



Hawaii Youth Symphony

# Hawaii Youth Symphony

## Annual Report • FY2016

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

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Dear Hawaii Youth Symphony Supporter,

Thanks to you, our rehearsal halls have been gilded with a symphony of melodious, percussive, expressive—and sometimes—even cacophonous sounds!

Owing to our newly minted 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, HYS focused on developing programming around our **Core Values** (Lifelong Learning, Musical Excellence, Community Service, and A Future for Music), as well as our **Strategic Priorities** (Prioritizing Our Educational Programs, Building Core Constituencies, Increasing Community Connections, and Establishing HYS as a Global Center).

We're pleased to report to you on our just-finished 51st season (Fiscal Year 2016) which ended on June 30, 2016.



HYS was chosen by **MIDORI** for her renowned **Orchestra Residency Program**, which featured a partnership between HYS and the **Hawaii Symphony Orchestra**. The 5-day residency provided a suite of performance and educational outreach opportunities for students on Oahu and Kauai islands.

## Students of Diverse Backgrounds Have Equal Opportunities Through Music

Community Service • Prioritizing Our Educational Programs

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*“HYS has had a record of providing invaluable musical introduction and education to the music-loving children and youths in Hawaii. With its long history, it has an incredibly-inspired group of alumni and parents to support the current group of young musicians involved in the organization. What the students learn in the process as they participate in HYS has long-lasting effects that go beyond musical skills.”*

*—Midori Goto,  
Renowned violinist*

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HYS is committed to equal opportunities and equal access to our educational programming. Our Vision points to a Hawaii where every young person can experience the timeless value of music, can learn to play a musical instrument, or otherwise embrace a lifelong appreciation for musical learning. **636 students representing 124 schools** participated in our seven orchestras, Music in the Clubhouse classes, and summer programs. **54% of HYS students came from DOE schools**; 42% from independent schools; and 4% from home school programs.

- Our popular, long-standing, free “Listen & Learn” Concert Series reached **10,527 children from 63 Oahu schools** (56 DOE, 4 Independent, 3 Home) and **9 Kauai schools** (7 DOE, 2 Independent). The concerts are endorsed by the Hawaii State DOE and meet HCPSIII Fine Arts Standards.



- A grant made it possible for **Toby Oft**, our special Winter Concert guest artist, to perform for 4,000 children at the Listen & Learn concerts. Mr. Oft is Principal Trombone of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and is an alum of the HYS Pacific Music Institute summer program.



- In addition to serving students across all of HYS, **the Midori Orchestra Residency Program reached an additional 570 children on Kauai**, 20 children at Kalikolehua – El Sistema Hawaii’s Kuhio Park Terrace site, and 100 elderly care home residents. The additional Kauai visit was made possible through a Grant-in-Aid from the Hawaii State Legislature.
- HYS disbursed over **\$27,000 in Financial Aid** and Scholarships, including travel reimbursements for neighbor island students.

## High Standards Lead to Lifelong Benefits

Lifelong Learning, Musical Excellence • Increasing Community Connections

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*“Hawaii Youth Symphony believes in the transformational power of music for those in the audience, as well as those performing on stage. We are committed to each of our students, to ensure each has the potential to become the best she or he can be. None of this would be possible without your generosity and support. On behalf of the HYS Board of Directors, THANK YOU!”*

*—Richard K. Ing,  
President*

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The demands of weekly rehearsals, multiple performances, challenging repertoire, and world-class guest artists encourage students to develop responsibility, organization, commitment, self-confidence and poise. HYS educates its young people through the tutelage of dedicated faculty who hold students to a high degree of professionalism.

Additionally, HYS opened its doors for masterclasses and residencies, making it possible for the general public to benefit from our passionate guests.

- Students in our Symphony Program collectively rehearsed an average of **120 hours**, performed **22 concerts**, and premiered **two new works**.
- Collaborations with **Kalapana, Toby Oft, Hawaii Youth Opera Chorus, Midori, GaHyun Cho**, and **Marlene Sai** set high standards for musical excellence and responsibility.
- **Four masterclasses**—performance demonstrations & lectures by respected scholars—were presented by HYS and open to the general public.
- All *three* of Hawaii’s **Presidential Scholars** were seniors in Youth Symphony I this year!



