



MISSION STATEMENT

The Nashville Symphony inspires, entertains, educates, and serves through musical performance, innovation, collaboration, and inclusion.

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



The pandemic forced the **cancellation or postponement of 203 concerts** from March 2020 through July 2021, along with the furlough of 79 musicians and 49 staff members. While COVID-19 caused a tremendous disruption to operations, it also provided the organization with an opportunity to reassess its priorities and begin realigning its vision with the needs of the community. Strategic efforts at all levels of the organization have ensured that the Nashville Symphony is here to help the community heal, to serve future generations, and to preserve the artistic legacy of our 75-year old institution, even after one of the most difficult years in its history.

The Symphony has reinvented how we speak and listen to our patrons, renewing our commitment to communication, transparency, feedback, and respect. These efforts resulted in an **84% audience retention rate** across canceled or postponed concerts, even when the future remained uncertain.



We extend our profound appreciation to the 7,700 Symphony Sustainers who helped ensure our future by supporting the Nashville Symphony through the pandemic. Instead of requesting refunds from their canceled and postponed performances in the 19/20 and 20/21 seasons, these loyal patrons opted to donate the value of their tickets or to keep a credit on account to be used at a later date. This resulted in more than \$555,000 in ticket donations and over \$2 million in retained ticket credits.

Amid a year of unprecedented challenges, Nashville Symphony **ratified a new three year-contract** with the Nashville Musicians Association-AFM Local 257 that went into effect Aug. 1, 2021. This collective bargaining agreement brought our furloughed musicians back to work full-time, ending a temporary agreement during which they received \$500 weekly stipends and full health insurance.

A significant challenge to resuming live programming has been understanding audiences' willingness to return to the concert hall and helping them to feel safe and comfortable. To address these challenges, the Nashville Symphony and fellow arts organization TPAC forged a partnership with HCA Healthcare/TriStar Health, in which HCA serves as the **Official Health and Safety Partner** for both institutions' reopening plans. HCA has generously funded a two-year gift to help cover the cost of health and safety protocols for reopening and for continued operations during the pandemic.

During a year when the Symphony's ability to generate earned revenue was stifled, fundraising success has never been more important to the Symphony's fiscal vitality:



Local foundations and corporations stepped up in a big way to help bring our musicians back on payroll. Amazon, Hays Foundation, HCA Healthcare, and the Turner family made sizable investments in the institution, totaling \$715,000.

The Symphony mounted two successful fundraising events raising a total of \$840,000. In December, the Symphony presented the first-ever televised Symphony Ball - *An Evening in Harmony* - broadcast to local audiences on WSMV News 4. This fundraiser featured performances by Harmony Award-winners Maren Morris and Keb' Mo'. In April, the Nashville Symphony hosted its annual Symphony Fashion Show, this year featuring the fall 2021 collection from fashion designer Zang Toi.



The Symphony procured over \$13.26 million in combined pandemic-related federal funding from the SBA's Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, the NEA's CARES Act program, the Paycheck Protection Program, Employee-Retention Tax Credits, and federal funds distributions by Tennessee Arts Commission.

ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS



The Symphony's upcoming commission of **Kip Winger's first Violin Concerto** was recognized with an Arts Project grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Symphony will premiere and record the work during a future concert season.



In January, Nashville Symphony's virtual **Let Freedom Sing!** project celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through online video performances of music by Black composers and musicians, and discussions with members of the Black community. Throughout the project, the Symphony showcased content from 14 local Black artists, ensembles, and community leaders. Nashville Symphony also provided additional curriculum and materials, available online for free alongside the published videos.



The Nashville Symphony's video of Accelerando Coordinator Bryson Finney's composition "We Are Nashville," also produced by Finney, was acknowledged with a **MidSouth Regional Emmy award**. The video features 50 Metro Nashville Public Schools students in a coordinated virtual recording, conducted by Nashville Symphony Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero and featuring musicians from the Nashville Symphony.



In March 2021, Nashville Symphony's recording of the late Christopher Rouse's Symphony No. 5 was honored with a **GRAMMY® Award** for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.



Between May 21 and June 26, Nashville Symphony musicians welcomed the community back to the Schermerhorn Symphony Center with six **Summer Chamber Music Series** concerts, all free and open to the public. The series showcased small ensembles of Nashville Symphony musicians performing classical works including Florence Price's String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Caroline Shaw's *Dolce Cantavi*, and chamber works by Bach, Dvořak, Mozart, and more.

On July 4, 2021, the Nashville Symphony performed for the first time since March 2020, as part of **Nashville's annual Independence Day celebration**. Giancarlo Guerrero and a roster of 63 musicians performed for an estimated 350,000 people, with fireworks choreographed to the program.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



The Nashville Symphony serves thousands of children and families each year from the 41-county Middle Tennessee region, at Schermerhorn Symphony Center, on virtual platforms, and in local schools and community gathering spaces across the region.



Despite the tremendous disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nashville Symphony kept education and community programming at the center of its planning and programming during the 2020/21 season, utilizing a variety of virtual educational activities to inspire, entertain, educate, and serve Middle Tennessee audiences, while also realigning our vision with the needs of the community.

Learn more at NashvilleSymphony.org/Education.



