

GIFTED
MUSIC
SCHOOL

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

MUSIC EDUCATION FOR ALL



182 S 600 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84102 | 385-222-7787 | giftedmusicschool.org

Our mission: to nurture artistry, skills, and character vital to a healthy community through exceptional music education for all.



Message from the Executive Director: A Banner Year at GMS

This year, the Gifted Music School celebrated its 15th Anniversary of bringing exceptional music education to all. As I reflect on our journey from a small nonprofit with a handful of supporters to the organization that GMS is today, I am filled with gratitude for the dedicated community of students, parents, donors, volunteers, faculty, and staff who have made our mission possible.

Thank you for your belief and investment in our work.

I am happy to report that school enrollment is at a record high with 668 students, including 447 children from Project GRIT, our Title I school outreach program. The Preparatory remains a beacon for those of all ages and backgrounds seeking quality, accessible music instruction. And the Conservatory continues to be competitive with the top pre-collegiate classical music programs in the nation. In 2024, we proudly celebrated four Conservatory graduates who collectively received over \$200,000 in college scholarships.

Additionally, GMS held 36 community concerts throughout the Salt Lake Valley; raised a record \$262,000 at our annual gala; and welcomed esteemed board member Diana Peterson as our new Board Chair. Her unfailing leadership, wisdom, and generosity have shaped GMS from the beginning, and we are honored to have her continued partnership in this new role. Meanwhile, we celebrated the beautiful and momentous tenure of our outgoing Board Chair, Art Dummer, who will continue to serve on the GMS board.

In short, the Gifted Music School has enjoyed a banner year of success and growth because of your tremendous engagement and support. Thank you for making our mission possible. We are grateful for your dedication to bringing the power of music into children’s lives and excited to reach new heights together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Watanabe', written in a cursive style.

Eugene Watanabe
Co-Founder & Executive Director

CO-FOUNDERS

Dr. Vera Oussetskaia Watanabe, *Master Piano Faculty*
Eugene Watanabe, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

Diana Peterson, *Chair*
Sam Andersen, *Vice Chair / Treasurer*
Eugene Watanabe, *Co-Founder & Executive Director*
Anna Maxwell, *Secretary*

Barry Bickmore
Arthur Dummer
J.P. Hughes
Rachael Ivory
Armand Johansen
Deborah Moench
Karen F. Peterson
Joanne Rowland
Richard Taylor
Greg Trimble
Josh Whisenant

ADMINISTRATION

Eugene Watanabe, *Co-Founder & Executive Director*
Susan Andersen, *Operations Director*
Linda Duan, *Conservatory Director*
Stephanie Ogden, *Development Director*
Cael Campbell, *Grants Manager*
Abigail Dreher, *Project GRIT Manager*
Christina King, *Business Manager*
Anna Maxwell, *Executive Assistant*

FACULTY

Shenae Akagi
Shelley Aste
Dr. Koji Attwood
Katherine Baird
Thomas Baron
Yelena Bates
Jennifer Beaumont
Dr. Blanka Bednarz
Dr. Michael Chikinda
Elissa Cox-Jones
Abigail Dreher
Linda Duan
Dr. Matthew Durrant
Dr. Shelby Fisher
Micah Fleming
Anne Francis Bayless
Rebecca Goeckeritz
Dr. Amanda Hales
Dr. Seretta Hart
Dr. Sarah Houghton
Erika Hubbard
Caroline Jordan
Rachel Karr
Christina King
Kimberly Marsden
Dr. Conlan Miller
Deborah Moench
Rebecca Moench
Dr. LeeAnn Morgan
Joanna Oshida
Dr. Whitney Pizza
John T. Posadas
David Price
Andres Reyes
Kevin Shumway
Dr. Cahill Smith
Sophie Stanley
Matthew Struthers
Erin Svoboda-Scott
Rachel Taft
Monica Thiriot
Dr. Vera Oussetskaia Watanabe
Eugene Watanabe
David Yavornitzky
Dr. Alie Yorgason



FY24 BY THE NUMBERS

OVER **12,000** HOURS TAUGHT TO A RECORD **668** STUDENTS

447

PROJECT GRIT

40

CONSERVATORY

183

PREPARATORY

72% of students received a full or partial scholarship

4 Conservatory graduates received over **\$200,000** in college scholarships

36 Community Concerts were held in partnership with organizations like the Eccles Theater, Park Lane Senior Living, Salt Lake Men’s Chorus, Salt Lake Public Library, St. Mark’s Cathedral, Utah Food Bank, and Utah Symphony | Utah Opera.

