

annual report

2025-2026



HOFF-BARTHELSON
MUSIC SCHOOL

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

At Hoff-Barthelson Music School, progress is often measured in moments: a student's growing confidence, a phrase played with new understanding, an ensemble listening more deeply, a performer stepping onto the stage with poise and purpose. These moments reflect the heart of our work—and the enduring power of music education to shape not only musicians, but thoughtful, expressive, and resilient individuals.

The 2025–26 year was one of continued growth, refinement, and excellence. Building on the momentum of recent years, we focused on elevating the experience for every student and family who walks through our doors. Rather than change for change's sake, this was a year of deepening what Hoff-Barthelson does best: providing exceptional instruction, meaningful performance opportunities, inspiring programs, and a warm, supportive community where students of all ages can thrive.

Across the School, we strengthened programs, supported faculty and staff, enhanced communication, and created opportunities for students to challenge themselves, collaborate with others, and discover the joy of musical achievement. From first lessons to advanced study, HBMS remained focused on nurturing each student's individual path while upholding the standards of excellence that define our School.

This work is made possible by our faculty, staff, trustees, families, volunteers, and donors. Your commitment allows Hoff-Barthelson to remain both ambitious and deeply personal—a place where excellence is pursued with care, students are known and encouraged, and music brings people together in meaningful ways.

As you read this Annual Report, I hope you see a community growing with intention, building on its strengths, and refining the student experience in ways both visible and quiet. Most of all, I hope you feel our gratitude for helping make Hoff-Barthelson such a vibrant and inspiring home for music.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Gabriella Sanna



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

HBMS Board of Trustees

Dalya Khan, Chair
Rhonda Kost, Vice Chair
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Janet Korins
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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

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

Dear Friends,

As my service as Chair of the Board comes to a close, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to reflect on a year—and a community—that has meant so much to me. Hoff-Barthelson Music School is a place where excellence is nurtured with warmth, where students are encouraged to stretch and grow, and where music becomes a source of confidence, connection, and joy.



The 2025–26 year was marked by steady progress and thoughtful refinement. Across the School, we saw the strength of a clear mission brought to life through exceptional teaching, meaningful performances, dedicated leadership, and the daily commitment of faculty and staff. This work is not always measured in dramatic change, but in the lasting impact of an experience made stronger, more supportive, and more inspiring for every student.

I am especially grateful to Gabriella, our leadership team, my fellow trustees, and the faculty and staff whose care and dedication guide the School forward. As Dalya Khan begins her service as Board Chair, I am confident that the School will continue to benefit from thoughtful leadership, strong stewardship, and a deep commitment to Hoff-Barthelson's mission.

I also extend heartfelt thanks to our donors, families, alumni, and friends. Your generosity and trust allow Hoff-Barthelson to remain a place where students are known, challenged, and celebrated.

It has been a privilege to serve as Board Chair and to help steward a School with such a meaningful legacy and vibrant future. Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community and for helping Hoff-Barthelson continue to thrive.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dana Matsushita', written over a light blue circular graphic element.

Dana Matsushita

YEAR IN REVIEW

Programmatic and Artistic Highlights

The 2025–26 year marked a powerful chapter of achievement and forward momentum at Hoff-Barthelson. Across the School, students reached new artistic milestones, programs expanded in meaningful ways, and performances, partnerships, and special initiatives brought fresh energy to our community. From outstanding student accomplishments and inspiring guest artists to innovative learning experiences and broader community engagement, the year reflected a School confidently building on its strengths while creating new opportunities for students to learn, perform, and flourish.



Master Class with NY Philharmonic Musicians

A New Digital Home for Hoff-Barthelson

Hoff-Barthelson launched a new website designed to provide a more welcoming, engaging, and user-friendly experience for current and prospective students, families, and community members. With streamlined navigation, refreshed program information, and an enhanced visual presence, the site makes it easier to explore the School's exceptional offerings, learn about upcoming events, and discover the many ways people of all ages and abilities can make music at HBMS.

Inaugural Musicianship Olympics

Under the leadership of Dr. Derek Cooper, Hoff-Barthelson held its inaugural Musicianship Olympics on March 8. Thirty-one elementary and junior high school students competed in

teams, applying music theory and ear-training skills through imaginative challenges inspired by Olympic events, including Chord Archery, Mountain Scaling, and Trivia Basketball. With special training materials provided in advance, students prepared for a spirited day of learning, teamwork, and friendly competition.

Excellence in Student Achievement

Hoff-Barthelson students distinguished themselves throughout the year through outstanding performance and achievement. Winners of the Second HBMS Concerto Competition performed as soloists with the School's Youth Orchestras, while students participated in NYSSMA festivals and earned honors in the National High School Classical Guitar Competition, American Protégé Competition, Piano

Teachers Congress of New York Competition, Musical Life Competition, Jerome Sala Competition, and Yonkers Chaminade Music Club Scholarship Competition. At the Music in the Parks Festival, the Young People's Symphonette and Chamber Orchestra each received First Place and Outstanding ratings, with the Chamber Orchestra also named Best Overall Junior High Orchestra. These accomplishments reflect our students' dedication and the exceptional guidance of their HBMS faculty.

opportunities to learn directly from distinguished musicians, deepen their artistry, and expand their musical perspectives.

