2017 ANNUAL REPORT





SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

JAMES EHNES Artistic Director





OUR MISSION

Seattle Chamber Music Society fosters the appreciation of chamber music in our region by presenting performances featuring world-class musicians in accessible and inviting formats, with an emphasis on developing a broad-based sustainable audience through education and community outreach.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER //

Seattle Chamber Music Society's 2017 chamber music festivals proved to be another stunning season. With astonishing performances by some of the best musicians playing today, our community and school-based programs, and the strong financial health of the organization, we are poised to build on our success as we look ahead to 2018 and beyond.

Every season is full of innumerable highlights that we experience together, and individually. I had many favorite performances, so it's hard to single out one of them. For me the *Summer Festival* performance of the Saint- Saëns Sonata for Violin and Piano by James Ehnes and Boris Giltburg combined artistry and pure athleticism that stayed with me long after the evening was over.

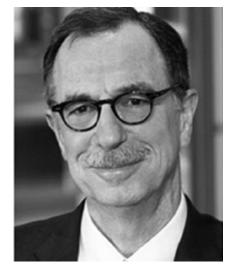
I am also particularly proud of SCMS's *Commissioning Club*, which is in its 11th season. This year's new work, *Fictional Migrations*, by the talented Lisa Bielawa, was a notable success. Lisa's pre-concert discussion of the piece helped us all gain more understanding and joy from the flawlessly performed premiere.

Beyond the concert hall, SCMS offered a number of successful programs, including a brand new event that invited community musicians to perform Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 side-by-side with our Festival musicians before the free *Chamber Music in the Park* concert at Volunteer Park. We saw a very positive response from students in our *Chamber Music in the Classroom* program, and the development of two extremely talented young musicians with the Monika Meyer Clowes Memorial Award.

Once again we finished on solid financial footing, thanks to the support of donors such as you and our prudent financial management. Our reserves equal a third of our operating budget and our endowment now exceeds \$2 million.

We couldn't have done any of this without you, our audience and patrons. James Ehnes, our musicians, Executive Director Connie Cooper and the SCMS staff and board want to offer our sincerest thanks for your support. It is only because of your generosity that we can continue to bring you, and the entire community, the highest quality chamber music for everyone to enjoy.

GEOFF GROSHONG Board President



25% of ticket purchasers were new to scms

30 NUMBER OF STATES 2017 ATTENDEES CAME FROM, IN ADDITION TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 4 CANADIAN PROVINCES AND 4 OTHER COUNTRIES

FRONT COVER: Orion Weiss, piano, Astrid Schween, cello; Chamber Music in the Park; Sean Osborn, clarinet, Yegor Dyachkov, cello, Richard O'Neill, viola; Jennifer Frautschi, violin, Alexander Kerr, violin

BACK COVER: Jeffrey Fair, horn; James Ehnes, violin, Amy Schwartz Moretti, violin, Edward Arron, cello, Raphael Bell, cello, Che-Yen Chen, viola, Beth Guterman Chu, viola; Chamber Music in the Park; Amy Schwartz Moretti, violin, Alexander Kerr, violin

2017 SEASON IN REVIEW //

Seattle Chamber Music Society enjoyed a highly successful 36th season. We served over 26,000 youth and adults with world-class performances at our *Winter* and *Summer Festival* main series concerts at Benaroya Hall, with wide-reaching engagement programs that shared our Festivals and great chamber music with diverse audiences throughout our community.



ABOVE: Tessa Lark, violin, Jun Iwasaki, violin, Julie Albers, cello, Jonathan Vinocour, viola; Stephen Rose, violin; James Ehnes, viola, Ani Aznavoorian, cello

ATTENDANCE WAS THE LARGEST EVER

at our *Summer Festival* and equally robust at our *Winter Festival*. In addition to our strong base of loyal patrons, we welcomed many new and young audiences to our ticketed Festival concerts, with about 25% of ticket buyers joining us for the first time, and over 11% of households buying student and young adult (under 30 years of age) tickets. 67% of patrons purchased tickets online (up 8% from last year) and 62,000 visitors browsed our website (up 19% from last year).

