LINCOLN'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IMPACT REPORT 2025



Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra will present inspiring experiences that welcome all members of our community to discover and cultivate a profound, personal connection with live orchestral music.

In addition to bringing the highest level of artistic excellence to the stage, **LSO's 73 professional musicians** are the heart and soul of its community outreach. They deeply understand the value of LSO's educational programming, as the vast majority are music educators themselves. Additionally, 20% contribute financially to LSO's annual fund, and collectively, they serve on more than 25 nonprofit boards. More than 65% volunteer their musical talents at churches and schools, while over half dedicate time each month to non-musical volunteer work for organizations such as TeamMates, refugee resettlement and empowerment centers, Girl Scouts, and Scouting America.



Edward Polochick has served as Music Director for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra since 1998. For 31 years, he served as Artistic Director of Concert Artists of Baltimore, an all-professional chamber orchestra and professional vocal ensemble of eighty-plus musicians which he founded in 1987. Maestro Polochick served on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore from 1979 until 2021 in a multitude of conducting positions including Associate Conductor of Orchestras, Director of Choral Ensembles, and Opera Conductor. Not only is he widely recognized as a conductor, but is an award-winning pianist and harpsichordist and has regularly conducted from the keyboard with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Concert Artists. He has also appeared as piano soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner.

Executive Director of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra since 2005, **Barbara Zach Lee** has dedicated her professional life to ensuring that live classical music is meaningfully accessible to the Lincoln community. During her tenure, affordable ticket prices and partnerships with education and health and human service organizations have created opportunities for more than 14,000 people annually to enjoy LSO services and performances for free or reduced prices. She advocates for the arts in her role on the boards of Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival and Nebraskans for the Arts, and volunteered as a mentor with Teammates for over a decade.





LSO has the privilege of participating in the creation of new music by hosting **Elena Ruehr** as LSO's Composer-In-Residence for three years (2023-2026), culminating with the premiere of her newly commissioned violin concerto written for LSO concertmaster Anton Miller and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra.

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Hannah Bell
Community Partnerships Manager
Sara Draper
Digital Communications Manager
Jordan Ellis
Orchestra Manager & Librarian
Kevin Madden
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LSO'S PROGRAMMING & BUDGET

With a budget of $1.3M, LSO presents a season of 11 concerts from September - May that serve more than 12,000 patrons annually. LSO's community engagement programs reach an additional 10,000 people per year, including performances at local hospitals and rehabilitation centers, Young People's Concerts at the Lied Center, and visits to over 90 schools and libraries throughout Lincoln and surrounding communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

Excellence: Be recognized as a cultural leader, a community asset, and vital to Lincoln's quality of life.

Engagement: Create powerful connections between and among performers and audiences through music.

Community: Cultivate a collaborative, respectful environment that promotes positive working relationships and meaningful cultural and social interactions.

Generosity: Inspire audience and community members to support LSO's commitment to accessibility.

CONCERT SEASON

The majority of LSO's concerts take place at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, where LSO is the Resident Orchestra. LSO also performs at Nebraska Wesleyan's O'Donnell Auditorium, St. Paul United Methodist Church, and UNL's newly renovated Kimball Recital Hall. The annual events include:

7 classical concerts (6 main stage concerts and 1 chamber orchestra concert) featuring symphonic repertoire performed by LSO's professional musicians alongside world-renowned soloists

2 family concerts including actors or puppets to create a fun, educational way for children to enjoy the orchestra, with family activities including face painting , crafts, and an instrument petting zoo

1 pops concert featuring music from movies, such as this year's Star Wars performance

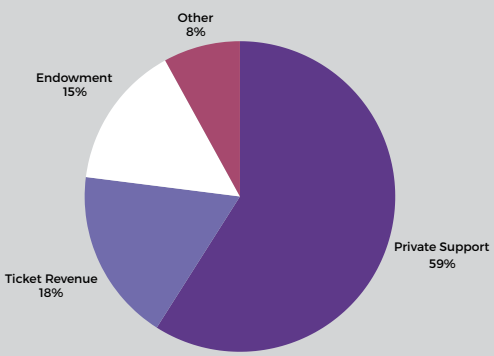
1 Deck the Halls concert with guest conductor Lucas Waldin, featuring holiday favorites and Lincoln Suzuki students, choirs and singers, dance companies (including an adaptive dance company), and a visit from Santa

3 Young People's Concert performances, daytime school field trip concerts for 4th – 6th graders

1 annual "Music from the Heart" gala at which LSO musicians donate their time to provide a concert to attendees, who also enjoy a cocktail hour, silent auction, and dinner in an evening to support LSO

