



# VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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**This Annual Report represents the period June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023.**

The twelve months of this report represent fulfillment of our mission in a gradually post-COVID world, and completion of our search for a new artistic leader. Audience attendance doubled over the prior year, from 9,820 in FY22 to 18,556 in FY23, as restrictions abated, allowing an expansion of our programming and geographic reach. Most importantly, we could safely return to large gatherings and fulfill our purpose to perform symphonic music statewide with 22 chamber and full orchestra concerts.

We were honored to commission and premiere three symphonic works by composers Daniel Bernard Roumain, Matthew Evan Taylor, and Roberto Sierra. Two Vermont teens also received their own composition premieres at our Farmers' Night and Brass Quintet & Counterpoint concerts. Guest violinists Bella Hristova and Tracy Silverman, guitarists Kaki King and Caitlin Canty, and conductors Jaime Laredo, Anthony Parnter, Yutaka Kono, Matt LaRocca, and our four final Music Director candidates rounded out this artistically fulfilling season.

In education, we were pleased to reach over 2,900 young musicians and audiences in a range of activities, from master classes and a side-by-side concert, to in-school mentorships and music composition competitions.

A list of our overall activities is included at the end of this report. These concerts and educational events are something we strive to present at the highest artistic level, with equity and access for all. Thank you for playing a part in the VSO's 88th season!

## **ELISE BRUNELLE**

Executive Director ([elise@vso.org](mailto:elise@vso.org))

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra fosters and encourages the love of music throughout Vermont.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

To be the cultural and social leader in Vermont through music.

Our full Values Statement and Strategic Plan can be found at:  
[www.vso.org/about-us/](http://www.vso.org/about-us/)

# VSO IN NUMBERS

33% of composers featured on VSO concerts were from underrepresented communities.

VSO commissioned and premiered three orchestral works by Black composers Daniel Bernard Roumain, Matthew Evan Taylor, and Roberto Sierra in mainstage Classical Series concerts.

11 free concerts and educational events were provided around the state during the season, attended by 1,321 people.

8 concerts featured works composed by Vermont high school students.

18,556 people attended 60 concerts and educational events throughout the year.

VSO partnered with 28 venues and other performing arts organizations for its 2022-2023 concerts.

415 free tickets were provided to National Guard family members and clients of Vermont organizations for the visually impaired.

VSO and  
Holiday Pops  
December 2022  
Conductor:  
Anthony Parnter



VSO and the  
David M. Wilson  
Farmers' Night  
Concert  
February 2023  
Conductor:  
Yutaka Kono

# STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Staff

**Elise Brunelle**, Executive Director  
**Andrew Crust**, Music Director  
**Sheri Brienza-Wypyski**, Business Manager  
**Patricia Jancova**, Orchestra Manager  
**Sasha Vaut-O'Keefe**, Director of Philanthropy  
**Grace Spain**, Manager of Audience Experience  
**Matt LaRocca**, Creative Projects Chair  
**Thea Braren**, Marketing & Public Relations Manager  
**Hannah Hansen**, Education Coordinator  
**Jose-Daniel Flores Caraballo**, Chorus Master  
**Connie and Bill Warren**, Chorus Co-ordinators  
**Samantha Randlett and Kwaku Darko**, Interns

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## Volunteers

VSO has over 120 volunteers throughout the state who provide everything from free housing for out-of-state musicians to meals between afternoon and evening rehearsals. These volunteers also serve as ushers, ticket takers, parking guards for outdoor concerts, donated food drive coordinators at VSO's Holiday concerts, and orchestra room setup staff. These individuals are integral to the organization's operations.

