

Coming Together





“In the midst of a crisis, we saw a challenge. In embracing the challenge, we found a way forward.”

In preparing this biennial report, our team challenged themselves to put into perspective—in as few words as possible—the events of the past two years and our response to them. The result was the two brief sentences above (which you’ll also see leading off pages 4-5). This profound and poetic statement resonated so deeply with me the moment I read it aloud. Indeed the key words – *crisis, challenge, embracing, forward* – together form the arc of a story of resilience and transformation. The story of how our artists reached to the depths of their souls and intellects and emerged with powerful work that they shared with us. Their stories, and ours, come alive on every page of this report. And I strongly suspect you may find a piece of your own story—and its connection to us—in the pages that follow....

We are quite certain that without *you*, there would have been no story to tell. The *you* in this story includes: performers and teaching artists who created unforgettable performances and school curricula; programmers, production team members, and counselors who navigated new terrain in technology and licensing. It includes supporters—individual, corporate, foundation, civic, local, and national—and viewers of our *Home Delivery Plus* virtual concert series (we felt you cheering in the “lobby” online); students and teaching artists who connected digitally in 99 classrooms; participants in our gospel music program who joined together in song, online and in person; and the business owners who hosted us for *Mars Arts D.C. Virtual*. We thank you, our community.

At every point of this journey, our team felt the unwavering support of our Board of Directors, Junior Board, and Women’s Committee. Helming our extraordinary Board was Tom Gallagher, who every day checked in with me and asked, “What do you need, how can I help?” He stood with us through crucial strategic decisions, with deep commitment to the integrity of our team, mission, and community. And at some of the most difficult moments—when the trauma of the pandemic and an ever-increasing urgency to advance racial and social justice was intensified by the assaults on democracy and civil liberties—we found direction in the ethos of our founder, Patrick Hayes: *Everybody in, nobody out*. The emotional support of this group of friends was as important as their strategic and operational guidance. I very much hope that in their lives and work, they have received the measure of support, compassion, and levity that they gave to our team.

And I truly hope that *each of you* reading this has felt the mutuality of support of this warm and mighty community we call Washington Performing Arts.

Thank you for being part of our past, our present, and our future. Onward, together!

In gratitude,

Jenny Bilfield
President & CEO
Washington Performing Arts



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NB: All photos in this biennial report were either taken before the onset of the COVID pandemic or adhering to all safety guidelines in place at the time of the image capture.

[COVER] Top Row, Left to Right: Classical pianist Sir Andrés Schiff; Spektral Quartet; a Children of the Gospel Choir member performs; Second Row, Left to Right: The String Queens, Mars Arts D.C. 2019/20 and 2020/21 Ensemble-in-Residence; Sylvia Soumah of Coyaba Dance Theater in a Family Art Moments (FAM) performance; mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges; Third Row: Tap dancer Brinae Ali and trumpeter Sean Jones; jazz pianist Chick Corea; Bottom Row, Left to Right, Top to Bottom: vocalist Veronica Swift; cellist Alisa Weilerstein; composer and pianist Damien Sneed; saxophonist Melissa Aldana

[AT LEFT] Top to Bottom: Washington Performing Arts President & CEO Jenny Bilfield; Junior Board member and 2020 Gala Co-Chair Manasi Tirodkar and her husband, Ajay Rao, at our Junior Board 2019/20 Season Kick Off before Pink Martini; Men & Women of the Gospel Choir Artistic Director Theodore Thorpe III conducting *I am a Man: Reclaiming Brilliance in the Midst of Brokenness* on March 1, 2020; Pianist Seong-Jin Cho backstage with sponsors Ellen and Michael Gold and their family on March 8, 2020, after our last presentation before the pandemic shuttered live performances



In the midst of a crisis,
we saw a challenge.

In embracing the challenge,
we found a way forward.





Washington Performing Arts –
championing the arts
as a unifying force.

together

2019/20: SEPTEMBER TO MARCH

2019/20 began with a spirit of celebration—seven months unfolded vividly on stage, in the classroom, and throughout our community.





24

live performances presented

50th

anniversary of our Women's Committee

500

free education, gospel music, and community programs

65,000

patrons reached, including students and seniors



[AT LEFT] Melbourne Symphony Orchestra offers pop-up performances around the District during their residency [THIS PAGE] Clockwise from Top Left: Pink Martini kicks off the 2019/20 season with a 25th Anniversary Celebration; the Washington Performing Arts Women's Committee celebrates its 50th Anniversary as members hold a portrait honoring Women's Committee Founder Barbara Gordon; Men of the Gospel Choir performs in *I am a Man: Reclaiming Brilliance in the Midst of Brokenness*; violinist Midori [center left] is honored as Washington Performing Arts's 2020 Ambassador of the Arts by journalist Anne Midgette, Board Chair Tom Gallagher, past Joseph & Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition winner Miyabi Henriksen, Jenny Bilfield, and Legacy Society Chair and Honorary Director Stef Tucker

2019/20: GALA TRANSFORMED

*Seemingly overnight, the world turned upside down.
You tuned in and stepped up.*





“Having participated in on-air fundraising on PBS for many, many years, I was able to fully appreciate how you pulled the proverbial rabbit out of a hat that night. Your team did a phenomenal job. Thank you for taking the time to share the details of your experience so generously. As we search for our new normal in the post pandemic world, you will no doubt be credited with inspiring the arts world to look at all sorts of things through a different lens and to bravely innovate its way to a new kind of success.”

Midge Woolsey
Retired Host and Producer, Thirteen/
WNET and WQXR

72

hours from live to
livestream

275

households watched the
*Virtual Gala: A Celebration
of Women - Fierce, Creative,
Resilient*