We reached twice as many people with our Community Outreach and Engagement Programs at our main series Festival concerts. Over 7,000 people – including many families with children, young adults, and first-time listeners – enjoyed relaxing and listening to beautiful chamber music outdoors with our free Chamber Music in the Park live concert at Volunteer Park and free Music Under the Stars audio simulcast Summer Festival live concert broadcasts to four Seattle neighborhood parks.

COMMISSIONING CLUB

To support the creation of new works and preserve chamber music as a living art form, SCMS's Commissioning Club presented the world premiere of its 11th commission, *Fictional Migrations* by American composer Lisa Bielawa. The Club's 40 members attended a special preview dress rehearsal, learned more about Bielawa's work and heard directly from the composer about her creative process and inspiration during three salons in March, April and June.

WINTER FESTIVAL: JANUARY 20 - 29

Winter Festival presented 6 stellar concerts featuring an extraordinary lineup of 19 worldclass musicians (including 4 making their SCMS debut) to 3,041 patrons. Capacity averaged 94%, with one sold-out concert. Celebrating what Artistic Director James Ehnes refers to as the "golden age" of composition, each concert featured a work by some of today's most accomplished, living American composers: John Corigliano, Jennifer Higdon, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steve Reich, Paul Schoenfield, and John Adams. Other highlights included arrangements of Bach's *Sinfonias* for string trio by Sitkovetsky, Faure's Piano Quartet, Op. 15, Dvořák's Piano Quintet, Op. 81, and Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*.

SUMMER FESTIVAL: JULY 3 - 29

It was another sizzling *Summer Festival* with enthusiastic crowds of more than 6,000 filling Benaroya Hall for the 12 main concerts featuring unique and dynamic chamber music performances by 46 world-class artists. Capacity averaged 96%, with 5 sold-out concerts. Total ticket sales exceeded last summer's record high by 3%. Programming highlights included musical "postcard" concerts that explored the music of France, Russia, Bohemia, and Vienna, as well as such masterpieces as Messiaen's life-affirming *Quartet for the End of Time* and Beethoven's dramatic and beloved "Kreutzer" Violin Sonata.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Several intimate events were hosted in private residences, including house concerts with Festival artists pianist Inon Barnatan (November), pianist William Wolfram (March), and violinist Karen Gomyo and pianist Paige Roberts Molloy (May); and a special patron trip to Montreal (April).



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY //

Education and Community Engagement Programs help us build connections to our Festival concerts and artists, develop young listeners and performers, and share chamber music with wider and more broadly diverse audiences.



ABOVE: Julie Albers, cello, Nurit Bar-Josef, violin, Che-Yen Chen, viola, David Chan, violin; James Ehnes, violin, warms up before Chamber Music in the Park



CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE PARK

Our annual *Chamber Music in the Park* event on Saturday, July 29th brought *Summer Festival* to a close, with over 3,700 people (1,000 more than last year) gathered on the lawn at Volunteer Park Amphitheater to enjoy a free live outdoor concert of Borodin's playful string quintet and a perfectly crafted Beethoven septet for strings and winds.

For the first time ever, the concert was preceded by a community playalong of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #3, with over 65 local amateur musicians participating alongside our Festival musicians.

PRE-CONCERT RECITALS

Free and informal half-hour recitals before each of the 18 main concerts at our *Winter* and *Summer Festivals* attracted 6,613 people, with intimate performances by world-class artists, including many Festival favorites and newcomers too.

CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS

Classical KING-FM announcers and SCMS staff hosted our free, noontime *Classical Conversation* Podcast series, recorded live in front of a studio audience at Benaroya Hall's Soundbridge Education Center, with indepth interviews of Festival artists James Ehnes, Orion Weiss, Andrew Armstrong, Lorna McGhee, and Astrid Schween.

OPEN REHEARSALS

Audiences had the unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and observe Festival artists prepare for upcoming concerts with eight free *Open Rehearsals*.



ABOVE: A crowd gathers at Volunteer Park for Chamber Music in the Park; Chamber Music in the Classroom at Ballard High School

of households buying tickets were students or 30 & under

"It's experiences like these that remind me of the niceties of living in a beautiful city with culture at its core. Thank you!"

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS ATTENDEE



ABOVE: Students perform before Music Under the Stars, the live audio broadcast concert at Volunteer Park

"Wonderful initiative to make classical music accessible, engaging, and inviting to all age groups and skill levels. My kids played in the Play Along and enjoyed the challenge of keeping tempo and playing with the professionals!!"

CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE PARK ATTENDEE



ABOVE: An attendee takes part in the musical instrument "petting zoo" at the Family Concert



MUSIC UNDER THE STARS

What better way to enjoy summer in Seattle than relaxing outdoors in one of our many beautiful public parks while listening to great chamber music! Over 3,300 people joined us for 16 free *Music Under the Stars* live audio broadcasts of all 12 *Summer Festival* main concerts at Seattle's Volunteer Park Amphitheater on Capitol Hill, Freeway Park downtown near the Convention Center, Columbia Park in Columbia City, and Delridge Playfield in West Seattle.

Before each broadcast and during intermission, audiences were treated to live performances by talented student ensemble groups with University of Washington, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Music Madness Summer Camp, and finalists with KING-FM's Young Artist Award Competition.

Music Under the Stars helps us open access to our Summer Festival, reach new and younger audiences, and build sustainable audiences for our future. Based on audience survey responses, over 20% were families with children; 60% were under 40 years of age; 40% were first-time listeners; and 60% were returning audiences who are making these broadcasts part of their annual summertime tradition.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Through brief, interactive talkbacks following each of our 18 main series *Winter* and *Summer Festival* concerts, audience members had the opportunity to ask questions of two of the evening's musicians, and learn about their musical inspirations and artistic lives.

RADIO BROADCASTS

Over 10,000 listeners in the Puget Sound area and worldwide tuned in each evening to Classical KING-FM to hear live radio broadcasts from Benaroya Hall of all 18 of our *Summer* and *Winter Festival* concerts. Rebroadcasts of 45 different 2016 and 2017 Festival concert highlights were heard on American Public Media's *Performance Today* on 280 stations nationwide throughout the year.

FAMILY CONCERTS

Creating musical memories to last a lifetime, 600 young audience members (ages 5-10) and their families came to Benaroya Hall to enjoy musical adaptations of some of their most beloved childhood stories. Our *Winter Festival Family Concert* presented *The Little Engine That Could* with Seattle's Skyros Quartet performing music by Dvořák, Beethoven, Schubert, and an arrangement of Brubeck's *Take 5*; and our *Summer Festival Family Concert* presented Peter Schickele's delightful and humorous version of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Music Center of the Northwest hosted a free hands-on musical instrument "petting zoo" in the lobby before each concert.

PREVIEW LECTURES

Local music scholar Aaron Grad introduced some of the composers and works at upcoming *Winter* and *Summer Festival* concerts, with eight Preview Lectures to residents at University House, Skyline, Ida Culver and Alijoya senior facilities.

CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM

SCMS's team of professional string ensemble musicians and teaching artists served 450 music students at four partnering Seattle Public Schools: Hamilton and Madison middle schools; and Ballard and Roosevelt high schools. Each school received 3-4 consecutive, weekly visits of individual and small group student coaching, culminating with a 45-minute chamber ensemble performance by the artists. Teachers valued the exposure to professional artists and increased level of musicianship with their students. Young musicians liked the focused attention and unique feedback from the coaches, and learning various tips and techniques to improve their practicing and playing together as a group.

YOUNG ARTIST AWARD AND MONIKA MEYER CLOWES MEMORIAL AWARD

In partnership with Classical KING-FM, we offered our 6th annual Young Artist Award competition for solo and ensemble musicians ages 6-20. SCMS awarded its separate Monika Meyers Clowes Memorial Award to this year's winners, violinist Marley Erickson and cellist Kristy Park. As part of their prize, these talented young artists received coaching by Festival musicians and performed on stage for our audiences at a free pre-concert Artist Recital during our Summer Festival.

MASTER CLASSES

Festival artists gave six free master classes to 136 young musicians at Seattle Conservatory of Music, Academy of Music Northwest, Cornish Summer Camp, Seattle University and Chamber Music Madness Tuned In! Summer Camp. Festival musicians participating in this year's master classes were: violinists Alexander Kerr, Karen Gomyo, and Tessa Lark, cellists Yegor Dyachkov and Edward Arron, and pianist Anton Nel.

