



VERMONT
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This Annual Report represents the period June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025.

The twelve months of this report represent fulfillment of our mission under the artistic guidance of VSO's Music Director, Andrew Crust, and celebration of the orchestra's 90th anniversary season.

VSO welcomed a diversity of guest artists to the stage including 17-time GRAMMY Award winner banjoist Béla Fleck, GRAMMY Award nominee pianist Sir Stephen Hough and Vermont singer/songwriter Grace Potter, and ethnomusicologist and drummer Damascus Kafumbe. For the first time in history, the von Trapp family welcomed a production of *The Sound of Music in Concert* to their home in Stowe, which VSO produced in partnership with The Lyric Theatre for four sold-out summer concerts. Our artistic and educational partners helped create unforgettable events: music and video projection concerts in BETA Technologies' airplane hanger, a return to Young People's Concerts at the Flynn, rock-influenced and audience-directed Jukebox concerts, VSO Chorus with Holiday Pops, performance partnership with the Me2 Orchestra for mental health, and more.

Robust education in music performance and composition reached all ages, from the long running Musicians in Schools for K-6 learners, Student Insiders in Rutland, Young Composers programs and valuable partnerships with Vermont Youth Orchestra to new "Composer on the Rocks" adult education talks. A total of 5,203 people took part in VSO's educational programming.

During the season, six new musicians were appointed to contracted positions, the Board of Directors welcomed four new members, and staff capacity increased - all to fulfill a celebratory ninth decade of music-making!



ELISE BRUNELLE

Executive Director (elise@vso.org)

Andrew Crust,
Music Director
Elise Brunelle,
Executive Director



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/

VSO IN NUMBERS

VSO featured four Vermont guest artists and music by seven Vermont composers during the season.

16 free concerts were provided around the state during the season, attended by 2,271 people.

Six concerts featured works composed by Vermont high school students.

Over 800 lbs. of donated goods for area food shelves was procured through holiday concert initiatives.

The season included 31 compositions by BIPOC and/or female composers.

Over \$803,000 was paid to musicians, conductors, and guest artists for performances and music education.

25,270 people attended 53 concerts, a 41% increase over the prior year.

VSO partnered with venues, schools, and other performing arts organizations in 47 different communities.

360 free tickets were provided to local and non-profit organizations.



Made in Vermont guest artist Bella Hristova

VSO Music Director Andrew Crust at The Flynn, Burlington



STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Staff

Elise Brunelle, Executive Director
Andrew Crust, Music Director
Patricia Jancova, Orchestra Manager
Allison Steinmetz, Director of Development
Grace Spain, Director of Audience Engagement
Lisa Gill, Financial Manager
Matt LaRocca, Artistic Advisor & Project Conductor
Hannah Hansen, Education & Chorus Coordinator
Jose Daniel Flores-Caraballo, Chorus Master
Jeff Rehbach, Asst. Chorus Director
Alex Tursi, Cultivate PR, Public Relations
Lorelei Austin and **Kate Tretter**, Interns

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 support. These individuals are integral to the organization's operations.

Board of Directors

Robert Kenny, Chair, *Hinesburg*
Liisa Kissel, Vice Chair, *Grafton*
Randall Sargent, Treasurer, *Richmond*
Sally Rivard, Secretary, *Jay*
Lynn Barrett, *Dummerston Center*
John Canning, *South Burlington*
Alison Clarkson, *Woodstock*
Carol DeVine, *Belmont*
Dan DiBiasio, *Williston*
Robert Donald, *Grafton*
Jane Kittredge*, *Shelburne*
Spencer Knapp, *Shelburne*
Yutaka Kono, *Shelburne*
Kelli O'Connor*, *Norwich (CT)*
Sharon Reich Paulsen, *Burlington*
Leslie Black Sullivan, *Burlington*
Abbott Stark, *Burlington (to Jan 2025)*
Matthew Evan Taylor, *Berkeley (CA)*
Syndi Zook, *Burlington*

*musician representatives

Honorary Members:

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



L-R: Community Concert in Island Pond, musician housing hosts Cherry House B&B in St. Johnsbury, and VSO Southwest Friends volunteers' food shelf drive at Holiday Pops

VSO MUSICIANS

First Violin

Katherine Winterstein,
Concertmaster
Kathy Andrew,
Assistant Concertmaster
David Gusakov
Alexandra Labinska
Jane Kittredge

Second Violin

Woonkuo Soon, *Principal*
Brooke Quiggins
Assistant Principal
Caroline MacDonald Chair
Laura Markowitz
Sofia Hirsch
Lino Tanaka
Tudor Dornescu

Viola

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

Cello

John Dunlop, *Principal*
Morris Block Chair
Jonathan Brin, *Assistant*
Principal
Samuel Boundy
Bonnie Thurber Klimowski
Adam Wilson