2.5K

impressions online

3K+

post-Gala webinar views

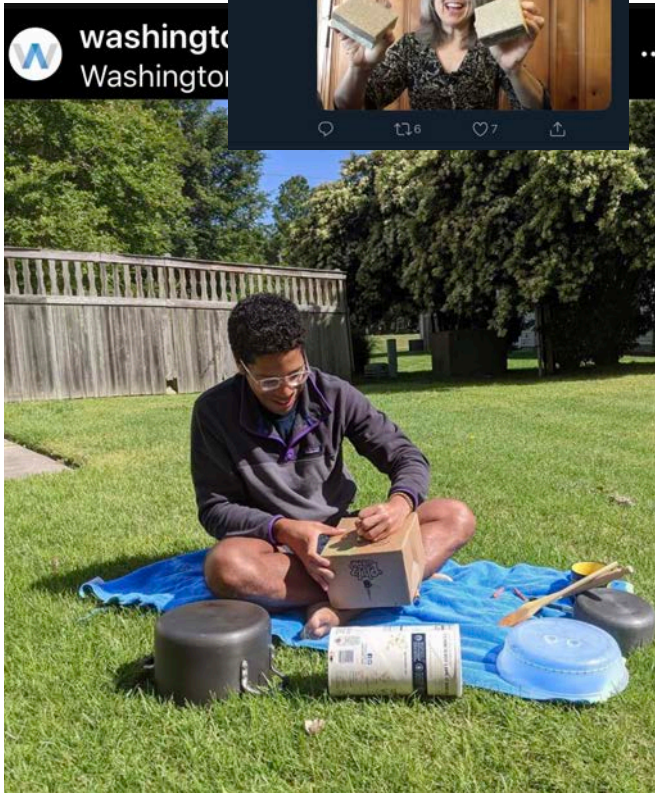


[AT LEFT] Jenny Bilfield addresses audiences at home on March 14, 2020 [THIS PAGE] Top to Bottom: Backstage at Salamander Hotel Resort & Spa, our last-minute Gala venue, with RJ Whyte Event Production and Event EQ; staff manage proxy bidding on the phones for the live auction; Gala honoree and Salamander owner Sheila C. Johnson watches a surprise tribute from composer Kris Bowers, streaming in from L.A.; publicity—featuring Gala artists mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges and pianist Kevin Miller—for the “lessons learned” webinar



2019/20: HOME DELIVERY LAUNCHES

We gathered together in person, and then we couldn't. We sang separately, and yet we sang together. We huddled in our homes, we came together online.



“I have enjoyed attending WPA performances since I moved to the Washington, D.C. area five years ago. In addition to great performances, I appreciate WPA’s long-standing commitment to engaging diverse communities in the arts. What really impressed me recently was WPA’s proactive response to the pandemic. They showed creative leadership in being one of the first in the industry to introduce an array of streaming home experiences. I am pleased to support an organization that jumps head-first into opportunity and is committed to continuing to bring communities together through the arts during these difficult times.”

Lenka Kneschke

Champion Fund ticket donor and Washington Performing Arts first-time Friend (July 2020)

7

new, free online programming series launched in Spring/Summer 2020

44

digital presentations of varied content in just 6 months

500K+

views of our online programs and content

[AT LEFT] Clockwise from Top Left: Company E’s Jamal Abrams sharing a Movement Break, Children of the Gospel Choir (COTG) in their video *Why Do We Sing?*; COTG alum, bass, and 2021 Ambassador of the Arts Soloman Howard onstage for *July 4th: A Tribute to the American Spirit*; Backstage with the U.S. Air Force Band for *July 4th: A Tribute to the American Spirit*; Teaching Artist Kari Paludan in a Family Art Moments (FAM) video performance; the *Home Delivery* truck “delivering” our free online programming; Kendall Isadore of The String Queens sharing an educational video [THIS PAGE] Top to Bottom: D.C. Public Schools amplifying Teaching Artist Wendy Lanxner via Twitter; former staff member Nathan Alston creating percussion instruments inspired by Wendy Lanxner



2020/21: MARS ARTS D.C.: VIRTUAL

A new season blossomed. We seized the moment to transform.



“*Dance in D.C.* short films capture the city’s spirit of entrepreneurship...that concept — the tailoring of terpsichorean energy to a specific location — is central to the dance-film series, which Washington Performing Arts created this fall by commissioning local dancer-choreographers to devise, and perform, dances customized for the spaces at six area businesses... ‘*Dance in D C.*,’ says series lead curator C. Lorenzo Evans III, aims ‘to show the spirit and vibrancy of entrepreneurship and business and the arts, and that those things are still going on despite being in the midst of a global pandemic.’”

Washington Post (December 2020)

25

Mars Arts D.C. events that highlighted 60+ local artists

12

new partnership venues through Mars Arts D.C.

[AT LEFT] Dancers from Kalanidhi Dance Company, led by 2020 Pola Nirenska Award winner Anuradha Nehru, perform as part of Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual *Dance in D.C.* series [AT LEFT] Top to Bottom: Award-winning filmmaker Francisco Campos-Lopez/Magen Entertainment films local hip hop artist Yusha Assad for Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual *Rhythm & Motion* series; Venezuelan singer-songwriter Jonathan Acosta and his band taped live on the stage of Gala Hispanic Theatre for *Rhythm & Motion*; *Dance in D.C.* publicity; D.C. dancer/leader of the Beat Ya Feet movement, Crazy Legz, performing with dance partner Kevin “Noodlez” Davis outside of historic Ben’s Chili Bowl for *Dance in D.C.*; Flamenco dancer Edwin Aparicio performing at local, women-owned Republic Restoratives distillery for *Dance in D.C.*; Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual *Creator’s Notebook* series banner featuring singer-songwriter Justin Trawick, musician/storyteller Be Steadwell, painter Khalid Thompson, and DJ/photographer Violetta Markelou

2020/21: *HOME DELIVERY PLUS*

*Our online streaming series—Home Delivery Plus—was born,
centered around artists and a connection to YOU.*





“There are few organizations who would trust an artist and their vision. I’m so grateful for Washington Performing Arts’s support.”

– Sean Jones, trumpet

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to the entire Washington Performing Arts team, for providing me all the support and kindness through this process. I am honored to be part of *Home Delivery Plus*.”

– Jenny Lin, piano



“Washington Performing Arts can always be counted on for helping pave the way!”

– J’Nai Bridges, mezzo-soprano

14 virtual performances presented on *Home Delivery Plus*

12 virtual Friends events that engaged 650+ households

[AT LEFT] Jenny Lin recording her *Home Delivery Plus* recital from the National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts-Weiwuying in Taiwan; [THIS PAGE] Clockwise from Top: Director of Programming Samantha Pollack recording her emcee speech at Control Video studios; a post-concert *Linger Longer* with saxophonist Steven Banks, Jenny Bilfield, Young Concert Artists President Daniel Kellogg, and composers Saad Haddad and Carlos Simon; Virtual Backstage Pass with mezzo-soprano J’Nai Bridges, sponsors, and staff; Supervising Producer Eric Richardson ready to start a new “take” before Alisa Weilerstein’s *Home Delivery Plus* recording at the Kennedy Center Terrace Theater

2020/21: EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We learned new ways of doing—and learning—alongside our students, teaching artists, and education partners.



