THE COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT

1977-2017

The Columbia Orchestra
8510 High Ridge Road
Ellicott City, MD 20143
410-465-8777

2017-18 SEASON
THE COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA

2017-18 SUBSCRIPTION SERIES

SIBELIUS & CHAPLIN
10/7/17, 7:30pm
Smetana: The Moldau
Simpson: Charlie Chaplin’s The Immigrant
Sibelius: Symphony No. 2

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE
12/2/17, 7:30pm
Adams: The Chairman Dances
Rodrigo: Concierto de Araniuex
William Feasley, guitar
Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique

BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS
1/27/18, 7:30pm
Fulton: Deadlock
Shodekeh, beatboxer/vocal percussionist
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3
Michael Sheppard, piano
Brahms: Symphony No. 2

SYMPHONIC POPS
4/14/18, 7:30pm; 4/15/18, 3:00pm
Music from Rodgers & Hammerstein and Stephen Sondheim, as well as blockbuster hits from your favorite films.
Sola Fadiran, vocalist

THE FRENCH CONNECTION
5/19/18, 7:30pm
Dukas: Sorcerer’s Apprentice
Ravel: Daphnis & Chloe; Bolero
Debussy: Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
All subscription concerts are held at the Jim Rouse Theatre.

FAMILY SERIES

FAMILY HOLIDAY CONCERT
12/16/17, 10:30am
Jim Rouse Theatre
Christmas carols, Hannukah songs, and highlights from The Nutcracker with Dance Connections
Adults: $15; Students: $10

YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERTS
3/17/18, 10:30am & 1:00pm
Jim Rouse Theatre
Saint-Saëns: Carnival of the Animals
Greg Jukes, narrator; Dance Connections
Age 12 & up: $15; Age 11 & under: Free

CHAMBER SERIES – FREE!
Small ensembles of the Orchestra perform great chamber works.
10/29/17, 3:00pm
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Fulton
2/11/18, 3:00pm
Glenelg United Methodist Church, Glenelg
6/10/18, 3:00pm
Howard County Center for the Arts Blackbox

OPEN REHEARSAL SERIES – FREE!
A behind-the-scenes peek at the rehearsal process on Monday nights at 7:30.
9/18/17; 11/13/17; 1/8/18
The Gathering Place, Clarksville

CHAPLIN’S “THE GOLD RUSH” AT AFI SILVER
11/4/17, 7:30pm; 11/5/17, 3:00pm

SUMMER POPS CONCERT
Chrysalis, Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods
June 2018

www.columbiaorchestra.org  410-650-8777
Highlights of the Season

During the 2017-2018 Season, the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band continued to delight the Howard County community through orchestral, chamber, educational, and jazz band concerts. Our four classical subscription concerts featured works ranging from Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2 to Berlioz’s Symphonie Fantastique to Ravel’s Bolero. World-class soloists included William Feasley as guitar soloist for Rodrigo’s Concerto de Aranjuez and Michael Sheppard performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3. In honor of its 40th Anniversary season, the orchestra commissioned and performed the world premiere of Andrew Earle Simpson’s music to accompany Charlie Chaplin’s 1917 film The Immigrant, and it conducted a special “Taste the Music” celebration, which paired Italian food with music selected for the occasion and played by members of the orchestra. We also conducted our annual Young Artist Competition, performed at the American Film Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland, introduced a new Family Holiday Concert in December, performed our Symphonic Pops Concert in April, and ended the season in June with a free outdoor Pops Concert at the Chrysalis amphitheater in Merriweather Park at Columbia’s Symphony Woods. Our educational outreach included Young People’s Concerts, programs at local pre-schools, and our in-school performance for Howard County elementary school students. In addition, members of the orchestra performed chamber music concerts during the season, and the Columbia Jazz Band performed seven public concerts and private events throughout the Baltimore-Washington area.

More than 15,000 area residents attended one of our classical concerts by members of the orchestra or one of the Columbia Jazz Band’s events. This annual report details the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band’s remarkable achievements this past season and provides a preview of our exciting programs for the 2018-2019 Season. We hope you had the opportunity to join us at some of these performances and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming classical and jazz concerts.

Robert deLeon
President, Board of Directors
The Columbia Orchestra
Pursuing the Mission

Provide the community with high-quality musical performances

The Columbia Orchestra’s 2017-2018 Season included four classical concerts, Young People’s and Family Concert programs, Symphonic Pops Concerts, a “rock” concert on the Columbia Lakefront, a performance in conjunction with the American Film Institute, and a chamber series. The Columbia Jazz Band performed seven concerts at venues throughout the Baltimore-Washington area.

