



2021

Annual Report

HISO

HAWAI'I
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Where music is resilient.

Dear 'Ohana,

Welcome back and thank you! What a joy to write those words. After a year that has challenged our patience and understanding in too many ways to count, we cannot wait to greet audiences again at live performances, beginning with this summer's *Sheraton Starlight Series* at the Waikiki Shell and this fall at the Blaisdell Concert Hall and Hawaii Theatre Center. Mahalo for all you've done this past year to support your HSO.

Through it all, we have been reminded that the extraordinary power of music we share is something we can never take for granted. This past year, your Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra has worked tirelessly to create original and inventive ways to reach audiences at home and beyond. We launched *Sounds of Resilience*, our digital concert series of new performances filmed live at the Hawaii Theatre Center, along with our weekly talk story series *Tuning Up with Iggy and Dave*, and released two television broadcasts – one of which was nominated for an Emmy! Yet, despite reaching over 300,000 households digitally and making music for you throughout the crisis, what we have missed most is the ability to engage, create community, and share music directly with audiences in person.

It is quite fitting that the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra is coming back together with you at the iconic Waikiki Shell—a location that embodies an unrivaled sense of place for this community. Personally, it has been an absolute delight for us to see so many old and new friends come out to support the Symphony with the return to in-person performances.

As we look forward to a renewal of relationships and traditions, this summer and throughout the coming year, we continue our mission to remain a committed and valued community asset, and as we plan for the future, a Symphony that is shaped BY Hawai'i, whose offerings are uniquely OF Hawai'i, and whose vision for the future is designed FOR Hawai'i. We thank you for all you've done this past year to see us enter the new season stronger, better, and more engaged than ever before.

Our journey continues this fall with our 2021-2022 Masterworks Season: *New Perspectives*. This coming season, we are preparing to present an ambitious season as a more flexible, innovative, versatile, and mission-driven institution, strengthened by the communities that surround us. Programming with new works and voices deepens the HSO's relationship with core repertoire and artistic collaborators. There will be so much to learn, discover, and explore, and to quench the hunger for live music.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all the amazing people involved. First, the extraordinary group of musicians onstage, whose artistry and adaptability throughout the past sixteen months inspires us to find new ways of impacting our community. Let us acknowledge the generosity and guidance of an exceptional board of directors, and the creativity and hard work of a talented and dedicated team of staff members. Equally crucial—and energizing—are all of you, the people who support and attend the HSO performances throughout the year. Your generosity—financially and emotionally—creates and supports everything we do. Let the music play!

With joy, gratitude, and aloha,



Paul Kosasa
Chair, Board of Directors



Dave Moss
Executive Director



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Dave Moss

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SOUNDS OF RESILIENCE

In total, your HSO went 439 nights without an in-person audience. Throughout this unexpected intermission we doubled down on our creativity and our mission “to present the highest-quality performances of great music,” and so, the music enthusiastically continued. The HSO produced five live digital productions, two filmed television productions, over 100 educational videos by our musicians from home, and 48 episodes of *Tuning Up with Iggy & Dave*—and we reached over 300,000 households since the pandemic began!

Staying quiet was never an option for your HSO. On the contrary, as our artistic vitality grew, the road to reconnection started with the new weekly, *Tuning Up with Iggy & Dave* live stream. Together, co-hosts Iggy Jang and Dave Moss ‘talked story’ with special guests like Stuart Chafetz, Peter Shaindlin, Lisa Nakamichi, and Jake Shimabukuro. This provided an opportunity to continue creating a richly woven community and brightening people’s days - and all episodes are still available to watch on YouTube.

We also launched *Sounds of Resilience*—a five-concert live performance series at the Historic Hawaii Theatre. Our foray into making music together again featured smaller orchestras, diverse programming, and exclusively featured local talent.

We were thrilled to partner with our friends at Ballet Hawaii to bring *The Nutcracker* directly to our community. This made for TV production featured a mix of new and archival recordings by the HSO, was narrated by Amanda Schull, and even earned an Emmy nomination.

To bring an epic year to a close, we collaborated with Ron Artis II to give the gift of music to families all over Hawai‘i just in time for the New Year. *Journey Together with Ron Artis II* featured 12 original songs with the orchestra. Ron said of the collaboration, “I’ve always loved the Hawai‘i Symphony Orchestra, and I’m honored to support them as such a valued part of the community. Having the opportunity to perform my music with a group of such talented musicians has been one of the greatest experiences of my artistic journey.”



SOUNDS OF RESILIENCE SPONSORS

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SHERATON
Starlight
Series

at the Waikiki Shell

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra

returned to the stage of the iconic Waikiki Shell for the *Sheraton Starlight Series*, featuring eight weeks of outdoor performances throughout the summer.

This inaugural series featured a festival of music by Hawai'i-born composer Michael-Thomas Foumai, whose music focuses on the people, culture, history, and storytelling of his home. The Sheraton Starlight Series also included winners of the Nā Hōkū 'Ōpio | Young Stars Program—a competition hosted by the HSO for locally trained, young musicians of Hawai'i—showcasing the abundance of talent being cultivated in our community.

