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The Discovery Orchestra teaches the listening skills that help people emotionally connect with classical music. We achieve this through live performances, intimate gatherings and media programs.

Orchestra and audience photos courtesv of Debbie Weisman and Daniel Hedden. Annual Report Design by Palmer Uhl Design.

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Annual Report ~ Our 34th Season FISCAL YEAR 2021 • JULY 1, 2020–JUNE 30, 2021 Leadership Message: MOVING FORWARD AS A COMMUNITY

During The Discovery Orchestra's 2020-2021 season, we were fortunate to already be creating and presenting digital content. Having shifted most of our music listening educational programs into the virtual realm, as guided by our last two strategic plans, we ended our 34th season with a substantial degree of comfort.

Contributing to our successful season was the support and guidance received from both individuals and leading organizations in the state. ArtPride, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance supported the Orchestra by making available special grants, webinars and other resources to navigate the challenges posed by Covid. Additionally, our individual donors made significant contributions to support not only our virtual programs but also ensure the sustainability of the staff structure. In fact, we were excited to welcome two new staff members to the team last spring: Technical Manager Christine Thorsen and Administrative Manager Michael Avagliano.

Beginning with a virtual gala in September 2020, to online Zoom sessions for music students, to creating a Learn Online webpage of curated listening resources, to our first ever live radio broadcast in May 2021, we are proud to have fulfilled our mission throughout the pandemic waves of fiscal year 21. Also, our board, staff and committee members were able to engage in many professional development opportunities, including diversity, equity, and inclusion workshops and other learning circles. These interactions with peers allowed The Discovery Orchestra to continually assess and adapt our commitment to breaking down barriers to classical music. Among other initiatives, we committed to "expanding our repertoire to feature music by composers of all races, ethnicities, genders, and backgrounds to build greater appeal and attract new listeners," as formulated in our DEI statement.



Ingina Johnston Virginia Johnston Executive Director



Programmatically, the investment in our latest public television program, *Discover The Firebird*, continued to pay off with 139 national broadcasts from 7/1/20 through 6/30/21. This included airings in 24 states to over 31 million potential households, including in the top markets of New York, Los Angeles, Tampa, Denver, Orlando, Nashville and Washington, D.C. And we continued to receive wonderful feedback: "George Marriner Maull and The Discovery Orchestra highlighted various aspects of this famous piece which might be lost to the casual listener. This was fun and rewarding for listeners of all ages."

In addition to Firebird broadcasts, we produced twice-monthly episodes of our *Inside Music* radio program in partnership with WWFM The Classical Network. Ten episodes of our new video/podcast series, Notes from Under the Piano, debuted last season. The series features Maestro Maull sharing some fun and at times very moving reflections on his career as a music educator and performer.

A dozen virtual outreach sessions with New Jersey music student and senior groups - Keys 2 Success in Newark, Trenton Music Makers, Paterson Music Project, Newark School of the Arts, Newark Boys Chorus School, Rhythms for Life in Morristown and Warrenbrook Seniors—provided rewarding music listening interactions for the participants.

A final "high note" was when four of our musicians joined Maestro Maull last May at the WWFM studios for a live broadcast of Discover The Birthday Boys - a musical thrill and an emotional reunion. With thousands of radio listeners tuning in, it was a wonderful culmination of the season.

As we continue to adapt to a world impacted by the pandemic, we remain grateful to help people of all ages and backgrounds to "listen better", and that you and all of our contributors have joined us in this mission!

Sign Burnede

Stephen Reynolds President, Board of Trustees



George Marriner Maul Artistic Director



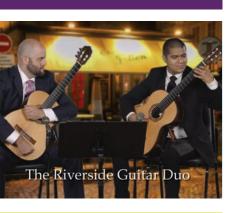
Season Highlights

Our 2020–2021 season challenged us like never before in finding creative ways to reach our audiences. With those challenges, though, came new opportunities to engage people virtually!



Two to Tango — Virtual Gala

Guests enjoyed an exploration of music by Astor Piazzolla and celebrated our Discovery Award Honoree, Sue Head, for her long-time support of the Orchestra.



Discover The Birthday Boys – Live Radio Broadcast on WWFM

For the first time, we presented a Discovery Concert broadcast on the radio! On May 7, 2021, four of our wonderful orchestra members joined Maestro Maull at the WWFM studios to explore music of Brahms and Tchaikovsky.









Outreach

In response to the need for learning to continue online through the pandemic, we expanded our outreach activities with the help of Zoom. Maestro Maull presented virtual music listening lessons for local music students and senior groups.

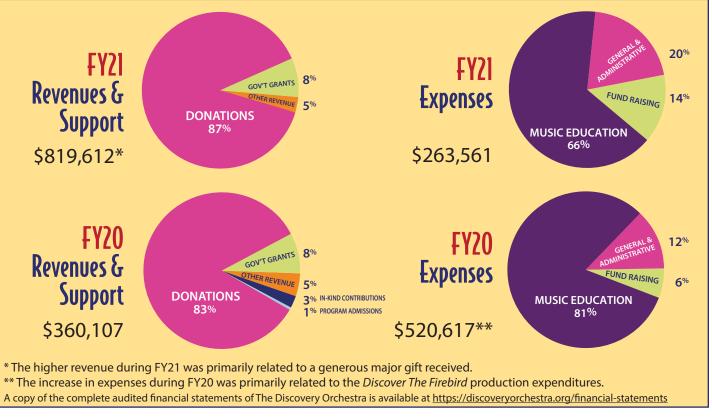




A Taste of Rossini Virtual Wine Tasting

On June 10, 2021, Master of Wine Chris Cree joined Maestro Maull and online participants around the country for this unique virtual event. Attendees sampled great Italian wines and enjoyed a fascinating look at the music of opera composer Gioacchino Rossini.

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"Thank you very much for the extraordinary master class last Saturday. Our students got so much from Maestro Maull! ... the hour passed too fast and left me wanting more. Thank you!" -Dr. Patricio Molina, Associate Director, Conservatory Division, Newark School of the Arts

"I've just finished viewing your musical chat devoted to the Finale of Stravinsky's Firebird... what a truly masterful presentation! I was simply blown away! Kudos to you for creating such a captivating learning/listening experience! I wish we could see an explanation like that for every concert we attend."

"Thank you for this look at Florence Price and her music! She was a remarkable woman and an important American composer." -YouTube subscriber, re: our new Chat Video series

"I CANNOT say enough about how great this program is! If you have never given Classical Music much of a chance, this is THE BEST approach I've seen."

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-Twitter follower, re: Discover Beethoven's 5th via Amazon Prime

