

LAKE CHAMPLAIN  
CHAMBER  
MUSIC  
*Festival*

**A Brief Update**  
for our supporters



## The 2023 Summer Festival

Our 15<sup>th</sup> annual Festival, Musical Capitals

It's remarkable to think of all we accomplished over nine days: performances, masterclasses, world premieres, talks, receptions, a family concert, a free concert at St. Paul's, Sounding Boards, featured young composers, our art gallery, and so much more.

A review of the All-Souls concert, from The Strad (one of the world's finest media sources for classical music) said it all...

“If this concert is any indication, Gloria Chien and Soovin Kim have accomplished a marvelous feat in northern Vermont during their tenure as the festival directors, with great things in store for its future.”

–Leah Hollingsworth, The Strad











## Music Enrichment

Our audience surveys and feedback consistently reflect our patrons' delight in our education programs.

We've always emphasized music enrichment. These talks and demonstrations deepen our understanding of the repertoire and the creative process. Our Inside Pitch series,



led by Resident Composer David Serkin Ludwig, is one of our patrons' favorite parts of the summer Festival. Few educators can enrich our musical understanding the way David can.

This past February, we hosted a four-part series on "Black Classical Music Discovery" taught by Titus Underwood. Titus returned, in person, at this year's Festival to discuss his own journey as BIPOC musician in his presentation on "A Tale of Two Tails."



Look for many more classes and talks in the coming year.

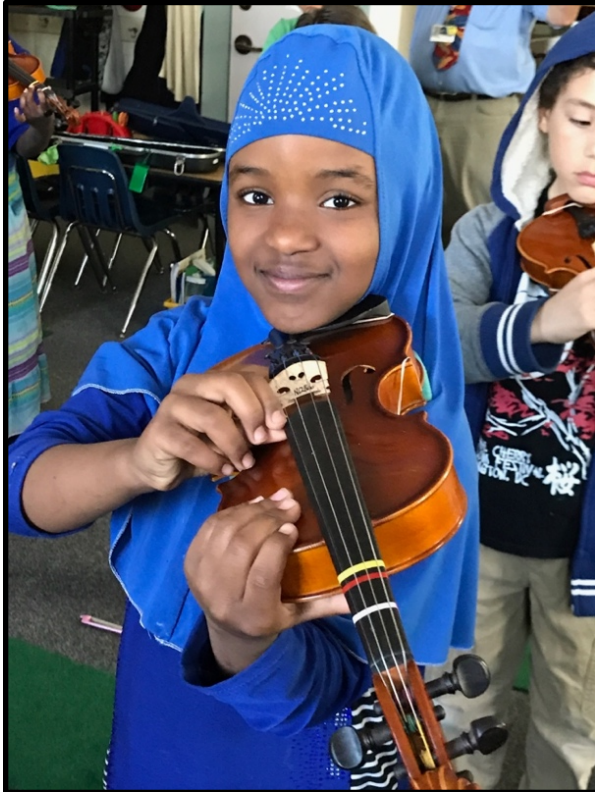
## Supporting Vermont Artists



Our annual gallery of fine arts, the Vermont Artists Gallery, is one of my favorite parts of the Festival. It is one of the largest exhibitions of Vermont artists in the state and is curated with care by the wonderful Frederick Noonan, Eloise Beil, Robbie Stanley, and their happy troupe of volunteers. All the works in our Vermont Artists Gallery are for sale, with 70% of the proceeds going directly to the artists.

Supporting artists and arts organizations – not just ourselves – is in our DNA. This past year we served as the fiscal sponsor for the new music group TURNMusic, we partnered with our friends at the Lane Series on a fall Mini Festival with the Chien–Kim–Watkins Trio, we held a masterclass in partnership with the VSO, we performed for the arts programs at memory care facilities, and much more. In the words of our friend and Controller, John Canning, “All boats rise when any one arts organization is supported.”

## 2023 ONE Strings



One Strings at the IAA public school in Burlington's Old North End (now in its tenth year) is a treasured program. We work within the most diverse and financially disadvantaged K-5 school in our state. The school has up to 285 students from 23 countries, speaking 30 languages. Our program provides free violin instruction to all third, fourth, and fifth graders at the school. We lend all the students in these grades

(about 125 last year) a violin, and provide a full school year of instruction, and related music appreciation activities, at no cost to the school.

We said goodbye to longtime teacher Kathleen Kono who is now a full-time music teacher at Burlington High School (where some of her students got their musical start at One Strings years ago). Our program is now taught by Rachel Keyser, who has been teaching in partnership with Kathleen in past years; she is a terrific teacher.

We continue to focus on grant funding for One Strings and hope that you'll join us for one of our public observation days in the spring.

## Our Support and Infrastructure

Each year we must raise around \$350,000; ticket sales comprise about 15% of that total and the rest is in the form of generous gifts from hundreds of patrons. We are fifteen years old and are grateful for our originators (like you!) who built a strong foundation. It is a pleasure to welcome new concert goers and inspire them to become donors.



I see us focusing on two main areas of philanthropy:

**Conversations.** Our organization was founded on conversations with chamber music lovers asking the simple question “Do you want to support a superb chamber music festival in the Lake Champlain region.” The answer, of course, was a resounding “Yes!” I want to keep those conversations going and listen to the hopes, interests, and needs of our patrons.

