



CONCERTS FOR YOUTH

Youth concert attendance maintained last year's level at 29,500 attendees from 167 schools across Western New York in 25 concerts. The accessibility initiative for the Family series increased attendance again (including from underrepresented audiences) to 5,780 attendees at 5 concerts.



2024-25

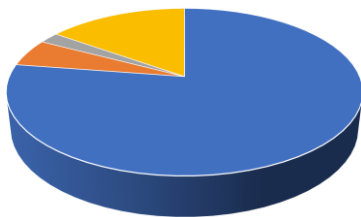
Education &
Community
Final
Report



SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY

BPO musicians and guest artists made an impact in the schools through Teaching Artist programs and special mentoring partnerships. The BPO's robust digital resources continued to be well-utilized by students and teachers, while the Community Spotlight & Symphony Hall Pass provided access to performances at Kleinhans Music Hall.

Attendance Youth and Family (38,223)



- Youth Concerts (29,585)
- School and Community Partnerships (2,036)
- Youth Development (822)
- Family Series (5,780)



**BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

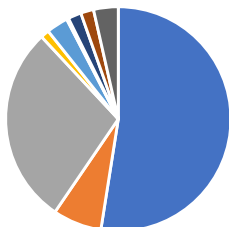
CONCERTS



We presented 25 youth concerts, conducted by **Assistant Conductor Fernanda Lastra**, serving over 29,500 young people. Our youth concert theme this year celebrated the **200th anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal** – a very important event in our local history. Students explored our Western New York heritage through a variety of musical selections, and finished the concert by singing the Erie Canal Song with the orchestra. Some highlights this year:

- Students from 167 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.
- The annual West Side Connection featuring Sphinx Competition winner, 14-year-old cellist Sonya Moomaw was enjoyed by more than 1,200 Buffalo high schoolers. The concert was captured for digital viewing as well.
- 810 people in the disability community were served through specially designed interactive concerts, including one at St. Mary's School for the Deaf, one Exceptional Holiday concert at Kleinhans and a chamber performance at Buffalo Public School #84 at ECMC.
- 3,283 Middle and High School students attended the Coffee Concerts and select evening shows with their school groups.

24-25 Youth Concert Attendance (29,585)



- Buffalo Public Schools (15,398)
- Erie County Public Schools (8,383)
- Chautauqua/Cattaraugus/Allegany Public Schools (914)
- Charter Schools (557)
- Other: homeschool, disability services, out of state (1,038)
- Catholic Schools (2,058)
- Niagara/Orleans County Public Schools (362)
- Genesee/Wyoming County Public Schools (83)
- WNY Private Schools (545)



Buffalo Public School #84 at ECMC enjoyed a chamber ensemble of BPO musicians performing two interactive concerts in the spring. Every student in the school was invited to listen, sing along and get up close to the instruments. This public school serves students with a range of disabilities and a lot of love for music!



School and Community Partnerships

Teaching Artists

BPO musician teaching artists made 39 visits to 22 different schools and community centers, serving a total of 1,509 people. Visits included instrumental workshops and coachings, classroom programs and professional development clinics for music educators.

Some highlights:

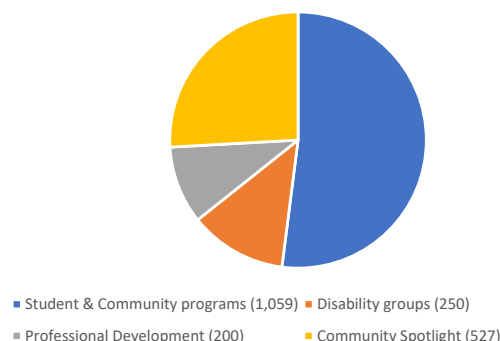
- **A residency** at all four Lancaster elementary schools.
- Seven **professional development workshops** for educators, which included presentations at the WNY Music Educators Conference and the BOCES Arts in Education Day.
- **Partnerships with two community centers:** King Urban Life Center on the East Side and Seneca Street Community Development Corporation in the Seneca-Babcock neighborhood.
- Two performances at **Buffalo Public School #84 at ECMC** introducing all 160 students to the instrument families and a wide range of music. This public school serves students with a range of disabilities in a health care setting.
- Presentations for our **littlest learners at several preschools.**

Community Spotlight

21 school and community groups participated in these pre-concert performances, showcasing a total of 527 performers. In addition, over 935 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, 75 performers from Buffalo Suzuki Strings had the opportunity to meet with violin guest artist Juliana Athayde. Many BPO musicians also make themselves available to meet with Spotlight groups.