38 guest artists at Distinguished Masterclass and Forum Class Series

OF **43** FACULTY MEMBERS:

96%

DEGREES IN MUSIC

76%

ADVANCED DEGREES

30%

DOCTORAL DEGREES

12 Conservatory students participated in local, national, and international competitions

Alvin Gao, Deann Huang, Sarah Kendell, Ezekiel Sokoloff—Utah Symphony Salute to Youth winners

Alvin Gao—youngest semi-finalist to be invited to the 2024 Denison University International Piano Competition in Ohio

Tyson Graham and Gabriel Kinikini—1st place in their categories at USU PianoFest

Makynlee Hinckley—Lyceum Philharmonic Concerto Competition winner

Deann Huang—Music International Grand Prix, 2nd place

Deann Huang and Brooklynn Thatcher—Great Composers Competition Best Prokofiev Performance Ensemble 1st place

Logan Purser—national finalist of the American Viola Society Festival Solo Competition, competes in finals at Colburn on June 19th

Brooklynn Thatcher—American Fork Symphony Salute to Youth winner

FY24 HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE 2023 - MAY 2024

EMBRACING A NEW CHAPTER

We said a fond farewell to Heather Moore, our beloved former GMS Executive Director, and welcomed Eugene Watanabe as her successor in September. As co-founder of the Gifted Music School and one of the top music educators in the United States, Eugene is poised to bring a new era of prestige and growth for the school with his leadership.

PASSING THE BOARD BATON

After over 10 years of dedicated service, Arthur Dummer stepped down as Board Chair and Diana Peterson was elected to this role in March. She joined the GMS Board in 2011, and brings a wealth of experience to the position, including service on the boards of Lincoln Center, CHOICE Humanitarian, and the BYU Alumni Association. Diana is a lifelong lover of music and an accomplished violinist, pianist, and singer.

GROWING OUR TEAM

We invested in our administrative team and welcomed three new staff members: Stephanie Ogden as our first full-time Development Director; Cael Campbell as Grants Manager; and Christina King as Business Manager. Working together, these roles have significantly strengthened our financial position to support sustainable growth.



NEW PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to a generous gift from the Grant and Margaret Bagley Family, we were honored to establish the Donald N. Bagley Scholarship for Double Bass program, helmed by David Yavornitzsky, Principal Bassist of the Utah Symphony. We also launched the Young Community Artists (YCA) in partnership with Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, bringing greater accessibility to our nationally-recognized Conservatory curriculum for more young musicians than ever before. And finally, GMS added a formal Composition program, AP Theory, a Music Listening class, a group Keyboard Class with digital piano lab, and a Percussion program.

A SENSATIONAL GALA

In May, GMS held its 15th Anniversary Gala at the beautiful Eccles Alumni House, raising a record \$262,000 with \$78,000 for the Georgia M. and Arthur O. Dummer Scholarship Fund. The evening included an elegant cocktail hour with live music; a seated dinner by LUX Catering; exciting auctions; and exceptional performances from GMS students, faculty, and concert violinists Jenny Oaks Baker and McCall A. Haslam.



FY24 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE

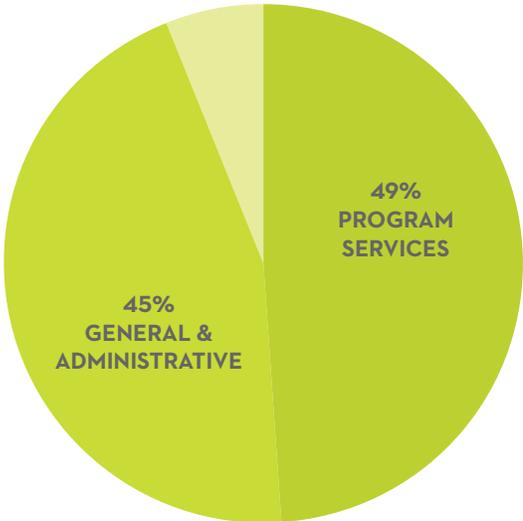
| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Tuition | \$573,602 |
| Individual Giving | \$461,767 |
| Foundation Contributions | \$262,500 |
| Corporate Giving | \$158,825 |
| Government Grants | \$98,396 |
| In-kind Contributions | \$37,037 |
| TOTAL | \$1,592,127 |