“Thank you to Washington Performing Arts for Ms. Imani!!!! She is amazing!!! Kids turn the cameras on more for her than me.”
 –DCPS teacher participating in Capital Arts Partnership*



“It was great! The kids were fantastic. I would love to go there next year in person to do a concert and/or residency. The students were great! I love it. I feel alive!!!!!!”
 –Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artist after their first virtual Concert in Schools program



20 Education and FAM videos shared on Home Delivery

19 Teaching Artists and Home Delivery Plus artists featured in FAM videos

99 participating public and public charter schools

525+ activities during the school year

[AT LEFT] Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble during a Family Art Moments (FAM) video [THIS PAGE] Clockwise from Top Right: Students from Murch Elementary School participating in a Capital Arts Partnership with Company E; a FAM performance featuring Teaching Artist Lisa Paul; a representative of the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago interacting with her Embassy Adoption Program (EAP)* partner classroom; EAP online classroom visit with the Embassy of Malaysia

*Capital Arts Partnership and Embassy Adoption Program, along with D.C. Keys and DCPS Honor Ensemble, are partnerships with D.C. Public Schools.

2020/21: GOSPEL MUSIC PROGRAMS

Our choirs stayed connected and sang out, amplifying a call for justice and offering solace through a trying time.



LIFT EVERY VOICE:
*The Power of
 Music in the Fight
 for Social Justice*

with WPA
 Gospel Choirs' Directors
Michele Fowlin
Theodore Thorpe III
Anthony "Tony" Walker
 Moderated by
Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson, Ph.D.



“Thank you for tonight’s most powerful presentation. I am left with so much to think about. **Beyond entertainment, Washington Performing Arts teaches.**”

–Viewer following Lift Every Voice: The Power of Music in the Fight for Social Justice

“To say I have LOVED the musicianship classes that Mr. Thorpe has been providing during the pandemic is a drastic understatement! He has been teaching us the foundation of a language we’ve been speaking without understanding **My prayer is that we get to continue learning even after life gets back to “normal” because this has been invaluable.**”

–Member of Men & Women of the Gospel Choir

84

Men, Women, & Children of the Gospel Choir (MWCOTG) members sang throughout the season

449

hours of vocal coaching including 201 for the Schlosberg Vocal Scholars*

6

new original artistic and topical programs presented by the choirs

1

tremendous online collaboration to present *Living the Dream... Singing the Dream*

[AT LEFT] Children of the Gospel Choir’s (COTG) original sung/spoken word production *Freedom in the Midst of Bondage* [THIS PAGE] Top to Bottom: A social justice panel discussion featuring MWCOTG Artistic Directors and Music Director Anthony “Tony” Walker, moderated by Dr. Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson; Men & Women of the Gospel Choir’s original production *Things Are Gonna Get Better*; a student panel discussion on social justice featuring COTG students and COTG artistic director Michele Fowlin, moderated by Dr. Wiggins-Jackson; Virtual Backstage Pass with artists, sponsors, and staff following *Living the Dream... Singing the Dream*, an annual collaboration with Choral Arts Society of Washington

*This number includes all hours from 2019/20 and 2020/21.



2020/21: VIRTUAL GALA

Roots & Wings reflected our values joyfully and united us virtually with viewers far and wide.



“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.”

-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



148%

of fundraising goal achieved to benefit our arts education and gospel music programs