## Board of Directors

**Robert Kenny**, Chair, *Hinesburg*  
**Betsy Bloomer**, Vice Chair, *Rutland*  
**Randall Sargent**, Treasurer, *Richmond*  
**Victoria Young**, Secretary, *Proctor*  
**Simeon Ananou**, *Shelburne*  
**Alison Clarkson**, *Woodstock*  
**Carol DeVine**, *Belmont*  
**Robert Donald**, *Grafton*  
**Harriet Grenier**, *Waterbury*  
**Brian Harwood**, *South Burlington*  
**Liisa Kissel**, *Grafton*  
**Lyn Lauffer**, *Enosburg Falls*  
**Sharon Reich Paulsen**, *Winooski*  
**Virginia Roth**, *Warren*  
**Cathleen Stadecker**, *Burlington*  
**Abbott Stark**, *Burlington*  
**Syndi Zook**, *Burlington*

## Honorary Members:

Gov. Madeleine Kunin, *Shelburne*  
Gov. James Douglas, *Middlebury*



# VSO MUSICIANS

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## **First Violin**

Katherine Winterstein,  
*Concertmaster*  
Kathy Andrew,  
*Assistant Concertmaster*  
David Gusakov  
Alexandra Labinska  
Letitia Quante  
Jane Kittredge  
Saeka Matsuyama

## **Second Violin**

Woonkuo Soon, *Principal*  
Brooke Quiggins  
*Caroline MacDonald Chair*  
Laura Markowitz  
Sofia Hirsch  
Lino Tanaka  
Hilary Hatch  
Tudor Dornescu  
Ellen Flanagan

## **Viola**

Russell Wilson, *Principal*  
*Glenn & Marga Sproul Chair*  
Stefanie Taylor,  
*Assistant Principal*  
Harold Lieberman  
Carrol Lee

## **Cello**

John Dunlop, *Principal*  
*Morris Block Chair*  
Jonathan Brin, *Assistant*  
*Principal*  
Bonnie Thurber Klimowski

## **Bass**

Luke Baker, *Principal*  
*John M. Dinse Chair*  
Eliot Porter, *Assistant*  
*Principal*  
Evan Runyon  
Alexander Svensen

## **Flute**

Melissa Mielens, *Principal*  
Anne Janson

## **Piccolo**

Peggy Friedland

## **Oboe**

Nancy Dimock, *Principal*  
Sherwood Wise  
*Eleanor C. Long Chair*

## **English Horn**

Ann Greenawalt

## **Clarinet**

Kelli O'Connor, *Principal*  
Gary Wright

## **Bassoon**

Janet Polk, *Principal*  
Rebecca Eldredge

## **Horn**

Shelagh Abate, *Principal*  
Alan Parshley  
Stewart Schuele

## **Trumpet**

Mark Emery, *Principal*  
Greg Smith

## **Trombone**

Matthew Wright,  
*Principal*  
Gabriel Rice  
Robert Hoveland

## **Tuba**

Takatsugu Hagiwara,  
*Principal*

## **Timpani**

Jeremy Levine, *Principal*

## **Percussion**

D. Thomas Toner,  
*Principal*

## **Harp**

Heidi Soons, *Principal*

## **VSO Chorus**

The volunteer VSO Chorus includes 80 members from around the state, led by Chorus Master Jose-Daniel Flores Caraballo.