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT TICKETS

Thanks to special support from donors, SCMS provided 34 *Scholarship Tickets* to middle, high school and college music students to attend our *Winter Festival* and *Summer Festival* concerts for free. For many students, this was their first time hearing world-class chamber music performed at Benaroya Hall.



"To listen to classical music in a park after a beautiful sunny day in Seattle — it cannot get better than this!"

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS ATTENDEE



ABOVE: Alexander Kerr, violin, leads a masterclass

10,000 MORE VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE THAN LAST YEAR



ABOVE: Students perform before the Music Under the Stars live audio broadcast concert at Freeway Park

ENSURING OUR ARTISTIC VISION AND STABILITY //

Our success is due in large part to the generosity of hundreds of donors and sponsors. Approximately 43% of our revenue comes from earned income, the remaining 57% comes from our donors. Thank you all for your generous support!



ABOVE: Tessa Lark, violin, Jonathan Vinocour, viola; Boris Giltburg, piano, Bion Tsang, cello; James Ehnes, violin, Denis Brott, cello

SPONSORS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS //

A heartfelt round of applause to the funders and many individuals whose extra help make the Summer and Winter Festivals possible.



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Seattle Chamber Music Society is pleased and grateful to recognize our donors whose gifts to our Annual Fund during the 2017 Festival Season enable us bring produce musical performances and programs that bring joy and benefit to the community. (Gifts received between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017.)

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SCMS strives to list our donors as they wish to be recognized. If we have made an error, please contact our office at 206.283.8710.

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* In Memoriam

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Anders Johnson Associate, Musician Hospitality

2017 FESTIVAL ARTISTS //



ABOVE: Yegor Dyachkov, cello, Richard O'Neill, viola; James Ehnes, violin, Anna Polonsky, piano, Bion Tsang, cello OPOSITE: Orion Weiss, piano, Max Levinson, piano; Community Play Along before Chamber Music in the Park at Volunteer Park; Astrid Schween and SCMS Director of Marketing Seneca Garber at Classical Conversation event at Soundbridge at Benaroya Hall

VIOLIN

James Ehnes, Artistic Director Benjamin Beilman Noah Bendix-Balgley Jennifer Frautschi Karen Gomyo Augustin Hadelich *Paul Huang Jun Iwasaki Erin Keefe Alexander Kerr Tessa Lark *Sean Lee Amy Schwartz Moretti Stephen Rose Andrew Wan

VIOLA

Che-Yen Chen Beth Guterman Chu David Harding Michael Klotz Yura Lee Richard O'Neill Cynthia Phelps Jonathan Vinocour

CELLO

Julie Albers Edward Arron Ani Aznavoorian Raphael Bell *Denis Brott Andrés Díaz Yegor Dyachkov Clive Greensmith Astrid Schween Ronald Thomas *Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir Bion Tsang PIANO Andrew Armstrong *Boris Giltburg Max Levinson George Li Paige Roberts Molloy Anton Nel Jeewon Park Craig Sheppard Orion Weiss Joyce Yang *Natalie Zhu

BASS Jordan Anderson Joseph Kaufman

HORN Jeffrey Fair

FLUTE Lorna McGhee **OBOE** *Chengwen Lai

BASSOON Seth Krimsky

CLARINET Anthony McGill Ricardo Morales Sean Osborn

PERCUSSION Robert Tucker

*SCMS debut during the 2017 Season



"The huge attendance speaks to how very special this event is. Hearing the community join in on the Bach was very cool." CHAMBER MUSIC IN THE PARK ATTENDEE





