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ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC CHICAGO

For more than 40 years, Classical Music Chicago has sought innovative ways to support emerging artists and bring fresh classical music experiences to life. CMC offers free classical music performances to the public through our flagship programs, the Dame Myra Hess Concerts and Rush Hour Concerts. We also bring music to students and underserved communities, where it serves as both an educational tool and a means of enhancing well-being.

MISSION

CMC's mission is to open the door to the transformative power of classical music by presenting world class concerts to people of all ages, backgrounds and means, and to foster the future of classical music by supporting and showcasing the next generation of classical musicians.

VISION

We envision a Chicago where classical music is a vital part of the culture, enriching the lives of people from all backgrounds and means, and where the next generation of classical musicians can flourish.



Our mother, Helen S. Gore, was studying classical piano in London before Dame Myra Hess began her free wartime classical concerts at the National Gallery. If our mother were here today, she would heartily endorse the Hess Concerts for their purpose of providing extraordinary classical music to the residents of Chicago and beyond.

GORE FAMILY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION TRUST



A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride and excitement for the future of Classical Music Chicago (CMC). During this time, we embarked on an important journey—a comprehensive strategic planning process that has not only refined our mission but also strengthened our commitment to making classical music accessible to everyone and fostering the next generation of classical musicians.

Through this thoughtful process, we reaffirmed our core belief that music has the power to transform lives. To that end, we have deepened our focus on accessibility, ensuring that our world-class classical music performances remain free and open to all, regardless of background or means. At the same time, we have expanded our commitment to young, emerging musicians who represent the future of classical music.

This strategic planning process also involved a thorough assessment of our current programming. As a result, we are taking steps to align our offerings more closely with our newly refined mission. These changes will ensure that every program we present reflects our values and has a lasting impact on our audience and the broader community. While these adjustments are still in progress, we look forward to sharing more about them in the months ahead.

One particularly exciting development is the creation of a new Associate Board, made up of young professionals who are passionate about classical music and dedicated to supporting our mission. This group will play a vital role in helping us reach new audiences, cultivate fresh ideas, and expand our community of supporters. We feel confident that their energy and enthusiasm for classical music will be contagious, and we are thrilled to welcome them as part of our team.

As we move forward, our vision remains clear: we see a future where classical music is a vital part of Chicago's culture, enriching the lives of people from all walks of life. We also envision a thriving environment where the next generation of classical musicians can grow, excel, and carry this beloved art form into the future.

None of this would be possible without you—our incredible supporters. Your belief in the transformative power of music and your commitment to our mission have been instrumental in helping us achieve these milestones. On behalf of the entire CMC family, thank you for standing with us and for making our work possible.

We look forward to continuing this journey together and to sharing the joy and inspiration of classical music with even more people in the year to come.



With gratitude,
Will McGrath
Board President

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It has been an exciting and transformative year for Classical Music Chicago (CMC), and I am thrilled to share with you some of our key accomplishments from the 2023-24 season. This past year, we embarked on a strategic planning process that resulted in a refreshed mission, one that places an even greater emphasis on accessibility and support for young, emerging artists. Our commitment to ensuring that world-class classical music is available to all, regardless of background or means, has only deepened, and we are excited about the path ahead.

Over the 2023-24 season, we saw a significant increase in audience engagement across all our programs. In-person attendance for our Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts grew by 22%, while attendance for our Rush Hour Concerts rose by an impressive 25%. Beyond our live performances, we've seen a surge in online viewership, with CMC's YouTube subscribers now surpassing 1,000. The digital space has allowed us to connect with new audiences and bring the joy of classical music to listeners across the globe.

In total, CMC presented more than 200 artists this season, reaching over 56,000 listeners both in person and online. Additionally, our long-standing collaboration with WFMT enabled us to share our performances with more than 10,000 listeners over the airwaves each week, further expanding our reach and impact.

We were also delighted to form new partnerships with the Walter W. Naumburg Foundation and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, allowing us to present winners and finalists from these prestigious competitions on our concert series. These collaborations reflect our commitment to showcasing the next generation of classical musicians and providing them with a platform to share their artistry with the world.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce new initiatives and programs that reflect the goals of our new strategic plan. These upcoming additions will continue to strengthen our mission of making classical music accessible to all while fostering the development of young artists.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our community. We are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission and your continued dedication to our work. Together, we are building a vibrant future for classical music in Chicago and beyond.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey.



With gratitude,
Mark Riggelman
Executive Director



DAME MYRA HESS CONCERTS

The Dame Myra Hess Concerts, established in 1977, were inspired by the series Dame Myra Hess launched in London during World War II. Today, CMC continues this tradition by showcasing top-tier emerging artists in free lunchtime concerts every Wednesday at Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago. These performances are also broadcast live on 98.7 WFMT radio.

Notable performances from the 2023-24 season include pianist Clayton Stephenson, a finalist in the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; the Poiesis Quartet, winners of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition; and pianist Wyona Wang, winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition.

