



**BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**



2023-24

Education
&
Community
Final
Report

YOUTH CONCERTS

The BPO's core impact on youth takes place at our concerts including the Music for Youth concert series, Friday morning concerts and the BPO Kids family series. 29,534 were served through youth concerts, while 5,091 attended our family shows.



SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Longstanding and new partnerships brought BPO musicians out into the schools and community, while pre-concert performances and other projects brought new audiences to Kleinhans and the Orchestra. 4,216 were served.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

In efforts to develop the interest and talents of youth and especially young musicians, the BPO focused on four key projects that served 633 young people.



CONCERTS



Music for Youth

This season's attendance approached pre-pandemic levels! Some highlights:

- Students from 189 schools across 7 WNY counties attended, as well as students from PA, NJ and Canada.
- 12 dedicated concerts served all of Buffalo Public Schools' 1st-6th graders.
- Two side-by-side concerts with Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra and Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts served over 200 students.
- Our annual West Side Connection featuring Sphinx Competition winner Gabriela Salvador Riera wowed more than 1,000 Buffalo high schoolers.
- 885 people in the disability community were served through specially designed interactive concerts, including one at St. Mary's School for the Deaf and two Exceptional Holiday concerts at Kleinhans.
- A trip to Olean to play for Southern Tier students closed a geographic gap in access to the live orchestra experience for over 1,200 students.

23-24 Youth Concert Attendance (29,534)



■ Buffalo Public Schools (13,963)	■ Catholic Schools (2,542)
■ Erie County Public Schools (7,659)	■ Niagara/Orleans County Public Schools (454)
■ Chautauqua/Cattaraugus/Allegany Public Schools (1,950)	■ Genesee/Wyoming County Public Schools (169)
■ Charter Schools (812)	■ WNY Private Schools (456)
■ Other: homeschool, disability services, out of state (1,609)	



Building Musical Bridges fostered connections between students from Orchard Park's Ellicott Elementary and Buffalo's International School #45 through shared musical experiences. The students journeyed together in a three-year cycle culminating at Kleinhans Music Hall with a final concert and workshop.



School and Community Partnerships

Teaching Artists

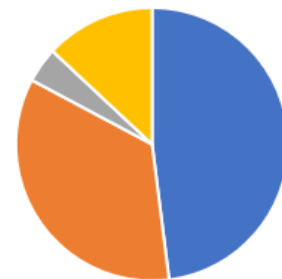
BPO musician teaching artists made 46 visits to 22 different schools and community centers, serving a total of 3,666 people. Visits included instrumental workshops and coachings, classroom programs and professional development clinics for music educators. Some highlights:

- **Residencies** for Lockport Middle and High Schools serving over 600 students, and Lancaster Elementary Schools serving almost 400 students.
- **Workshops for people with disabilities** with teaching artist Kate Bassett at Summit Center, CHC Learning Centers and Explore and More, with 1,466 served.
- Six **Professional Development workshops** for educators, which included a keynote by JoAnn Falletta at the WNY Music Educators Conference.
- Multiple engagements for the 200 students participating in **Building Musical Bridges at Orchard Park's Ellicott Elementary and BPS International School #45**, where teaching artists created musical connections between the two schools. A culminating workshop with composer Caroline Mallonee and nine BPO musicians included performances created and presented by students with members of the BPO. This program has completed a 3-year cycle with the same students.

Community Spotlight

22 school and community groups participated in these pre-concert performances, showcasing a total of 550 performers. In addition, over 800 of their friends and family members purchased discount BPO tickets. All performance groups get a free ticket to the BPO concert that follows their performance. Over the course of the season, performers were also able to meet featured guest artists and conductors, creating memorable moments for the young performers. For instance, the Guitar Ensemble from Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts met electric guitar artist D.J. Sparr after their performance, and 75 performers from Buffalo Suzuki Strings had the opportunity to meet with violin soloist Tessa Lark.

People Served (4,216)



■ Student programs & workshops (2,024) ■ Disability workshops (1,466)
 ■ Professional Development (176) ■ Community Spotlight (550)

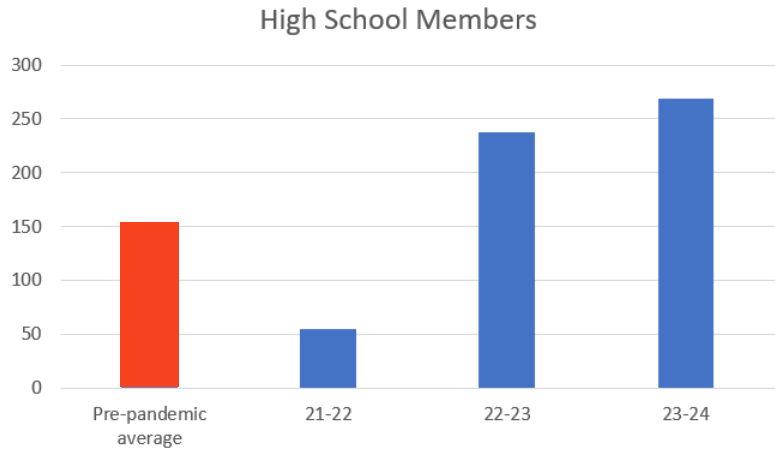
Youth Development

During the 2023-24 season, the BPO continued to invest in programming that expands access to BPO resources for youth, especially for young instrumentalists.