During its subscription concert series, the Columbia Orchestra, under Jason Love’s direction, performed programs featuring traditional masterpieces that audiences would have otherwise had to travel to Baltimore or Washington to hear. Programs included some of the best-known and well-liked symphonies of classical music: Brahms’ cheerful Symphony No. 2, Sibelius’ lushly romantic Symphony No. 2, and Berlioz’s dramatic Symphonie Fantastique. In addition, the final concert of the season highlighted shorter favorites of the repertoire: Dukas’ Sorcerer’s Apprentice, Debussy’s Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun, and Ravel’s second Daphnis & Chloe suite and ever-popular Bolero. These well-known works were paired with newer compositions, including John Adams’ energetic The Chairman Dances and Ruby Fulton’s Deadlock I. The orchestra’s programs also featured outstanding soloists, including guitarist William Feasley in Rodrigo’s Concierto de Araniuez and pianist Michael Sheppard performing Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3. Maestro Love brought dedication and enthusiasm to the podium to lead the orchestra to an outstanding level of excellence.

With the 2017-2018 season being the 40th Anniversary season of the orchestra, there were also several special elements to the season. In honor of this milestone season, the orchestra commissioned Andrew Earle Simpson to compose a new work, music to accompany Charlie Chaplin’s 1917 silent film The Immigrant. The orchestra performed this world premiere at its October 7, 2017 concert while the audience viewed the film in Rouse Theatre. The season also included an example of Maestro Love’s innovative programming when the orchestra performed Ruby Fulton’s Deadlock I. This concerto for vocal percussionist and orchestra, based on the play-by-play for a chess game, featured virtuoso beatboxer Shodekeh providing unbelievable verbal sounds to the delight of the audience. Another special event in honor of the orchestra’s 40th Anniversary season was the “Taste the Music” celebration. This Sunday evening at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville, Maryland, offered a distinctive cultural and culinary experience, with members of the orchestra performing chamber music specially selected by

Beatboxer Shodekeh provided vocal percussion for Ruby Fulton’s Deadlock I
Maestro Love to be paired with the Italian food and wine. This special event was attended by 110 individuals. Attendees praised the delicious food catered by Putting on the Ritz and welcomed the opportunity to socialize with other Columbia Orchestra friends and new acquaintances. The overall event was made possible with the help of a generous grant from PNC Bank.

Arguably the orchestra’s most popular concerts with audience members each season are the Symphonic Pops programs. The April Symphonic Pops concert offered music from *Fiddler on the Roof* and Bernstein’s *Candide*. Vocal soloists Julie Kurzava and Sola Fadiran also performed two sets of Broadway songs, the first from Rodgers and Hammerstein shows and the second from Steven Sondheim musicals. In addition, the program included two of the winners of the orchestra’s Young Artist Competition and ended with music of John Williams. Because of the sell-out attendance of past years, a second Sunday-afternoon repeat performance was held this year. In December, the orchestra also introduced a new Family Holiday Concert, which featured the sounds of Christmas, Hanukkah, and other “winter” favorites. Members of Dance Connections participated in selections from Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* ballet. The orchestra played to a sold-out audience for the concert.

The Symphonic Pops and Holiday concerts provide an avenue for reaching an audience beyond that of the orchestra’s traditional classical subscription series. The broadening of the audience reach is an area of keen interest for the organization. An additional way of attracting a wider audience is through free outdoor concerts. On June 19, 2018 the orchestra partnered with the Columbia Festival of the Arts to present such a concert at the Chrysalis amphitheater in Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods. The concert was sponsored by Baltimore Washington Financial Advisors, with additional support from the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission, the Inner Arbor Trust, the Rotary Club of Columbia/Patuxent, and Howard County Tourism. Audience members brought their lawn chairs to settle back and listen to music from John Williams’ film scores, hits by Billy Joel, music from *Game of Thrones* and *Wonder Woman*, and patriotic songs. Vocalists Frédéric Rey and Julie Hiscox sang songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber

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A light show illuminated the musicians and backdrop during the Orchestra’s October 1, 2018 Lakefront performance in celebration of Columbia’s 50th Birthday.

released in 1967 (Columbia’s birthday year), along with other hits from the 70s, 80s, 90s and today. The music was accompanied by a light show produced by Ken Farmer of Wild Dogs International. The psychedelic lighting played off the trees, fountain, and buildings that served as a backdrop for the performers. The outdoor concerts introduced the Columbia Orchestra to members of the community who would not otherwise know about the Orchestra or in some cases have exposure to any type of orchestral ensemble.

Artistic and organizational collaborations also continued to be a focus for the orchestra during the 2017-2018 Season. The orchestra partnered with Dance Connections for both Saint-Saëns’ Carnival of the Animals at the March Young People’s Concert and for its performance of selections from The Nutcracker at the December Holiday Concert. Furthermore, the orchestra continued its collaborative arrangement with the American Film Institute when it accompanied Charlie Chaplin’s film The Gold Rush in November 2017.

