Dear AYS Community,

The American Youth Symphony's 54th Season was a great success with acclaimed performances, to an unforgettable film score, and the performance of great masterworks.

The mission of AYS is to inspire the future of classical music by providing advanced artistic training and professional development to virtuosic young adults. Through the performance of great and diverse orchestral works, our young orchestra members continue to receive exposure to a wide variety of symphonic music. Achieving this is only possible with the support of our loyal community of funders. Your generosity and belief in our work sustains us.

The 2018/19 season included uplifting and varied programming anchored with Strauss, Beethoven, Ravel, and Tower, all of which were met with great acclaim and applause. In addition to these celebrated artistic successes, this was the first year of the Korngold Commission Project. Sponsored by Board Member, Peter Mandell, and his wife, AYS Advisory Council Member, Sarah Coade Mandell, the project seeks to create innovative new works for the concert hall and provides our musicians the valuable and unique experience of performing a world premiere.

Our Hollywood Project Concert and Dinner in November 2018 exemplified the increasing importance of this annual fundraising event for our organization. We thank the event's honoree, Randy Spendlove, for contributing to the benefit's success, and the film music community for their continued sponsorship.

I'm grateful to our Board of Directors and all of the generous donors who continue to support AYS and our mission of training the next generation of musicians. Now in our 2019/20 Season, the fourth under the skilled leadership of Music Director, Carlos Izcaray, we are proud to present a season featuring beloved classics, award-winning contemporary music, and scores informed by the world around us.

I am constantly inspired by the artistry and dedication of our hard-working musicians on the verge of their professional careers, and year after year, I am thrilled by the success of our brilliant alumni. AYS is without question one of the best orchestras of its kind, and its success is directly connected to the support of its audience.

Thank you for helping us achieve excellence.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Dretzka
Chairman of the Board
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Dear Friends,

The “Year of the Woman” started as an idea for one concert highlighting female composers. Almost immediately, it became obvious that one evening would not be sufficient, and that the role of women in classical music deserved a much bigger spotlight. The theme of the 2018/19 season was declared the “Year of the Woman” and, during this season, I announced a pledge for future AYS seasons, as well: half of the living composers in future programming cycles will be women.

The 2018/19 season began with a terrific performance by our 2018 Concerto Competition winner, clarinetist Sérgio Coelho, and Joan Tower’s Tambor. I was then honored to conduct John Williams’ unforgettable score for Raiders of the Lost Ark for the 11th Annual AYS Hollywood Project Concert. In the Spring, we celebrated three female composers at the “Year of the Woman” concert and hosted a panel discussion about gender parity in our field, in collaboration with the Feminist Majority Foundation and Ms. Magazine.

We were proud to be invited back to the LA Phil’s Sounds About Town series, for which AYS co-commissioned a world premiere from Nico Muhly together with the National Children’s Chorus and the LA Phil. The concert at Walt Disney Concert Hall also featured solos from two dynamic women, Grammy and Emmy-Award winning pianist Gloria Cheng, and Grammy Award-winning soprano Jessica Rivera.

The 54th Gala was a night to remember, with our first female conductor taking the AYS podium, Jessica Bejarano, and the inaugural installment of AYS’ Korngold Commission Project, a world premiere from award-winning media composer Fil Eisler, performed by the incredible violinist Sarah Chang. The Korngold Project was developed and sponsored by Peter Mandell and Sarah Coade Mandell, and pairs world-class solo artists with critically-acclaimed film and media composers to create new masterworks. The musicians, Board of Directors, and staff of AYS are excited for this project to continue to grow and the music that will be added to the orchestral repertoire through it.

I also had the pleasure of overseeing the second AYS Citizen Musician Concert, which closed out the season with another program comprised wholly of music by female composers, while also celebrating mothers everywhere with this special Mother’s Day concert.

I thank all of you for being part of this community. From the Board of Directors, to members, volunteers, audience members, and of course, the extraordinary musicians on stage, you are all vital to the American Youth Symphony’s mission to inspire the future of classical music. I can’t tell you how much I’ve enjoyed leading this great organization for the past three seasons, and I look forward to being here with you for many exciting years to come.

Sincerely,

Carlos Izcaray, Music Director
Dear friends, patrons, and musicians,

As I look back at the 2018/19 season, a sense of immense appreciation washes over me.