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*

English Horn

Ann Greenawalt

Clarinet

Kelli O'Connor, *Principal*
Gary Wright

Bassoon

Janet Polk, *Principal*
Rebecca Eldredge

Horn

Paulina Dixon
Alan Parshley
Stewart Schuele

Trumpet

Mark Emery, *Principal*
Andrew Harms

Trombone

Matthew Wright,
Principal
Robert Hoveland

Bass Trombone

Gabriel Rice

Tuba

Takatsugu Hagiwara,
Principal

Timpani

Jeremy Levine, *Principal*

Percussion

D. Thomas Toner,
Principal

Harp

Heidi Soons, *Principal*

During the 2024/2025 season, six vacant contract positions were filled via auditions in the violin, cello, and trumpet sections. Ten more vacant positions will be filled via auditions during the 2025/2026 season. The VSO musicians are represented by the American Federation of Musicians and are under contract via Boston Musicians' Association, AFM Local 9-535

VSO Chorus

The volunteer VSO Chorus includes 78 members from around the state, led by Chorus Master Jose-Daniel Flores Caraballo.



Backstage at the Summer Festival Tour, Stowe

CONCERT PHOTOS

From top right clockwise: Jukebox quartet, Grace Potter and the VSO, banjoist Béla Fleck, Young Persons' Concert, VSO for Mahler's Symphony No. 1, pianist Sir Stephen Hough, drummer Damascus Kafumbe, *The Sound of Music in Concert*, violinist Bella Hristova



EDUCATION

STUDENT COMPOSITION PREMIERES

In partnership with Music-COMP, VSO premiered Stowe High School senior student Harrison Brown's composition for brass at the Brass Quintet & Counterpoint concerts in December. A second premiere took place with the Farmers' Night Concert in February, with a chamber orchestra work by homeschooled Vermont senior Eleanor Freebern.

YOUNG COMPOSERS

The VSO partners with 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 six students at Mt. Mansfield High School in the winter of 2025 who composed music for woodwind instruments. A final concert of their music was performed live for peers, teachers, and family.

STUDENT INSIDERS: RUTLAND

100 Rutland-area students attended the Grace Potter & VSO concert at the Paramount in March 2025, including a music workshop with conductor Matt LaRocca. This initiative is supported by VSO's Southwest Friends group, who solicits donations to subsidize tickets, and by the Young Cultural Endowment Fund for Rutland.

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 25 visits to schools during the the year, attended by 3,695 youth.

TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY

\$0 - \$10 tickets for Burlington and Rutland concerts were provided for 1,197 youth during the year. The 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 VT Association for the Blind, National Guard, and VSO volunteers.



Top: Woodwind Musicians in Schools trio in Moretown
Bottom: Juicebox string quartet in Brattleboro

MASTERCLEF COMPETITION

The 2025 MasterClef featured Vermont composer Sir Stephen Hough, who hosted a workshop with the VSO for Burlington High School senior Louis Napolitan and composition for chamber orchestra and piano.

ONSTAGE PERFORMANCES

Ten students from the Vermont Youth Orchestra joined VSO onstage for concerts at the Flynn and Jukebox quartet concerts at Artsriot in Burlington. Five Champlain College students designed visual projections for VSO concerts at BETA Technologies.



VYO string musicians backstage with the VSO at The Flynn

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2025

Statement of Activities (abridged)

Performance revenues	\$1,027,437
Public support	\$199,814
Private support	\$1,242,393
Net investment income for operations	\$452,022
Other income	\$28,842
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$2,950,508
Operating expenses	(\$2,734,856)
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Change in net assets before other changes	\$215,652
Other changes	
Endowment contributions	\$1,962
Change in value of interest in perpetual trust	\$9,965
Change in beneficial interest	\$516
Investment return not designated for operations, net	\$102,583
Total other changes	\$115,026
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Change in net assets	\$330,678
Net assets, beginning of the year	\$5,937,942
Net assets, end of the year	\$6,268,620

VSO Endowed Fund Portfolio

VSO's 20 endowed funds held by Maple Capital Management ended FY25 with a total value of \$5,905,691. Donations of \$1,962 were made to the portfolio during the fiscal year.

VSO FY25 Audit

The FY25 audit was completed by McSoley McCoy & Co.

VSO's 990 forms are available on www.guidestar.com.



