VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This Annual Report represents the period June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026.

The 2025/2026 season was a year of artistic exploration, statewide connection, and continued investment in the future of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Under the artistic leadership of Music Director Andrew Crust, we continued to bring Vermonters together through the shared experience of live music and education.

Our Summer Festival Tour, Summer of Love, brought the orchestra to five statewide communities with a cross-genre program featuring vocalist Nikola Printz. We followed with Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! in Concert, in partnership with Lyric Theatre, and reunited with Vermont singer-songwriter Grace Potter at the Grand Point North Festival.

Throughout the season, concert programming reflected a commitment to curiosity and musical discovery. From the collaboration of East Meets West, featuring tabla virtuoso Sandeep Das and sitarist Rajib Karmakar, to Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, new music by composer Chelsea Komschlies, guest violinist Jennifer Koh, a stellar quartet of soloists and chorus for Orff's Carmina Burana, and our collaboration with The Moth Radio Hour, we continued to challenge expectations and welcome new audiences. The Jukebox Quartet, Holiday Pops, and chamber performances continued to delight audiences across the state.

Education and community engagement remained central to our mission. Through Musicians in Schools, First Steps in Music, student performances, composition mentorships, and partnerships with Vermont schools and the Vermont Youth Orchestra, we provided young people with opportunities not only to hear great music, but to make it themselves.

None of this happens without the extraordinary commitment of our musicians, staff, Board, volunteers, donors, sponsors, and community partners. Thank you for believing in the importance of a statewide orchestra. Together, we are ensuring that the VSO remains a vital part of Vermont's cultural life—an orchestra that belongs to all Vermonters.

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 music by five Vermont composers performed in eight concerts, including a symphonic orchestra world premiere.

11 free concerts were provided around the state during the season, attended by 1,842 people.

35 student musicians performed in four VSO concerts.

26,485 people attended 85 events over the course of the year.

VSO partnered with venues, schools, and other performing arts organizations in 48 different communities.

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

Over 710 lbs. of donated goods for area food shelves was procured through holiday concert initiatives.

The season included 23 compositions by composers from historically underrepresented communities.

Over $630K was paid to musicians, conductors, and guest artists for performances and music education.

The Herbst Family provided support for a newly-endowed Concertmaster chair.



Guest violinist Jennifer Koh
VSO, guest sitar Rajib Karmakar and guest tabla player Sandeep Das at the Paramount Theatre, Rutland



STAFF, VOLUNTEERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Artistic

Andrew Crust, Music Director
Matt LaRocca, Artistic Advisor & Project Conductor
José Daniel Flores-Caraballo, Chorus Master
Jeff Rehbach, Asst. Chorus Director

Administrative

Elise Brunelle, Executive Director
Lisa Gill, Financial Manager
Hannah Hansen, Education & Chorus Coordinator
Patricia Jancova, Orchestra Manager
Olivia Muszynski, Assoc. Director of Development
Grace Spain, Director of Audience Engagement
Allison Steinmetz, Senior Director of Development
Alex Tursi, Cultivate PR, Public Relations
Charlie Burlack and **Rachel Petri**, Interns



Oklahoma! in Concert at von Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe

Board of Directors

Spencer Knapp, Chair, *Shelburne*
Dan DiBiasio, Vice Chair, *Williston*
Randall Sargent, Treasurer, *Richmond*
Sally Rivard, Secretary, *Jay*
John Canning, *South Burlington*
Alison Clarkson, *Woodstock*
Carol DeVine, *Belmont*
Robert Donald, *Grafton*
Prospero Gogo, *Burlington*
Amanda Hoffman, *Charlotte*
Bob Kenny, *Hinesburg*
Jane Kittredge*, *Shelburne*
Yutaka Kono, *Shelburne*
Peter Miller, *Weston*
Kelli O'Connor*, *Norwich (CT)*
Sharon Reich Paulsen, *Burlington*
Marc A. Scorca, *Poultney*
Leslie Black Sullivan, *Burlington*
Syndi Zook, *Burlington*

*musician representatives

Honorary Members:
Gov. Madeleine Kunin, *Shelburne*
Gov. James Douglas, *Middlebury*

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.