This was my first season with AYS, and my work commenced just as the season began. Throughout that year, I learned everything I could about this great organization: the rich institutional history, getting to know the members of the Board of Directors and staff, meeting patrons and orchestra members, and understanding the daily operations. The more I learned, the deeper my sense of appreciation grew.

Professionally, I have been developing admiration for five decades of incredible programming, philanthropy, and the impact that AYS has had on tens of thousands of young musicians and audience members. AYS is truly an incredible institution.

Personally, I am humbled that I have been entrusted with the executive leadership of this extraordinary organization. I am thankful that I get to work with the immensely talented Maestro Izcaray, a dedicated Board of Directors, a highly talented staff, and a very loyal, generous community of donors and audience members.

I am also inspired. Our mission is to “inspire the future of classical music” by training the next generation of professional orchestra musicians and building audiences to support their careers for decades to come. Every time I hear a rehearsal, performance, or recording of the AYS orchestra, I am invigorated and hopeful for the future of our powerful art form.

I was once a music student in conservatory. Interacting with our orchestra members sometimes inspires a reminiscent sense of where my career journey began, and a sense of wonder in where each of their careers will lead.

The innovative initiatives that AYS pursues—from the Year of the Woman’s exploration of gender equity in our field, to creating exciting new works through the Korngold Commission Project—are truly making an impact on our musicians, which they will carry forward into the field as they join the vast network of nearly 3,000 AYS alumni.

AYS is positioned to continue inspiring the future of classical music for another five decades and beyond. The 2018/19 season was a great example of thoughtful, forward-looking programming that keeps this orchestra fresh and exciting year after year.

I look forward to creating more music together.

With great appreciation,

Tara Aesquivel, Executive Director
The American Youth Symphony’s mission is to inspire the future of classical music by providing landmark fellowships to virtuosic young adults and exceptional, innovative, and free concerts to the Los Angeles community.

Competitively selected, our orchestra is comprised of 100 musicians from high school to post-graduate, who represent extraordinary talent from all over the world. By offering our community remarkable concerts at world-class venues, we remain committed to creating access and opportunity for everyone to experience the inspiration of this beautiful art form.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE**

- Access to world-class classical music fellowships should be based solely on merit, not financial means.
- Exceptional orchestral performances should be accessible to all members of the community.
- Classical music is alive, vibrant, and relevant to all audiences.
- Musicians have a responsibility to be engaged citizens in the communities they serve.

**WHAT’S NEXT**

As we continue forward, we strive to:

- Engage our diverse community through programming.
- Deepen training for AYS musicians by offering a wide variety of challenging performance opportunities.
- Continue our commitment to developing musician citizenship.
- Provide mentoring for younger musicians from underserved communities.
- Take a leadership position in the orchestral field through innovative programming.
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

**DATA FROM THE AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY’S 2018/19 AUDIT**

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>FY 17/18</th>
<th>FY 18/19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Contributions Receivable, Net</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td>Antique Instrument</td>
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**TOTAL ASSETS**

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<td>$1,166,692</td>
<td>$876,522</td>
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<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>FY 17/18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable, Accrued Expenses</td>
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**NET ASSETS**

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<tr>
<th>FY 17/18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
<td>$247,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>--Time or Purpose Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>--Permanently Restricted</td>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

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### REVENUE SOURCES

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate and Foundation Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket Sales</td>
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<td>Individual Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
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### EXPENSES

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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>$9.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$78.4%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
“We enjoy listening to classical concerts in such a great venue. Tickets are affordable and we appreciate the opportunity to listen to worldly talents as well as up & coming artists and composers.”

- Audience Member (March 2019)
**AYS AUDIENCE BY THE NUMBERS**

**CONCERT ATTENDEES**

9,501

- 87% of available tickets were reserved
- 85% reserved tickets to multiple performances
- 39% of families were new to AYS
- 20% experienced an orchestra concert for the first time with AYS

---

**AUDIENCE AGES**

- Under 30 Years of Age: 19%
- 40-49 Years of Age: 44%
- 30-39 Years of Age: 15%
- 50-59 Years of Age: 12%
- Above 60 Years of Age: 10%

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**2018/19 PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

- **BMI Co-Sponsors Hollywood Project to Bring “Raiders of the Lost Ark” to American Youth Symphony**
  - *BMI News | November 21, 2018*

- **The Ms. Q&A: Carlos Izcaray’s Year of the Women is Only the Beginning**
  - *Carmen Rios, Ms. Magazine | February 18, 2019*