Accelerando is designed to prepare gifted young students of diverse ethnic backgrounds to pursue music at the collegiate level and establish careers as musicians in professional orchestras. During the pandemic, 24 students continued to receive weekly instruction, regular music theory and history classes, valuable performance opportunities, mentorship and guidance from professional musicians with diverse backgrounds, and support with auditions, summer festivals, and college/conservatory applications. Highlights from the 2020/21 season include:



Performance Opportunities: Accelerando students learned how to record themselves, edit audio and video, present themselves professionally on camera, and share their content through social media and other online platforms. They were featured performers at the Symphony Ball, the *Let Freedom Sing!* virtual celebration, and the Symphony Fashion Show. On June 7 and 9, students, family, and the community returned to Schermerhorn Symphony Center to enjoy performances from all 24 Accelerando students in year-end recitals.





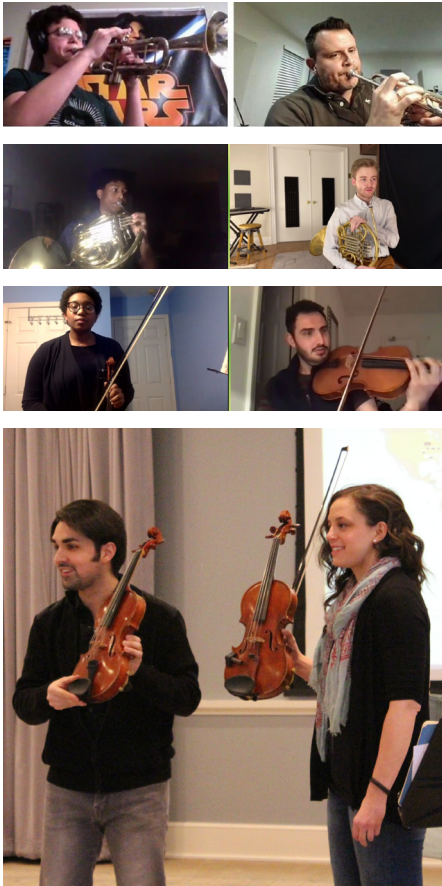
Partnership Programming: Students were given the opportunity to attend the Building Bridges Symposium, a forum to discuss the operations and strategies of programs like Accelerando that create diverse, equitable, and inclusive education opportunities for young musicians pursuing a career in classical music. Several individuals associated with the Nashville Symphony were featured as panelists, including Accelerando alumna Aalia Hanif, Accelerando instructors Julia Harguindey and Titus Underwood, and Nashville Symphony's Vice President of Education and Community Engagement Kimberly McLemore.

College Enrollment: Each year, Accelerando seniors participate in the intensive college/conservatory audition process and must make decisions about where they will continue pursuing their musical dreams and ambitions. We are proud of our two graduates this year: Violist Treasure Eckles is now attending the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and bassoonist Xavion Patterson is attending the Colburn School in Los Angeles. They were awarded a combined \$334,000 in scholarship funding.

Summer Music Camps: Accelerando provides tuition and audition support for students participating in a variety of summer music camps, workshops, and intensives. This year, 17 students were accepted into programs including Brevard Music Center, Eastern Music Festival, Interlochen Arts Camp, Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra, Youth Orchestras of LA National Institute, Domaine Forget International Music Festival, and Tennessee's Governor's School for the Arts.

Future Funding: Nashville Symphony was awarded a second round of grant funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, totaling \$900,000 over four years.

The Masterclass Series hosted professional musicians from renowned institutions such as Julliard, the Metropolitan Opera, Longy School of Music, Dallas Opera, Oberlin Conservatory, and New World Symphony to provide coaching and feedback to students in the Symphony's Accelerando program. Because Masterclasses were hosted on a virtual platform this year, Nashville Symphony was able to leverage national partnerships to extend the reach of these events while also providing Accelerando students with access to programming by partner organizations. Music students from schools across the region were invited to join so they could gain expert tips from seasoned professionals and be inspired by musicians their age. This program reached 277 students across 16 masterclasses.



Sectionals and Lessons provided resources, instruction, and performance coaching for small groups of students and community members around Middle Tennessee. 958 students and adults were engaged over 51 sessions, with participation from Antioch High School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet School, Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra, and more.

Is It a Fiddle or a Violin?, offered in collaboration with the Country Music Hall of Fame®, invited 366 students to explore the commonalities and the differences between country and classical music.

This summer, Nashville Symphony conducted a **Community Needs Assessment** with the help of Paula Wilson, an intern from Americans for the Arts' Diversity in Arts Leadership program administered by Metro Arts. Through robust discussions aimed at addressing institutional goals across every department, the Symphony interviewed 42 community members in one-on-one and group settings, including patrons, fellow arts and community organizations, and independent artists. The feedback generated through this project will help the Nashville Symphony in its ongoing efforts to increase audience diversity, remove barriers to access, and improve the patron experience.

BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS, BY THE NUMBERS:

- ★ **1 GRAMMY® Award and 1 MidSouth Regional Emmy Award** bringing the Nashville Symphony's total to **14 GRAMMY® Awards and 26 nominations**
- ★ **33** virtual performances and educational videos recorded and published online
- ★ **85** education and community engagement events
- ★ **6,000+** families, corporations, and foundations who donated to the Nashville Symphony
- ★ **6,500** thank-you calls delivered from our musicians to our loyal ticket buyers and donors
- ★ **6,946** students and adults reached through free education and community programs
- ★ **61,266** community members contacted to participate in feedback surveys, as the Symphony prepared its return to in-person performances.
- ★ **71,186** viewers engaged through online content
- ★ **357,210** reached through local performances and education initiatives
- ★ **\$9.1 MILLION** in donations from the community
- ★ **\$13.3 MILLION** in pandemic-related federal assistance procured
- ★ **15.3 MILLION** listeners reached internationally through broadcasts, recordings, and digital media