**Legacy Gifts.** Some of the most important donations we have received have been legacy gifts: those who have included the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival in their will, retirement plan, or similar. Joining our legacy society is easy (I am a member, I simply added the Festival as one of the beneficiaries of my retirement plan) and I would like us to grow our legacy society significantly.



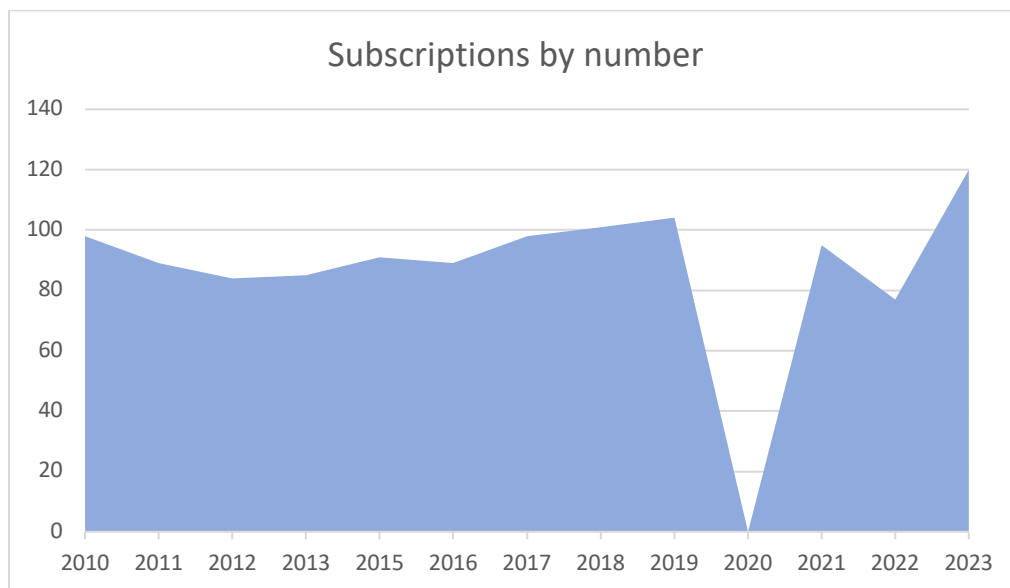
## Where we stand today

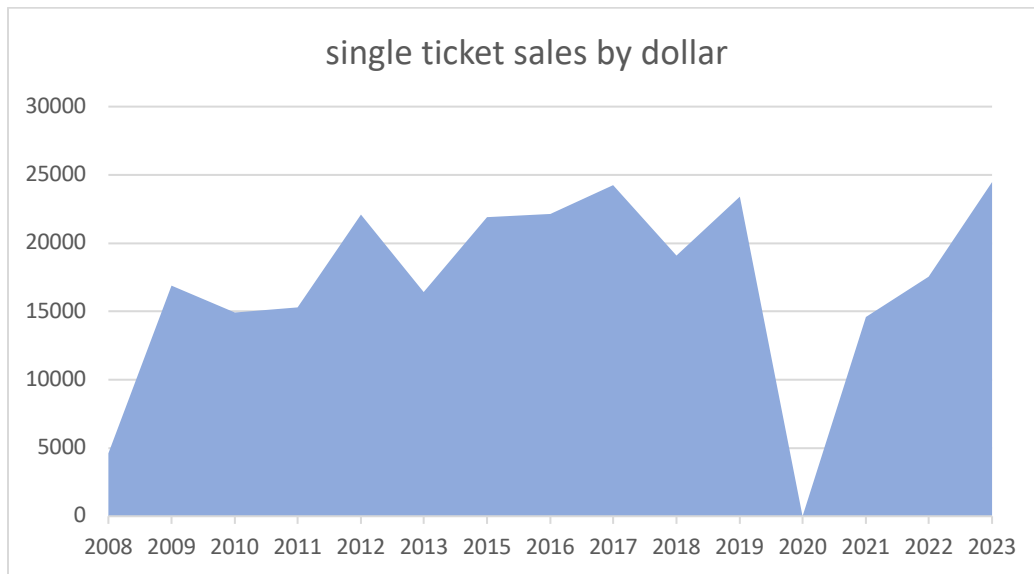
The COVID pandemic presented a significant problem for performing arts organizations. How long would it last? When could we get back to live performances? Would audiences come back once we did? How will we fare financially?

Not all performing arts groups are back on their feet yet (they will be), so we feel lucky to see our work not shrink but continue to grow as we came out of the pandemic. In this chart you can see how COVID brought our work to essentially a complete stop. Our patrons, artists, and Board soon brought us back to healthy growth and we've had, by a slight margin, record attendance, record subscribers, and continued upward growth in philanthropy.



Brochure for our first festival





## Thank You

I often think about our founders and our core supporters. You had an idea for a world-class chamber music festival, and it came into being, year one, fully fledged. All aspects of our work, highlighted above, appear to just get better and better each year, thanks to the same loyal supporters, staff, interns, volunteers, and artists who work every festival. Our call is to maintain this legacy through an unwavering commitment to artistic excellence, strong funding, and in stewarding the next generation of loyal supporters to join us in this work.

Thank you for all you do for us!

Peter Espenshade, Executive Director  
Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival  
20 Winooski Falls No. 7  
Winooski, VT. 05404