- **Rewriting the Score: Advancing Women’s Representation in Classical Music**
  - *Tara Aesquivel, Ms. Magazine | February 20, 2019*

- **New Trend in Concert Halls: Original Music by Movie Composers - No Film Required**
  - *Jon Burlingame, Variety | March 22, 2019*

- **Youth Symphony Conductor Carlos Izcaray Makes a New-Music Pledge: 50% Females Composers**
  - *Tim Grieving, LA Times | March 20, 2019*

- **Political upheaval in Venezuela informs Carlos Izcaray’s career as a music director and conductor**
  - *Madeleine Brand, KCRW | April 24, 2019*

- **Meet the Woman Breaking Barriers as a Trailblazing Symphony Conductor**
  - *Guest Conductor Jessica Bejarano, AYS orchestra, and SAS featured on Today Show | May 19, 2019*
Accomplishments of AYS Alumni and Members during the last year include:

**ORCHESTRA POSITIONS:**
- **ANNA KOLOTLINA**, Viola (2014/15): Principal Violist at Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra
- **EDUARDO RIOS**, Violin (2012/13): First Assistant Concertmaster with Seattle Symphony
- **J.G. MILLER**, Horn (2009-2013): Principal Horn of The United States Army Field Band
- **STEPHEN TAVANI**, Co-Concertmaster (2011-2014): Assistant Concertmaster of Cleveland Orchestra
- **SUNRISE KIM**, Cello (2018/19): Section Cellist at North Carolina Symphony

**COMPETITIONS & ENGAGEMENTS:**
- **COLEMAN ITZKOFF**, Principal Cello (2014-2017): Won Division A of the Classics Alive Young Artists Auditions
- **ELIZABETH LACOSTE**, Principal Flute (2017-present): 2019 UCLA All-Star Concerto Competition Winner
- **FRANCESCA DEPASQUALE**, Violin (2011/12): Assistant Professor of Violin at Oberlin Conservatory
- **GALLIA KASTNER**, Concertmaster (2016-present): Concerto Soloist at 2019 Aspen Music Festival
- **SERGIO COEHLO**, Principal Clarinet (2015-present): Runner up in the Classics Alive Young Artists Auditions, and finalist in the 2018 Hennings-Fischer Young Artists Competition.
2018/2019 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT CONCERT
SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

Led by Maestro Izcaray, the Opening Night Concert began with Joan Tower’s *Tambor* to celebrate the “Year of the Woman.” Rachmaninoff’s groundbreaking third symphony, and a showcase performance from 2018 Concerto Competition winner, Sérgio Coelho, of John Corigliano’s Clarinet Concerto were also highlights from the night.

HOLLYWOOD PROJECT
NOVEMBER 11, 2018

AYS performed John Williams’ iconic original score from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* live-to-picture. Audience members were taken on a wild ride with the 100-piece AYS orchestra, performing the movie’s unforgettable themes!

YEAR OF THE WOMAN CONCERT
FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Presented in partnership with Feminist Majority Foundation and Ms. Magazine, the Year of the Woman Concert began with a Q&A featuring women composers and feminist leaders on female representation in classical music. On theme, the evening highlighted three female composers, Lera Auerbach, Susan Botti, and Jennifer Higdon.

SOUNDS ABOUT TOWN
MARCH 31, 2019

As part of LA Phil’s Sounds About Town series, AYS collaborated with the National Children’s Chorus and LA Phil to commission a world premiere from Nico Muhly. The concert also featured two female soloists, Soprano Jessica Rivera and pianist Gloria Cheng.

GALA
APRIL 27, 2019

The 2019 gala performance began with the first female conductor, Jessica Bejarano, taking the AYS podium. This exciting concert also featured the inaugural Korngold Commission, a violin concerto written by Fil Eisler and performed by Sarah Chang.
SHARE-A-STAND
The American Youth Symphony’s in-school music education program continues to deepen relationships with three schools! From performance technique to theory to composition, Share-A-Stand provides students with hands-on musical instruction and is offered at Title-1 LAUSD middle schools in Watts, Granada Hills, and East LA. AYS musicians coach Share-A-Stand participants on everything from holding a bow, to maintaining a successful practice routine, and creating original arrangements of favorite songs. AYS provides over 300 students and their families with free transportation and tickets to two AYS concerts per season, and each school year culminates with a side-by-side performance featuring both coaches and students, presented at the hosting schools for all to enjoy!