Of course the most significant organizational partnership this season was between the Columbia Orchestra and the Columbia Jazz Band (CJB). This partnership began during the 2016-2017 Season. With the Jazz Band now under the Columbia Orchestra umbrella, the overall organization is presenting a jazz series in tandem with the Columbia Orchestra’s symphonic orchestral and chamber series. Beginning with the 2017-2018 Season, the leadership of Jazz Band transitioned to jazz pianist and brass musician Fred Hughes, who previously was a pianist and soloist for the Jazz Ambassadors. He was also the Assistant Director of Jazz Studies at Shepherd College and is the author of the book “The Jazz Pianist: Left Hand Voicings and Chord Theory.” Fred is a composer and has an active performing...
schedule with the Fred Hughes Trio, which has eight recordings to its credit. Under his leadership, the Columbia Jazz Band is taking on more challenging works, including original charts instead of arrangements, and is increasing its level of excellence.

During the season, the Columbia Jazz Band performed seven concerts, reaching a total audience of approximately 1,400. The Jazz Band season opened in September with a concert at the Columbia Lakefront. In November, the Jazz Band performed at Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church and in December it performed at the Howard County Historical Society as part of the Music in the Museum concert series, where a portion of the proceeds benefited the Howard County Historical Society. The band performed at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival in Rockville in February 2018. On April 27, 2018 the Jazz Band presented “April in Paris: The Music of Count Basie.” This event was the Columbia Jazz Band’s first concert where it sold tickets (rather than the concert being free or a contracted service for another organization). The production of this concert was made possible in large part by the partnership with the orchestra, with the band leveraging the orchestra’s marketing, ticketing, and administrative services in support of the concert. The concert was held at Slayton House in Columbia. Original arrangements by Count Basie were performed, with video backdrops displayed during some of the numbers. The capacity audience was enthusiastic, and a repeat performance is planned early next season at the Chrysalis. The Jazz Band’s season concluded with two additional free concerts, one in May at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Fulton, and the second in June at the Columbia Lakefront.

The combination of diverse programming and collaboration with other arts organizations allowed the Columbia Orchestra, in its historic 40th season, to continue to reach out to
an increasingly diverse population. In partnership with the Columbia Jazz Band, now in its 29th season, the Columbia Orchestra has been able to broaden community awareness of both organizations. Through its classical and pops concerts, family concerts, educational concerts, and chamber concerts, the orchestra reached 14,000 area residents. The orchestra sold a record 406 season subscriptions and broke attendance records for the Young People’s Concert and the May Subscription concert. The Jazz Band performed to a total audience of approximately 1,400 at venues throughout the Baltimore-Washington area, with sold-out attendance at its first ticketed concert in April, demonstrating the advantage of the increased exposure obtained from joint marketing efforts with the Orchestra.

This success in drawing a growing number of loyal audience members was facilitated by the orchestra’s electronic and social media presence. The orchestra’s website: www.columbiaorchestra.org presents a professional face for the organization, and it continues to attract new visitors and now serves as the primary medium for concert ticket sales. The orchestra also has a Facebook page that continues to draw new followers, with 138 new “likes” during the season, bringing the total to 932. Other electronic media tools used by the orchestra included Twitter, Certifikid, and Constant Contact. On its part, the Jazz Band maintains its own webpage (www.ColumbiaJazzBand.org) and has a Facebook page that had 103 followers at the end of the season. The orchestra also reached out to new and underserved individuals within the community by providing complimentary tickets to Veteran Tickets Foundation and providing discounted tickets through schools, regional youth orchestras, music teachers, and local music stores. Sold-out (or nearly sold-out) concerts and a record number of subscribers during the season clearly demonstrate that the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band have become part of the cultural life of Howard County.

Maestro Jason Love
Music Director of
The Columbia Orchestra

Much of the recent success of the Columbia Orchestra is attributable to the untiring efforts of Music Director, Jason Love. Now in his nineteenth year as Music Director, he has been praised for his “intelligent and innovative programming” by the Baltimore Sun, which also observed that “Love has the musicians playing not only with verve and passion, but with an awareness to enter into the emotional core of the works they perform.” Maestro Love was the 2013 Winner of the American Prize for Orchestral Programming, a past winner of the “Howie” Award, which recognizes achievement in the arts in Howard County, and the 2017 winner of the Peabody Award for Contributions to Music in Maryland.

Love was Artistic Director of the Greater Baltimore Youth Orchestras (now the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras) for thirteen years, and Music Director of the New Horizons Chamber Ensemble, a new-music group, for five years. He has guest conducted a wide variety of ensembles including the Baltimore Symphony, Washington Sinfonietta, Hopkins Chamber Orchestra, Bismarck-Mandan Symphony, Maryland Classic Youth Chamber Orchestra, and RUCKUS, a contemporary music ensemble at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, where he taught conducting for seven years.