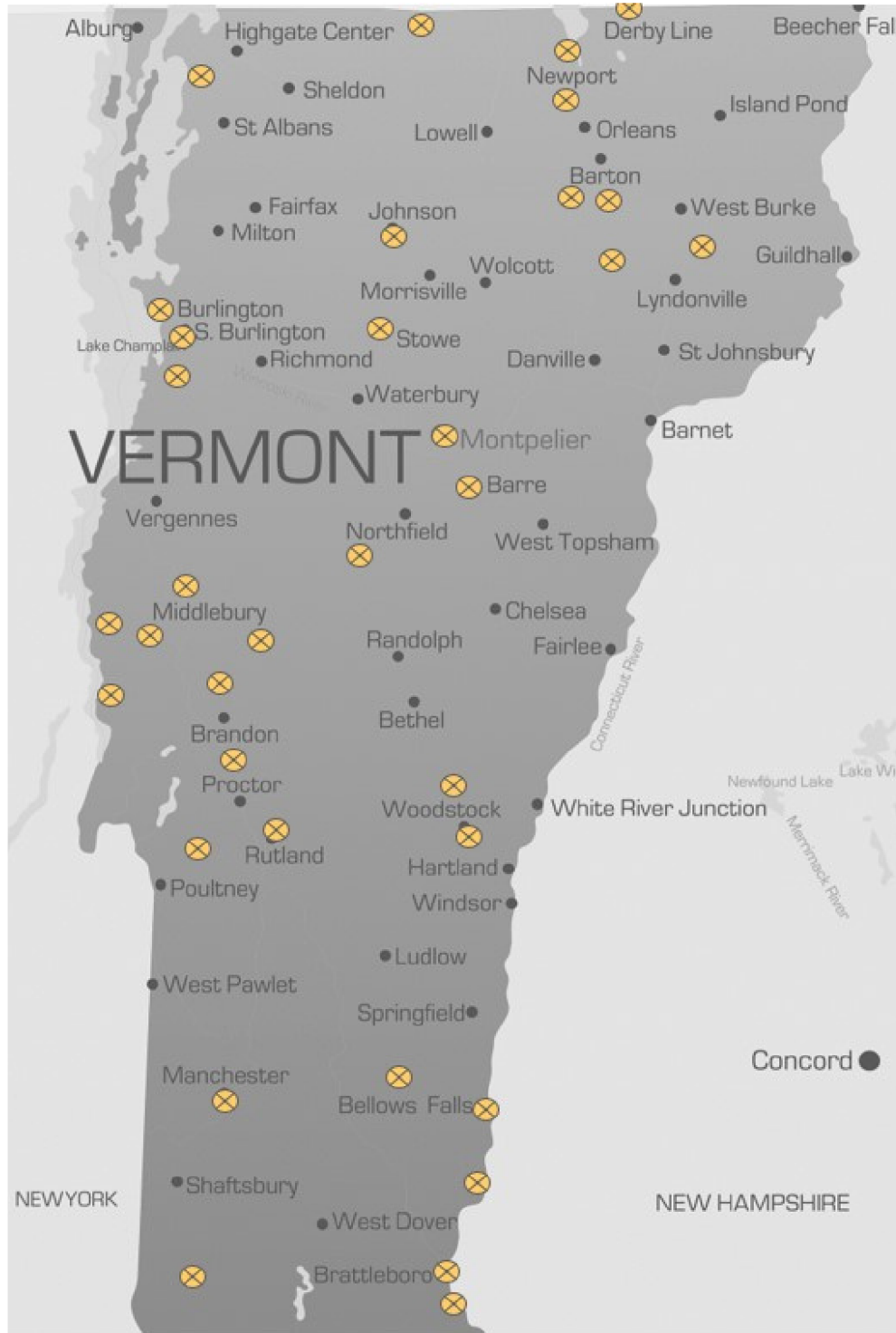
# GEOGRAPHIC REACH

## Vermont state map

60 performances

36 locations

18,556 audience members



- Barre
- Bellows Falls
- Bennington
- Brattleboro
- Bridport
- Burlington
- Castleton
- Cornwall
- Coventry
- Derby Line
- East Burke
- Glover
- Grafton
- Greensboro
- Guilford
- Johnson
- Manchester
- Middlebury
- Montpelier
- Newport
- North Troy
- Pittsford
- Putney
- Ripton
- Rutland
- Salisbury
- Shelburne
- Shoreham
- South Burlington
- South Pomfret
- Stowe
- Swanton
- Warren
- West Glover
- Weybridge
- Woodstock

# MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

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After a two and a half year search, involving seven finalist conductors, the VSO appointed its fifth Music Director in the orchestra's 88-year history:

**Andrew Crust.** He was appointed in March 2023 with a four-year contract, succeeding Jaime Laredo who stepped down from the position in 2021 after a twenty-year tenure with the VSO.