HEAR FROM OUR SHARE-A-STAND COMMUNITY:

“What you do is so meaningful to the community, to us. That (concert) was really special and the music was beautiful. Thank you for making a space for young kids to enjoy your music!”
- Parent of a SAS Student

“I am grateful for the opportunities and extra attention the Share-A-Stand program offers my students, and I know my kids appreciate it more than they can say.”
- Mr. Villanueva, Music Teacher at Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

AYS strives to be a resource for the community, and takes classical music outside the concert hall into community spaces. Partnering with local nonprofits allows AYS to share classical music with people from all walks of life.

Dancing Through Parkinson’s

Sunday’s LIVE at LACMA

Laemmle Live

Tree People

CITIZEN MUSICIAN CONCERT

May 12, 2019

2018/19 was the second year of the “Citizen Musician” Fellowship - inspired and supported by a program Yo-Yo Ma developed at the Civic Orchestra of Chicago - teaching leadership in the use of classical music to transform lives and build community. In May 2019, Citizen Musician Fellow, Anna Vosbigian, programmed a concert around the season theme, “The Year of the Woman.” Inspired by the theme, the concert was held on Mother’s Day and highlighted a works by female composers throughout history. When asked about the fellowship Anna said, “Being an AYS fellow has been an immensely rewarding experience, as I learned to curate a full concert and journeyed through the history of female composers and their chamber music.”
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

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CHAIR EMERITUS
Herbert M. Gelfand

HONORARY PRESIDENT
Zubin Mehta

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Anne Akiko Meyers
Deborah Rutter
Esa-Pekka Salonen
Alan Silvestri
Chad Smith
Jean-Yves Thibaudet
Edward Yim

* denotes AYS alumni
MEET OUR STAFF

ISABEL THIROUX
DIRECTOR OF ORCHESTRA OPERATIONS

Isabel Thiroux has been with the American Youth Symphony since she first joined the viola section in 2001. After seven years in the orchestra, she joined the staff, becoming Orchestra Manager in 2010 and Director of Orchestra Operations in 2015. Isabel studied viola at CSU, Long Beach with LA Philharmonic violist John Hayhurst and maintains an active career as a freelance violist performing regularly around the Los Angeles area.

MIA MCNEIL
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Mia McNeil graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a Bachelor’s degree in English and Journalism. She grew up in Chicago, Illinois and quickly fell in love with writing and musical composition. Mia played violin throughout her childhood, studying at the Chicago High School for the Arts and Roosevelt High School in Seattle, Washington.

MAX MUELLER
SHARE-A-STAND LEAD INSTRUCTOR

Max Mueller is a cellist, composer, and music educator. He first became involved with AYS in 2010, working with David Newman to edit scores for the Goldsmith III Concert. He has been an active consultant ever since, and officially joined the staff in January 2016, taking a leadership role in expanding the “Share-A-Stand” program, bringing AYS musicians to music classes in underserved middle schools.

MANDY MATTHEWS
MANAGER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mandy Matthews is an arts educator, advocate, and leader grounded in making connections and building community. She has worked for Los Angeles based arts organizations including the Arts Council for Long Beach, The Broad Stage, and currently American Youth Symphony as the Manager of Community Engagement. She is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University and holds Bachelor Degrees in Dance and History, and has a certificate from UCLA in Social Emotional Learning Facilitation.

RICH JOHNSON
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

Rich Johnson is a musician, sound designer, teaching artist and arts producer with a passion for bringing the arts to all. After studying music education with a clarinet emphasis at the Hartt School and music technology at NYU, Rich worked in New York City for 7 years both on and off stage including Radio City Music Hall, Abrons Arts Center, BEAT Festival and the NY Fringe Festival among numerous other arts productions. Rich is excited to be a part of the AYS team in helping to bring accessible, high quality orchestral music to audiences all over Los Angeles and beyond.

MARK GUTIERREZ
SHARE-A-STAND SITE COORDINATOR

Mark Gutierrez is a Los Angeles -born upright/electric bassist, vocalist, composer, lyricist, and producer. He has been performing and creating music in the greater Los Angeles area for over ten years with a variety of ensembles, ranging in genre from Latin music, to Jazz, to Classical/Orchestral, to Hip Hop and more. An alumni of the American Youth Symphony, Mark now works with AYS’s Share-a-Stand program to bring advanced music training to students in LAUSD.
PLANNED GIVING

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Including the American Youth Symphony in your will or trust is a meaningful way to support the future of classical music for generations to come. Members of our legacy society are generous and forward-thinking donors who will support our long-term impact and be gratefully remembered.