VSO MUSICIANS

Violin
Katherine Winterstein,
Concertmaster
Herbst Family Fund Chair
Kathy Andrew,
Assistant Concertmaster
Woonkuo Soon, *Principal*
Second Violin
Brooke Quiggins
Assistant Principal
Caroline MacDonald Chair
Tudor Dornescu
Daniel Faris
David Gusakov
Sofia Hirsch
Jane Kittredge
Alexandra Labinska
An-Chi Lin
Laura Markowitz
Lino Tanaka
Leah Zelnick

Viola
Stefanie Taylor, *Principal*
Glenn & Marga Sproul Chair
Nickolas Kaynor
Harold Lieberman
Carrol Lee
Taija Warbelow

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*
Christopher Correa

English Horn
Ann Greenawalt

Clarinet
Kelli O'Connor, *Principal*
Gary Wright

Bassoon
Janet Polk, *Principal*
Rebecca Eldredge

Horn
Megan Hurley, *Principal*
Paulina Dixon
Alan Parshley
Stewart Schuele

Trumpet
Mark Emery, *Principal*
Andrew Harms

Trombone
Matthew Wright,
Principal
Robert Hoveland,
Second Trombone

Bass Trombone
Gabriel Rice

Tuba
Takatsugu Hagiwara,
Principal

Timpani
Jeremy Levine, *Principal*

Percussion
D. Thomas Toner,
Principal

Harp
Heidi Soons, *Principal*

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 94 members from around the state, led by Chorus Master José-Daniel Flores Caraballo.



GEOGRAPHIC REACH

Vermont state map

43 Concerts and 42 education events in 49 Vermont locations



BARRE
BARTON
BELLOWS FALLS
BENNINGTON
BRIDPORT
BRIGHTON
BRISTOL
BROWNINGTON
BURKE
BURLINGTON
CASTLETON
CHARLESTON
CHARLOTTE
CHELSEA
CORNWALL
EAST BURKE
FAIRFAX
FLETCHER
GLOVER
GRAFTON
HALIFAX
HARTFORD
JAY
LUDLOW
MANCHESTER
MONTPELIER
MORRISTOWN
NEWARK
NEWPORT
NORWICH
READSBORO
RUTLAND
SHEFFIELD
SHELBURNE
SHOREHAM
SOUTH BURLINGTON
SOUTH POMFRET
ST. ALBANS
ST. JOHNBURY
STOWE
SWANTON
THETFORD
TROY
TUNBRIDGE
WARREN
WATERBURY
WILMINGTON
WINDSOR

CONCERT & EVENT PHOTOS













From top right clockwise: On the Rocks education presentation in Burlington, Made in Vermont with The Moth Radio Hour in Manchester, Brass Quintet performers in Newport, Summer Festival Tour in Shelburne, Jukebox Quartet at Barre Opera House, Disney in Concert at The Paramount Theatre in Rutland

EDUCATION

STUDENT COMPOSITION PREMIERES

In partnership with Music-COMP, VSO premiered Mt. Mansfield High School student Sam Acus' composition for brass and chorus at the Brass Quintet & Counterpoint concerts in December. A second premiere took place at the Farmers' Night Concert in February, with a chamber orchestra work by Burlington High School student Louis Napolitan.

YOUNG COMPOSERS

The VSO partners with students each year for two-month workshops to learn composition for instruments within the orchestral family. In partnership with Music-COMP, we worked with six students at Hazen Union in Hardwick who composed music for strings and oboe, and five students at Hartford High School who composed music for brass instruments. Final concerts of the students' music was performed live for peers, teachers, and family.

STUDENT INSIDERS: RUTLAND

155 Rutland-area students attended Disney in Concert at the Paramount, including a music workshop with conductor Matt LaRocca. This initiative is supported by VSO's Southwest Friends group, who solicits subsidized ticket donations, 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 38 visits to schools during the the year, attended by 4,856 youth.

TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY

$0 - $10 tickets for Burlington and Rutland concerts were provided for 1,746 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.