EXPENSES

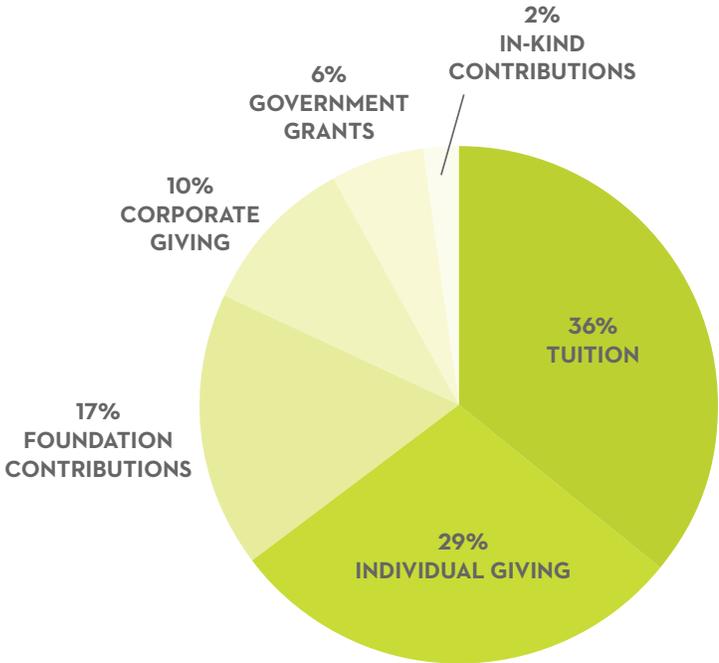
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|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Program Services | \$657,689 |
| General & Administrative | \$593,555 |
| Fundraising | \$82,837 |
| TOTAL | \$1,334,081 |

EXPENSES

6%
FUNDRAISING



REVENUE



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Their generous support of at least \$100 has brought the beauty and power of music into our young students' lives, and we are deeply grateful.

Maestro (\$100,000 - \$500,000)

Joel and Diana Peterson Family Foundation
Karen F. Peterson | Peterson Homes
Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation

Virtuoso (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Scott and Jennifer Huntsman
The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Foundation

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

Brent and Bonnie Jean Beesley Foundation
Frank and Rachael Ivory | Cottonwood Title
Deborah and Louis Moench
National Endowment for the Arts
O.C. Tanner Company
Utah Division Of Arts and Museums

Conductor (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Barry Bickmore
William and Pat Child
Adam and Kate Day | Day Violins
Angela and Ezekiel Dumke III
Arthur O. and Georgia M. Dummer
Google
Jennifer and Nathan Royall
Salt Lake County Zoo Arts & Parks
Bill Underwood
Emma Xue and Xuesong Huang

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

Grant and Margaret Bagley
Big-D Corporation
Lawrence T. Dee & Janet T. Dee Foundation
Rebecca Dowdell
Glen Hanson
Phyllis Hockett
Armand and Julie Johansen
Gary and Suzanne Larsen
James Michie
Brandon Peterson
Anne Pingree
Mary-Margaret Pingree and Matt Durham
Carter Rockwood
Salt Lake City Arts Council
Andrew Swan
Bronwynn and Ryan Swigert
Michelle and Adam Wester

Artist (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

America First Credit Union
Sam Andersen
Anonymous
Anthony Meyer Family Foundation
Leah Barker
Stephanie Budge
Stephanie Bywater
Chapman-Richards & Associates
Pam Cole