VSO Chorus and orchestra: Holiday Pops (Rutland)

2024-2025 SEASON

Date	Venue	Town	Event
6/7/2024	Woodstock History Center	Woodstock	VSO 90 th Kickoff
6/20/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Sound of Music in Concert
6/21/2024	Trapp Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Sound of Music in Concert
6/22/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Sound of Music in Concert (mat)
6/22/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Sound of Music in Concert (eve)
7/22/2024	VSU Castleton Pavilion	Castleton	Summer Festival Tour
7/3/2024	Grafton Trails & Outdoor Center	Grafton	Summer Festival Tour
7/4/2024	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Summer Festival Tour
7/5/2024	Saskadena Six	South Pomfret	Summer Festival Tour
7/6/2024	Lyndon Town School (rain site)	Lyndonville	Summer Festival Tour
7/7/2024	Trapp Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Summer Festival Tour
8/22/2024	Middlebury College	Middlebury	Middlebury New Filmmakers Fest
8/24/2024	Island Pond Park	Island Pond	Community Concert
8/30/2024	Pittsford Village Farm	Pittsford	Community Concert
9/6/2024	Haskell Opera House	Derby Line	Made in Vermont
9/7/2024	Chandler Center	Randolph	Made in Vermont
9/8/2024	Southern VT Arts Center	Manchester	Made in Vermont
9/27/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Bela Fleck & American Excellence
9/28/2024	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Bela Fleck & American Excellence
10/25/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Young Persons' Concert
10/26/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Romeo, Juliet, and the Firebird
11/4/2024	Lakeview School	Greensboro	Musicians in Schools - Strings
11/4/2024	Glover School	Glover	Musicians in Schools - Winds
11/6/2024	Tunbridge School	Tunbridge	Musicians in Schools - Strings
11/8/2024	Newton School	Strafford	Musicians in Schools - Strings
11/10/2024	Chester Town Hall	Chester	Community Concert
11/14/2024	Artistree	South Pomfret	Jukebox
11/15/2024	Artsriot	Burlington	Jukebox
11/16/2024	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Jukebox
12/6/2024	Barre Opera House	Barre	Holiday Pops
12/7/2024	The Flynn	Burlington	Holiday Pops
12/8/2024	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Holiday Pops
12/12/2024	Vermont Public	Colchester	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/12/2024	Warren United Church	Warren	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/13/2024	Newport Church	Newport	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/14/2024	Grafton Community Church	Grafton	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/15/2024	Manchester First Cong Church	Manchester	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint

2024-2025 SEASON (CON'T)

Date	Venue	Town	Event
12/20/2024	Saxtons River School	Saxtons River	Musicians in Schools - Brass
12/20/2024	Union Street School	Springfield	Musicians in Schools - Brass
12/20/2024	Mt. Mansfield High School	Jericho	Young Composers
2/12/2025	Vermont State House	Montpelier	Farmers' Night
2/14/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	MasterClef
2/15/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	Modernism & The World of Yesterday
3/1/2025	BETA Technologies	S. Burlington	Champlain College collaboration
3/1/2025	BETA Technologies	S. Burlington	Flight Test (matinee & evening)
3/12/2025	Mt. Holly School	Mt. Holly	Musicians in Schools - Strings
3/12/2025	Ludlow Elementary	Ludlow	Musicians in Schools - Strings
3/20/2025	Moretown Elementary	Moretown	Musicians in Schools - Winds
3/20/2025	Fayston Elementary	Fayston	Musicians in Schools - Winds
3/20/2025	Waitsfield Elementary	Waitsfield	Musicians in Schools - Winds
3/21/2025	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Student Insiders; Grace Potter concert
3/22/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	Grace Potter concert
3/28/2025	Main Street Landing	Burlington	Womens History Month concert
3/29/2025	Weybridge Cong. Church	Weybridge	Womens History Month concert
3/29/2025	Christ Episcopal Church	Montpelier	Womens History Month concert
3/30/2025	Richmond Cong. Church	Richmond	Womens History Month concert
4/4/2025	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Jukebox
4/5/2025	Brattleboro Music Center	Brattleboro	Jukebox & Juicebox kids
4/6/2025	Next Stage	White River Jct	Jukebox & Juicebox kids
4/11/2025	Artsriot	Burlington	Jukebox (matinee & evening)
4/11/2025	United Christian Academy	Newport	Musicians in Schools - Strings
4/11/2025	Charleston Elementary	Charleston	Musicians in Schools - Strings
4/12/2025	Bennington Museum	Bennington	Jukebox
4/27/2025	Chester Town Hall	Chester	Community Concert
5/2/2025	Oak Grove School	Brattleboro	Musicians in Schools - Winds
5/2/2025	Dummerston School	Dummerston	Musicians in Schools - Winds
5/6/2025	Danville School	Danville	Musicians in Schools - Strings
5/6/2025	Lyndon School	Lyndon	Musicians in Schools - Strings
5/9/2025	Rutland NE, NW & Intermediate Schools	Rutland	Musicians in Schools - Brass
5/10/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	Season Finale - Mahler's Titan
5/16/2025	Swanton School	Swanton	Musicians in Schools - Brass



Vermont Symphony Orchestra

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Burlington, VT 05401

www.vso.org