As a cellist Mr. Love has performed a wide array of concertos with orchestras, including the North Carolina premiere of Tan Dun’s multi-media work, The Map. His many chamber recitals include work with the Columbia Orchestra Piano Trio. A highly respected educator, Mr. Love also served as conductor of the Repertory Orchestra of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony in Annapolis, MD for four years and served on the faculty of the Governor’s School of North Carolina for eleven years, where he taught Twentieth-Century music, philosophy, and other subjects to academically gifted high school students. He has adjudicated and guest conducted music Festivals around the country.
40 Years of Performance Milestones

2017 - Over 200 attend concert at the new Chrysalis in Symphony Woods
2016 - Partnership with Columbia Jazz Band
2016 - Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony
2015 - First Commission: Simpson’s “One Week”
2014 – Partnership with AFI Silver Theater
2013 - Katherine Keefe, Executive Director
2012 - Reserved seating in Rouse Theatre
2011 – In-school concerts with HCPSS
2009 – Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring
2008 - 3-concert Chamber Series

2005 – 1st commercial recording with John Denver Band
2003 – Nursery/Pre-school program
2003 – Musical Instrument Petting Zoo
2002 – Pre-concert lectures
2000 - Tedd Griepentrog, 1st paid Exec. Dir.
1999 - Jason Love, Music Director
1997 - www.ColumbiaOrchestra.org
1993 – “Peter and the Wolf” introduced at Family Concerts
1990 - Cathy Ferguson, Music Director
1988 - Karl Dietrich, Music Director
1988 - CCO becomes Columbia Orchestra
Dec 1983 - First CCO concert with winds (Haydn Clock Symphony)

1980
Feb 1979 - First public CCO concert
Fall 1978 - Yong Ku Ahn, First Music Director
Spring 1978 - First concert of the Columbia Chamber Orchestra at the Howard County Arts Council Spring meeting (no conductor)
Fall 1977 – Decision to form an orchestra
Classical music education is a key element of the Columbia Orchestra’s mission, and the introduction of classical music and the instruments of the orchestra to young people is a primary part of that educational element. The annual Young People’s Concert, free to children ages eleven years and under thanks to a grant from The Gaffin Group, was held at Rouse Theatre in March 2017. A record-breaking capacity audience of 1,471 attended the two performances. The orchestra performed Saint-Saëns’ *Carnival of the Animals*, with Dance Connections, a local ballet company with members ages 7 through 18 illustrating the Ogdon Nash poems recited imaginatively by performer Greg Jukes. Jukes also narrated the orchestra’s performance of Russell Peck’s *The Thrill of the Orchestra*, an entertaining work that colorfully demonstrates the instruments of the orchestra and how they are played. In addition, in partnership with Music and Arts, the orchestra offered a “Musical Instrument Petting Zoo” between the 10:30 am and 1:00 pm concerts and gave attendees the opportunity to see, touch, and play orchestral instruments.

The new Family Holiday Concert in December was developed with the same audience in mind as the Young People’s Concerts, but with a program that would appeal to patrons of all ages. The orchestra performed music of Christmas and Hanukkah and other short winter-themed works (including several audience sing-alongs). Dance Connections also joined the orchestra for this concert for selections from Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. Audience response to this new event, which sold out in advance, was enthusiastic.

The orchestra continued its partnership with the Howard County Public School System to bring a high-quality symphonic orchestra concert to third-grade students during the school day. The program consisted of two 45-minute performances on April 27, 2017. Approximately 1,440 students from twelve Howard County Elementary Schools attended the two performances in Rouse Theatre Auditorium in this seventh year of the program. Rather than presenting pieces written specifically for children’s concerts, the orchestra played short orchestral masterpieces of different styles, including *Finlandia* by Sibelius, Mozart’s *Overture to the Impresario*, and *Conga del Fuego Nuevo* by Arturo Marquez. The concert was a highly interactive experience tailored to the third-grade music curriculum and developed in conjunction with the Howard County music department.
Small chamber groups from the orchestra also provided in-school “Meet the Instruments” and “Music from Around the World” programs at seven childcare centers and the Miller Branch of the Howard County Public Library, reaching over 730 preschool students during the season. The goal of these programs is to promote an early interest in classical music among the youngest members of our community. Furthermore, the orchestra partnered with Howard County Public Schools, regional youth orchestras, local music stores, and area music instructors to provide special offers to encourage students to attend orchestra performances. Through these initiatives, the orchestra reached a record-breaking total student attendance of 4,714 during the season.