100+

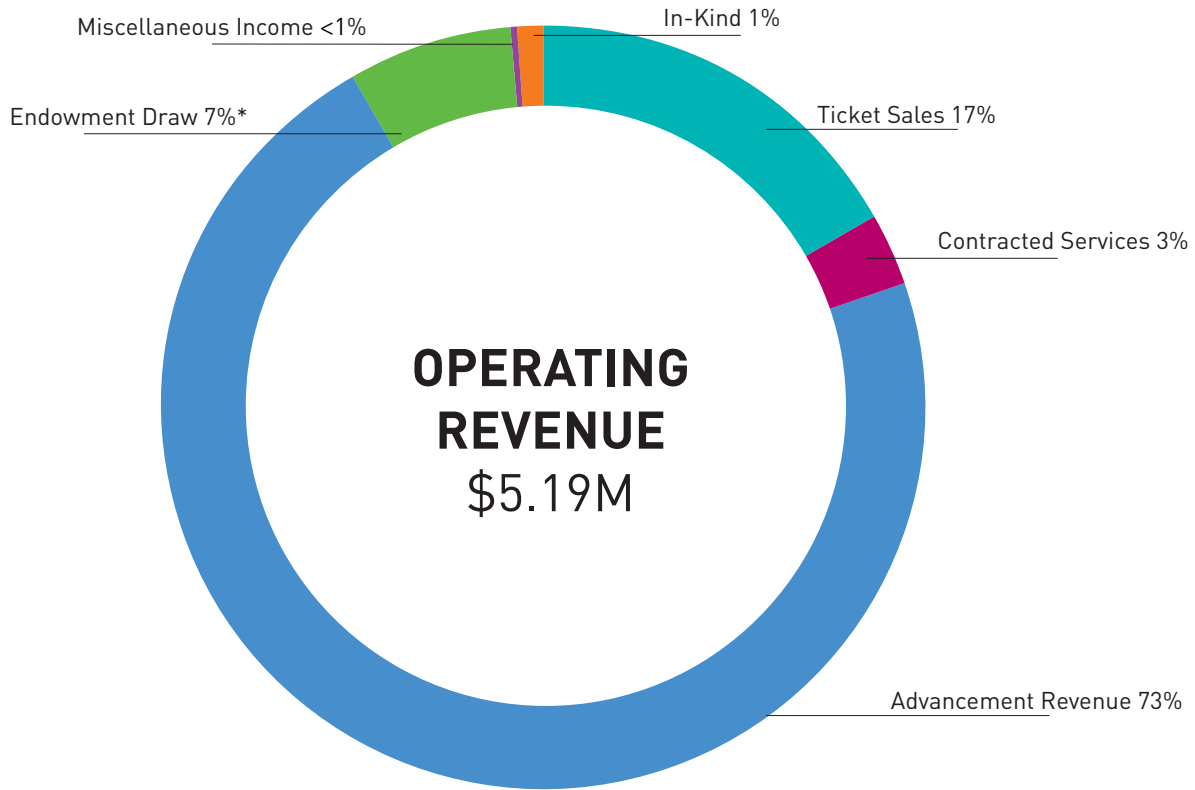
students and Teaching Artists featured

500+

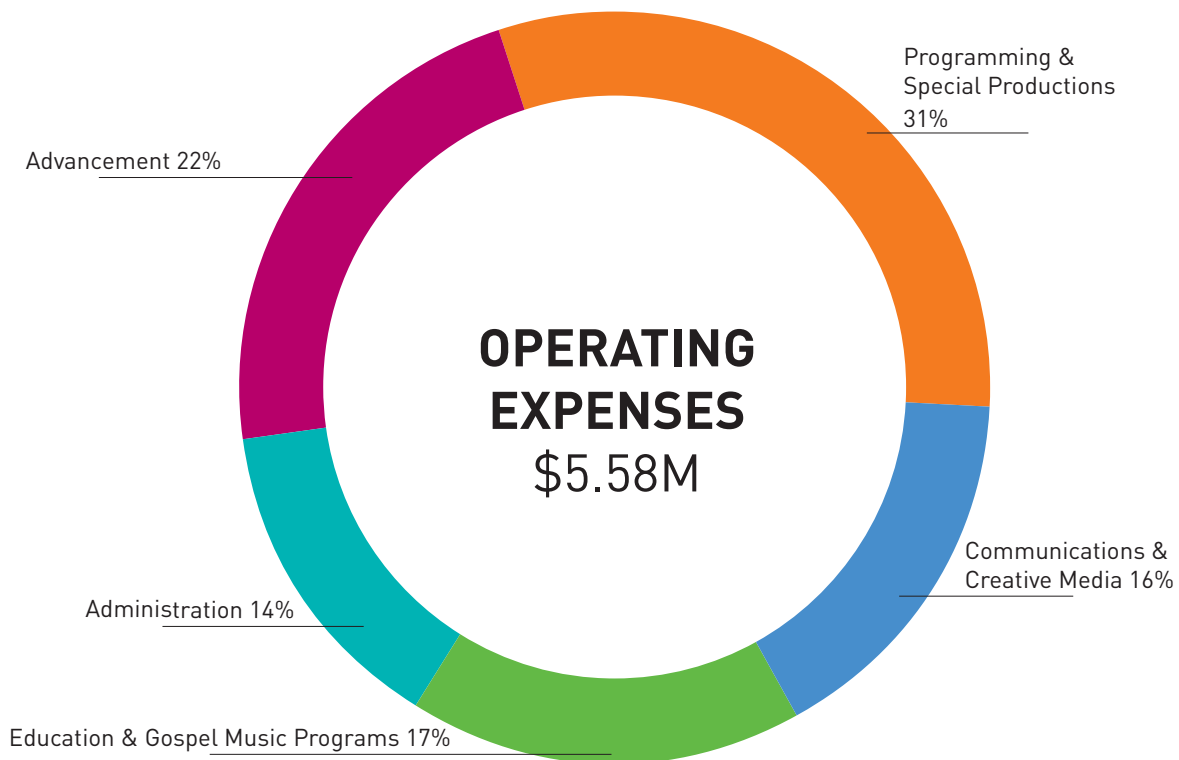
household views coast-to-coast

[AT LEFT] Jenny Bilfield readies for the cameras for the *Roots & Wings* Virtual Gala livestream, in front of a DCPS Honor Ensemble moment captured in Winter 2020 [THIS PAGE] Clockwise from Top Left: Washington Performing Arts Teaching Artists perform Bill Withers's *Lovely Day* during the program; *Roots & Wings* Co-Chairs and members of the Board of Directors Kathryn Jones and Trista L.P. Colbert welcome viewers; program co-hosts Director of Education and Community Engagement Michelle Hoffmann, Chief Advancement Officer Elizabeth Racheva, Jenny Bilfield, and Children of the Gospel Choir Artistic Director Michele Fowlin; Danish folk ensemble and EAP partners Dreamers' Circus perform during the program; *Roots & Wings* honoree and Board member James J. Sandman being interviewed by COTG member Pierce Pearson during the program

2019/20 By the Numbers



* Washington Performing Arts's endowment was \$6.69M at the conclusion of FY20. Washington Performing Arts draws down from the endowment annually at a Board-approved 5% spending rate, which is based on a 3-year rolling average. Total investment income reflected on Washington Performing Arts's audited financial statements for FY20 was \$465K; it is not reflected on this operating revenue chart. Washington Performing Arts's endowment is invested thoughtfully with an eye toward longterm organizational sustainability.



Washington Performing Arts Supporters in 2019/20

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 2019/20 season are listed below with our sincere thanks (September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020).

**denotes donors to the Champion Fund; learn more below*

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Washington Performing Arts is particularly grateful to the strong community of more than 900 donors who generously supported our Champion Fund between March and August 2020, making gifts in a moment of dire need and active response.

Whether new, renewed, reallocated, or additional gifts, or sustained support for our 72-hour pivot Virtual Gala, a Friends renewal, or a ticket refund donation—every dollar made a difference in helping us continue to realize our mission and achieve our goals as we worked to close our 2019/20 season, while taking care of our artists, teaching artists, and staff. All in all, these gifts that we counted toward the Champion Fund raised more than \$2.5 million for Washington Performing Arts. Champion Fund donors are denoted in this report with an *; a complete list of all Champion Fund donors can be viewed online at bit.ly/CHAMPIONFUND.