BUDGET

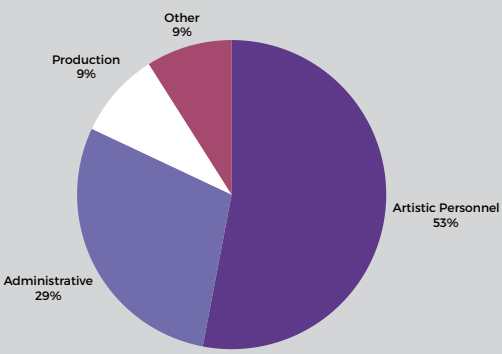
INCOME



Ticket sales only account for 18% of income; the vast majority of LSO's revenue comes from private support in the form of individual gifts, grants, corporate support, and our annual gala. LSO also receives support from the LSO Foundation, a separate 501(c)(3), who manages an endowment with a value of $3.8M from which LSO receives a quarterly distribution of 4.5% of the market value calculated over a 12-quarter rolling average.

LSO is proud of the fact that our investment in orchestra salaries and benefits is 36% (compared to our peer organizations' 25%). Remaining costs include other artistic personnel (guest artists and conductors), administrative staff, production expenses, and other costs including advertising.

EXPENSE



PROVIDING ACCESS THROUGH AFFORDABLE TICKETS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AFFORDABLE TICKET PRICES

Since moving to the Lied Center and reducing ticket prices in 2011, LSO's audience size has doubled. Annually, 200+ music teachers and young professionals attend for $10, and the Lienemann Charitable Foundation helps 2,000+ students attend for only $5 (28 subscriptions plus 80 youth tickets per concert).



COMPLIMENTARY STUDENT TICKETS

LSO provides 75 complimentary tickets for every concert, 50 through UNL's "Arts For All" program and 25 through LSO's high school program, "LSO Connection." Through these programs and partnerships with Arts Alive and individual music studios, we provide 600+ tickets annually to students.



HARMONY IN HEALING

Since 2018, LSO has partnered with hospitals, memory care facilities, and rehabilitation centers to bring small groups of musicians to perform tailored musical presentations for their patients.



VETERAN SERVICES

LSO provides complimentary tickets to 50 veterans for every LSO concert through vettix.org. In a partnership with the American Legion, LSO has also provided live trumpeters to play Taps at the funerals of more than 350 veterans since January 2015.

SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAM

LSO has expanded outreach to human service organizations serving at-risk youth and families facing challenges such as the loss of a parent, domestic violence, substance abuse, or financial hardship. LSO provides complimentary tickets to Catholic Social Services, St. Monica's Life Changing Recovery for Women, Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters, CEDARS Home for Children, Esperanza Family Services, and others.

HELPING CHILDREN & FAMILIES FEEL WELCOME AT LSO

MUSICAL BOOKWORMS

Our unique collaboration with Lincoln City Libraries enables LSO to reach families who rely on their neighborhood public library for access to resources. Any child who checks out a book about music receives a special bookmark that offers their family the opportunity to attend an LSO family concert for free.



STUDENT PERFORMERS

LSO holds an annual Young Artist Competition, and the winner performs a concerto with the orchestra. Each season, Maestro Polochick also rehearses with the Lincoln Youth Symphony, then they join LSO musicians for a side-by-side rehearsal and performance. LSO regularly features local choirs, Lincoln Suzuki studios, an adaptive dance company, and other dance studios.



FAMILY LITERACY

For more than a decade, LSO has partnered with Family Literacy, an LPS program serving families in the immigrant and refugee community. Each year, LSO staff visits each Family Literacy class and provides free transportation and tickets to two LSO concerts.

MINI MAESTROS

LSO creates a special coloring and activity booklet for each concert. Children who wish to participate in "Mini Maestros" receive a badge with their photo on it. At intermission, they select a treat and get a sticker on their badge. When the badge is full (6 concerts), they receive a free slice of pizza at Yia-Yia's.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

LSO's annual YPCs, part of Carnegie Hall's "Link Up Program," reach 5,000+ students and teachers each year. LPS's Teachers Advisory Committee creates lesson plans that prepare students to sing and play their recorders alongside the orchestra. This experience culminates in a field trip to the Lied Center, where students join LSO in an interactive and educational performance.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In addition to LSO's robust annual fund campaign, LSO receives corporate support from local and national businesses, in addition to grants from several local foundations. LSO has also secured $1.2M in major gift contributions to help underwrite 15 years in LSO's new home at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and $5M in special support for artistic excellence over the next 25 years.

MAJOR MULTI-YEAR GIFTS

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Ruth M. Amen Performing Arts Designated Fund
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*in-kind donation

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