally acclaimed artists offered another pathway for young musicians to learn from professionals.

Education by the Numbers

41,060 Youth & Family attendees

29 Youth Concerts

180 schools reached

14,770 Buffalo Public Schools students

837 disability community participants

487 Community Spotlight performers

13 students & **100+** attendees at masterclasses

711 Symphony Hall Pass members from **40** schools

Sustaining the Music

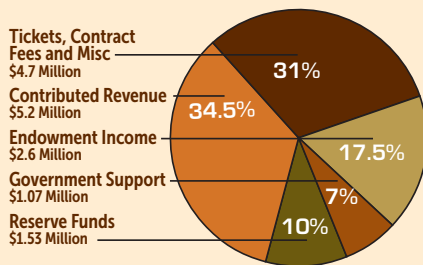
*Honoring a remarkable legacy.
Looking confidently to the future.*

Leadership Transition

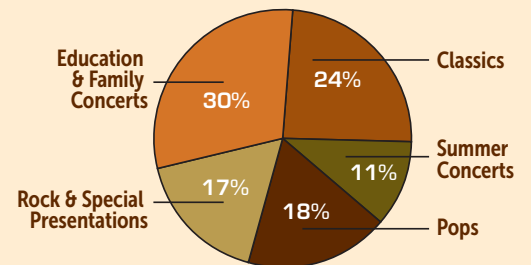
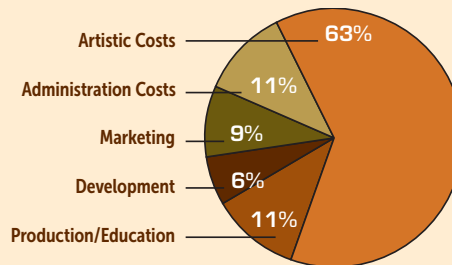
After 22 years of visionary leadership, President & Executive Director Daniel Hart announced his retirement. Following a national search led by Board Chair Scott Stenclik, the Board of Trustees appointed longtime Associate Executive Director Jennifer Barbee as the BPO's next President & Executive Director—combining continuity, experience, and a shared commitment to artistic excellence.



BPO's FY26 by the Numbers



Revenue & Expense \$15.1M



Attendance 122,271

25/26 Board Officers

Scott Stenclik — Chair John Yurtchuk — Vice Chair / Chair-Elect
Karen Sperrazza — Vice Chair John Zak — Treasurer William Keefer — Secretary

25/26 Board of Trustees

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Anne Conable
Stephen B. Edge, MD *
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Matt Low
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Diana Sachs +
Ricardo Saeb

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Robin G. Schulze, PhD
Christine Standish
Rev. Jonathan Staples
David Stark
Erin Peradotto Terhaar
Henry Ward +
Tracy Woodrow

* Ex Officio
+ Musician Representative

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.

Board Leadership

The BPO extends its gratitude to Board Chair Scott Stenclik, whose three years of leadership culminated in the successful transition to new executive leadership. We also recognize retiring trustees Robin Schulze and Karen Sperrazza and welcome John Yurtchuk as Chair, building on a strong foundation for the future.