
2025/2026

IMPACT REPORT

A symphony at the heart of our community.



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development@symphonysanjose.org



Mission

We are committed to enriching the cultural health of our community, working to expand access to and foster an appreciation of symphonic music that inspires a lifelong passion, through innovative, unique, diverse, and exciting programming and shared live experiences.

Pillars

1

Engagement: We create live symphonic experiences that engage the senses, challenge the mind, and inspire audiences to connect, reflect, and thrive.

2

Exploration: We take a bold, creative approach to programming and performance, exploring new horizons for what a symphony can be.

3

Environment: We reflect the dynamic, diverse spirit of San Jose and its communities, honoring our past as we grow into our future.

4

Education: We foster a lifelong appreciation of symphonic music through youth development, public outreach, and adult education.

5

Equity: We are committed to expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion in our programming, our people, and our audience.

2025/2026 SEASON:

Building a Symphony Our Community Loves



MESSAGE FROM ROBERT MASSEY

Dear Friends,

Great orchestras are built over time—not only through artistic excellence, but through the relationships they cultivate with their communities.

This past season, we were encouraged to see those relationships deepen in meaningful ways. Audiences experienced a dynamic variety of programming, families embraced traditions old and new, and first-time attendees became familiar faces in the concert hall. From an expanded number of mainstage, community, and education programs, to the launch of our Spring for the Symphony Gala, we saw growing evidence that Symphony San Jose is becoming an increasingly valued part of our community's cultural life.

That growth is not accidental. We listen carefully, welcome feedback, and continue to evolve our programs to better serve the people of San Jose and the South Bay. The result is a symphony that feels increasingly like home—a place where people gather, connect, and return season after season.

You'll notice that this year's report includes more voices from the community itself. While the numbers and milestones matter, they tell only part of the story. The true measure of our success can be found in the experiences of the audience members, students, donors, volunteers, and partners who shape and sustain this organization.

As we look toward our 25th Anniversary Season this year, we do so with confidence and gratitude. Together, we are building something lasting: a symphony that inspires, connects, and continues to earn its place at the heart of our community.

Yours,

Robert Massey
Chief Executive Officer/Artistic Director

2025/2026

Achievements

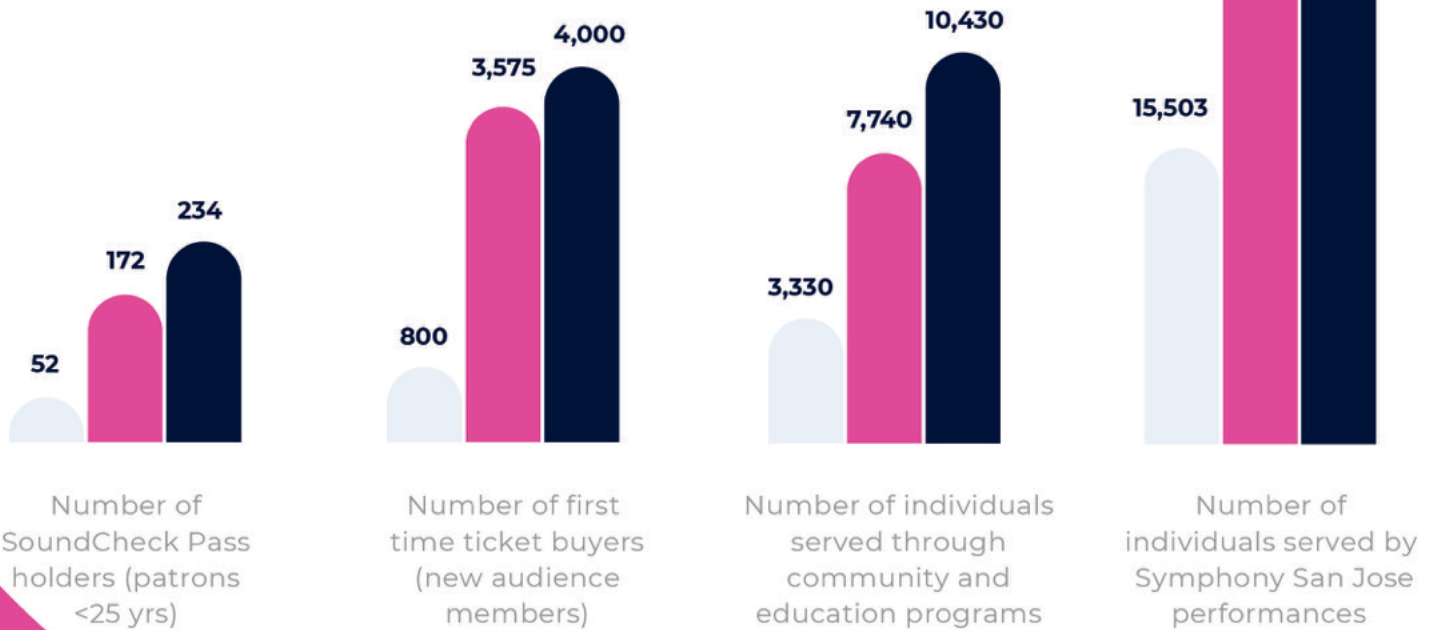
Over the past three years, our new programming has taken root—drawing new audiences, welcoming back familiar faces, and creating experiences that inspire people to return season after season.