Traditional masterworks, including symphonies of Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky, were performed along with music from American composers Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, and Florence Price. Guest artists included a quartet of wahine conductors, including Hawai'i native Sarah Hicks, Fresno Philharmonic Music Director Rei Hotoda, Chicago Opera Theater Music Director Lidiya Yankovskaya, and HSO Artistic Advisor JoAnn Falletta. The Symphony was joined by Raiatae Helm, Lisa Nakamichi, Jeff Peterson, and Makana.

In July, the HSO was privileged to partner with the Lili'uokalani Trust for performances on our *Sheraton Starlight Series* of *E Lei Ho'i*, *E Lili'ualani E* | *Music For and By The Queen Lili'uokalani* which featured a once-in-a-lifetime lineup of artists including Moon Kauakahi, Eric Lee, Ho'okena, Del Beazley, Aaron Mahi, Marlene Sai, and Robert Cazimero.

Performing with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra

was honestly one of the greatest and most incredible highlights of my musical career.

After so many months of modified pandemic life, performing in front of a live crowd alongside so many amazing musicians was almost surreal. From the first rehearsal to the moment I walked out on stage to the post-concert greetings, I felt so much love and support from the musical community as well as all my friends and ohana. I am SO thankful to not only the HSO, but also to the

Hawai'i Youth Symphony for sponsoring this event! ”

-ERIN NISHI, Nā Hōkū 'Ōpio | Young Stars Program

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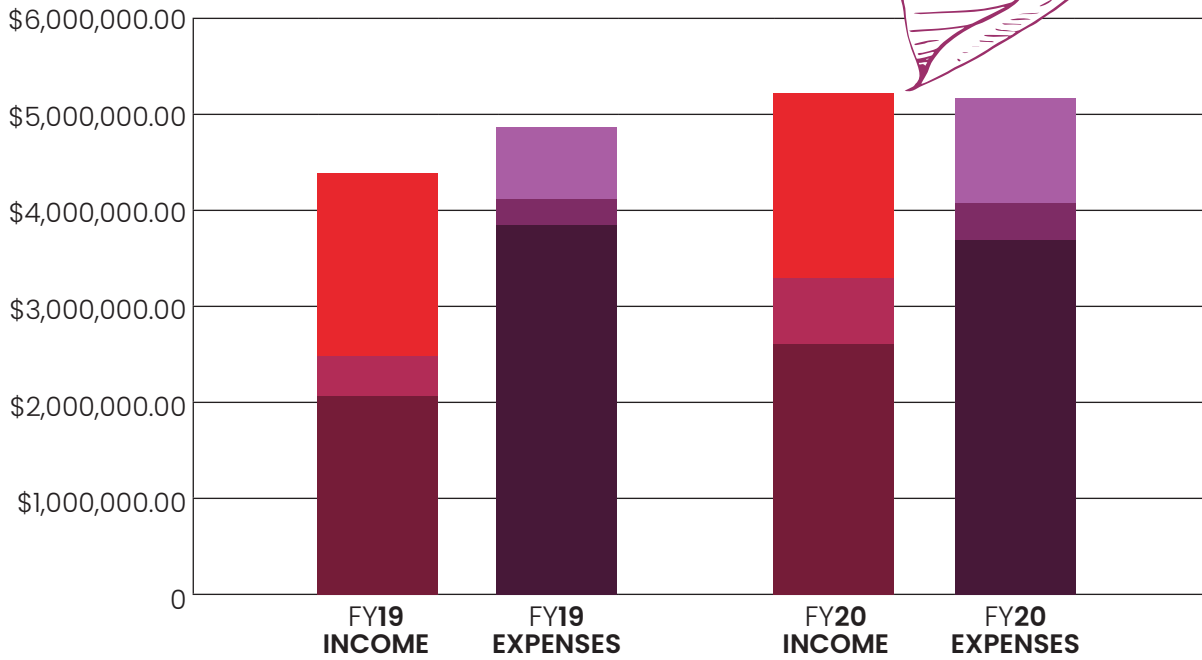
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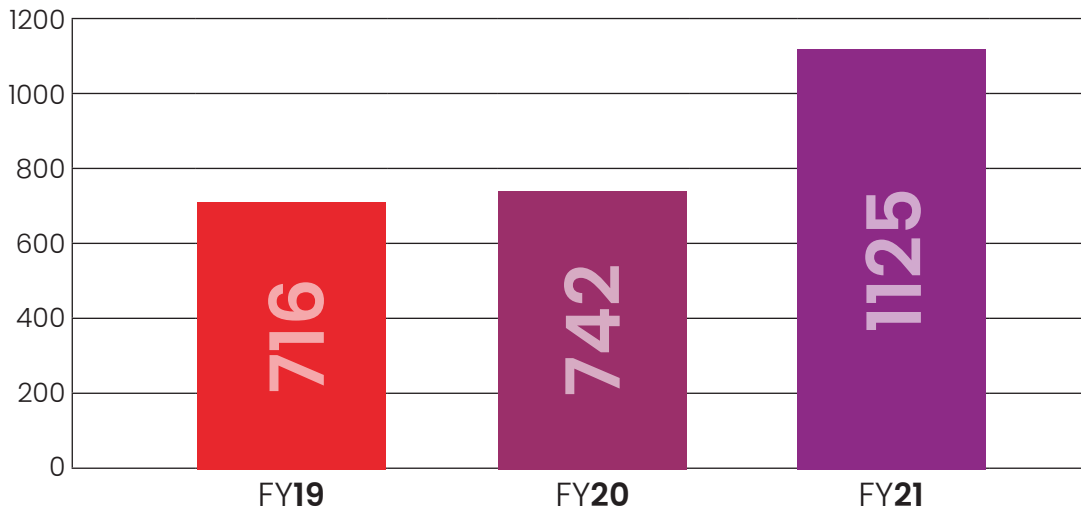
By the Numbers