## Cultivating Passion & Broadening Our Reach

A Future for Music • Increase Our Community Connections & Footprint, Building Core Constituencies, Establish HYS as a Global Center

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*“Hawaii Youth Symphony holds a special place in the community. We are known as an organization that hones students’ musical abilities, opens their eyes to different kinds of music, and gives them the chance to befriend and perform with others who share their passions.*

*Each student also grows individually, as a person. The students develop maturity and responsibility, including empathy and appreciation for others’ points of view. When students take this step—that is, going beyond the music, I tell them they are going ‘beyond’ beyond.”*

*—Henry Miyamura,  
Music Director & Maestro*

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“How do we cultivate passion and inspire youth?”

HYS believes that passion is built through organizational commitment to plan & implement meaningful experiences, beyond those possible at individual schools. We seek to stretch boundaries and advance the status quo, such that every child touched by our organization can benefit from our advocacy and outreach.

Here are some examples of unique HYS experiences in previous and upcoming seasons:

- **MusicAlive** is our annual **Neighbor Island Community Service Tour**, in which Youth Symphony I performs free concerts and Listen & Learn services on a different island each year. HYS subsidizes the entire cost of the tour, so that all orchestra members can participate and serve.
- A partnership with **Hawaii Public Radio** makes it possible for HYS performances to be heard on the radio. Concert broadcasts publicly celebrate and validate our students’ musicianship, and increase accessibility to the neighbor islands and other rural communities.
- **From The Top**, a nationally broadcast program on **NPR**, is coming to Honolulu and will feature Youth Symphony I on December 2, 2016. The program highlights America’s rising youth classical musicians, and HYS was selected to perform! Students will also participate in an arts leadership training led by the *From The Top* educational staff.
- Our **Music in the Clubhouse** partnership with the **Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii** believes that all children can achieve in music, and encourages an exploratory environment in which every child learns to read music, sing, and play an instrument.
- Each season, **HYS commissions and premieres new works and orchestrations from top composers**, arrangers, and music producers. Not only does this practice introduce students to 21<sup>st</sup> century compositional practices, extended techniques, genre mashups, but working with a **living** composer brings new meaning when learning orchestral music!

## Music Education: An Investment in Hawaii’s Youth

Executing on our Mission & Vision • Revenue

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*“Over the past 51 years, Hawaii Youth Symphony has enriched the lives of thousands of Hawaii families. For many students, their HYS experience serves as a foundation for life-long learning; for some, it is a springboard to careers in music.*

*I am proud to count myself among the alumni who have learned, performed, and grown through Hawaii Youth Symphony.*

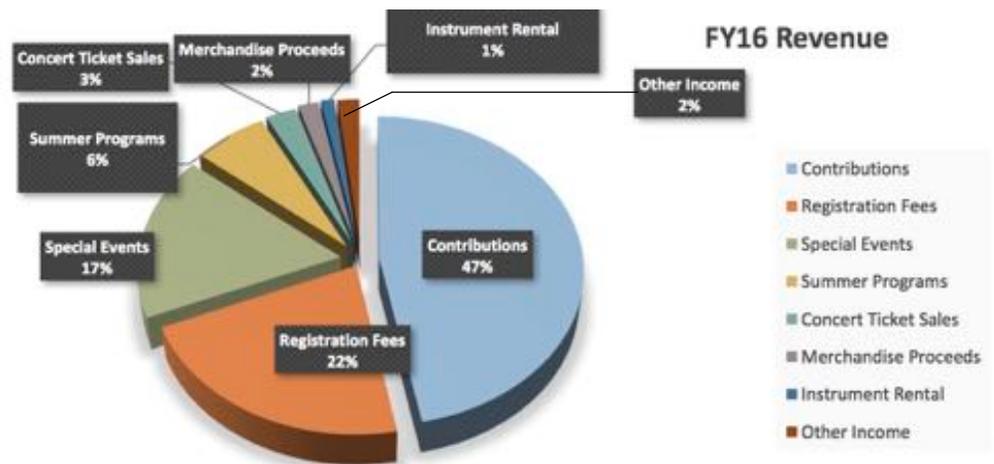
*Today’s youth inspire me to carry on the mission of this great organization. It is a privilege to help perpetuate and grow this organization’s legacy of excellence.”*  
 —Randy Wong,  
 Executive Director

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The cost of music education is often cited as a barrier to participation. The accumulated hassle of buying or renting an instrument, keeping up with instrument maintenance, taking private lessons, obtaining sheet music, and so forth, carries a stigma and price tag many families would prefer to skip. In recognition of this, HYS has long been committed to keeping its tuition reasonable, so that cost is a lesser factor in families’ consideration of music program enrollment.

Our commitment to making music education affordable and accessible was made possible through the generosity and support of funders like you! Thank you!