Port Chester Saturday Orchestra Program Takes Root

Hoff-Barthelson celebrated the successful launch of the Port Chester Saturday Orchestra Program, directed by HBMS Orchestra Director Dr. Leandro Gazineo. The program gave young musicians the opportunity to build their skills, confidence, and ensemble experience through focused



Students from the Port Chester Saturday Orchestra Program

Guest Artists Inspire and Enrich

Hoff-Barthelson welcomed an extraordinary roster of guest artists, bringing world-class artistry and inspiring educational experiences to our students and community. Highlights included a performance by renowned violinist James Ehnes with acclaimed pianist and HBMS alumnus Andrew Armstrong; a Concert, Clinic, and Conversation with the award-winning Poiesis Quartet; a Spring Benefit performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Mackenzie Melemed; and a special visit from composer Vincent Ho. Students also received invaluable coaching and insight through master classes led by Ronald Lowry, Emi Ferguson, Haralabos Stafylakis, Max Grafe, Janna Baty, Victor Cayres, and Jennifer Frautschi. These encounters offered students rare

weekly instruction. Participants also joined the School's Chamber and Festival Orchestras in performance, creating a memorable opportunity to make music alongside more advanced students and become part of the wider HBMS community.

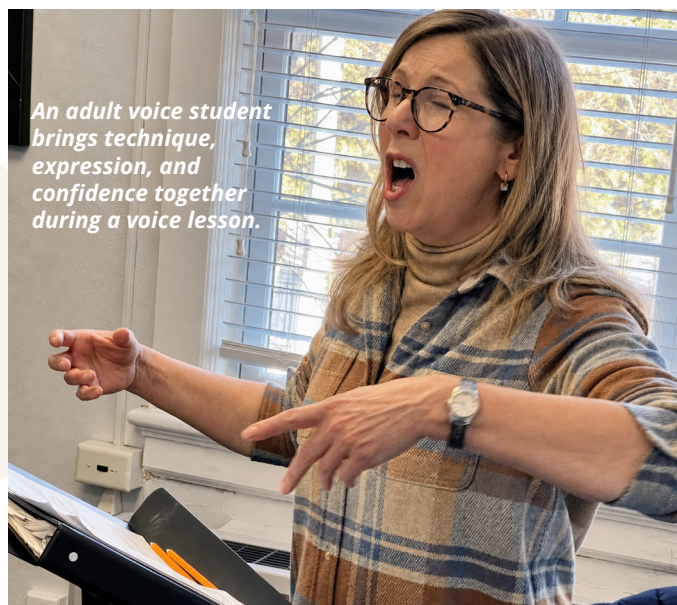
Vocal Department Flourishes

Under the leadership of Vocal Department Chair Andrea Saposnik, Hoff-Barthelson's Vocal Department experienced an exciting year of growth. Increased enrollment, expanded classes and ensembles, and more performance opportunities gave singers of all ages new ways to strengthen their skills, build confidence, and connect through music. This continued growth reflects the enthusiasm of the department's students and the dedication of its faculty to

helping each singer discover, develop, and confidently share their unique voice.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Hoff-Barthelson strengthened its community connections through meaningful partnerships, performances, and outreach activities. Highlights included collaborations with Caramoor, the Copland House through the Compose Yourself! Project, the Westchester Chamber Music Society, as well as community concerts that brought music to audiences across the region. The School also partnered with the Manhattan School of Music for the Music of Our Time Festival and with the Scarsdale Public Library on programs featuring the HBMS Jazz Department. Recognition through Wilson & Son Jewelers' May Nonprofit Award further celebrated the School's impact as a vibrant and accessible cultural resource.



An adult voice student brings technique, expression, and confidence together during a voice lesson.

Made Possible by You

Behind every student milestone is a community of supporters who believe in the power of music education. During the 2025–26 school year, donor generosity helped provide financial assistance, sustain outstanding teaching and programming, welcome distinguished artists, and create performances and special experiences that enriched learning across the School.

Your support opened doors, strengthened opportunities, and gave students the resources and encouragement to take meaningful steps forward in their musical journeys. We are deeply grateful to every donor whose commitment helped Hoff-Barthelson serve more students, pursue new possibilities, and bring people together through music.



Violinist James Ehnes (center) and HBMS Alumni Andrew Armstrong (third from left) with members of the HBMS community.



Music of Our Time Festival Artistic Director Peter Seidenberg leads student musicians in rehearsal for the world premiere of a commissioned work.

FINANCIALS

Revenue and Expenses - July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

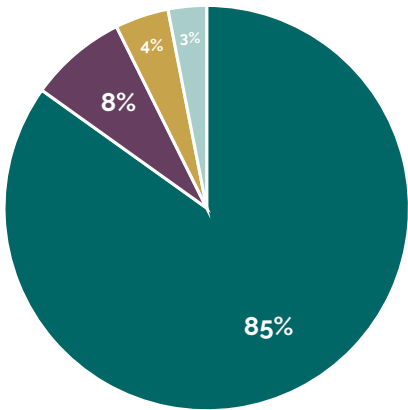
Hoff-Barthelson Music School remains committed to sound financial stewardship, using resources wisely to advance our mission of providing exceptional music education. In fiscal year 2026, the School generated \$4.64 million in total revenue, primarily from tuition and program fees, supplemented by contributions, investment income, and net proceeds from special events and ticket sales. Together, these resources sustain high-quality programs, support our distinguished faculty, and provide scholarships to students in need.