Your estate planner can help you devise a giving plan that benefits you, your family, and AYS. As you to consult with your financial advisor, we encourage you to discuss the tax implications of these options:

• Bequests
• Life Insurance Policy and Retirement Assets
• Life Income Gifts
• Complex Gifts

Legacy Society members become a special part of the American Youth Symphony contributor family. They are also honored with recognition in all print and digital materials, including: on our website, in our bi-annual season program books, and digital tribute slideshow (which plays in the lobby at all Royce Hall concerts).

Email Legacy@AYSymphony.org or call (310) 470-2332 to discuss planned giving options.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS FOR SUPPORTING THE LEGACY OF THE AMERICAN YOUTH SYMPHONY BY MAKING A PLANNED GIFT:

Mr. & Mrs. Herb Gelfand
Dr. Richard Handwerger
Mr. John Liebes
Mr. Steven A. Linder & Mr. Michael Hanel
Mr. Michel Montet
Mr. Richard Rosenthal & Ms. Katherine Spillar

Create a lasting legacy of inspiring music for generations to come...
WE THANK YOU
INDIVIDUAL, FOUNDATION, and CORPORATE PARTNERS

AYS supporters also make our concerts free and accessible to the Los Angeles community, ensuring that anyone can experience the power and beauty of remarkable orchestral concerts. With gratitude, the American Youth Symphony acknowledges all of our individual donors. This publication lists names of donors who made gifts, pledges and in-kind donations of $500 or more from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Gifts of $100,000 or more
Peter Mandell & Sarah Coade Mandell

Gifts of $50,000 or more
Anne Akiko Meyers & Jason Subotky
Theodore J. Slavin & Marsha Calig

Gifts of $40,000 or more
Krystyna Newman* & David Newman*
Wendy Ruby* & Ken Ruby

Gifts of $30,000 or more
Silvia & Kevin Dretzka*
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Annica & James Newton Howard*

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Saul Levine*
National Endowment for the Arts
Universal Music Publishing Group

Gifts of $10,000 or more
14th Street Music, Hans Zimmer, Steven Kofsky, & Lorne Balfe
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
Beverly Hills/Greater Los Angeles Association of Realtors & The Rufo Family
Broadcast Music Inc (BMI)
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Shoshana Claman* & Bill Steinberg
Gorfaine Schwartz Agency
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The JDS Fishing Foundation of the Dayton Foundation
Jerry and Terri Kohl Foundation
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Edna Weiss

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Dale and Dennis Weiss
Susan and Ronald Weiss
Andrea Weiss-Whitman and Jerry Whitman
Wells Fargo Foundation

Gifts of $5,000 or more
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The Flourish Foundation
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Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation
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Film Musicians Secondary Markets Fund
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Sanford & Patricia Gage
Annie Gross
Hochberg Family Foundation
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Elizabeth Pitcarin
Gertrude Pomish
Doreen Ringer-Ross*
Lois Rosen
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Isabel Thiroux* & Gina Satriano

Gifts of $1,500 or more
Marion Marsh-Goldenfeld
Marcie & Cliff Goldstein
Dolph Kornblum & Judy Koenig

Jina and Alexa Lee
Make A Noise Foundation
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Elizabeth Pitcairn
Robert Cauer Violins
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Cathy and Ken Weiss
WNED New York Public Media

Gifts of $1,000 or more
Gail Buchalter & Warren E. Breslow
Warren & Elaine Deutsch
Sharon & Herb Glaser
Abner & Roz Goldstine
Marlene & James Henerson
Zach Horowitz
Jewish Community Foundation
Jones Safari Group
Lady's Secret Foundation
Ann & Don Levin
Milken Family Foundation
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Norma Rosenberg
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Annette & Leonard Shapiro
Alan & Sandra Silvestri
Mary & Guy Vardaman
Hope Warner
Barbara & Lawrence Weinberg
James Williams & Marc Wenderoff
Fortress Talent Management
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Gifts of $500 or more
Lionel Bell
William and Barbara Belzberg
Arlene Fishbach
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