The orchestra provided a valuable performance experience for older youth through the Young Artist Competition, which exposes students to the competition process and provides constructive feedback on their performances. The competition, which this year attracted thirty-nine of the area’s finest young musicians, is open to all students of string, wind, and percussion instruments through 12th grade who reside, attend school, or receive musical instruction in Howard County. This year’s Junior Division winners were Amy Hwang, an eighth-grade student at Folly Quarter Middle School, who performed Chaminade’s *Flute Concertino in D Major*, and Joseph Tao, a sixth-grade student at West Middle School, who performed the first movement of Mendelssohn’s *Violin Concerto in E Minor*. Senior Division winners were Matthew Miller, a sophomore at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, who performed Kalliwoda’s *Oboe Concertino in F Major*, and violinist Megan Rabe, a senior at River Hill High School, who performed Sarasate’s *Introduction and Tarantella*. The Junior Division winners were featured on the April Symphonic Pops Concert, and the Senior Division winners performed at the May Subscription Concert. Each of the winners received a check from the Shirley Mullinix Memorial Fund.

Educational activities extended to adult members of the community as well through the free pre-concert Prelude Series, offered immediately prior to each classical subscription concert. Howard Community College music historian Bill Scanlan Murphy provided his unique insights into the lives and works of the featured composers. In addition, the orchestra held two open rehearsals during the season. These events provide greater insight into not only the works being performed but also show how an orchestra prepares for concerts. Approximately 120 patrons received these behind-the-scenes peeks into the creative and collaborative process of putting a concert together and were able to hear Maestro Love’s interpretations unfold with the musicians of the orchestra in a real working rehearsal, mistakes and all. The relaxed atmosphere also provided the opportunity for the attendees to sit among the performers and to enjoy wine and cheese with the musicians at their break.
The Columbia Orchestra began in the fall of 1977 when a handful of local string players began performing classical music as the Columbia Chamber Orchestra. A primary goal then, as it is now, was for adult amateur instrumentalists to experience the joy of classical music performance. Now, 40 years later, the Columbia Orchestra is a full symphony orchestra, with more than 100 musicians participating during the year in full-orchestra concerts, chamber music performances, and educational activities. Subscription concert programs range from standard orchestral masterworks to cutting-edge compositions, exposing many of the musicians to repertoire with which they were previously unfamiliar. A series of three chamber concerts, which reached 315 audience members this past season, also gave the orchestra’s members the opportunity to perform chamber works by Beethoven, Schubert, Smetana, Bernard Herrmann and others on a more intimate level with a small group of fellow musicians.

Furthermore, with the addition of the Jazz Band to the overall organization, players who enjoy performing a range of jazz styles are given a similar outlet within the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band organization. The challenging repertoire and diverse performing opportunities offered by both groups attract and retain some of the most skilled musicians in Howard and surrounding counties. Ongoing auditions have raised the quality and size of both ensembles. The members of the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band volunteer not only their time for rehearsals and concerts but also hours of practice between rehearsals. These musicians include individuals from all walks of life: doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, and others who work in the local community. They come together to rehearse once a week, forgetting their day jobs for two-and-a-half hours to create the harmony of a musical ensemble – either a symphony orchestra or a jazz band. Former Howard County Executive Jim Robey, while introducing the orchestra in 2006, provided a characterization that applies equally well to the Jazz Band. He stated: “This is our orchestra, our county’s orchestra. When you hear them, it’s hard to believe that these people aren’t professional musicians, but people from all walks of life who simply enjoy making music.”
40 Years of Columbia Orchestra Growth

Yong Ku Ahn (1978-1988)

The Columbia Chamber Orchestra (Early 1980s)

Karl Dietrich (1988-1990)

Cathy Ferguson (1990-1999)

200 Musicians on Stage In May 2016 for Mahler’s Resurrection Symphony

Jason Love (1999-Present)

Income by FY ($K)

Total Orchestra Audience Size by Fiscal Year
Financial Summary and Partnerships

The orchestra continued to operate from a solid financial foundation during the 2017-2018 Season. Total income (not including restricted contributions) increased by 18 percent, growing from $253,000 in FY17 to $299,000 in FY18. Individual contributions increased by 5 percent and Government and Foundation grants grew by 8 percent. However, the largest contributors to the income growth were a 32 percent increase in ticket income (due to the new Family Holiday Concert, the 40th Anniversary Taste the Music event, and the April 2018 Columbia Jazz Band ticketed concert). The one-time Columbia’s 50th Birthday concert in October 2018 also added to the increased income.