Montpelier Junior & High School Students in side-by-side rehearsal with VSO

VERMONT PUBLIC KIDS' DAY

In the fall, three VSO instrumentalists took part in a live session of the kid's podcast *But Why,* and provided the Musical Petting Zoo as part of Vermont Public's Curious Kids' Day.

ONSTAGE PERFORMANCES

A total of 58 students and community members joined the VSO onstage as performers during its main concert season, including instrumentalists from Vermont Youth Orchestra and Bellows Free Academy, and singers from Youth Opera Company of OCM (Middlebury), Burr & Burton Academy (Manchester), Halcyon Chorale (St. Johnsbury), and the Burlington area.

GUEST ARTIST MUSIC EDUCATION

Guest artists Sandeep Das (tabla drum), Rajib Karmakar (sitar), Jennifer Koh (violin), and Goitsemang Lehoybe (soprano) provided free workshops in Castleton, Charlotte, and Essex during their residencies with the VSO.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2026

Statement of Activities (abridged)

Performance revenues	$614,623
Public support	$170,195
Private support	$1,002,688
Net investment income for operations	$480,000
Other income	$71,510
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	$2,339,016
Operating expenses	($2,418,213)
Change in net assets before other changes	($79,197)
Other changes	
Change in value of interest in perpetual trust	$31,501
Change in beneficial interest	$19,792
Investment return not designated for operations, net	$451,518
Total other changes	$502,801
Change in net assets	$423,604
Net assets, beginning of the year	$6,268,620
Net assets, end of the year	**$6,692,224**

VSO Endowed Fund Portfolio

VSO's 20 endowed funds held by Maple Capital Management ended FY26 with a total value of $6,357,200. No donations were made to the portfolio during the fiscal year.

VSO FY26 FInancial Review

The FY26 Financial Review was completed by McSoley McCoy & Co.

VSO's 990 forms are available on Charity Navigator and www.vso.org/about-us



VT Public podcast host Jane Lindholm and VSO Principal Flute Melissa Mielens

2025-2026 SEASON

7/1/2025	VT State Univ Pavilion	Castleton	Summer Festival Tour
7/2/2025	Saskadena Six	S Pomfret	Summer Festival Tour
7/3/2025	Rain site: VT Academy (Saxtons River)	Grafton	Summer Festival Tour
7/4/2025	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Summer Festival Tour
7/5/2025	Burke Mountain	E Burke	Summer Festival Tour
7/6/2025	Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Summer Festival Tour
8/13/2025	Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Oklahoma! in Concert
8/14/2025	Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Oklahoma! in Concert
8/15/2025	Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow	Stowe	Oklahoma! in Concert
9/12/2025	Burlington City Park	Burlington	Grace Potter Grand Point North
9/15/2025	Venetian Soda Lounge	Burlington	On the Rocks Adult Ed
9/24/2025	VT State Univ Castleton	Castleton	World Music Workshop
9/25/2025	Clemmons Family Farm	Charlotte	Adult Education Drum Workshop
9/26/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	VSO at the Flynn: East Meets West
9/27/2025	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	VSO at the Flynn: East Meets West
10/5/2025	Shelburne Museum	Shelburne	Hoffman Gift Event
10/15/2025	The Athenaeum	St. Johnbury	Jukebox: Strength & Hope
10/16/2025	Burlington Beer Co.	Burlington	Jukebox: Strength & Hope
10/17/2025	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Jukebox: Strength & Hope
10/18/2025	Bennington College	Bennington	Jukebox: Strength & Hope
10/19/2025	Zenbarn	Waterbury	Jukebox: Strength & Hope
10/25/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	VSO at the Flynn: Pastoral Symph
11/2/2025	Ludlow Town Hall	Ludlow	Community Concert
11/13/2025	Bellows Free Academy	St. Albans	Made in VT student matinee
11/14/2025	U32 High School	Montpelier	Made in VT student matinee
11/14/2025	Spruce Peak Performing Arts	Stowe	Made in Vermont
11/15/2025	Southern VT Arts Center	Manchester	Made in Vermont
11/16/2025	Bellows Falls Opera House	Bellows Falls	Made in Vermont
11/21/2025	Fletcher Elementary	Fletcher	Musicians in Schools
11/21/2025	BFA Fairfax	Fairfax	Musicians in Schools
12/4/2025	Morristown Elementary	Morristown	Musicians in Schools
12/4/2025	Morristown Preschool	Morristown	Musicians in Schools
12/4/2025	Brookside Elementary	Waterbury	Musicians in Schools
12/5/2025	Barre Opera House	Barre	Holiday Pops
12/6/2025	The Flynn	Burlington	Holiday Pops
12/7/2025	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Holiday Pops
12/11/2025	Warren United Church	Warren	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/12/2025	Newport Church	Newport	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/13/2025	Grafton Community Church	Grafton	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/14/2025	Manchester First Congregational Church	Manchester	Brass Quintet & Counterpoint
12/19/2025	Twin Valley Elementary	Wilmington	Musicians in Schools
12/19/2025	Halifax Elementary	Halifax	Musicians in Schools
12/19/2025	Readsboro Central School	Readsboro	Musicians in Schools