Total expenses were \$4.35 million, with more than 78% devoted to instructional programs and student support. This investment reflects our commitment to students and their educational experience. The balance funded essential management and fundraising activities that strengthen the School's operations and long-term sustainability.

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

Revenue

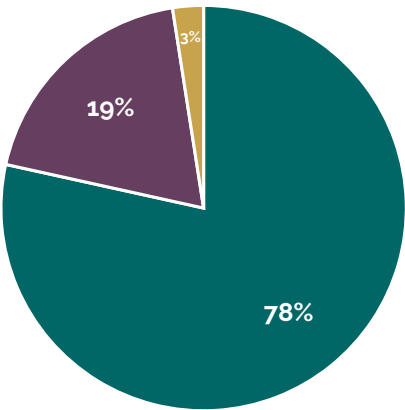
Total: \$4,642,689



- Earned Revenue
- Contributed Revenue
- Investment Revenue
- Other Revenue — Special Events/Tickets, Net

Expenses

Total: \$4,354,839



- Program
- Management & General
- Fundraising

COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Leadership Circle (\$50,000+)

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

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

Dorothy Lee and Victor Han

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

Cathy Friedman and Thomas Feyer
Dalya Khan and Preet Bharara
Rebecca May and Fernando Rivas
R.W.K. Charitable Fund
Stephen Stamas

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

The Bowman Family Foundation
Terry E. Grant
Darlene and Warren Haber, Jr.
Suzie Hahn
JSRM Foundation
Debra and Jonathan Kolodner
Janet Korins and Joseph Kaufman
Craig Phillips and Daniel Spitzer
Sindhu and Sanjay Rajpal
Kerstin and Himanshu Saxena
Janet Sikirica and Gregory E. Barton
Elaine and Alan Weiler

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

Hotsuki Family Fund
Wendy Sheldon and Michael Chun

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

Michael C. Alcamo
Michael Asen
Candace and Michael Barasch
Sheba Bergman-Golden and David Golden
Sheela and Suresh Chari
Sandy Coburn and Chris Schroeder
Julie Gans and Creighton Cray
Patricia Johnson
Gretel and Christopher Kenniff
Shruthi Komandur and Murali Akella
Russell Korins
Ling and George Liu
Anita and Michael Malina

Diane McKay and Robert Dickey
Sarah and Phil Michaelson
Francine and Dale Montagna
Christine Palmieri and Brian Levine
Elizabeth and Carl H. Pforzheimer III
Nancie and Steven Schnur
Wahiba Sebbane Benslimane and Alaa
Benslimane

Diane and Chris Towle
Tomoko Uchino and Gregory Thomas
Jiyeoun Jenna Yoo and Ken Kwon
Gillian Zackham and Roy Korins

Supporter (up to \$1,000)

Karen and Norman Alterman
Shoko Arai
Winnie Au and Joseph Fong
James M. Banner Jr.
Vera Bernardi and Frank Schaffa
Deborah Bers and Denis McInerney
Emily and Bailes Brown
Katie Casanova
Emiili Chang
Toby Crystal
Julia and Luciano Del Guzzo
Kit and Serdar Demirdelen
Maureen and Anthony Doyle
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April Johnson and Peter Seidenberg
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Dawn Leong and Mathanan Yogaratnam
Angela Liu and Raymond Sutiono
Emily and Daniel Lorch

Gengsheng Lu and Cheng Shao
Rie Matsumoto and Robert Schwartz
Elaine and Eli Mattioli
Rudina McClinchy
Silvina and Sergio Mottura
Kiyori and Kei Nagashima
Francine Naughton
Joanna and Ken Nilsen
Mary Ann and Michael Riad
Jeannett and German Rodriguez
Amy Roth and Alex Villari
David Ruby
Kamala Saha
Gabriella Sanna
Rebecca and David Sayles
Laura Schiller and Andy Davis
Edmund Schroeder
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Monica and Manish Sharma
Naira and Nathaniel Simmons
Terri Simon and Eric Levine
Lisa and Kurt Strovink
Nicki and Harold Tanner
Irena and Jeff Turner
Amy Vijayanagar and Andrew Padovano
Regina and Nick Vurchio
Elaine Wan and Pierre Nauleau
Fengyun Wu and Gang Li
Judith and Howard Zweig

Government, Foundation & Corporate Matching Gifts

ArtsWestchester
Bright Funds Matching Gifts
JPMC Foundation Matching Gifts
JSRM Foundation
New York State Council on the Arts
Scarsdale Historical Society
The New York Community Trust -
Westchester
Wilson & Son Jewelers Ltd.

Gifts In-Kind

Ruth Benedict