49
Number of Concerts

8,739
Number of
Audience Members
In-Person

33,680
Number of
Audience Members
Online

85
Number of Artists

49
Number of Radio Broadcasts



11

Number of Concerts

1,870

Number of
Audience Members
In-Person

4,018

Number of
Audience Members
Online

57

Number of Artists

5

Number of Radio Broadcasts

RUSH HOUR CONCERTS

Rush Hour Concerts launched in 2000 as an inviting summer concert series designed to showcase Chicago's prominent classical musicians. Concerts take place each Tuesday, June through August at St. James Cathedral. Excerpts from the concerts are often broadcast on 98.7 WFMT.

Concert highlights from the 2023-24 season include: Ars Musica Chicago in a program of Baroque masterpieces; Chicago Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet performance featuring Esteban Batallán, trumpet; John Hagstrom, trumpet; David Griffin, horn; Michael Mulcahy, trombone; and Gene Pokorny, tuba; piano trios by Brahms and Pépin performed by Heather Wittels, violin; Paula Kosower, cello; and Kuang-Hao Huang, piano.



CONCERTS FOR WELL-BEING & REJUVENATION

Classical Music Chicago is broadening its impact by reaching traditionally underserved audiences through our newest initiative, Concerts for Well-Being and Rejuvenation. This program offers exceptional, free classical music in accessible locations and formats, bringing the transformative power of music to those often overlooked, including individuals of varying abilities and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Currently, we partner with Rush University Medical Center, the Rush Generations Program, and the Southwest Senior Center, and are actively exploring additional collaborations as we increase performances for this program.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

In the 2023-24 season, Young People's Concerts (YPC) celebrated 42 years of serving public school students. YPC aims to introduce Chicago Public Schools students to fundamental music concepts through live performances of classical and other musical genres.

The program offers students the unique opportunity to engage with professional artists and explore a world beyond their immediate neighborhoods, fostering a deeper connection to music and culture.

50
Number of Concerts

9,066
Number of Audience Members In-Person

506
Number of Audience Members Online

63
Number of Artists

DO-IT-YOURSELF *MESSIAH*

A Chicago holiday tradition since 1976, the *Do-It-Yourself Messiah* brings together a world-class conductor, soloists, a professional organist and quartet, and a chorus of audience members in a thrilling performance of Handel's masterpiece, *Messiah*.

2

Number of Performances

1,205

Number of
Audience Members

8

Number of Artists

10

102

Number of Events

MAKE MUSIC CHICAGO

June 21, 2024 marked Make Music Chicago's thirteenth year. Throughout the day, people of all ages—beginners, amateurs, students, and professional—gathered to play live music of all genres in public venues across Chicago.

“

Make Music Chicago is a gift to the city! And a reminder that ANYONE can make music! I look forward to collaborating with Make Music every year to bring music to the City's parks. It's an amazing way to connect with our communities.

DAYNA CALDERON
PROGRAM & EVENT COORDINATOR
**CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT/
NIGHT OUT IN THE PARKS**

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2024 FUNDRAISER

Classical Music Chicago held its annual Spring Fundraiser at the University Club of Chicago, supporting the organization's tradition of providing free concert access. Guests enjoyed cocktails and passed hors d'oeuvres while celebrating one of the country's pioneering advocates for accessibility, creativity, and community in classical music.

Hosted by WFMT Presenter Robbie Ellis, special guest artists Matous Michal, violin; Lawrence Neuman, viola; Alexander Hersh, cello; and Victor Asuncion, piano performed for an audience of more than 100.

More than
\$49,000
was raised
in support
of CMC's
programs
and artists.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MARIA VALDES-VARGAS

Program Coordinator



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Statement of Activities Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024

INCOME

● Individual Donations	\$421K
● Foundation Grants	\$127K
● Government Grants	\$152K
● Corporate Support	\$2K
● Endowment Income	\$68K
● Other Income	\$16K
Total Income	\$786K

EXPENDITURES

● Artists Fees & Concert Expenses	\$212K
● Employment Costs	\$341K
● Professional Fees	\$31K
● Office Costs	\$24K
● Other Expenses	\$31K
Total Expenditures	\$639K
Net Operating Surplus	\$147K*

*Surplus is due to a one-time restricted bequest.

Statement of Financial Position Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024

ASSETS

● Cash	\$363K
● Receivables	\$5K
● Restricted Endowment Investments	\$1,872K
● Operating Reserves	\$496K
● Long-Term Assets	\$42K
● Other Assets	\$2K
Total Assets	\$2,780K

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

● Accounts Payable	\$15K
● Net Assets With Restrictions	\$1,815K
● Net Assets Without Restrictions	\$521K
● Operating Reserves	\$429K
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$2,780K



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Classical Music Chicago extends its heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and institutions who contributed during the 2023-24 season. Their generous support and ongoing dedication allow us to continue offering world-class classical music performances to Chicago audiences, free of charge.

Sustainer (\$20,000+)

Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
Illinois Arts Council Agency
Elizabeth Amy Liebman
Zell Family Foundation

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Steinway & Sons, Chicago-Hinsdale
The Saints

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