2025-2026 SEASON (CON'T)

1/24/2026	S Burlington Library	S Burlington	VSO duet community concert
2/10/2026	Venetian Soda Lounge	Burlington	On the Rocks Adult Ed
2/11/2026	Vermont State House	Montpelier	Farmers' Night
2/12/2026	Essex High School	Essex	Jenny Koh Strings workshop
2/14/2026	The Flynn	Burlington	VSO at the Flynn: Love Notes
2/18/2026	Swanton schools	Swanton	Musicians in Schools
2/20/2026	Shoreham Elementary	Shoreham	Musicians in Schools
2/20/2026	Cornwall School	Cornwall	Musicians in Schools
2/20/2026	Bridport Central	Bridport	Musicians in Schools
3/7/2026	Old South Church	Windsor	Community String Quartet Concert
3/10/2026	Marion Cross	Norwich	Musicians in Schools
3/10/2026	Dothan Brook	Hartford	Musicians in Schools
3/10/2026	Thetford Elementary	Thetford	Musicians in Schools
3/11/2026	Mater Christi	Burlington	Musicians in Schools
3/11/2026	Marcotte Elementary	S Burlington	Musicians in Schools
3/20/2026	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Disney in Concert
3/20/2026	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Student Insiders
3/21/2026	Flynn	Burlington	Disney in Concert
3/21/2026	Flynn	Burlington	Student Insiders
3/25/2026	Burke School	Burke	Musicians in Schools
3/25/2026	Miller's Run	Sheffield	Musicians in Schools
3/25/2026	Newark	Newark	Musicians in Schools
4/10/2026	Glover Community School	Glover	Musicians in Schools
4/10/2026	Barton Academy	Barton	Musicians in Schools
4/10/2026	Brownington Central	Brownington	Musicians in Schools
4/12/2026	Gateway Center	Newport	NEK Fundraising concert
4/16/2026	Paramount Theatre	Rutland	Jukebox
4/17/2026	Artistree	South Pomfret	Jukebox
4/17/2026	Brighton Elementary	Brighton	Musicians in Schools
4/17/2026	Charleston	Charleston	Musicians in Schools
4/18/2026	Burlington Beer Co.	Burlington	Jukebox
4/19/2026	Barre Opera House	Barre	Jukebox
5/5/2026	Venetian Soda Lounge	Burlington	On the Rocks Adult Ed
5/5/2026	Mt. Abraham Middle & High School	Bristol	Musicians in Schools
5/9/2026	The Flynn	Burlington	VSO at the Flynn: O Fortuna!
5/15/2026	First Branch Tunbridge	Tunbridge	Musicians in Schools
5/15/2026	Chelsea Middle	Chelsea	Musicians in Schools
5/20/2026	United Christian Academy	Newport	Musicians in Schools
5/20/2026	Troy School	Troy	Musicians in Schools
5/20/2026	Jay Westfield Joint Elementary	Jay	Musicians in Schools
5/29/2026	Hartford High School	Hartford	Young Composers
5/31/2026	Christ Episcopal Church	Montpelier	Montpelier Pride



Vermont Symphony Orchestra
2 Church Street, Mezzanine
Burlington, VT 05401

www.vso.org