- Served a total of **34,829 individuals** through our concerts, programs, and services.
- Expanded our community programs by **32%** from the previous season, serving **10,430 individuals** through initiatives such as *Music in the Schools*, *Students at the Symphony*, *Music without Borders*, and *First Fridays*.
- Increased *Holiday Spectacular* attendance by **48%** through the addition of a Saturday matinee performance.
- Sold out *Hollywood Spectacular*, attracting **2,200 audience members** and continuing the growing popularity of our Spectacular Series.
- Filled *Students at the Symphony* to capacity, generating a waitlist and prompting an expansion from two to four concerts for 2026/2027.
- Grew SoundCheck Pass membership by **36%**, increasing participation from **172 to 234 young people** and expanding access to live orchestral music for the next generation of concertgoers.
- Launched the inaugural *Spring for the Symphony Gala*, raising **more than \$200,000 in new revenue** and introducing new donors and philanthropic partners to Symphony San Jose.



2025/2026

Season Highlights



● 2023/2024 ● 2024/2025 ● 2025/2026

Strengthening the Sound of our Symphony



The appointment of two exceptional co-concertmasters reinforces our commitment to attracting outstanding artistic talent and continually raising our standard of performance.



After a year-long national search, Symphony San Jose found two extraordinary artists to step into the orchestra's most vital leadership role: Rachel Ostler and Sam Weiser, our new co-concertmasters. Ostler's résumé spans the Cleveland Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony, plus five years with the Atlanta Symphony and a recent post as co-concertmaster of the Naples Philharmonic. Weiser brings deep Bay Area roots as first violinist of the Carpe Diem String Quartet and assistant concertmaster of the California Symphony, with a passion for chamber and contemporary music.

Our musicians couldn't be more excited to have them at the helm. Their discipline and collaboration is already raising the bar in rehearsal, and audiences will hear the difference. As Symphony San Jose celebrates its 25th anniversary season, this appointment is an investment that will carry our orchestra's sound to new heights for years to come.

What Symphony San Jose Means to Me:

Mary Forbes

Symphony San Jose subscriber and Silver Baton donor

My love of classical music naturally brought me to Symphony San Jose—an intimate, excellent symphony with outstanding programming and a beautiful theater in which to perform. One of my favorite Symphony memories is the *España* concert in June 2025. It featured outstanding conductor José Luis Gomez, exceptional guitarist Rafael Aguirre, and, of course, the always wonderful Symphony musicians. It was moving, inspirational, and truly memorable.

I choose to support Symphony San Jose because of its excellence, its cultural contribution to our community, and its commitment to helping future generations discover and enjoy classical music, which adds such depth to the human experience. Symphony San Jose is unique because of the creative and thoughtful organization of its season programming, as well as the genuine personal connection it fosters with its donors.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming season, which encompasses creativity, celebrates the individual talents of Symphony musicians, and features outstanding conductors who bring new nuances and talent to every performance. I know it will be another inspiring season, and I can't wait to experience the joy of sharing it with our community.



"This was my son's first time to the symphony and it couldn't have been a better experience! The children's chorale, soloists and ballet performances were fantastic."

— Emily, *Holiday Spectacular* audience member



"I liked all the performances. It was a great way to start 2026. I felt inspired and relaxed after. The violin soloist was amazing. The orchestra played with energy and was amazing as always."

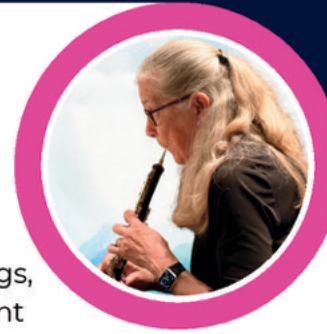
— Jennifer, *Hopelessly Romantic* audience member





Patty Mitchell

Second Oboe / English Horn



Being on stage is invigorating, rewarding, and often deeply moving. I've always said I have the best seat in the house: I'm right behind the strings, surrounded by the woodwind section, and in front of the brass. It's literally surround sound.