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[AT LEFT] Backstage at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall on March 1, 2020 after *I am a Man: Reclaiming Brilliance in the Midst of Brokenness*, including sponsors and show curator and Men & Women of the Gospel Choir Artistic Director Theodore Thorpe III [middle], performers Joseph Joubert and Konshens the MC, opening speaker Michael Eric Dyson, and composer Joel Thompson [THIS PAGE] Left to Right: Joe Hockey, former Australian Ambassador to the United States and Honorary Patron for *The World in Our City*, and Bec Allen, Washington Performing Arts Junior Board member and former Australian Embassy Cultural Attaché, prepare remarks prior to the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's performance in October 2019; Jazz piano & Hammond B-3 organ superstar Matthew Whitaker with sponsors in February 2020

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[AT LEFT] Clockwise from Top Left: Junior Board members enjoy the Pink Martini pre-show Season Kickoff in 2019/20; Chief Advancement Officer Elizabeth Racheva and auctioneer Steve Little improvise the silent auction at the 2020 Virtual Gala; Annual *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* MWCOTG collaboration with Choral Arts Society of Washington in January 2020 [THIS PAGE] Washington Performing Arts staff say thank you to our donors via Zoom in November 2020

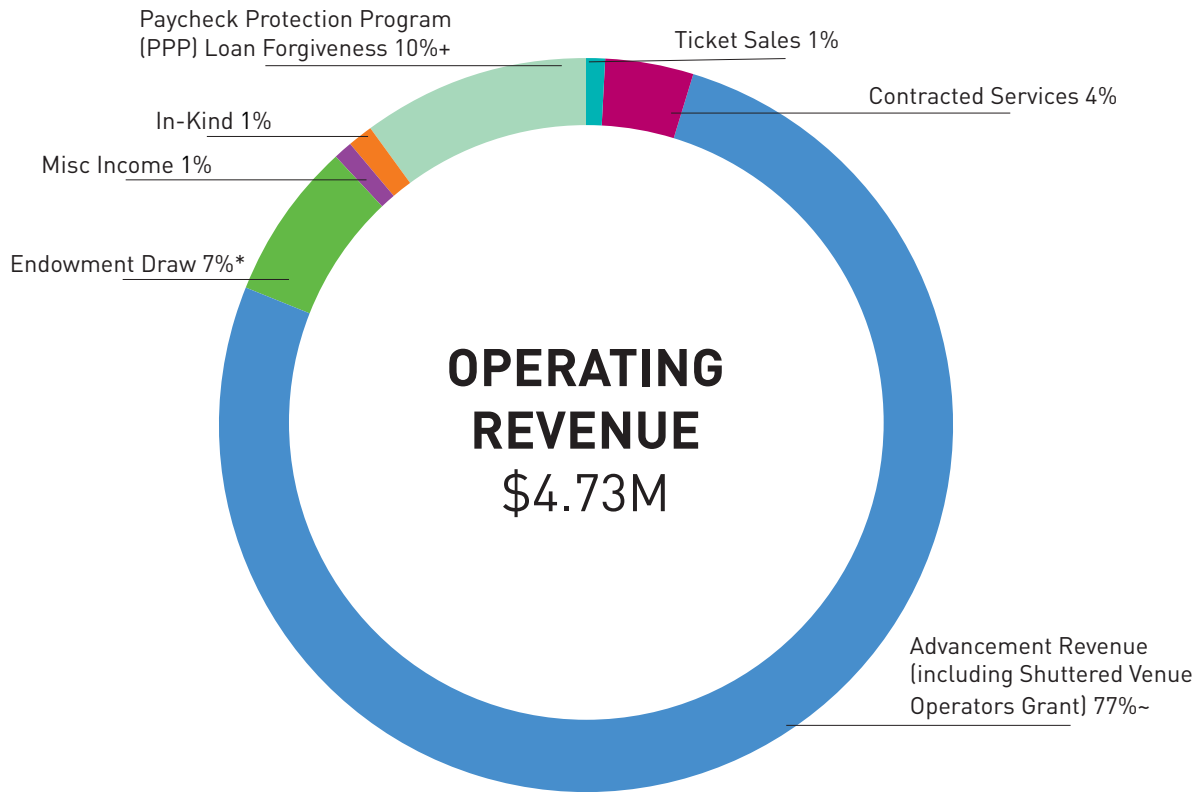
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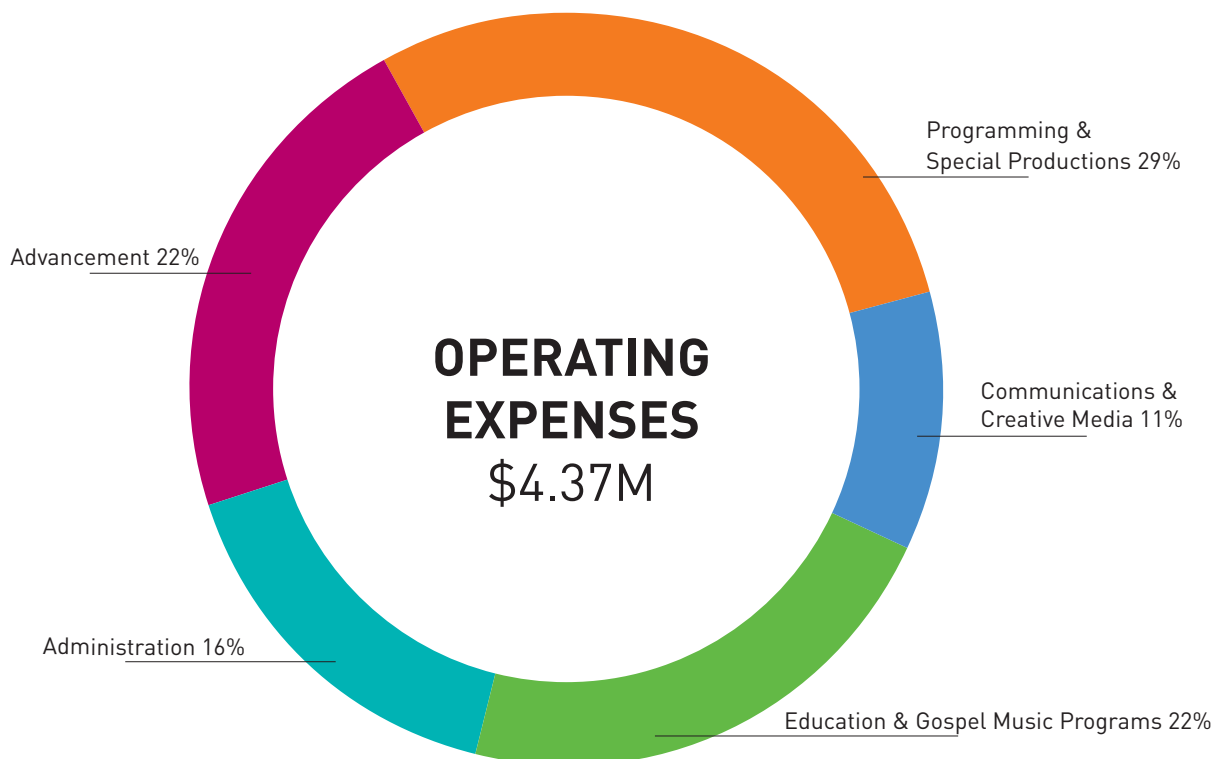
2020/21 By the Numbers



+ PPP Loans have been essential for many businesses, including arts organizations, during the pandemic. Washington Performing Arts received two PPP loans over two fiscal years; the first was received in FY20 and fully forgiven in FY21, revenues of which are reflected above.

