Welcome Back!
... and Moving Forward
“Welcome Back!” We launched our 2021/22 Season (and new fiscal year) with this joyous theme in the fall of 2021. Gradually, carefully, we returned from two years of COVID closure—back into theaters, clubs, and other venues for live, in-person events; back into D.C. schools with our Embassy Adoption Program and other vital educational initiatives; back into the glory of gospel choir rehearsals with voices joining and lifting together in a unified space.

We were most delighted to welcome you back—as patrons, partners, parents, and in many other key roles. The enduring and enhanced generosity of individual and institutional supporters made it possible for us to weather the financially challenging and unsettling months of 2021/22. But we made it through, and thrived. And for that, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

To mark the transitional nature of 2021/22, we have given this annual report a two-part title. While welcoming our community back was an essential starting point, all of us—Board, Junior Board, Women’s Committee, staff, volunteers, and partners—had our eyes fixed on another crucial objective for the year: Moving Forward.

In these pages, you will witness the results of our efforts to keep growing and deepening our service to and impact upon our community. You will see successes on stage, in the classroom, in our robust Mars Arts D.C. program, and in our festive in-person gala, District of Creativity. You’ll also find an update on our major programming and legacy initiative, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Fund—a tribute to the late, great Supreme Court Justice and dear friend of Washington Performing Arts that will support the creation of new work and the honoring of exceptional artistry for years to come. For those who were able to participate and engage this past year, we hope that these images conjure the warmest and happiest of memories!

There’s another profound transition of 2021/22 that I’d like to note here: after four years of dedicated, compassionate, inspired, and inspiring service, Tom Gallagher completed his term as Board Chair, taking up the new position of Treasurer. I know that the entire Board shares my gratitude for Tom’s service as Chair and for his continued support. Succeeding Tom as Chair is the extraordinary Rudy Burwell, whom I can’t wait for our community to get to know in the unfolding season and beyond.

Thank you for your invaluable, continuing support of Washington Performing Arts. Onward, together!

In gratitude,

Jenny Bilfield
President & CEO
Washington Performing Arts
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### OUR MISSION

Washington Performing Arts champions the arts as a unifying force. Through collaborations with artists, educators, community leaders, and institutional partners, we bring wide-ranging artistic programs to stages, schools, and neighborhoods throughout our nation’s capital and, with our virtual platform, share our work throughout the world.

[FRONT COVER] Clockwise from top left: Children of the Gospel Choir at the 2022 Gala (© David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography); Joseph & Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition awards ceremony and concert (© Fritz PhotoGraphics); Chloe Arnold’s Syncopated Ladies Live (Photo by Alex Galiatsatos); Cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and pianist Emanuel Ax (© Shane McCauley); An Embassy Adoption Program school visit (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff).

[AT LEFT] Top to bottom: Jenny Bilfield at a post-performance reception with friends, performers and creative team of Migguel Angelo’s English with an Accent (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); Incoming Chair of the Washington Performing Arts Board of Directors Rudy Burwell, Jenny Bilfield, outgoing Chair Tom Gallagher, and President Emeritus Doug Wheeler (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); Pianist Lara Downes, poet Rita Dove, and the Thalea Quartet following Tomorrow I May Be Far Away (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); A Family Art Moments event in Franklin Park (© Fritz PhotoGraphics).

[BACK COVER] Clockwise from top left: The String Queens at the 2022 Gala (© David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography); Family Art Moments in Franklin Park (© Fritz PhotoGraphics); mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato (© Sergi Jasan); An Embassy Adoption Program school visit (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); D.C. Public Schools student at the Embassy Adoption Program Mini U.N. (© Fritz PhotoGraphics).

Annual Report Design: Elayna Speight, Inked Designs; Contributing Writer: Matthew Campbell
2021/22 kicked off our two-year centenary tribute (postponed one year by the pandemic) to the prodigiously gifted Hazel Scott (1920–1981), a Trinidadian-American jazz and classical pianist, recording artist, movie star, and outspoken activist against racial discrimination. One of America’s greatest celebrities in the 1930s and ’40s, Scott fell victim to the McCarthy blacklist in 1950 and slipped into obscurity. This project strives to help revive her legacy and introduce her genius to a new generation, with programs developed in conjunction with Scott’s son, Adam Clayton Powell III, Scott biographer Karen Chilton, and Washington Performing Arts Artist in Residence Murray Horwitz. Events in 2021/22 included a February virtual event with virtuosic pianist Michelle Cann and The United States Air Force Band and, in May, an intimate classical piano recital by Michelle Cann.
2021/22 PRESENTING SEASON
A return to form—and a new journey of discovery!