People Served (2,036)



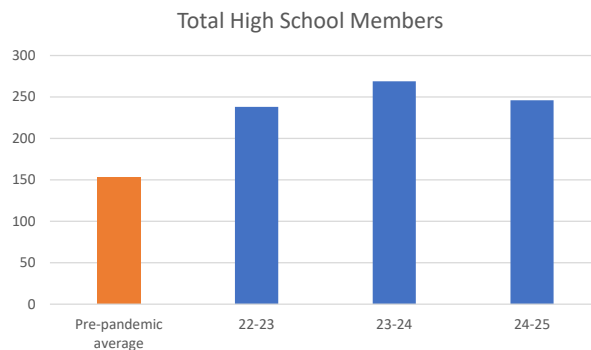
Youth Development

During the 2024-25 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

With a strong focus on recruitment over the last few years this program serving high school musicians has really grown. This year had **246 members** from 38 different schools, compared with our pre-pandemic average of 150 members from 25 schools! Participating students get a ticket to most BPO concerts, as well as invitations to special guest artist meet-and-greets and other backstage opportunities. **Members used 510 tickets for 38 concerts throughout the season**, building a strong bond with their orchestra.



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 14 Advanced Ensemble students at BSW's West Side location – **a total of 92 lessons!**

The BPO also brought **Sphinx Artist Sonya Moomaw** to work with the students, and we donated concert tickets to each Classics, Pops and Family concert for BSW students and families, which resulted in **132 tickets** used throughout the season.

Side by Side Mentoring

As part of the BPO's side by side experience with students from the **Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra (GBYO)** and the **Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts (BAVPA)**, the student musicians got time with BPO coaches in preparation for the concert. Our work with BAVPA is especially robust, involving school visits many months in advance of the concert. Rehearsals and coachings were given by **Fernanda Lastra and seven BPO musicians beginning in February and progressing up until the concert in early May**. This is a very important part of the side by side experiences and the students receive individualized attention in their development.

Masterclasses

BPO guest artists were once again featured in the free BPO Masterclasses series, **serving 17 young performers and over 120 attendees**. Vocalist Susan Platts, pianist Clayton Stephenson, violinist Andrea Ciccalese and saxophonist Timothy McAllister all took time to share their insights with our local students in front of an audience. The masterclasses are free and open to the public.



Increasing Access



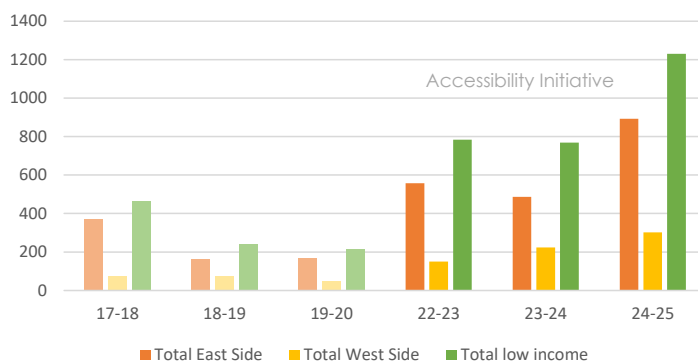
Our goal is to ensure access for young people, to build the next generation of musicians and audience members.

For Families

In order to break down barriers to attending the BPO Kids family series, a **radical accessibility initiative** has been implemented for the last three years. Aspects included a flat \$7 ticket price, free parking, and added supports for families with children that have disabilities or are on the autism spectrum. The results have been truly striking, proving that these efforts help the BPO reach our full community, including those from underrepresented areas.

While there has been a big jump in attendance overall (an all time high of over 5,700 attendees), the accessibility pricing has also **increased access, leading to greater representation**. We saw a large increase in ticket buyers from City of Buffalo Zip codes that are historically underrepresented in BPO sales, and from low income Zip codes as indicated by US Census data. In fact, the single ticket buyers from these zip codes tripled from the 18-19 season to 24-25 season.

Ticket Sales - Underrepresented Zip codes



4by4 Initiative

The BPO was proud to participate in the 4by4 Initiative, welcoming City of Buffalo 4th graders and their families to select Buffalo cultural institutions free of charge. **105 tickets to BPO concerts** were utilized by families from underrepresented Zip codes through this initiative.

Digital Resources for All

Music for Youth Education Hub

Free digital resources feature:

- 145 videos with 11,640 new views (3,700 more than last year)
- Used by 332 teachers from 242 schools, representing all 8 counties of WNY.
- Users from other states including PA, MA, WV, TX, CA, GA and FL.
- #PlayOnWNY and #SingOnWNY demo videos remain popular with 10,104 new views
- A total of over 52,000 views since the project's inception in 2020.

THANK YOU



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