2017 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES //

EVENTS/PROGRAMS	DATES	NUMBER OF EVENTS	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
at Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall			
Winter Festival Series Concerts	Jan 20-29	6	3,041
Winter Festival Pre-concert Recitals (free admission)	Jan 20-29	6	2,275
Winter Festival Post-concert "Meet the Artist" Q&A	Jan 20-29	6	301
Winter Festival Family Concert	Jan 28	1	340
Classical Conversation at Soundbridge (free admission)	Jan 19, 26	2	22
Open Rehearsals (free admission)	Jan 21, 28	2	140
Preview lectures at Skyline, Alijoya, Univ House, Ida Culver	Jan 9, 23, 24	4	146
at Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall			
Summer Festival Main Series Concerts	July 3-28	12	6,218
Summer Festival Pre-concert Recitals (free admission)	July 3-28	12	4,338
Summer Festival Family Concert	July 22	1	254
Chamber Music in the Park free Concert at Volunteer Park	July 29	1	3,700
Music Under the Stars at Delridge Park	July 3, 10, 17, 24	4	515
Music Under the Stars at Volunteer Park	July 5, 12, 19, 26	4	1,587
Music Under the Stars at Columbia City Park	July 7, 14, 21, 28	4	737
Music Under the Stars at Freeway Park	July 7, 14, 21, 28	4	490
Open Rehearsals (free admission)	July 7, 10, 12, 17, 21, 26	6	316
Classical Conversation at Soundbridge (free admission)	July 7, 12, 21	3	46
Summer Festival Post-concert "Meet the Artist" Q&A	July 3-28	12	602
Preview lectures at Skyline, Alijoya, Univ House, Ida Culver	June 13, 14, 26	4	155
other venues—additional events Commissioning Club Salons	Mar 5, Apr 23, June 6	3	85
other venues—outreach			
Chamber Music in Classroom: Hamilton Middle School	Mar 27, Apr 3, 17	3	60
Chamber Music in Classroom: Madison Middle School	Apr 27, May 4, 11	3	99
Chamber Music in Classroom: Ballard High School	Jan 12, 19, 24, 27	4	164
Chamber Music in Classroom: Roosevelt High School	Jan 11, 18, 25, 31	4	125
Master Classes (Nel, Dyachkov, Kerr): Seattle Univ, AMNW	Jan 21, 25	3	60
Master Class (K.Gomyo): Sea Conservatory of Music	May 6	1	18
Master Class (Lark) Tuned In Summer Camp	July 12	1	21
Master Class (Arron) Cornish Summer Camp	July 26	1	37
Special Events—House Concerts (Barnatan, Wolfram, Gomyo)	Nov 14, Mar 19, May 7	3	131
Also: Re-broadcast 2016 concert highlights on KING-FM	June 26-30	5	c. 10,000/night
Live broadcasts of 2017 Summer Festival on KING-FM	July 3-28	12	c. 10,000/night
Live broadcasts of 2017 Winter Festival on KING-FM	Jan 20-29	6	c. 10,000/night
Re-broadcast of concert highlights on APM's	45 performances broadcast		c. 1.1 million/
Performance Today on 280 stations nationwide	throughout the year		broadcast
EVENTS/ATTENDEES TOTAL:		143	26,023*

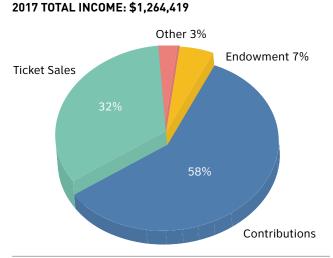
2017 FINANCIAL REPORT //

2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

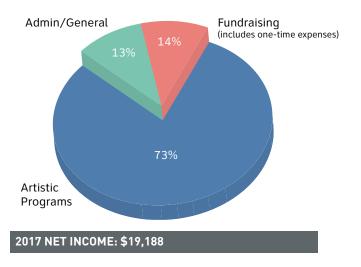
- \$459,380 in contributions from individuals to the Annual Fund (4% increase)
- \$105,146 in support from foundations, corporations, and government agencies
- * \$402,991 in Festival ticket sales
- * $4\%\,distribution\,from\,SCMS\,Endowment$
- * $$2.19\ million\ in\ assets\ of\ SCMS\ Endowment$

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(Annual Operations)



2017 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,245,231





ABOVE: James Ehnes, violin, Amy Schwartz Moretti, violin, Edward Arron, cello

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended Sept. 30, 2017 - preliminary

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 313,855
Receivables	73,555
Prepaid Expenses	32,424
Fixed Assets, net	99,589
Long-Term Investments	409,237
Total Assets	\$ 928,660

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 24,625
Deferred Revenue	44,673
Long-term Liabilities	60,090
Total Liabilities	\$ 129,388

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 641,312
Restricted Net Assets	157,960
Total Net Assets	\$ 799,272

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 928,660

(Financial statements not yet audited)



Photography: Paul Joseph Brown Photography, Ashley Genevieve Photography, Tom Marks Photography, and SCMS Staff.

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