After a year-and-a-half of online-only presentations, 2021/22 marked the return of our community’s gathering in one place, at one time to share the joy and inspiration of the performing arts. We came back carefully, with pandemic precautions in place. We also scaled down our season to about half the usual number of events. However, we made sure to sustain two key elements of any season: the artistic breadth and inspiration our audiences expect. Hayes Piano Series artist Tiffany Poon enthralled a multi-generational classical music audience with her performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Terrace Theater. Chloe Arnold’s Syncopated Ladies Live lit up the historic Lincoln Theatre with their tap dance innovations. We shared a spell-binding, multi-disciplinary program at Sixth & I, Tomorrow I May Be Far Away, with pianist Lara Downes, Pulitzer-winning poet Rita Dove, and the Thalea Quartet. Indeed, as the images throughout these pages show, this season was characterized by innovative programming across multiple genres.

“Here was another next generation moved by the music, free and able to interpret and craft it into a thoughtful and coherent program. You could not have chosen better to relaunch WPA. Congratulations.”
—Audience member, December 12, 2021, Tiffany Poon performance

BY THE NUMBERS

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<td>views for the February 2022 virtual performance event celebrating Hazel Scott, featuring pianist Michelle Cann and The United States Air Force Band.</td>
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[ABOVE] Left to right: Chloe Arnold’s Syncopated Ladies Live performing at Lincoln Theatre (Photo by Alex Galiatsatos); Pianist Tiffany Poon © Sid Baker.
Välkommen till
Brightwood
Jenny och
Moa
Like the students we serve, we returned to the classroom in 2021/22, introducing young people to the riches of other cultures through the decades-old Embassy Adoption Program, in partnership with the D.C. Public Schools and dozens of embassies. Our stellar corps of Teaching Artists continued to provide arts instruction in schools through programs like Capital Arts Partnerships and In-School Artist Residencies. In the community, our Family Art Moments program for young audiences, launched as an online series during the pandemic, moved off the screen to bring music, dance, and theater into a local park, a cafe, and other community venues. In addition, The Joseph and Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition and the Misbin Family Memorial Chamber Music Competition provided student and adult amateur musicians with opportunities to receive feedback from judges, win prizes, and take part in performances. In 2021/22, the competitions drew 97 Feder participants and 19 Misbin chamber group participants.

“The Embassy Adoption Program has consistently been one of my favorite experiences. From attending the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, to hearing an Afghan pianist talk about his life, to watching a Taekwondo master break a board with his foot mid-backflip, this program has introduced me and my students to experiences we will never forget. I also truly love how EAP allows students to build cross-cultural connections that will stay with them for a lifetime.”

—5th grade teacher, Brightwood Education Campus

BY THE NUMBERS

Our programs served students in all 8 DC Wards + 7 surrounding counties

120 local and public charter schools engaged in arts education programs

527 adults/seniors served via the Enriching Experiences for Seniors program

50 countries represented through the Embassy Adoption Program, a partnership with D.C. Public Schools

157 students/accompanying adults served via the $10 Gateway Student Ticket Program

10,010 elementary through high school students served

[AT LEFT] Brightwood Elementary School students welcome guests from the Embassy of Sweden for an Embassy Adoption Program visit [Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff].

[ABOVE]: Top to bottom: Misbin Family Memorial Chamber Music Competition; Family Art Moments in nature; Teacher and students at the Embassy Adoption Program Mini U.N. [All photos © Fritz PhotoGraphics].
Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs return *in person*

After more than a year of valiantly staying connected by videoconference and through recordings assembled voice by voice, our two sensational all-volunteer choirs—Men and Women of the Gospel (MWOTG) and Children of the Gospel (COTG)—returned to *coming together* in song, in rehearsals, performances, a COTG retreat, and a MWOTG town hall. The COTG helped kick off the 2021/22 presenting season in a high-energy guest appearance with piano/organ phenom Matthew Whitaker. Later, the combined choirs returned to the Kennedy Center with long-term collaborators the Choral Arts Society of Washington in the beloved annual *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The combined Washington Performing Arts Gospel Choirs also headlined the season finale in a new venue for the organization, the Grand Theater at the Center for the Performing Arts at Prince George’s Community College.