- **Tuition & Registration Fees** made up **only 22%** (\$192,345) of our revenue (\$885,408). Tuition ranged from \$25 to \$595 depending on the particular program. The actual cost per student is much higher!
- **Contributions**, including foundation grants, donor-advised funds, and personal contributions, made up 47% of our revenue.
- **Ticket Sales** were not a major driver for us, because the majority of our concerts are free and open to the public.



## Music Education: An Investment in Hawaii's Youth

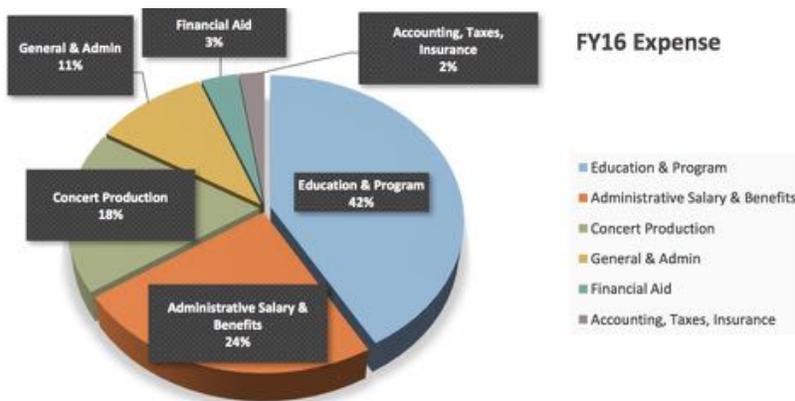
Executing on our Mission & Vision • Expense



HYS's longevity is testament to the quality standards we strive to uphold, in terms of production and efficiency. As mentioned on page 4, we believe deeply in executing meaningful experiences. Keeping high standards builds our reputation, develops our professional connections, and engages students, teachers, and parents alike.

Both the City & County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii partner and support HYS each year, and through these relationships, HYS provides students unique access to opportunities unavailable to school programs.

- Concert Production**, which includes venue rental, union labor, equipment rental, guest artist fees/travel expenses, special events, and print collateral, accounted for **18%** (\$144,120) of our operating expenses (\$801,682). Several concerts each season are presented at Blaisdell Concert Hall, the city's most prominent hall, and the only facility on Oahu specifically designed for orchestral performances.
- \$27,463 was disbursed in **Financial Aid** to 60+ families. Nearly every family who applied received some form of aid.
- Education & Program** support (\$333,874) is naturally our largest expense. All of our music faculty are paid employees; we strive to pay competitive salaries to maintain our stable of conductors. The purchasing of orchestral scores/parts, new commissions, our instrument library, the cost of travel for our MusicAlive trip, workshops, rehearsal facility rentals, and the Pacific Music Institute fall into this category.



## Closing Message from the Executive Director

### Executing on our Mission & Vision



*Randy Wong*

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In closing, we sincerely thank you for your support and trust in Hawaii Youth Symphony. With each passing day, we get closer to our dreams of a Hawaii where every child learns to play a musical instrument, engages in lifelong musical learning, and experiences the timeless values of music appreciation.

We are often asked about **near- and long-term challenges**, and how we are planning to address them. As a nonprofit in a challenging landscape for the arts, **one of the biggest challenges is in the securing of operational funding**. We are continually seeking new and diverse revenue sources, such as applying to new foundations and exploring new grant opportunities. Expansion on our Board of Directors enables us to expand on connections and partnerships.

We are also cognizant of the importance of **succession planning**. As a small organization, every employee covers a lot of ground, and we rely on “all hands on deck” in order to keep things running smoothly. A succession plan was developed by the board, and it will help to ensure that our key positions, whether faculty, staff, or volunteers, are covered in case of crisis.

Our strategic plan also encourages **staff development**, opportunities for faculty to shape curriculum, and board recruitment; all of which are vital to the health and welfare of our organization.

In the upcoming season, HYS will be represented in a national initiative by the **League of American Orchestras**, the **Emerging Leaders Program**. The program will give me the opportunity to network with other executive directors & senior management in the orchestral field, learn best-practices for non-profit governance, and present at the national conference.

It’s an honor to represent HYS on the national stage, and I look forward to bringing this learning back home to HYS and helping our organization *learn, perform, and grow*.

On behalf of all of us at Hawaii Youth Symphony, **THANK YOU** for believing in us and our youth!

Sincerely,

  
Randy Wong, CFRE, ED.M  
Executive Director