FY18 Income and Expenses

The accompanying tables compare actual income and expenses for the season to the original budget of $247,958. In several cases, actual amounts exceeded budgeted amounts by 20 percent or more. This discrepancy is most obvious in the case of concert expenses, where several events – the Columbia’s 50th Birthday concert, the Taste the Music event, and the June Chrysalis concert – were not anticipated when the budget was originally approved. Advertising expenses were also higher than expected because of the need to market the Taste the Music event. However, the costs associated with these events were offset by additional targeted income from corporate donations, foundation support, and contracted service fees, income categories that all exceeded original budgeted amounts. The Taste the Music event also brought in additional ticket income. Otherwise, actual income and expenses were generally in line with budgeted amounts. Overall, the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band ended the year with a net fiscal year operating fund surplus of $2,226, which was applied toward the organization’s cash reserves. Cash assets at the end of the fiscal year totaled $101,643 in general operating funds, plus $35,163 in the Mullinix Fund, which is used to pay winners of the Young Artist Competition.
During the 2017-2018 Season, two government granting organizations were among the most significant in helping the orchestra financially – the Howard County Arts Council and the Maryland State Arts Council – although all of the partnering organizations were important in providing operating funds for the orchestra. The Howard County Arts Council was the largest source of revenue, providing grants totaling $44,606 – a $37,458 general operating grant and a $7,148 Rouse Theatre Subsidy. The orchestra also received a grant of $14,400 from the Maryland State Arts Council. Additional foundation support was provided by the Community Foundation of Howard County and the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission. The Commission, along with Baltimore Washington Financial Advisors, the Columbia Festival of the Arts and Department of Recreation and Parks, Inner Arbor Trust, and the Rotary Club of Columbia/Patuxent, all provided critical support for the June Chrysalis pops concert. In addition, Christ Episcopal Church and Glenelg United Methodist Church provided venues for orchestra chamber concerts, and Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church continued their long-term hosting of Jazz Band concerts.
While government grants covered more than 20 percent of the orchestra’s operating expenses during the 2017-2018 Season, corporate donations were also critical. As indicated in the accompanying table, key corporate and business sponsors supported specific events during the season. Matching grants from Bank of America, Booz Allen Hamilton, Northrop Grumman, and other local companies provided additional support for the orchestra’s general operation. In addition, the orchestra partnered with Tino’s Bistro and Pizzeria Uno for fundraising days, during which portions of the proceeds were donated to the orchestra. In-kind donations from local restaurants, stores, companies, and arts organizations also were valuable. Many of the in-kind contributions served as prizes for the orchestra’s fundraising raffles.
To supplement concert admissions and government and corporate support, the Columbia Orchestra and Jazz Band, as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, turned to donations from members of the orchestra, band, and the community to provide additional funds to present its season of classical and jazz programs. More than $58,500 was raised through such private donations. Of course orchestra, band, and Board of Directors members also donated thousands of hours of their own time to ensure quality programs and smooth operation of the orchestra throughout the season.

With a projected FY19 annual budget of $273,644, the Board of Directors is continuing to work with existing partners and to aggressively pursue new corporate and foundation sponsors in accordance with the orchestra’s long range strategic plan.

Finally, the orchestra participates in a formal annual financial review by the independent accounting firm Huber & Weakland, which provides feedback on the organization’s financial practices, objectively evaluates its fiscal soundness, and increases the organization’s credibility with funding organizations.
A 40th Season of Successes

Artistic – Columbia Orchestra

- Performed cornerstones of the orchestral repertoire including Sibelius’ Symphony No. 2, Berlioz’s Symphonie Fantastique, and Brahms’ Symphony No. 2
- Introduced audiences to new works, including Andrew Earle Simpson’s new score to accompany Charlie Chaplin’s film The Immigrant and Ruby Fulton’s Deadlock I, which featured beatboxer Shodekeh
- Featured as guest artists guitarist William Feasley, pianist Michael Sheppard, narrator Greg Jukes, and vocalists Julie Kurzava, Sola Fadiran, Frédéric Rey, and Julie Hiscox
- Performed a free outdoor pops concert as part of the Columbia Festival of the Arts at the Chrysalis at Merriweather Park in Symphony Woods to an audience of 2,000
- As part of Columbia’s 50th Birthday Celebration, partnered with a regional rock band to present a concert featuring songs from the Beatles’ Sgt. Pepper’s and Magical Mystery Tour albums, both originally released in 1967, Columbia’s birthday year.
- Partnered with Dance Connections for the orchestra’s Young People’s Concert in March and a new Family Holiday Concert in December
- Held “Taste the Music” to celebrate the orchestra’s 40th Anniversary with a dinner of Italian cuisine with music from members of the Columbia Orchestra
- Participated in contracted service concerts with AFI Silver in Silver Spring to accompany Charlie Chaplin’s film The Gold Rush

