

annual report '24-'25



HOFF-BARTHELSON

MUSIC SCHOOL

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Every note played at Hoff-Barthelson Music School tells a story. A first lesson. A long-awaited breakthrough. The quiet concentration of a student practicing alone, and the shared exhilaration of an ensemble in full flight. These moments—small and large—define who we are as a community and why our work matters.



This inaugural Annual Report is a new way of sharing that story. While we've always kept in close touch through performances, newsletters, and conversations, this report offers a broader reflection on the 2024-25 fiscal year—a year marked by creativity, momentum, and meaning.

We introduced new programs, welcomed inspiring new leaders, and strengthened the core of what we do: nurturing the whole musician in a community where excellence, joy, and personal growth go hand in hand. These accomplishments were made possible by the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our extended HBMS family. Whether through financial contributions, volunteer efforts, word-of-mouth support, or simply showing up again and again to cheer our students on, your belief in our mission sustains everything we do.

I am deeply grateful for all the ways you have stood with us this year. This report is, above all, a celebration of what we can achieve together—and a thank you to everyone who makes Hoff-Barthelson such a vibrant and welcoming home for music.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Gabriella Sanna'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Gabriella Sanna

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

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Gabriella Sanna
Executive Director

Hoff-Barthelson Music School's mission is to inspire and develop each student's potential through excellence in music education with a commitment to creativity, collaboration, and community.

Our vision is to enrich lives and create community through music.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School

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Scarsdale, NY 10583
www.hbms.org
914-723-1169

Dear Friends,

Serving as Chair of the Board this year has been both a privilege and a joy. At every turn, I've witnessed the profound impact Hoff-Barthelson has on its students—not just in shaping musicianship, but in cultivating confidence, creativity, and community.



The 2024–25 year was filled with forward movement. We saw programs evolve, new initiatives take hold, and a strong resurgence in enrollment—all while remaining deeply committed to the School's core values of access, excellence, and joyful learning. These strides were made possible by the dedication of our exceptional leadership team, faculty, and staff, and by the trust and investment of the entire HBMS community.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to each of you—our donors, families, alumni, and friends. Your support ensures that Hoff-Barthelson can continue to be a place where students not only grow as musicians, but also find a sense of belonging and purpose.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Matsushita".
Dana Matsushita

YEAR IN REVIEW

Programmatic and Artistic Highlights

The 2024–25 year was one of momentum and renewal at Hoff-Barthelson. As music once again filled every corner of the School, we saw not only a return to pre-pandemic energy—but a clear step forward. Enrollment rebounded to higher than pre-COVID levels, a testament to the strength of our programs, the dedication of our faculty, and the trust placed in us by students and families across Westchester and beyond.



Cellist Luke Padovano, a student of Peter Seidenberg, was one of four winners of the 1st Annual HBMS Concerto Competition.

Excellence in Student Achievement

Hoff-Barthelson students continued to distinguish themselves both within and beyond the School. Many received top honors in regional and national competitions, were accepted into prestigious summer festivals and pre-college programs, and performed in high-profile venues. These achievements reflect the depth of our students' commitment and the exceptional guidance of their teachers.

Youth Orchestras Flourish under New Leadership

Under the direction of Leandro Gazineo, the School's Youth Orchestra Program thrived. Students developed ensemble skills, musical sensitivity, and a deepened understanding of orchestral repertoire—culminating in spirited performances that drew enthusiastic audiences and affirmed the power of collaborative music-making.

Chamber Music: A Year of Renewal and Inspiration

Hoff-Barthelson's Chamber Music Program was revitalized this year under the leadership of Laura Giannini, with expanded coaching, fresh structure, and a renewed focus on collaboration and artistry.

A highlight was the Elaine Stamas Chamber Music Residency, established in memory of longtime Trustee and passionate advocate for chamber music, Elaine Stamas. During the residency, musicians from the New York Philharmonic coached student ensembles and performed in a culminating concert, inviting select students to share the stage—an unforgettable experience that underscored the power of chamber music at its highest level.



Concerto Competition: A New Tradition Begins

The School launched its first annual Concerto Competition this year, giving advanced students the extraordinary opportunity to perform as soloists with orchestra. Participants rose to the occasion with remarkable skill and artistry, and the winners delivered performances that inspired and impressed. This new tradition adds a powerful dimension to the HBMS student experience—celebrating excellence and elevating our culture of performance.

Master Classes

Students benefited from a rich series of master classes with visiting artists and conservatory faculty that included David Madsen, guitar; Chelsea Knox, flute; composers Nils Vigeland and Matt Browne; Paul Watkins, cello; Almita Vamos, violin; Victor Rosenbaum, piano; and members of the New York Philharmonic. These sessions offered valuable feedback, inspiration, and a window into the next stages of musical development.

Music of Our Time Festival

The School's annual contemporary music festival continued to grow in scope and impact. The 2025 festival featured the world premiere of a new commissioned work by Kian

Ravaei, the second presentation of the Wilma Machover Creative Development Award, and an exciting collaboration with composition students from the Manhattan School of Music. Student and faculty performances brought fresh, bold repertoire to life, affirming the School's ongoing commitment to musical innovation.

A Global Moment at the UN

Hoff-Barthelson flutists performed at the United Nations in honor of the International Day of Education—offering a unique opportunity for students to serve as musical ambassadors on a world stage.

Summer Arts Program Growth

The 2025 Summer Arts Program welcomed students for two vibrant, two-week sessions, filled with music, visual art, collaboration, and performance. With record enrollment in the second session, the program remains a joyful and enriching cornerstone of the School's summer offerings.