“Since my son has joined the choir, he has something to look forward to that speaks not only to his passions but also informs supportive discipline, enhances his music theory skills, teaches a variety of musical genres and histories, and creates a sense of belonging. COTG was the best thing to happen to him, and I couldn’t be more proud when I see him walk onto the stage doing what he loves to do most.”

—Children of the Gospel Choir parent

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 80 members of the combined Men, Women, and Children of the Gospel Choirs
- 10 performances—live and virtual—throughout the community
- 9 COTG recipients of Charlotte Schlosberg Vocal Scholarships for vocal coaching
- 2 recipients of the annual Reggie Award, given to one or more outstanding COTG singers each year
- 464 1:1 vocal coaching sessions provided for COTG members
“We were thrilled to partner with Washington Performing Arts and Mars Arts D.C. to debut Tregaron Unplugged last season—such a vibrant musical experience for the community in our parklands. Longtime Tregaron friends remarked on how exceptional the artists were and how beautifully Tregaron’s outdoor rooms showcased the performers. We look forward to continuing this partnership!”

—Lynn Parseghian, Executive Director of Tregaron Conservancy and member of the Washington Performing Arts Board of Directors
MARS ARTS D.C.: SUPPORTING & SHOWCASING THE ARTS HERE AT HOME
Dynamic initiative brings local performers, businesses, and audiences together

Our signature community engagement initiative, Mars Arts D.C., is the product of a robust and ever-deepening partnership between Washington Performing Arts, Jacqueline Badger Mars, and Mars, Incorporated. Through the program, locally based artists across multiple art forms and genres perform in venues throughout the region—parks, clubs, community centers, and more—often in creative collaborations with local businesses and nonprofit organizations. After a previous virtual season, Mars Arts D.C. returned to true community immersion in 2021/22, kicking off our fall programming in October with the first annual Tregaron Unplugged event, presenting six musical artists and ensembles throughout the sylvan setting of D.C.’s Tregaron Conservancy. 2021/22 also saw the premiere of the Mars Arts D.C. Concert Series at Songbyrd, featuring four events across multiple genres—brass band, Broadway, and beyond—at the red-hot Songbyrd Music House in D.C.’s Union Market neighborhood.

[AT LEFT] Singer-songwriter VeVe Marley at Tregaron Unplugged. Left to right: Folk duo The Sweater Set; Classical guitarist Oscar Somersalo (All photos © Jennifer Packard).

[ABOVE] Left to right: Justin Trawick and The Common Good perform at the Mars Arts D.C. Concert Series at Songbyrd (Photo by Alex Galiatsatos); the Petalpalooza stage at the National Cherry Blossom Festival (Photo courtesy of the National Cherry Blossom Festival).

BY THE NUMBERS

19 events
74 participating artists—41 new to Mars Arts D.C.
20 partnering organizations—10 new to Mars Arts D.C.
12 venues—9 new to Mars Arts D.C.
650 attendees of Tregaron Unplugged
500 attendees of the Mars Arts D.C. Concert Series at Songbyrd
25,000+ attendees at the Mars Arts D.C.-curated Petalpalooza stage at the National Cherry Blossom Festival
Supporters celebrate the unique artistry of our region

Question: Who is more creative than the D.C. community?
Answer: No one!

In May of 2022, we celebrated the return of an in-person Washington Performing Arts Gala with District of Creativity: Arts & Community Amplified. This joyful event honored icons of D.C. artistry like Sweet Honey in the Rock, the D.C. Public Schools Arts Team, and beloved centenarian dancer, educator, and longtime Washington Performing Arts Women’s Committee member Therrell Smith. Performers included The String Queens, pianist Avery Gagliano, steelpanist Josanne Francis, our very own Children of the Gospel Choir, and Mars Arts D.C artists. All proceeds of the evening benefited Washington Performing Arts’s programming, including Education programs, Gospel Choirs, and our wider presentations on stage and in the community.

At the Gala and throughout 2021/22, members of our dedicated annual donor group, the Friends of Washington Performing Arts, helped make our arts and education work possible. Friends gathered at post-concert receptions, at a virtual event celebrating pianists on our season, and at a virtual holiday party featuring the creative team of Migguel Anggelo’s English with an Accent, as well as informally before and after many of our performances—delighting in shared time together and opportunities to learn more about Washington Performing Arts’s artists and programs.