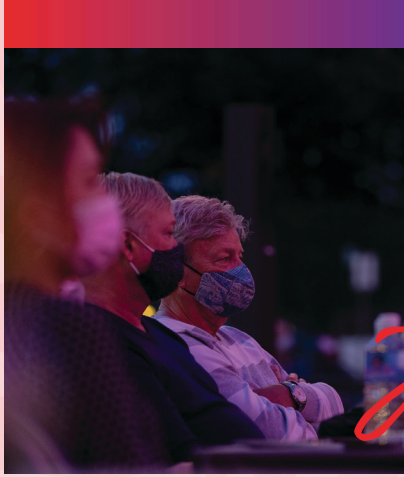
INCOME & EXPENSE



Contributed Income		\$2,047,081.00		\$2,702,666.00
HS Foundation		\$365,000.00		\$531,000.00
Earned Income		\$1,920,750.00		\$1,984,616.00
Artistic	FY19	\$3,881,074.19	FY20	\$3,769,549.00
Marketing & Development		\$226,148.59		\$293,372.00
Administrative		\$778,087.88		\$1,111,064.00

NUMBER OF DONORS





The support of over 1,100 community members enabled your HSO to present music in new and innovative ways at home and outdoors. We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions they made between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 above \$1,000. Please visit myhso.org to view our complete list of supporters including gifts up to \$999.

Mahalo for making the music sound.

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2021-22 Season: *New Perspectives.*

The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra returns to in-person concerts at the Hawaii Theatre Center and the Blaisdell Concert Hall beginning in October.

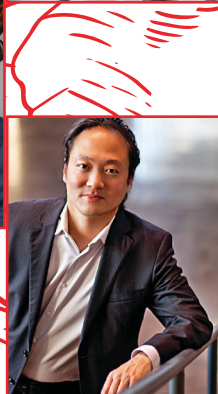
Building on the success of the Sheraton *Starlight Series* at the Waikiki Shell, the Symphony will welcome audiences back as a more innovative, versatile, and mission-driven institution; strengthened by the lessons of a global pandemic.

We have all been touched and devastated by loss and isolation, questioned our individual roles in society, reflected on what we took for granted, and wondered what the post-pandemic world would look like. *New Perspectives* gives us a path forward for what might come, the ability to anticipate even richer musical journeys and collaborations, and most importantly the opportunity to gather with our 'Ohana for live performances. As the world has changed over the past year, it allowed us to completely rethink how we program and gave us the opportunity to reflect on the upheaval and uncertainty that we have experienced in society and in our own lives.

This season expands the scope of programming with new works, new voices, and deepens the HSO's relationships with core symphonic repertoire and artistic collaborators. Highlights include guest artists Demarre McGill (flute), Joshua Bell (violin), Larisa Martinez (soprano), Sterling Elliott (cello), Anne-Marie McDermott (piano), Todd Yukumoto (saxophone), and Joyce Yang (piano), with acclaimed guest conductors, JoAnn Falletta, Scott Yoo, Arnie Roth, Jory Vinikour, Andrew Grams, Dane Lam, Joshua Habermann, and Sarah Hicks. Halekulani Masterworks Season highlights include Stravinsky's *Firebird*, Milhaud's *Creation of the World*, Handel's *Messiah*, Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Brahms Symphony No. 2, Mozart's *Requiem*, and *The Planets* by Gustav Holst. World premieres and Hawai'i debuts include works by Joan Tower, Florence Price, Takashi Yoshimatsu, Nikolai Kapustin, Maria Grenfell, and Leilehua Lanzilotti.

The HSO will continue our celebrated film series with performances of *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*. We are thrilled to welcome Arnie Roth to Honolulu for a performance of the famed video game series *Final Fantasy VII REMAKE*.

As Sinatra would say—the best is yet to come! In the winter of 2022, the HSO will roll out a new series called *HapaSymphony*, which will include local pop and Hawaiian artists joining the Symphony for a special Friday evening series. Back by popular demand, the Symphony will return to the Waikiki Shell in June for a *Starlight Series* to be announced in January 2022.



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