* Washington Performing Arts's endowment was \$7.96M at the conclusion of FY21. Washington Performing Arts draws down from the endowment annually at a Board-approved 5% spending rate, which is based on a 3-year rolling average. Total investment income reflected on Washington Performing Arts's audited financial statements for FY21 was \$1.77M; it is not reflected in this operating revenue chart. Washington Performing Arts's endowment is invested thoughtfully with an eye toward longterm organizational sustainability.

~ Shuttered Venue Operators Grants (SVOGs) from the U.S. Small Business Administration were pandemic relief grants made to arts organizations of all sizes during 2021. Washington Performing Arts received two SVOGs, one of which impacted revenues in FY21.



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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 2020/21 season are listed below with our sincere thanks (September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021).

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RBG MEMORIAL FUND

The Ruth Bader Ginsburg Memorial Award and Recital Fund was launched quietly by Washington Performing Arts in Summer 2021—it will offer 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 40 donors have stepped forward pledging more than \$365,000 to establish the fund. We look forward to heralding the inaugural RBG Memorial Award Artist and Recitalist in the 2022/23 season!

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“Music is the one time when my head isn't filled with briefs and opinions...All that is put on a high shelf, and I just enjoy the glorious music.”

— Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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[AT LEFT] Die Big Band der Bundeswehr and U.S. Air Force Band honor Beethoven's 250th Birthday in *Light, Hope, & Joy*, our online holiday collaboration with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, attracting more than 200,00 viewers from around the world [THIS PAGE] Left to Right: Jenny Bilfield recording *Home Delivery Plus* remarks at Twin Oaks, home of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO); dancer Kara Jenelle leading a high-energy Afrobeats masterclass for *Home Delivery's* free Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual *Rhythm & Motion* series

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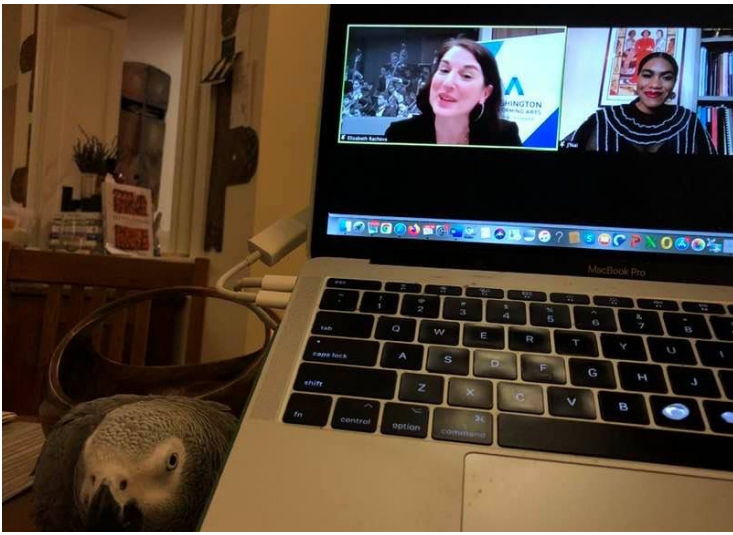
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*List complete and final as of August 31,
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[AT LEFT] Mexico City's Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández performs for *Home Delivery Plus*, one of six *World in Our City* events on the series [THIS PAGE] Clockwise from Top Left: human and animal fans tune in for our Friends wine-tasting/artist visit with Theopolis Vineyards, Woman-Owned Wineries, and J'Nai Bridges; Women's Committee members—happily fully vaxxed and reunited in person—prepare gratitude care packages for Washington Performing Arts staff in Summer 2021; Sphinx Virtuosi record for *Home Delivery Plus* in NYC's Dance Theatre of Harlem studios; Virtual Backstage Pass with sponsors, staff, and composer/pianist Damian Sneed; Arianna Ross of Story Tapestries and the Québécois musical duo Veronneau captivate during a Family Art Moments (FAM) video performance

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Legacy Society members appreciate the vital role the performing arts play in the community, as well as in their own lives. By remembering Washington Performing Arts in their will or estate plans, members enhance our annual fund, endowment, or donor-designated programs and help make it possible for the next generations to enjoy the same quality and diversity of presentations both on stages and in our schools and community.

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As of January 26, 2022

Washington Performing Arts Staff 2019/20 and 2020/21

Washington Performing Arts is grateful for the extraordinary resiliency and contributions of our talented staff during this critical period. Some colleagues departed for new adventures following outstanding years of service, while others joined the team virtually and determinedly, meeting for the first time in person in Summer 2021. This extraordinary team—supported by dedicated consultants and a new, dynamic cohort of interns from across the country each trimester—was indefatigable. We salute their creativity, teamwork, and dedication during this unprecedented time.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jenny Bilfield
President & CEO

C. Lorenzo Evans III
*Director of Finance &
Chief Operating Officer ~*

Douglas H. Wheeler
President Emeritus

Nathan Alston
*Special Assistant to
the President **

Diedre Robinson
*Executive Assistant to the
President & CEO +*

ADVANCEMENT

Elizabeth Racheva
Chief Advancement Officer

Meiyu Tsung
Director of Individual Giving

Megan Beck
*Assistant Director of
Corporate Giving and
Government Relations **

Sara Trautman-Yeğenoğlu
*Assistant Director of
Advancement Resources*

Helen Aberger
*Development Operations &
Analytics Manager **

Brooke Lamell Bartolome
*Manager of Advancement
Operations & Analytics ~*

Natalie Groom
*Manager of Advancement
Operations & Analytics +*

Alexandra Cantalupo
*Temporary Advancement
Assistant ~*

Rebecca Krupa Wilcoski
Advancement Assistant +

RJ Whyte Event Production
Special Events

COMMUNICATIONS & CREATIVE MEDIA

Matthew Campbell
*Director of Communications &
Creative Media*

Hannah Grove-DeJarnett
*Associate Director of
External Relations **

David Dalton
*Communications &
Creative Media Manager*

Scott Thureen
*Creative Media & Analytics
Manager*

Amanda Sweet, Bucklesweet
Press & Media Relations

Camille Cintrón Devlin,
Bucklesweet
Press & Media Relations

Elayna Speight, Inked Designs
Graphic Designer

Jixaw Technologies
*Website and Technology
Consultant*

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Michelle Hoffmann
*Director of Education &
Community Engagement*