American/Canadian Andrew Crust has developed a versatile international career as a conductor of orchestral, opera, ballet, film, pops, and choral programs. In his recent and upcoming seasons, Crust conducts the Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, San Diego, Arkansas, Elgin, Rockford, Chattanooga, Memphis, Hartford, Billings, Vancouver Island, Laval, Nova Scotia, and Bozeman Symphonies.

Crust has collaborated with soloists such as Tracy Silverman, George Li, Charles Yang, Sandeep Das, Awadagin Pratt, and Laquita Mitchell, and in the pops realm, Rufus Wainwright, Michael Bolton, Tony DeSare, Dee Daniels, and more. Crust served as Associate Conductor of the Vancouver Symphony from 2019 – 2022, the Memphis Symphony from 2017 – 2019, the National Youth Orchestra in 2017 and 2018, and Conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program. He is currently in his third year as Music Director of the Lima Symphony where he conducts Grand Series, Pops, and Education programs.

Crust's experience includes engagements with Opera McGill, Boulder Opera, Ballet Memphis, Cirque de la Symphonie, and the United States Jazz Ambassadors. He has composed orchestral arrangements of compositions by Alma Mahler, Sergei Prokofiev, and Florence Price, as well as educational programs.

Crust has been awarded prizes and residencies by The Solti Foundation, the Accademia Chigiana, the Nestle/Saltzburg Festival, and the Vienna Philharmonic's Ansbacher Fellowship program. He conducted overseas with the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana in Italy, Hamburger Symphoniker at the Mendelssohn Festival in Germany, the Moravian Philharmonic in the Czech Republic, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Chile.



# EDUCATION

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## STUDENT COMPOSITION PREMIERES

In partnership with Music-COMP, high school student Molly Caffry premiered her composition for chorus at our Brass Quintet & Counterpoint concerts in December 2022. A second premiere took place with our Farmers' Night Concert in February 2023, with a work for chamber orchestra by Rutland High School graduate Drew Frankenburg.

## YOUNG COMPOSERS

The VSO partners with middle- and high-school students each year for a two-month workshop to learn composition for instruments within the orchestral family. In partnership with Music-COMP, we worked with seven middle school students at Bellows Falls High School in the spring of 2023 who composed music for brass quartet. A final concert of their music was performed live, as well as via Zoom, for peers, teachers, and family members.

## STUDENT INSIDERS: RUTLAND

100 Rutland-area students attended VSO's A Night at the Movies concert, and an educational workshop on film music, at Castleton University (March 2023). This initiative is supported by VSO's South West Friends group, who solicit donations from businesses and individuals to subsidize tickets, and by the Young Cultural Endowment Fund for Rutland.

## TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY

\$0 - \$10 tickets for Burlington and Rutland concerts were provided for 590 children and students during the year. The 2023 Summer Festival Tour offered free tickets for ages 5 and under, and \$5 tickets for ages 6-17. Free tickets were also provided to the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the National Guard family members, and VSO volunteers.

## MASTERCLEF & MASTERCLASS

The October 2022 Masterclef competition for young composers featured Vermont composer Matthew Evan Taylor. A total of 12 students submitted their own compositions, based on the melody of a choral and orchestra piece by Taylor, and were invited to Burlington to workshop their music with Taylor and their peers. Three top winners received prizes, and all finalists attended the VSO premiere of Taylor's piece. In May 2023, violinist Bella Hristova conducted a free, public masterclass with four aspiring young Vermont string players.

## MUSICIANS IN SCHOOLS

VSO's Musicians in Schools programs for strings, brass, and woodwinds are joined by an actor who weaves together stories about music, science, and math. These ensembles paid 21 visits to schools during the course of the year.