Jonathan Day
Mark T. and Gretchen N. Durham
Charitable Fund
Lisa Evans
Richard and Linda Eyre
Patricia Falk
Virginia Harris
Linda Hibbert
Patti Horton
Kelly and Nina Hubbard
J.P. and Elaine Hughes
Kristen Keefe
Scott and Allison Kendell
Kat Kennedy
Rusty Lugo
LUX Catering
Cindy McCandless
Kristine Moore
Alan and Marilyn Morris
Steve Neeleman
Gregory Perea
Bruce and Sara Robinson
Rodney and Bobbie Snow
John and Suzanne Steed
Lidia and Ruben Tarraf
Richard and Anna Taylor | Woven Pear
Rob Taylor
Natasha Tilley
Kevin and Lauren Townsend
Greg and Kristyn Trimble

Blake and Lana Van Rosendaal
Debra VanGorder
Sally Wallace Browning
Vera and Eugene Watanabe
Wells Fargo
Josh Whisenant
Ann Wilson
Athelia Woolley
Steve and Jen Yamamoto
Jenny and Jared Zemp
Symphony (\$500 - \$999)
Susan Andersen | C&S Management

Tim Barney
Kathleen Call
Antonio and Maria Cutillo
Daynes Music
Susan Goodfellow
Jared Graham
Bruce Hancey
Zac and Emily Hicks | Bluebird Renovations
Aaron Hubbard
Jiang Giving Fund
Kinser Studios
Karl Lind
Mindy Lokey
Karl and Susan Lund
Mark Meadows Charitable Fund
Justin Morgan
Alayna Nelson
Doug and Cynthia Owens
Holy and Taylor Parkin
Cori Pugsley
Ray Quinney & Nebeker Foundation
Jaryl and Julie Rencher
Faizi A. Siddiqi and Saba Siddiqui
Greg Summerhays
Jonathan Vaas and Julie Facelli
Esther Vasefi
Walmart
Jon White
Judy Whittlesey
Wonderstone Films

Overture (\$100 - \$499)

Nathan Adamson
Shelley Astle
France Barral
Anne Francis and Brant Bayless

Brandon Bickmore
Chace Bickmore
Heather Buck
George Cannon
Liliana Casale
Monica Clay
John Colpean
Lew and Barbara Cramer
Lori Darr
Margaret and Ronald Lee Davis
Lynn Deien
Amanda Diamond
Landon Dickson
Debbie Doll
Linda Duan
Laird Dummer
Pamela Eagar
Jane and Greg Earl
Leslie Edwards
Linda Ekberg
Donna Fairbanks
Bonnie Felger
David and Jana Fotheringham
Cynthia Gambill
Sam George
Laura Goodman
Susan Grant
Ariane Green
Steven Harmsen
Tamara Hauge
Ann Hawksworth
Renee Haws
Shalese Hinckley
Roy Bosch and Melany Hooker-Bosch
Jeff Hullinger
Shaun Humphries
David Isaac
James Jardine
Caryn Johnson
Brian Jorgensen
Nancy Keefe
Grant Kesler
Yoon Kim-Butterfield
Aaron Kinikini
Sarah Kratzer
Hannele Laine
Anne-Marie Lampropoulos
Ted Lewis

Yan Li
Francie Lin
Jason Ma
Kimberly Marsden
Ryan and Tonya Marshall
Karen Maxwell
Sharalyn McKell
Robert and Sarah Means
Jamie Meehan
Emilee Midget
Sue Mikell
Thomas Morgan
Michael and Elizabeth Mower
Stephanie Ogden
John and Jennifer Pearce
Scott Pingree
Whitney Pizza
Ashley Purser
Linda R. Thatcher
Jordan Reichman
Edmund Rollett
James Romano
Walter and Marilyn Rudolph
Rachel Sabin
Alexis Schmitt
See's Candies
Ann Staples
Arnold and Dorothea Steinhardt
Michael Stevens
Cindy Sumarauw
Kyle and Marilyn Taft
Isabeau Tavo
Cassie Taylor
Beverly Terry
Mark and Christine Thomas
James W. Trimble
Cecilia Uriburu
Nicholas Walker
Joseph Wallace
Mayla Wallace
James Warenski
Elizabeth Weist
Brian and Shannon Whisenant
Rebecca Woodruff
Fusheng Wu
Carolyn Zaugg

When children receive quality music education, their potential for success – in almost every area of their lives – is increased. More than that, their success becomes the community’s success as they grow into engaged citizens, leaders, and supporters of the arts.



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