



North Valley Symphony Orchestra 2020-21 Annual Report



The mission of NVSO is to provide skilled and aspiring musicians of all ages the opportunity to learn, rehearse, and perform exceptional orchestral music, fostering music appreciation and engagement among the North Valley community.

Our vision is to be a vibrant and diverse community that deeply cares for the artistry, learning and performance of exceptional orchestral music

BOARD MESSAGE

The North Valley Symphony Orchestra (NVS) Board of Directors meets annually in late Spring to review the previous year's accomplishments and to set goals for the upcoming concert season. The Strategic Planning meeting was held over the two evenings of May 12th and 19th, 2021. The primary focus of the meeting was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how to return to in-person operations in as safe and inclusive way as possible.

The Board of Directors is thankful to all of our musicians, their families, donors, and our community partners who support our organization in so many ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for the performing arts and continues to pose many challenges. Thank you to everyone who has played a role in our success as we have worked through how to continue to provide opportunities for our student and adult musicians to learn, rehearse, and perform exceptional orchestral music, and learning new ways to present music to our community.

BOARD MEMBERS

Board elections were held virtually on Thursday, May 6th, 2021

TITLE	START OF SEASON	AFTER SPRING ELECTIONS	TERM EXPIRES
President	Liz Galpin	Liz Galpin	May 2022
Vice President	Sylvia Depta	Sylvia Depta	***
Treasurer	Irene Kufner	Irene Kufner	May 2023
Secretary	Nora Welsh	Nora Welsh	May 2022
Music Director	Kevin Kozacek	Kevin Kozacek	In perpetuity
Member-at-Large	Tracy Petersen	Tracy Petersen	May 2023
Member-at-Large	Lindsey Deusterman	Lindsey Deusterman	***
Member-at-Large	Michaela Braun	Michaela Braun	May 2023
Member-at-Large	Tina Williams	Kimerree Bates	May 2023
Member-at-Large	Gilah Nemiroff	Gina Stevens	May 2023

*** Sylvia and Lindsey resigned from the board after elections were held. The following positions are currently available: Vice President and 2 Member-at-Large Positions.

2020-21 Membership

Student musicians met virtually in the fall and rehearsals were hybrid in the Spring

North Valley Symphonettes: 11 (all returned to in-person in January)

North Valley Youth Strings: 23 (6 remained virtual in January)

North Valley Youth Orchestra: 7 (2 remained virtual in January)

Adult Midweek Melodies Participants: 49

2020-21 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

The 2020-21 Strategic Plan was created in April 2020 when NVSO leadership was uncertain about how long operations would be impacted by COVID-19.

To Make NVSO Sustainable and Systematically Run

Much of the Board's efforts during the 2020-21 concert season were focused on finding ways to deliver content and education in virtual format.

Board meetings and Youth Director meetings were held in Google Meet video conferencing format. Virtual learning and rehearsing options were researched and implemented, including issuing SmartMusic assignments for all student musicians, using Upbeat Music app for rehearsals with the Youth Orchestra, and developing best practices for "virtual rehearsals" for the youth ensembles.

The NVSO Orchestra Administrator, Ashlei White, resigned her position in August to pursue a new position. The board made the decision not to refill that position in the midst of the pandemic. Job aids continue to be created and revised to assist with volunteers taking on new roles and to prepare for the future hiring of an Admin.

Board Members continued to follow scientific studies regarding COVID-19, aerosol distribution by woodwind/brass instruments, and audience engagement. COVID protocols were routinely reviewed and updated.

To Increase Attendance and Ticket Revenue

NVSO did not have the opportunity to perform in person concerts during the 2020-21 season. The adult orchestra musicians who chose to participate in a chamber music series performed our “Midweek Melodies” series. These chamber ensembles were recorded, and the performances were released weekly on our YouTube channel. The videos were free to view, so there was no direct ticket revenue during the 2020-21 season.

17 “Midweek Melodies” videos were produced

Total Views (as of 10/21/21) 4,386

Average of 258 views per video

Highest views: Mendelssohn Piano Trio = 653

Coleridge-Taylor Novelletten = 572

A few musicians/ensembles also performed holiday concerts for their immediate neighbors in the “Neighborhood Noels” program. These driveway concerts brought neighbors together, in a socially distanced, outdoor setting to share a community musical experience.