## VYO SIDE-BY-SIDE

The February 2023 side-by-side concert with 19 VSO musicians and over 50 Vermont Youth Orchestra members featured music by Mexican composers Jose Moncayo and Arturo Marquez. Video designs by Champlain College's Emergent Media students were created for and projected throughout the music.

## ELECTRIC STRINGS WORKSHOP

VSO guest violinist Tracy Silverman conducted a workshop for young string musicians as part of Montpelier's U32 High School Jazz Festival Weekend in February 2023 (photo at left).





# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2023

### Statement of Activities (abridged)

Performance revenues	\$420,779
Public support	\$191,987
Private support	\$741,117
COVID grants	\$189,033
Other income*	\$402,074
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,944,990</b>
Operating expenses	-\$2,053,472
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Change in net assets before other changes	\$(108,482)
Other changes	
Endowment contributions	\$1,835
Change in value of interest in perpetual trust	(\$17,819)
Change in beneficial interest	(\$4,400)
Investment return not designated for operations	(\$138,520)
Total other changes	(\$158,908)
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Change in net assets	(\$267,386)
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$5,968,054
Net assets, end of the year	\$5,700,668

\*VSO's FY22 endowment distribution was not taken in that financial year due to high levels of COVID grant support received. The distribution was moved to FY23. As such, 'Other income' includes a two-year endowment distribution.

VSO's 990 forms are available on [www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com).



An aspiring cellist at the Summer Festival Tour  
July 2022

Summer Festival Tour  
in Grafton  
July 2022

Members of the VSO  
Chorus at the Flynn  
October 2022



# CONTRIBUTORS

## VSO Endowed Fund Portfolio

VSO's 20 endowed funds held by Maple Capital Management ended FY23 with a total value of \$5,234,160. Donations of \$52,165 were made to the portfolio during the fiscal year.

## Contributions and Earned Income

VSO received a total of \$1,524,211 in contributions, sponsorships, grants and endowment draws in FY23, from over 1,010 generous individuals, foundations, businesses, and government departments. This represents 78% of operating revenue for the year, of which:

- 12% was provided by COVID relief grants
- 26% was provided by VSO's endowed funds held at Maple Capital\*, an external perpetual trust, and designated Vermont Community Foundation funds
- 62% was provided by contributions and sponsorships

A list of donors can be found at [www.vso.org/2022-2023-donors/](http://www.vso.org/2022-2023-donors/).

The remaining 22% of operating revenue came from performances (ticket sales, contracted services, and special performances). FY23 operating revenue was 14% higher than FY22 (26% increase in earned income and 38% increase in private support; 4% decline in government funding and 7% decline in other income).

In addition, \$134,853 was received in in-kind donated goods and services during the year from generous individuals and businesses.

\*See note on Financial Review page ("Other income")



Composers commissioned by the VSO  
top to bottom:  
Roberto Sierra  
Molly Caffrey  
Matthew Evan Taylor  
Daniel Bernard Roumain



Jukebox Quartet with guest guitarist Kaki King  
October 2022

# 2022-2023 SEASON

A detailed overview of activities during our 2022-2023 season can be found at [www.vso.org/events](http://www.vso.org/events)