Artistic – Columbia Jazz Band

- Welcomed pianist and educator Fred Hughes as the new Director for the Columbia Jazz Band
- Performed to audiences totaling approximately 1,400 at venues that included the Howard County Historical Society, the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, and the Columbia Lakefront
- Held the band’s first ticketed event “April in Paris: The Music of Count Basie” to a sold-out audience at Slayton House in Columbia
- Expanded the band’s repertoire to include original charts by Count Basie and Frank Sinatra and arrangements of various Christmas tunes by the band’s Fred Hughes and John Zontek

Audience Development

- Continued the growth in number of subscribers from FY17 (400) to FY18 (406)
- Added a second (Sunday afternoon) Pops Concert performance after last season’s sell-out crowd
- Had record-breaking attendance for the Young People’s Concert and May subscription concert

Financial

- Increased total ticket income for the Orchestra and Jazz Band by 34% to $96,982
- Increased contributed income by 8%, including a 5% increase in individual donations and an 8% increase in corporate donations
Looking Ahead

The 2017-2018 Season was the Columbia Orchestra’s 40th Anniversary Season, and the 2018-2019 will also be another special anniversary year, celebrating Music Director Jason Love’s twentieth year with the Columbia Orchestra. To commemorate this milestone, Maestro Love has programmed works of particular significance to his years with the orchestra. The orchestra will perform Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition* from Maestro Love’s first concert with the orchestra, and to reflect back on his tenth year, the orchestra will perform Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*, a touchstone event for the orchestra when it was presented. The Mussorgsky will be presented on the February 2019 Subscription Concert, which has been designated as “The Maestro’s Anniversary.” To further celebrate that event, Maestro Love will be the cello soloist for the United States premiere of Guillaume Connesson’s *Cello Concerto*. Other special programming during the season will include a work by guest composer Sarah Kirkland Snider: *Hiraeth*, a 2015 work that expresses the pain of letting go and the ways grief refracts memory. The work is paired with a film by Mark DeChiazza that echoes both Snider’s father and her childhood experiences in a manner that is hazy and atmospheric, somewhere between memory and dream.

Other works reflecting Maestro Love’s passion for the music of today will be Witold Lutosławski’s *Les espaces du sommeil* (*Sleep Spaces*), featuring baritone Robert Cantrell, Daniel Bernard Roumain’s *La, La, La, La*, and Joan Tower’s *Second Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*. Of course these cutting-edge works will go along with classical repertoire favorites, including Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 3 “Eroica*,” Richard Strauss’s suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Brahms’ *Academic Festival Overture*.

The four classical subscription concerts will again be complemented by a Symphonic Pops Concert in April 2018, featuring hits from Broadway and the cinema along with light classics. The Young Artist Competition will be held for local middle-school and high-school students, with the winners performing on the April and May 2019 concerts. As always, the orchestra will hold its annual Young People’s Concerts and Musical Instrument Petting Zoo in March 2019, partnering with Dance Connections and narrator Greg Jukes, to present a program of “Pirates and Princesses,” which includes excerpts from Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* and music from the film *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The orchestra will also partner with Dance Connections to perform a family-friendly Holiday Pops Concert in December 2018, this year with two performances to accommodate the enthusiastic attendance seen at the 2017 concert. In addition, in November the orchestra...
will join with AFI-Silver by performing music by Andrew Simpson to accompany Buster Keeton’s silent film *The General*. Other events will include a three-concert chamber series and an interactive Chrysalis Kids “Meet the Instruments” program on July 21, 2018 at Merriweather Park in Columbia’s Symphony Woods.

The latter is part of the orchestra’s educational initiatives, where small groups of orchestra members offer up-close programs to engage the youngest members of the community and acquaint them with the orchestral instruments. These programs will continue at local pre-schools throughout the season. In addition, the orchestra will again partner with the Howard County Public School System and its elementary school music teachers for the eighth consecutive year by presenting in-school concerts for third grade students. These in-school concerts take place during the school day and involve the full orchestra. For educating older members of the audience, the Prelude series of discussions prior to each classical concert will also continue during the 2018-2019 Season, as will the orchestra’s open rehearsal series.

The Columbia Jazz Band will expand upon the musical offerings of the overall organization by providing jazz programs to regional residents. During the upcoming year, the Jazz Band will continue to present a series of concerts offering a dynamic mix of Latin, Pop, Big Band, and Contemporary Jazz at a variety of indoor and outdoor venues in Columbia and the broader Baltimore-Washington area. The Columbia Jazz Band season will open on July 27, 2018 with a Chrysalis Cabaret concert featuring a repeat of “The Music of Count Basie” program first offered by the Jazz Band to a sold-out house in April 2018. Subsequent programs during Fall 2018 will include concerts at the Ellicott City 50+ Center and at the Columbia Lakefront stage in September, at the Rehoboth Fire Department in October, at the Columbia First Presbyterian Church in November, and at the Howard County Historical Society in December. The season will continue during 2019 with concerts at the Columbia Lakefront, regional churches, and other venues, including a performance as part of the Columbia Festival of the Arts. Furthermore, capitalizing on the success of the Count Basie ticketed event in April 2018, the Jazz Band will present two ticketed concerts during the upcoming season: Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy on November 11, 2018 (Veteran’s Day) and The Beat Goes On: The Music of Buddy Rich in April 2019.