To Increase Youth Engagement

NVSO Leadership felt it was very important to continue to offer our youth ensemble members some sort of structured musical learning as well as the social connection that comes through participating in ensemble playing.

Fall Semester: All instruction was virtual

SmartMusic subscriptions were purchased for all participating students. This allowed the directors to assign specific lessons which the students could practice at home, receive automated feedback about intonation and rhythmic accuracy, and record and submit the assignment. All ensembles met weekly via Google Meet for a virtual rehearsal. Students played along at home while muted due to internet lag time. While it was difficult to accurately gauge their performance, the goal was primarily to keep them engaged in music and give them structured learning and social interaction.

To Increase Youth Engagement cont'd.

Spring Semester: Hybrid Instruction

NVSO Youth ensembles returned to in-person rehearsals in January 2021. Recognizing that there may be families whose personal situation may make them uncomfortable with in-person operations, NVSO continued to offer a virtual option. Laptops were set up in the rehearsal rooms, so students who were participating virtually could dial into the rehearsal from home. A volunteer was monitoring the chat box to keep those students engaged and ensure they could ask or respond to questions.

At the end of the semester each ensemble performed a concert for a limited number of their families to maintain small group sizes for COVID safety. The students who were virtual for the semester accessed the concert through Google meet and performed along with their orchestra at home.

There were 41 students who participated in the NVSO youth ensembles. That is about 50% of what the enrollment was prior to COVID.

NVSO did not hold a Spring Strings Festival but organized a Summer Camp for July 2021.

To Increase Contributed Revenue

NVSO applied for numerous grants during the 2020-21 season:

Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture: Community Investment Grant = Awarded \$6,000
Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture: Phoenix CARES (COVID funding) = Awarded \$15,000
Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture: Phoenix CARES additional funding = Awarded \$2,250
Arizona Commission on the Arts: CARES funding = \$6,000

Applied for, but not funded: WESTAF Arts Fund, Marley Foundation
Other grants researched but determined: NEA Shuttered Venues Grant

NVSO held several fundraisers during the 2020-21 season including:

Face Mask Fundraiser: \$778.00
Restaurant Fundraisers: \$282.95
Anytime Autoglass Fundraiser: \$400.00
Spring Raffle: \$320.00

To Increase Contributed Revenue - cont'd.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NVSO was unable to host our annual Fundraising Gala, which typically generates approximately \$16,000 in revenue through donations and silent auction proceeds.

NVSO continued to reach out to donors through a “We Miss You” postcard campaign and annual follow-up emails. Top tier donors were invited to attend the May recording session for the “Midweek Melodies” series as our “Gold Donor Event”. We were unable to hold a “Silver Donor Event”

Direct Public Support Donations received (includes donations, LEMM fund donations, corporate donations, outreach donations and musician/repertoire sponsorships – fundraisers not included in this figure – see numbers above)

\$20,286

We did not hold any concerts, so earned no revenue from season or concert sponsorship, advertising revenue, or lobby raffles.

To Advance the Artistry of NVSO

Music Director, Kevin Kozacek, assigned participating musicians into chamber ensembles for the fall semester. The ensembles ranged in size from 2 – 8 musicians. Each ensemble held rehearsals in homes volunteered by musicians. The Music Director visited each ensemble for at least one rehearsal to provide artistic guidance.

During the Spring Semester some chamber ensembles continued to meet, in addition to expanding to a string orchestra and woodwind ensembles.

The repertoire committee met to select music for the 2021-22 season, including commissioning a new work to celebrate our 10th concert season. Several candidates were reviewed, and the commission was offered to James DeMars, Professor Emeritus of Composition at ASU. The new work will be premiered at the May 2022 “Across America” concert.

NVSO Leadership made the decision to move forward with purchasing timpani and a bass drum

To Achieve Increasingly Significant Community Impact

Most opportunities for community performances were not an option during the 2020-21 concert season due to COVID. Senior Living homes were not allowing outside visitors and most venues like shopping malls were not bringing in outside performances. Our partnership with Gompers was placed on hold as their in-person operations were very limited. NVSO musicians were invited to perform at Auberge Memory Care in Peoria in late April. Additional flexible outreach music purchases were made to prepare for future opportunities.

The NVSO face mask fundraiser included an option to donate masks to the Navajo and Hopi Families COVID-19 relief fund. NVSO leadership and supporters combined to donate 165 handmade face masks to this organization which delivered them directly to communities on the Navajo reservation which was especially hard hit by COVID. The masks were distributed to families and elders in Monument Valley.