Trisha Taylor
Assistant Director of Education

Katheryn R. Brewington
Manager of Choir Operations

Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson
*Manager of Choir Curriculum
& Performance*

Elisabeth Staal
*Education & Community
Program Coordinator ~*

Valerie Murray
*Education & Community
Program Manager +*

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Karin Hong
*Director of Operations &
Administration*

Erica Mucci
Controller

Kamyar Fardshisheh
*Finance & Administration
Coordinator +*

Todd Aron, HLP Associates
IT Consultant

PATRON SERVICES (TICKET OFFICE)

Patrick Smith
*Ticket Services Manager **

Tyler Teagle
*Patron Services Manager
Group Sales &
External Relations
Coordinator in 2019/20*

Tamisha Ottley
*Patron Services Associate **

PROGRAMMING & PRODUCTION

Samantha Pollack
Director of Programming

Alexis Cooper
*Programming & Production
Coordinator ~*

Kayla E. Loree
*Programming Operations
Manager +*

Torrey Butler
*Production Manager **

OurConcerts.Live
Home Delivery Plus
Consultants +

SPECIAL PRODUCTIONS & INITIATIVES

Nicholas Alexander Brown
*Director of Special Productions
& Initiatives **

Eric E. Richardson
Supervising Producer +

Alex Galiatsatos
*Manager of Creative Media &
Mars Arts D.C. ^*

RESIDENT ARTISTS

Murray Horwitz
Artist in Residence

Michele Fowlin
*Artistic Director, Children of
the Gospel Choir*

Theodore Thorpe III
*Artistic Director, Men &
Women of the Gospel Choir*

Stanley J. Thurston
*Artistic Director Emeritus,
Washington Performing Arts
Gospel Choirs*

Anthony "Tony" Walker
*Music Director, Washington
Performing Arts Gospel Choirs*

The String Queens
*Mars Arts D.C. Ensemble-in-
Residence, 2019-2021*

INTERNS 2019/20

Kelsey Ballard
Darya Barna
Cameron Betchey
Kayla Clancy
Jessica Duhon
Mackenzie Girard
Greg Hays
Jing Jia
Penelope Musto
Ashley Shaw
Samia Taliaferro
Tyler Teagle
Ander Tebbutt
Allenda Witzel
Sophia Young
Iris Zhou

2020/21

Missy Curl
Alesha Davis
Erin Durian
Lauren Ellis Scott
Ruby Goldin
Tyesha Ingram
Olivia Jones
Rebecca Krupa Wilcoski
Claire [Frankie] Marsh
Leanny Muñoz
Rose Martus
Carol Niedringhaus
Taylor Richardson
Melissa Schexnaydre
Loza Teodros
Emily (Evy) Vannoy
Kayla (Halo) Wheeler
Samantha (Sam) Williams
Erin Wynne
Teddi Yoo

List as of August 31, 2021

* 2019/20 departure
^ 2019/20 arrival
~ 2020/21 departure
+ 2020/21 arrival

Washington Performing Arts Leadership 2019/20 and 2020/21

Washington Performing Arts is grateful for the extraordinary leadership and partnership of our entire Board of Directors, Junior Board, and Women's Committee during this critical period, empowering us to survive and thrive. Together with their families, our Board of Directors, in particular, led our 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons with invaluable guidance and support, both financial and intangible. Our Junior Board and Women's Committee also provided exceptional support, buoying our virtual audiences and gatherings and championing community at every turn.

(September 1, 2019–August 31, 2021)

Current and Past Presidents

Jenny Bilfield^{±#}
President & CEO

Douglas H. Wheeler^{±#}
President Emeritus

Neale Perl
President Emeritus

Patrick Hayest[†]
Founder

Board of Directors

Tom Gallagher[#]
Chair

Kelly King Dibble[#]
Vice Chair

Ami Scott[#]
Secretary

Christina Co Mather[#]
Vice Chair

Anthony Otten^{#~}
Treasurer

Burton J. Fishman, Esq.[#]
General Counsel

Her Excellency Shaikha Aisha AlKhalifa
Sunny Alsup[°]
Jeffrey Bauman[#]
Rudy Burwell
Charlotte Cameron
Michele Cober[°]
Trista L. P. Colbert[#]
Jennifer Coulter[#]
Debbie Driesman
Robert S. Feinberg[#]
Brad Figel
Norma Lee FUNGER
Felecia Love Greer
Luanne S. Gutermuth[#]

Jay M. Hammer
Daniel Heider
Susan B. Hepner^{±#}
Grace Hobelman~
Kathryn Jones[#]
Arleen Kessler (Women's Committee)^{±#}
Robert G. Liberatore*
Leslie Luxemburg
(Friday Morning Music Club)[±]
David Marventano
Camden Miller (Junior Board)^{±##}
Alyssa O'Connor (Junior Board)^{±#°}
John F. Olson[#]
Lynn Parseghian[°]

W. Stephen Piper
Irene Roth
Gordon Rush[°]
James J. Sandman[#]
Marc Schlosberg
Arjun Shah[°]
Peter Shields[#]
Naboth van den Broek[^]
Reginald Van Lee[#]
Mary Jo Veverka*
Philip R. West[#]
Gary Yacoubian[°]
± Ex-officio

Honorary Directors

Nancy G. Barnum
Arturo Brillembourg
Hans Bruland
Josephine Cooper
The Honorable Debbie Dingell
Roselyn Payne Epps, M.D.[†]
Sophie P. Fleming[†]
Eric R. Fox
Norma Lee FUNGER
Peter Ladd Gilsey[†]
Barbara W. Gordont
France K. Graage
James M. Harkless, Esq.
Susan B. Hepner

ViCurtis G. Hintont
Jake Jones
Steven Kaplan, Esq.
Marvin C. Korengold, M.D.[†]
Peter L. Kreeger
Robert G. Liberatore
Jerome B. Libin, Esq.
Dennis G. Lyonst
Dr. Gary D. Mather
Gilbert D. Meadt
Gerson Nordlingert
Susan Porter[†]
Frank H. Richt
Charlotte Schlosberg[†]