This past season, I found *The Enigmatic Voice* to be the most moving concert, and it felt as though the audience did too. When soprano Maria Valdes sang, "Dona Nobis Pacem," repeatedly in Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, I was so moved I wanted to weep. I will always remember that cry for peace, and the words of Walt Whitman—which, though written in 1936 as the world stood on the brink of war, remain as timely and profound as ever.

Playing with the musicians of Symphony San Jose is just magical. We come from different backgrounds, different states, and even different countries, but when we sit on stage together, we become one. I love the support, encouragement, and care we have for one another. It has been such an honor to share the stage with absolutely incredible musicians.

There is nothing like hearing an orchestra live in a beautiful concert hall. It can be powerful. It can be haunting. It can be deeply moving. There is something extraordinary about sharing that experience with an audience, knowing that while everyone hears the same music, it speaks to each person in a different way.



It was spectacular! The entire experience was awesome and reminded me that we are lucky to have such talent in the Bay Area!"

— Kevin, Hollywood Spectacular audience member



"I heard two pieces that were very new to me, the sound, the pace was different and I loved hearing and learning something about them. The last piece was so vibrant and uplifting of my feelings—took me for ride!"

— Teriann, Symphonic World Cup

Growing the Next Generation of Music Lovers

More students, more families, and more opportunities to experience live orchestral music.

”

"Our visit to Symphony San Jose at the California Theatre was such a wonderful experience for our students. From the moment the performance began, they were completely engaged and excited. When we returned to the classroom, we gave a short quiz on the different instruments in the orchestra, and every student answered all of the questions correctly."

— Sixth grade teacher, George M. Shirakawa School, Students at the Symphony



From the classroom to the concert hall, Symphony San Jose's Community and Education Programs are creating more opportunities for young people to fall in love with live symphonic music.

Music in the Schools brought Symphony musicians directly into local schools, reaching 3,825 students through lively, interactive performances by our string quartet and brass quintet. Our team recently secured additional staffing and funding resources and plans to grow the program with more ensembles and enriching experiences next season.

Students at the Symphony thrilled young audiences with a special concert of Mason Bates' *Philharmonia Fantastique*. Colorful animation took students on a journey through the instruments and sections of the orchestra, bringing music and visuals together in an engaging introduction to symphonic music. With two sold-out performances serving 2,134 audience members, this program will expand to four concerts next season.

Beyond our school programs, Symphony San Jose continued to expand access to live music through First Friday Open Rehearsals, a Nutcracker Preview, and other community events.

Thanks to the Brandenburg Family Foundation, 150 students and family members enjoyed sponsored tickets to *The San Jose Nutcracker*. Access for young adults continued to grow as well, with *SoundCheck Pass* membership increasing 36% in one year—from 172 to 234 members.

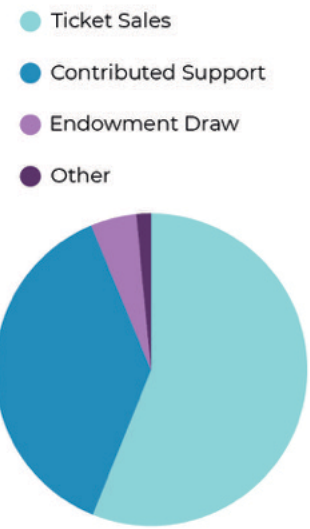
Together, these programs ensure that more children and families can experience the joy, inspiration, and connection that live symphonic music provides.