NVSO Leadership also designed several restaurant fundraisers throughout the year to help drive business into some of our local restaurants, and partnered with Anytime Autoglass, a family-owned windshield repair company.

MUSIC DIRECTOR STATEMENT 2020-2021

North Valley Symphony Orchestra is dedicated to making a positive impact in our community. Artistically, we strive to elevate our artistic excellence in concert performance, continue to engage in collaborations with other arts organizations, and we work hard to provide exceptional educational opportunities for our young musician members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we found it necessary to radically modify our FY2020-21 concert season. The students had been attending virtual rehearsals during the spring of 2020, and we decided to continue that method of teaching for the fall of 2020. However, additional software was used to enhance the weekly virtual sessions. SmartMusic, which is a robust, online teaching and self-practice tool, was purchased for all students. The directors chose repertoire to study for the entire year that was available on that platform. Students were required to accomplish weekly self-practice assignments prior to the virtual rehearsals held on Mondays. This method worked quite well for all three youth ensembles. UpbeatMusic was also investigated for recording breakout sessions for the individual students. This application found positive success for the older students in NVYO, but students in NVYS and NVS were not able to be successful using the application. The application requires a relatively high level of musical autonomy when they breakout to their own “recording studio” to record their parts. This level of autonomy is not yet achieved by most beginning and intermediate musicians.

In January 2021, NVSO decided to offer the youth ensembles as a hybrid class. Because schools were still not allowing outside groups to contract for the use of the facilities, a new venue was contracted at Shiloh Community Church, which offered two large rooms that could accommodate the ensembles. Strict COVID protocol was used for the in-person learning, and laptop computers were positioned in front of the directors who were live-streamed during the class session. This allowed students at home to participate in real time, playing along with the class while muted. On May 15, 2021, the spring session culminated in an in-person concert of the music learned during the year. Though it was not an optimal solution, we were proud to be able to continue offering three levels of ensembles to our students throughout the worst of the pandemic shutdown.

The May 15, 2021, concert at Shiloh Community Church included the following:

North Valley Symphonettes, directed by Maurine Fleming (11 students)

An African American Air - Traditional Lullaby, arr. Kevin Mixon
Ablaze - Chris M. Bernotas

North Valley Youth Strings, directed by Orlando Moss (22 students)

Symphony No. 29, K. 201, Mvmt 1 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arr. Jane Farrar-Royce
Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, Mvmt 1 - Johann Sebastian Bach arr. Merle J. Isaac
Burst! - Brian Balmages

North Valley Youth Orchestra, directed by Josh Lynch (7 students)

Bossa Azul - Bert Ligon
Aura Lee - Traditional, arr. Jack Bullock
Blue Ridge Reel - Brian Balmages

The NVSO adult orchestra was a different challenge. Due to the distancing requirements pertaining to woodwind and brass instruments, it was determined that musicians could not safely meet as a full orchestra. The most musicians that could be safely placed in a room while maintaining 6 foot spacing is about 24 members. It was decided to have the adult orchestra split into smaller chamber groups of everything from duets to string orchestra, and meet at private homes willing to host, or churches willing to let outside users into the facility. The chamber performances were recorded on the recital stage at Riverton Piano Company, and later at Shiloh Community Church. The recordings were then uploaded to YouTube and released on Wednesdays as a series titled “Midweek Melodies – Notes While We’re Apart.” The project was artistically a big success, as members were not only allowed to meet together, but the smaller groups enhanced their musicianship and individual skills.

The following were the dates and repertoire associated with the Midweek Melodies project:

Piano Trio — released on YouTube Dec. 2, 2020

Piano Trio No. 1 in d minor, Op. 49, Mvmt I

Kathy Mattern, Clark Drinkall, Amber Leima

- Felix Mendelssohn

Clarinet Quintet — released on YouTube Dec. 9, 2020

Introduction, Theme and Variations for Clarinet and String Quartet

Nora Johnston, Heidi Kosiorek, Carina Brodsky, Michaela Braun, Cassie Kreyling, Liz Galpin