High School Student Impact Programs

Symphony Hall Pass

The high school membership program called Symphony Hall Pass continued to see growth this year, with an **all time high of 269 members** from 44 different schools. Compare this to our pre-pandemic average of 150 members from 25 schools! Participating students get a pass to most BPO concerts, as well as invitations to special guest artist meet-and-greets and other backstage opportunities. New this year: two Teen Night concert and party events drawing about 50 people to each.



Buffalo String Works

Through a partnership with Buffalo String Works (BSW), five BPO musicians provided **weekly violin, viola, cello and bass lessons** throughout the year to 12 Advanced Ensemble students at BSW's West Side location – **a total of 99 lessons!**

The BPO also donated tickets to each 23-24 Classics, Pops and Family concert for BSW students and families, which resulted in 68 tickets used.

Omega Mentoring

30 high school youth from **Omega Mentoring afterschool program, located at the Johnnie B. Wiley Pavilion**, attended multiple BPO concert events of their choosing. They were accompanied by another 25 community adults who all experienced *Byron Stripling's Motown and the Philly Sound*, *Disney in Concert* and *Cirque de la Symphonie* concerts. As transportation is a barrier, their sponsorship included bus transport from Johnnie B. Wiley to Kleinhans and back home.

Masterclasses

BPO guest artists and musicians were once again featured in the free BPO Masterclasses series, **servicing 26 young performers and 169 attendees**. Electric guitarist D.J. Sparr, violinist Melissa White, and pianist Stewart Goodyear took time to work with students during their featured weeks. A two-day Flute Festival featured guest artist Marina Piccinini and BPO flutists Christine Davis and Natalie Debikey Scanio, along with Buffalo Chamber Music Society's featured young artist Anthony Trionfo in a partnership with BCMS.



Increasing Access

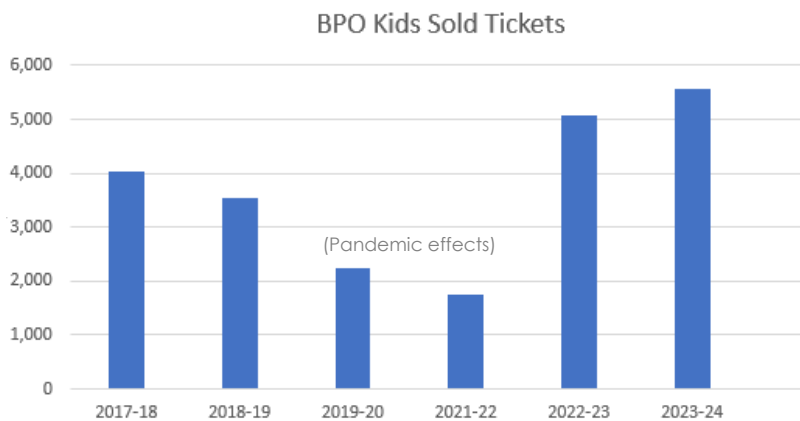
Our goal is to ensure access for young people, to build the next generation of musicians and audience members.

For Families

The BPO continued its radical accessibility initiative for a second year for the **BPO Kids Family Series**. This included a flat \$7 ticket price, free parking, and added supports for families with children that have disabilities or are on the autism spectrum. **BPO Little Kids** served families with children from birth to age five. Over 5,000 people attended these events.

Also, through a partnership with the **Buffalo Public Schools** we gave away 257 free tickets to BPS families for the *BPO Kids Sing* concert in April.

All of these efforts to increase accessibility brought strong results. We continued to see more ticket purchases from underrepresented and low-income zip codes (769 tickets in 2023-24 compared with a previous average of 300). Our largest increase this year came from the lower West Side, which almost doubled from 57 to 105 attendees.



Digital Resources for All

144 videos, 7,924 new views in 23-24*

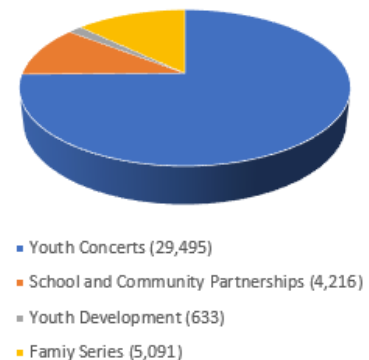
The BPO's free digital resources include youth concert lesson plans and 144 videos in **The Music for Youth Education Hub**, which were utilized by 316 teachers from 221 schools, representing all 8 counties of WNY. We also have users from other states including PA, MA, WV, TX, CA, GA and FL. Youth concert videos received 476 new classroom views this year which is far less than last year's 1,241 views. The trend continues of digital use going down as in-person attendance goes up. **#PlayOnWNY** and **#SingOnWNY** demo videos remain popular though, with 7,488 new views, and a total of over 42,000 views since the project's inception in 2020.

*(compare to 9,539 new views in 22-23)

The Numbers In Summary

The in-person attendance for the 2023-24 youth concerts approached pre-pandemic levels (29,500 compared with a previous average of 33,000). Our Symphony Hall Pass high school membership reached an all time high. The focus on this program and the return of masterclasses and other youth development programs this year lent a strong focus on young musician impacts. The accessibility initiative for the family series continued to show an increase in ticket sales, including from underrepresented audiences.

Attendance Youth and Family (39,435)



THANK YOU

TO OUR SPONSORS

This work would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and supporters.

ANONYMOUS

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