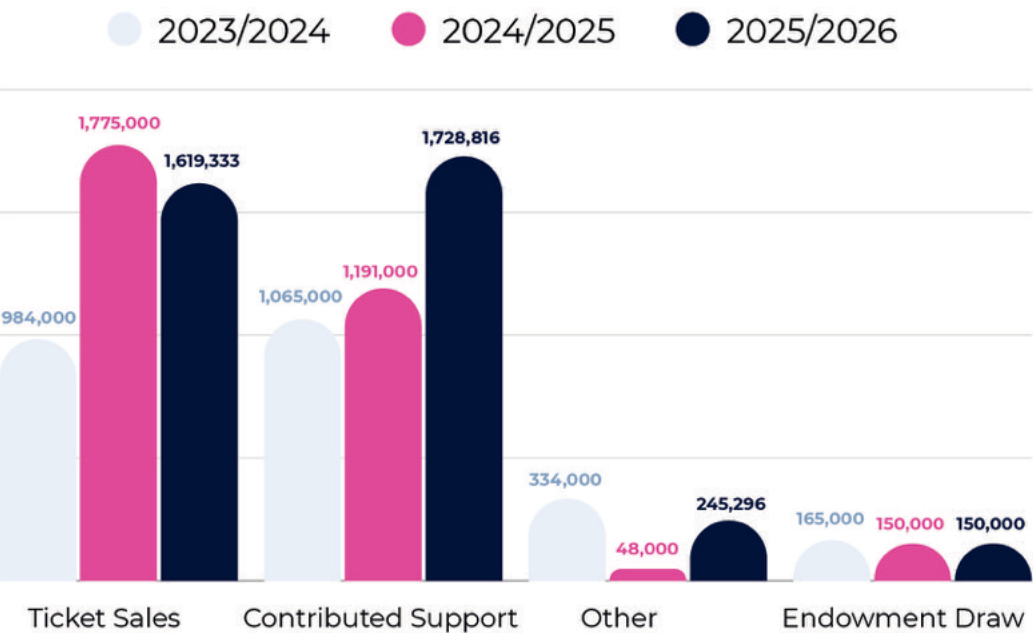
Building a Sustainable Symphony

Symphony San Jose's total revenue grew 18% to \$3.7 million in FY2026, fueled by a 45% increase in contributed support, continued strength in ticket sales and subscriptions, and sound financial stewardship. This strong financial foundation positions the Symphony for continued success.

FY2026 REVENUE



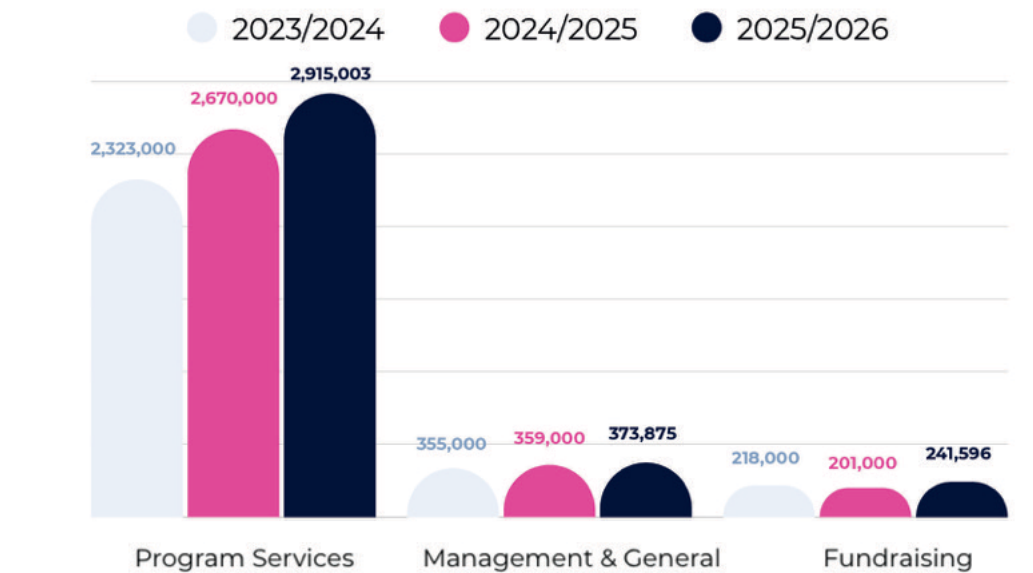
FY2024, FY2025 & FY2026 COMPARISON



FY2026 EXPENSES



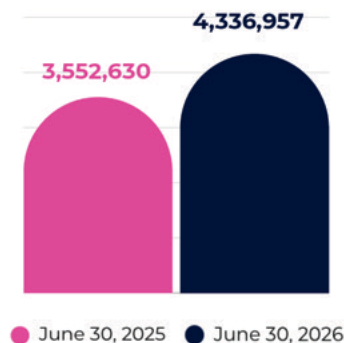
FY2024, FY2025 & FY2026 COMPARISON



Healthy Endowment, Thriving Symphony

The Symphony's endowment—our third pillar of financial revenue alongside ticket sales and annual contributions—**grew by 22% this year, increasing from \$3.55 million to \$4.34 million.**

Our endowment is a diversified investment portfolio that grows over time. Most gifts come through bequests or designated contributions.



FY2025 & FY2026 ENDOWMENT FUND COMPARISON

Each year, we draw a small portion into our operating budget, giving the Symphony the flexibility to invest in artistic excellence and weather fluctuations in fundraising or attendance. The endowment plays a vital role in our ability to innovate and grow. By strengthening it today, our supporters ensure exceptional live symphonic music continues to enrich our community for generations.



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for Making the Music Possible

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