On the administrative side, the orchestra will continue to explore foundation grant and local corporate sponsorship opportunities. Staff Development planning will also be a thrust area, as the board strives not only to ensure adequate staffing resources to manage Orchestra and Jazz Band activities during the 2018-2019 Season but also positions itself to pursue new initiatives and expanded programs in subsequent years. In addition, the orchestra will continue to promote its Encore Society, which allows individuals to leave a long-term legacy donation to the organization.
As the Columbia Orchestra pursues these initiatives, it can benefit from the assistance of members of the community. If you would like to help the Columbia Orchestra or Columbia Jazz Band meet its future goals (or even if you would like to simply volunteer a few hours of your time) please contact us by calling 410-465-8777 or by sending an e-mail message through the “volunteer” link on our website:

www.columbiaorchestra.org.

The growth and success of the Columbia Orchestra over the past decade have been phenomenal. During that time, the operating budget has increased by more than 70 percent, and the Orchestra and Jazz Band now annually reach a total combined audience of more than 15,000 individuals. The Columbia Orchestra has been hailed as “a pillar of the local arts community” by The Washington Post, and in December 2016 Howard Magazine announced that the Columbia Orchestra has been voted the Best Performing Arts Group in Howard County. As it enters its 41st Season, the Columbia Orchestra has positioned itself for another record year of growth in both artistic and organizational accomplishments while still remaining “Your Community’s Music.”
The Columbia Orchestra at Jim Rouse Theatre

Beethoven’s Eroica: October 6, 2018, 7:30 pm
  Brahms: Academic Festival Overture – Lutoslawski: Les espaces du sommeil
  Beethoven: Symphony No. 3, “Eroica”

Visions of Home: December 1, 2018, 7:30 pm
  Boumain: La, La, La, La – Snider: Hiraeth – Dvořák: Scherzo capriccioso
  Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier Suite

Family Holiday Concert: December 15, 2018, 10:30 am & 1:00 pm
  Diverse holiday music for the whole family!

The Maestro’s Anniversary: February 9, 2019 - 7:30 pm
  Tower: Second Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman
  Connesson: Cello Concerto – Mussorgsky: Pictures and an Exhibition

Young People’s Concert: March 16, 2019, 10:30 am/1:00 pm
  Pirates and Princesses, with Dance Connections and Greg Jukes, narrator

Symphonic Pops: April 6, 7:30 pm / April 7, 2019, 3:00 pm
  Blockbuster hits from Broadway, film, popular song, and classical favorites

The Rite of Spring: May 18, 2019, 7:30 pm
  Revueltas: Sensemayá – Chavez: Symphony No. 2, “Symphonia India”
  Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring

The Columbia Orchestra in the Community

Chrysalis Kids: Meet the Instruments: July 21, 2018, 10:00 am
  A free interactive program to introduce young children to orchestral instruments

The Columbia Orchestra at AFI: November 17 (7 pm) & 18 (2 pm), 2018
  The orchestra accompanies Keeton’s The General at the American Film Institute

Pops at the Chrysalis in Symphony Woods: June 22, 2019, 7:00 pm
  Symphonic pops favorites for the whole family at the Chrysalis amphitheater

Jazz Band Concerts

Jazz in Ellicott City: September 8, 2018, 2:00 pm
  Ellicott City 50+ Center, 9401 Frederick Road

Jazz at the Lakefront: September 16, 2017, 3:00 pm
  A free outdoor concert on the Columbia Lakefront Stage

Smokin’ Red Hot Fire House Jazz: October 13, 2018, 5:00 pm
  Part of the True Blue Jazz Festival at the Rehoboth Beach Fire Department

An Evening of Jazz: November 3, 2018, 7:00 pm
  First Presbyterian Church of Howard County, 8325 Presbyterian Cir., Columbia, MD

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy: November 11, 2018, 3:00 pm
  Veteran’s Day Concert at Slayton House, Wilde Lake Village Center, Columbia

Music at the Museum: December 15, 2018, 6:00pm
  Holiday Concert at the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD

Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival: February 2019
  1759 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

The Beat Goes On: Music of Buddy Rich: April 2019
  The music of the great American jazz drummer and band leader Buddy Rich

Live at the Pavilion: May 19, 2019, 1:00 pm
  The Pavilion at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Fulton, MD

Columbia Festival of the Arts: June 2019
  Details coming soon at www.columbiajazzband.com