—Remarks by His Excellency Brigadier General [Ret’d.] Anthony W. J. Phillips-Spencer, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United States

[AT LEFT] Josanne Francis, Steelpanist and Mars Arts D.C. artist. Top to bottom: Khalid Thompson, painter and Mars Arts D.C. artist; Brad Linde, alto saxophonist and Mars Arts D.C. artist; Avery Gagliano, pianist [All photos © David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography].
THE INSTITUTIONAL PICTURE
BY THE NUMBERS

OPERATING REVENUE
$6.34M

Advancement Revenue 72%
Ticket Revenue 10%
PPP Loan Forgiveness 6%
In-Kind 4%
Investment Income 5%
Miscellaneous Income <1%

OPERATING EXPENSES
$6.07M

Programming & Production 23%
Education 19%
Communications & Creative Media 12%
Administration 17%
Advancement 22%
Special Productions 7%
Washington Performing Arts gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and institutions whose generous contributions support our artistic and educational programming. Patrons who contributed $500 or more in support of the 2021/22 season (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022) are listed below with our thanks.

**$100,000 and above**
- The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities
- Betsy and Robert Feinberg
- Barbara Myers and Tom Gallagher
- Mrs. Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated
- Dr. Gary Mather and Ms. Christina Co Mather
- National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program/U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
- The Edith Glick Shoolman Children’s Foundation
- U.S. Small Business Administration - Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

**$50,000 - $99,999**
- Susan S. Angell
- The Beech Street Foundation and Mr. Jeffrey Bauman and Ms. Linda Fienberg
- Dallas Morse Coors Foundation for the Performing Arts
- Estate of Mr. Donald Flanders†
- Park Foundation
- Mr. Bruce Rosenblum and Ms. Lori Laitman
- Nina and Wesley Weissberg, in memory of Marvin Weissberg

**$35,000 - $49,999**
- Estate of Ms. Susan Boyd†
- Lyn and Barry Chasen
- Philip L. Graham Fund
- Pepco, An Exelon Company

**$25,000 - $34,999**
- Sunny and Bill Alsup
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- Galena-Yorktown Foundation
- Dr. J. Stephen and Mrs. Kathryn Jones
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Northern Trust
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- Mrs. Jeanne W. Ruesch
- James J. Sandman and Elizabeth D. Mullin
- Philip R. West and Barbara Yellen

**$15,000 - $24,999**
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- Lynn Parseghian and Nat Cohen
- W. Stephen and Diane E. Piper
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Billy Rose Foundation
- Gordon and Lisa Rush
- Mr. Hubert M. Schlosberg
The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award and Recital Fund—launched quietly by Washington Performing Arts in Summer 2021 and publically announced in Spring 2022—will support an ongoing celebration of the late Supreme Court Justice’s life, legacy, and passion for music. We will honor Justice Ginsburg—our friend, patron, and collaborator—by bestowing the RBG Memorial Award to a distinguished artist. The Awardee will have the opportunity to choose an artist deserving of wider recognition, who Washington Performing Arts will present in recital in a future season. Since the Fund was introduced, more than 55 donors have stepped forward, pledging more than $379,000 to establish the Fund. We look forward to heralding the inaugural RBG Memorial Award Artist and Recitalist in February 2023 with the presentation of COTTON.

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Left to right: Members of the Junior Board at the 2022 Gala (© David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography); Performance sponsors Dr. Mark Cinnamon and Doreen Kelly with cellist Seth Parker Woods, pianist Andreas Haefliger, and violinist Hilary Hahn (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff).
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Page 18 (Clockwise from top left): A Concerts in Schools performance (© Fritz PhotoGraphics); Mars Arts D.C. artist Travis Gardner of The Experience Band & Show at the 2022 Gala After Party (© David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography); Virtual Backstage Pass with sponsors, staff, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Leonidas Kavakos, and pianist Emanuel Ax.

Clockwise from top left: An Embassy Adoption Program visit to the Embassy of Finland (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); Guests at the 2022 Gala (© David J. Claypool/Kalorama Photography); An Embassy Adoption Program school visit (Photo by Washington Performing Arts Staff); Family Art Moments in Franklin Park (© Fritz PhotoGraphics); A Concerts in Schools performance (© Fritz PhotoGraphics).

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