Ambassador Arturo Sarukhan and
Veronica Valencia Sarukhan
Samuel A. Schreiber
Jon Sedmak
Albert H. Small[†]
Shirley Small
Ruth Sorenson
The Honorable James W. Symington
Stefan F. Tucker, Esq.
Mary Jo Veverka
Carol Wilner
Paul Martin Wolff

Past Chairs

Todd Duncant†, Past Chairman Laureate
 William N. Cafritz†
 Aldus H. Chapin†
 Kenneth M. Crosby†
 Jean Head Sisco†
 Kent T. Cushenberry†
 Harry M. Linowes
 Edward A. Fox

Hugh H. Smith
 Alexine Clement Jackson
 Lydia Micheaux Marshall
 The Honorable Stephen W. Portert†
 Elliott S. Hall
 Lena Ingegerd Scott
 James F. Lafond
 Bruce E. Rosenblum

Daniel L. Korengold
 Susan B. Hepner
 Jay M. Hammer
 Reginald Van Lee

Junior Board

Camden Miller#
Chair (2019/20), Member at Large (2020/21)

Cassidy Grunninger
Vice Chair, Philanthropy

Alyssa O'Connor#
Vice Chair, Audience Engagement (2019/20), Chair (2020/21)

Joseph May
Secretary

Rebecca Allen*
 Paul Ashe
 Rebecca Chang
 C. Wallace DeWitt*
 Adam Farra
 Anna Forgie
 Ben Fuller*
 Natalie Groom*
 Cassidy Grunninger
 Jordan Hepner*

Maggie Hurwitz*
 Gbenga Ige
 Angela C.Y. King
 William Korengold
 Tiffany Lancaster
 Andrew M. Lee
 André O. Lewis
 Yinhsiu Grace Lin
 Benjamin Martin
 Joseph May

Camden Miller
 Ceylon Mitchell II
 Haley Morrisson
 Michelle Nelson*
 Katie Nunner
 Malathi Nayak*
 Alyssa O'Connor
 Brian Overland
 Toam Rubinstein
 Helen Santoro*

Arjun Shah*
 Jonathon Sorge
 Kerrien Suarez
 Kristen Taylor
 Ebony Thomas
 Manasi Tirodkar*
 Raleigh Wheeler
 Lindsey Woody*
 Kevin Yen

Women's Committee

Arleen Kessler
President

Denise Rollins
1st Vice President

Ruth Reed Hodges
2nd Vice President

Vinetta Jones
Recording Secretary

Jacqueline Newsome-Williams
Assistant Recording Secretary

Lorraine Paladino Adams
Treasurer

Ernestine Arnold
Corresponding Secretary

Shebbie Robinson Rice
Immediate Past President

Barbara MacKenzie Gordont
Founding President

Toni-jeanne Baker
 Beverly Bascomb
 Sylvia Belton
 Bunny Bialek
 Patricia Bonds
 Francesca Britton
 Gwendolyn Brown
 Elsie Bryant
 Charlotte Cameron
 Claire Cherry-Ruiz
 Changamiré
 Carleene Deit†
 Jan DuPlain
 Stacie Fabre*
 Naomi Freeman
 Rosetta Freeman*
 Jannes Gibson
 Linda Goldman
 Paula Goldman
 Rosemarie Harris
 Enid Johnson

Madelyn Johnson
 Anna Faith Jones*
 Edna Jones°
 Elaine Kolodny
 Albertina Lane
 Eleanor Leak
 Cheryl Long*
 Hilda McIntosh
 Glendonina McKinney
 Cheryl McQueen
 Dianne McRae
 Annette Morchowder
 Paulette Nehama
 Njambi*
 Brenda Parker
 Debbie Rayford
 DeVera Redmond°
 Elaine Rose
 Rita Segerman
 Deborah Sewell
 Wendy Shapiro

Billie Smith
 Therrell Smith
 Leah Tavens
 Pauline Thompson°
 Gloria Thrasher†
 Brenda Vaughan
 Diana Veilleux
 Gladys Watkins
 Carolyn Wilson
 Bette Wooden

† deceased

Executive Committee

* Concluded service in 2019/20

^ Joined the Board of Directors, Junior Board, or Women's Committee in 2019/20

~ Concluded service during 2020/21

° Joined the Board of Directors or Women's Committee in 2020/21

Our Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles— refreshed in 2020—propel our work every day.

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.

VISION

Our community is unified and enriched through vibrant performing arts experiences.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Cultivate Artists and Arts Patrons: Be the organization that artists want to partner with and that arts patrons trust for lifelong enjoyment and learning.

Pursue Inclusion: Seek, represent, and welcome a multiplicity of voices in everything we do.

Collaborate with Communities: Build strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations to make the performing arts accessible to communities in the nation's capital.

Build a Lasting Legacy: Balance risk-taking with fiscal rigor, sustaining a healthy organization that will last for generations.

[PP. 4-5] Clockwise from Top Left: Board member and Northern Trust executive Kelly King Dibble hosts colleagues and guests in connection with a Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performance sponsored by Northern Trust; Backstage at Andrews Air Force Base where *July 4th: A Tribute to the American Spirit* was livestreamed in July 2020; supporters enjoy a pre-concert event prior to a performance of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra in October 2019; Alisa Weilerstein and Ethan Oh, a 2020 Joseph & Goldie Feder Memorial String Competition winner, prepare for a live, online cello master class for Friends in April 2021; MWCOTG members perform at *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* alongside Choral Arts choristers in January 2020; Akosua Amoakua dances at Anacostia's Nubian HUMAN boutique as part of Mars Arts D.C.: Virtual's *Dance in D.C.* series; Teaching Artist Wendy Lanxner greets online viewers with *Home Delivery* free educational programming

[OPPOSITE PAGE] Clockwise from Top Left: Chairman's Circle members greet Jenny Bilfield; Matthew Crittenden dances at ARTECHOUSE in *Dance in D.C.*; Men, Women, & Children of the Gospel Choir and Choral Arts Society of Washington collaborate for the *Living the Dream...Singing the Dream* virtual concert in January 2021; composer Christopher Tin [center] greets Gouri Mirpuri and His Excellency Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States, at an event at the Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in January 2020; a member of Kalanidhi Dance Company performs in a Family Art Moments (FAM) video



We made it happen together—we are surviving and thriving together—we will continue to champion the arts as a unifying force, together. Thank you. To the future!





**WASHINGTON
PERFORMING ARTS**

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Washington, D.C. 20005
WashingtonPerformingArts.org