- Carl Maria von Weber /
Joseph Küffner

Brass Quartet — released on YouTube Dec. 16, 2020

Canzoni per Sonare, No. 1, 2 & 4

Trint Castle, Teddi English, Blake Castle, Michael Burt

- Giovanni Gabrieli, arr.
Michel Rondeau

Woodwind Duet — released on YouTube Dec. 23, 2020

Shepherds of Provence, Op. 43

Cheryl Riggle, Suzanne Johnsen

- Eugène Bozza

Mixed Octet — released on YouTube Dec. 30, 2020

Octet in F Major, D. 803

Lisa Tufts, Orlando Moss, Emma Rose Mazur, Mark Pyle, Fred Wengrzynek, Christian Ortega,
Michelle Horowitz, Philip Johnson

- Franz Schubert

Horn Quartet — released on YouTube Jan. 6, 2021

An English Folksong Suite

Steve Thomasson, Chris Clark, Anita Murray, Philip Johnson

- arr. John Jay Hilfiger

String Quartet — released on YouTube Jan. 13, 2021
String Quartet No. 12, Op. 96, Mvmt IV “American Quartet” - Antonín Dvořák
Ellen Hansbury, Tracy N. Petersen, Carol Routh, Ella Marencic

Piano Quartet — released on YouTube Jan. 20, 2021
Piano Quartet in E flat Major, Op. 1, Mvmt I - Walter Rabl
Lilly Coulter, Pearl Bailey, Emily Helton-Riley, Annemarie Strzelecki

Woodwind Quartet — released on YouTube Jan. 27, 2021
Three Pieces for Night Music - Eugène Bozza
Cheryl Riggie, Suzanne Johnsen, Annemarie Strzelecki, Michelle Horowitz

Piano Trio — released on YouTube April 14, 2021
Piano Trio No. 7 in B-flat Major, Op. 97 - Ludwig van Beethoven
Kathy Mattern, piano; Clark Drinkall, violin; Amber Leima, cello

String Orchestra — released on YouTube April 21, 2021
Novelletten, nos. 2, 3, 4, for String Orchestra - Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
NVSO string orchestra, a smaller version of NVSO’s full symphonic orchestra

Brass Quintet — released on YouTube April 28, 2021
Brass Quintet No 1, Op 5 - Victor Ewald
Trint Castle, Teddi English, trumpet; Philip Johnson, horn; Blake Castle, trombone; Mike Burt, tuba

Woodwind Trio — released on YouTube May 5, 2021
Cinq pièces en trio - Jacques Ibert
Suzanne Johnsen, oboe; Annemarie Strzelecki, clarinet; Michelle Horowitz, bassoon

Piano Trio— released on YouTube May 12, 2021
Piano Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11 - Ludwig van Beethoven
Lillian Coulter, piano; Annemarie Strzelecki, clarinet; Mark Pyle, cello

Horn Quartet — released on YouTube May 19, 2021
Sea Shanties, Suite for Horn Quartet - arr. Don Abernathy
Philip Johnson, Steve Thomasson, Anita Murray and Chris Clark

String Ensemble— released on YouTube May 26, 2021
Point Lookout - A Fantasy on Civil War Songs - Brian Balmages
NVSO string orchestra, a smaller version of NVSO’s full symphonic orchestra

Wind Ensemble — released on YouTube June 2, 2021
Serenade in E-flat major, Op.7 - Richard Strauss
NVSO wind ensemble, a smaller version of NVSO’s full symphonic orchestra

Though the FY2020-21 concert season was very unusual and not what NVSO would prefer to do, the chamber series was a huge success, both artistically and operationally. The members, students, and staff of the adult and youth departments responded professionally to a crisis caused by the pandemic, and we persevered. I could not be prouder of the organization for finding innovative ways in which to engage our members and students in creating music, and then engaging our community by performing the music in new and innovative ways for our audience, whether virtual or in-person. We look forward to once again performing for our community in person starting in the fall of 2021. The pandemic undeniably caused stress to our organization, yet I feel that we are coming out of it as better musicians and as a stronger organization overall.

Kevin Kozacek, Music Director

2020-21 Financial Summary

The NVSO fiscal year runs from July 1st – June 30th.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted all Performing Arts Organizations. NVSO Revenues were about 50% of what they had been in the 2 most recent years due to the inability to sell concert tickets, decreased youth enrollment, and not being able to hold our annual Fundraising Gala. However, reduced costs due to virtual or in-home rehearsals, no major concert venue rental costs, and not replacing the Orchestra Administrator salary upon her resignation allowed NVSO to keep expenses low enough to end the year with a slight Net Income instead of a loss on the year.