Flexibility and Access Through New Offerings

In response to community needs, the School introduced a Private Lesson + Performance Classes Only package—providing a streamlined, high-quality experience for students

seeking more focused or flexible schedules. This initiative was warmly received and is now a key part of our registration options.

Spring Benefit Highlights

This year's Spring Benefit was a joyful celebration of community and music, honoring Trustee Gregory Barton and Janet Sikirica for their extraordinary service to the School. A highlight of the evening was a special performance featuring Hoff-Barthelsson students alongside world-renowned flutist Nicolas Duchamp—an unforgettable experience that reflected the spirit and excellence of the School. Proceeds from the event supported financial aid and program enhancements.



Raphael Sutiono, a piano student of Elena Belli, earned second-place honors in the 2025 American Protégé International Concerto Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall

Inspiring Excellence | Welcoming All



Violinists Abigail Fong and Melody Dong, violist Audrey Li, and cellist Meera Chari opened the final concert of the Westchester Chamber Music Society.



Flute lessons during the Summer Arts Program with Co-Director Donna Elaine.

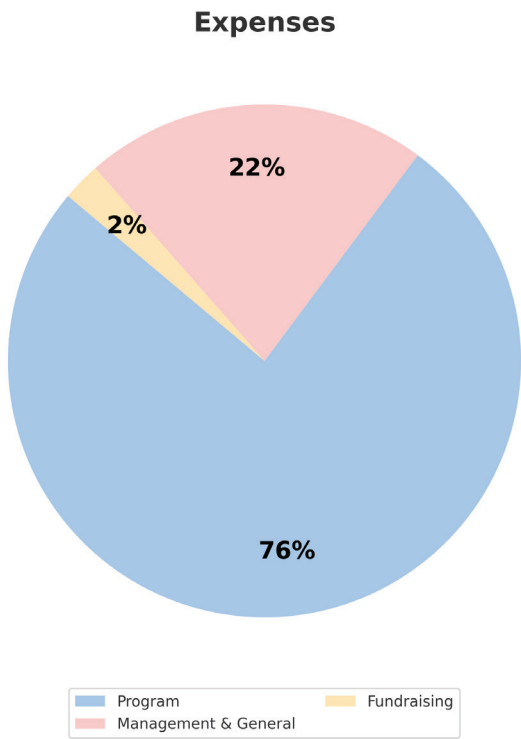
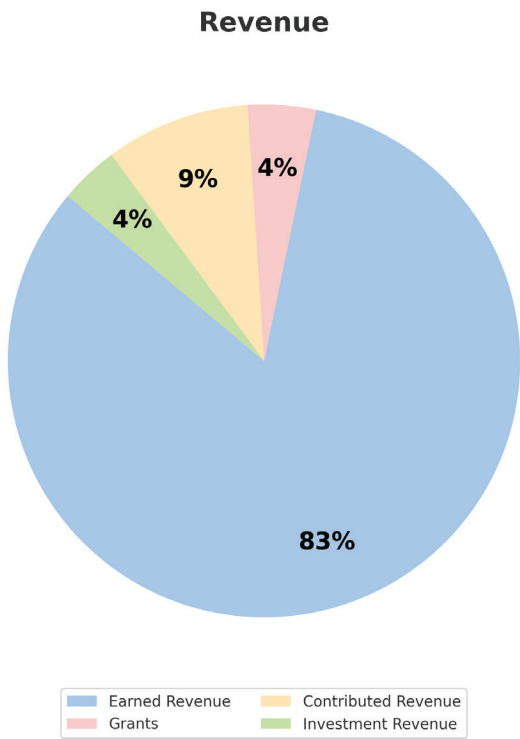
FINANCIALS

Revenue and Expenses - July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Hoff-Barthelson Music School remains committed to sound fiscal stewardship, ensuring that resources are used wisely to support our mission of providing exceptional music education. In fiscal year 2025, the School generated \$4.44 million in total revenue, with the majority coming from tuition and program fees, complemented by contributions, grants, and investment income. This diversified revenue base enables us to sustain high-quality programs, support our distinguished faculty, and provide scholarships to students in need.

On the expense side, the majority of funds were directed toward instructional programs and student support, reflecting our strong commitment to investing in students and their educational experience. The balance supported essential management functions and fundraising activities ensuring the School remains vibrant, well-managed, and accessible to all.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, families, and community partners whose generosity and trust make this work possible.



COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Leadership Circle (\$50,000+)

Rhonda G. Kost and Alfred Z. Spector
Dana Matsushita and David Siegel

Conductor (\$25,000-\$49,999)

No gifts in this category for FY25

Concertmaster (\$10,000-\$24,000)

Cathy Friedman and Thomas Feyer
Dorothy Lee and Victor Han
Rebecca May and Fernando Rivas
Janet Sikirica and Gregory E. Barton

Principal (\$5,000-\$9,999)

The Bowman Family Foundation
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JSRM Foundation
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Debra and Jonathan Kolodner
Janet Korins and Joseph Kaufman
Craig Phillips and Daniel Spitzer
Sindhu and Sanjay Rajpal
Wendy Sheldon and Michael Chun
Elaine and Alan Weiler

Sponsor (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Hotsuki Family Fund
Terri Simon and Eric Levine

Patron (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Gillian Zackham and Roy Korins

Supporter (up to \$1,000)

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Fengyun Wu and Gang Li
Jane Yu and Dong Chen
Wanjing Zhang and Andrew Liu
Stacey and Mark Zoland

Government, Foundation & Corporate Gifts

ArtsWestchester
Bright Funds
Friends of Music Concerts, Inc.
JP Morgan Chase Good Works
The New York Community Trust –
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The New York State Council on the Arts
The New York State Dormitory Authority