Date	Venue	Town	Event
6/3/2022	Christ Episcopal Church	Montpelier	LGBTQ+ Pride Concert
7/1/2022	Saskadena Six Ski Area	South Pomfret	Summer Festival Tour*
7/2/2022	Hunter Park	Manchester	Summer Festival Tour*
7/3/2022	Grafton Ponds	Grafton	Summer Festival Tour*
7/4/2022	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Summer Festival Tour*
7/8/2022	Pittsford Village Farm	Pittsford	VSO string quintet with Caitlin Canty/Noam Pikelny
7/9/2022	Burke Mountain	East Burke	Summer Festival Tour*
7/10/2022	Trapp Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Summer Festival Tour*
8/26/2022	Mahaney Center for the Arts	Middlebury	Afternoon at the Movies*
8/27/2022	Haskell Opera House	Derby Line	Night at the Movies*
9/17/2022	The Flynn	Burlington	Classical Series 1: Riots and Prayers*
9/26/2022	Swanton Schools	Swanton	Musicians in Schools
10/5/2022	CP Smith Elementary	Burlington	Musicians in Schools
10/6/2022	Lakeview Elementary	Greensboro	Musicians in Schools
10/6/2022	Mater Christi School	Burlington	Musicians in Schools
10/6/2022	Glover Community School	Glover	Musicians in Schools
10/14/2022	Bennington College	Bennington	Jukebox Quartet
10/15/2022	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Jukebox Quartet
10/26/2022	Guilford Central School	Guilford	Musicians in Schools
10/26/2022	Oak Grove School	Brattleboro	Musicians in Schools
10/28/2022	Contois Auditorium	Burlington	MasterClef competition
10/29/2022	The Flynn	Burlington	Classical Series 2: Paradise and Light*
10/30/2022	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Classical Series 2: Paradise and Light*
11/4/2022	Putney Central School	Putney	Musicians in Schools
11/14/2022	Coventry Village School	Coventry	Musicians in Schools
11/14/2022	Rand Memorial Library	North Troy	Musicians in Schools
12/7/2022	New School of Glover	West Glover	Musicians in Schools
12/9/2022	Barre Opera House	Barre	Holiday Pops*
12/10/2022	The Flynn	Burlington	Holiday Pops*
12/11/2022	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Holiday Pops*

\*Symphony or chamber orchestra concert

# 2022-2023 SEASON (CON'T)

12/15/2022	Warren United Church	Warren	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/14/2022	Town Hall Theater	Woodstock	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/16/2022	United Church of Newport	Newport	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/17/2022	Grafton Elementary School	Grafton	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/18/2022	First Congregational Church	Manchester	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
1/20/2023	Merchants Hall	Rutland	Jukebox Quartet
1/21/2023	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Jukebox Quartet kids show
1/21/2023	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Jukebox Quartet
2/1/2023	Vermont State House	Montpelier	Farmers Night Concert*
2/2/2023	U32 High School	Montpelier	Electric Strings Workshop
2/4/2023	The Flynn	Burlington	Classical Series 3: Electric Dreams*
2/5/2023	The Flynn	Burlington	VT Youth Orchestra Side by Side*
2/17/2023	Bellows Falls High School	Bellows Falls	Young Composers concert
3/8/2023	Shoreham Elementary	Shoreham	Musicians in Schools
3/8/2023	Bridport Central	Bridport	Musicians in Schools
3/8/2023	Bingham Memorial School	Cornwall	Musicians in Schools
3/29/2023	Casella Theater	Castleton	A Night at the Movies*
3/30/2023	Dibden Center	Johnson	A Night at the Movies*
3/31/2023	Mahaney Center for the Arts	Middlebury	A Night at the Movies*
3/31/2023	Weybridge Elementary	Weybridge	Musicians in Schools
3/31/2023	Salisbury Community School	Salisbury	Musicians in Schools
3/31/2023	Ripton Elementary	Ripton	Musicians in Schools
4/15/2023	Havurah House	Middlebury	Whispers of the Past
4/16/2023	Jewish Community Stowe	Stowe	Whispers of the Past
4/18/2023	Temple Sinai	South Burlington	Whispers of the Past
4/22/2023	Artistree	South Pomfret	Jukebox Quartet
4/23/2023	Higher Ground	South Burlington	Jukebox Quartet
5/4/2023	South Burlington Library	South Burlington	Hristova violin masterclass
5/6/2023	The Flynn	Burlington	Classical Series 4: Jaime Laredo Salute*
5/12/2023	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Men, Marble, and Machines*

\*Symphony or chamber orchestra concert