Total Revenue: \$53,525.12

Total Expenses: \$51,861.68

NET REVENUE: \$1,663.44

Largest Expenses:

Contractors: \$15,865 (Video and Audio Recording, Ensemble Directors etc.)

Timpani Purchase: \$12,419

Venue Rental: \$8,519 (rehearsal venue rental January – May only)

Primary Revenue Sources:

Government Grants: \$29,250

Individual/Corporate Donations and Fundraisers: \$17,746.30

Youth/Summer Camp Tuition: \$6,525.00

Bank Account Balances at end of Fiscal Year (June 30, 2021)

General Checking Account:	\$52,173.78
General Savings Account:	\$42,346.96
LEMM Checking Account:	\$4,533.75
LEMM Savings Account:	\$150.10

Bank Account Balances as of 10/22/2021

General Checking Account:	\$79,269.36
General Savings Account:	\$42,947.76
LEMM Checking Account:	\$4,138.75
LEMM Savings Account:	\$300.11

North Valley Symphony Orchestra

Statement of Activity

July 2020 - June 2021

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Direct Public Support	
Board Donations	1,650.00
Corporate Donations	397.16
Donations	7,749.50
Fundraising	878.00
Corporate Fundraising	1,261.64
Raffle	320.00
Total Fundraising	2,459.64
LEMM Contributions	2,000.00
Musician Sponsor	515.00
Outreach	200.00
Repertoire Sponsor	275.00
Total Direct Public Support	15,246.30
Government Grants	
Local Grants	23,250.00
State Grants	6,000.00
Total Government Grants	29,250.00
Grants - Public	
Foundation & Trust Grants	2,500.00
Total Grants - Public	2,500.00
Investment Income	
Interest	3.82
Total Investment Income	3.82
Membership Income	
Summer Strings Camp	750.00
Tuition	5,775.00
Total Membership Income	6,525.00
Total Revenue	\$53,525.12
GROSS PROFIT	\$53,525.12
Expenditures	
Artistic Expenses	
Artistic Expenses - Adult	
Instrument Purchase	12,418.93
Music Purchase - Adult	164.44
Music Rental - Adult	315.00
Outreach Music Purchase	283.00
Total Artistic Expenses - Adult	13,181.37
SmartMusic	1,118.98
Total Artistic Expenses	14,300.35

North Valley Symphony Orchestra

Statement of Activity

July 2020 - June 2021

	TOTAL
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	10.00
Total Business Expenses	10.00
Contract Services	
Accounting	1,015.00
Videography	4,050.00
Total Contract Services	5,065.00
Development	
Donor Relationship	181.23
Total Development	181.23
Facilities & Equipment	
Facilities - Adult	
Rent for Concerts - Adult	312.15
Rent for Rehearsals - Adult	3,171.25
Total Facilities - Adult	3,483.40
Facilities - Youth	
Rent for Concerts - Youth	425.00
Rent for Rehearsals - Youth	4,875.00
Total Facilities - Youth	5,300.00
Storage Facility	2,773.12
Total Facilities & Equipment	11,556.52
Insurance	
Liability & Property Insurance	2,306.00
Total Insurance	2,306.00
Marketing	
Advertising	378.75
Printing	54.51
Total Marketing	433.26
Meals & Entertainment	
Chamber of Commerce Luncheon	10.00
Total Meals & Entertainment	10.00
Operations	
Bank Fees	151.00
Flipcause Credit Card Fees	44.98
Total Bank Fees	195.98
Fingerprinting	42.16
Music Licensing	687.00
Office Supplies	313.83
PO Box	118.00
Postage Fees	32.70

North Valley Symphony Orchestra

Statement of Activity

July 2020 - June 2021

	TOTAL
Professional Membership	430.00
Software	640.23
Telephone	304.24
Ticket Management System	1,200.00
Website	208.51
Total Operations	4,172.65
Payroll Expenses	133.57
Taxes	205.60
Wages	2,687.50
Total Payroll Expenses	3,026.67
Salaries	
Music Director	3,600.00
Symphonettes	2,400.00
Youth Orchestra	2,400.00
Youth Strings	2,400.00
Total Salaries	10,800.00
Total Expenditures	\$51,861.68
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,663.44
NET REVENUE	\$1,663.44