

SAGINAW BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

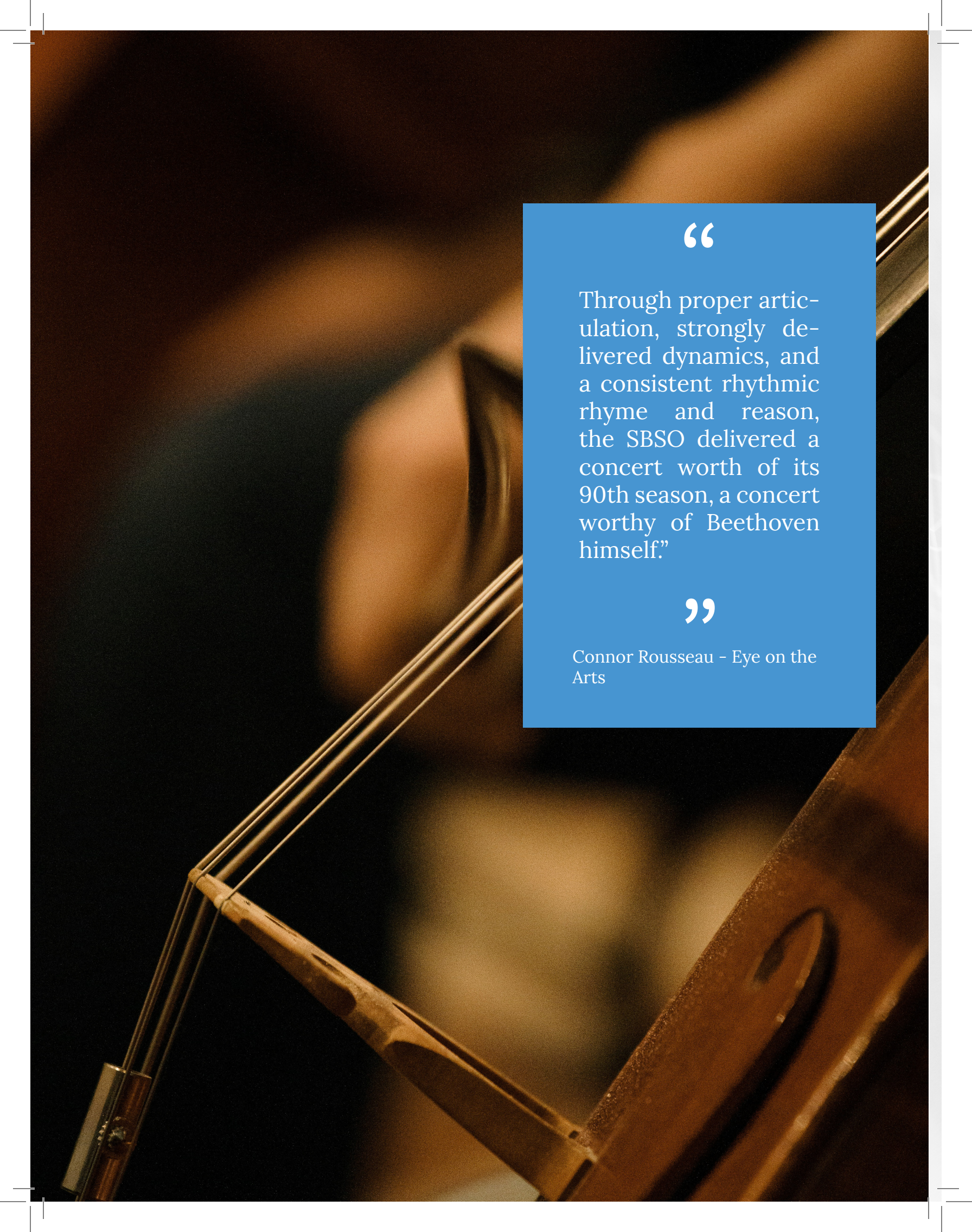
ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

saginawbayorchestra.com



Creating magical and memorable experiences through the power of symphonic music.



“

Through proper articulation, strongly delivered dynamics, and a consistent rhythmic rhyme and reason, the SBSO delivered a concert worth of its 90th season, a concert worthy of Beethoven himself.”

”

Connor Rousseau - Eye on the Arts

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MEETING AGENDA

2025-2026

AGENDA

Saginaw Symphony Association
Annual Meeting - June 23, 2026

Call Meeting To Order	Claudia Zacharek
Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting	Claudia Zacharek
President's Report	Claudia Zacharek
Executive Director's Report	Cameron Massey
Financial Manager's Report	Dave Rupp
Introduce Board of Directors	Claudia Zacharek
Introduce Staff	Claudia Zacharek
Nominations Committee Report	Andrew Hereza
Vote for Slate of Nominations	Andrew Hereza
Vote for Proposed Amendment to Articles of Incorporation	Andrew Hereza
Patricia Koucky Volunteer of the Year Award	Cameron Massey
Music Director's Report	Fouad Fakhouri
Adjournment	Claudia Zacharek



MEETING MINUTES

Saginaw Symphony Association Annual Meeting - June 24, 2025 Andersen Enrichment Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Claudia Zacharek. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for coming.

Claudia asked the members to review the minutes of the 2023-2024 Annual Meeting printed in the annual report booklet. Deborah Huntley moved to receive and file the minutes; Paul Chaffee seconded. Carried.

Claudia stated that she has been Board President for two years and that the 2024-2025 **SEASON89** was a dynamic and fantastic season! She thanked Maestro Fouad Fakhouri, the musicians, and the staff for all of their hard work. She also said that the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra had expanded to 39 musicians for the Spring session. She thanked the sponsors and donors for supporting the orchestra this season and is looking for collaborations to continue to be a vibrant orchestra.

Claudia remembered Don Carlyon, who passed away in May, for his 60 years of service on the board and for his long history of support for the symphony. She asked for a moment of silence.

Claudia introduced Cameron Massey, Executive Director, to talk about the season. Cameron said it was a great season that had a positive impact on the community. It was going to be tough to top our 88th Season with a live orchestra playing the soundtrack to a Star Trek movie! We have been called the I-75 Orchestra because many of our musicians are from Ann Arbor, Lansing, and Flint. We were able to expand the season to six concerts with two concerts at SVSU. We also featured guest artists for each concert! Not many orchestras offer that. I am honored to be able to get to know the musicians, audience members, and he wants to continue to be a community supported orchestra.

Dave Rupp, Financial Manager, presented the 2024-2025 Financial Report. Dave reviewed the financial information contained in the annual report booklet. He stated that the orchestra will have a projected Net Loss from Operations of (\$25,000) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

SEASON89 had financial successes and challenges. Our new Saginaw Speakeasy fundraiser was a success but will need more sponsors to increase net income. We added a sixth concert with two concerts at SVSU. With a smaller venue and orchestra, the costs to perform two concerts at SVSU were almost the same as the costs for one concert at the Temple Theatre. The attendance was only about half of what we had anticipated but they were both great concerts! Total ticket sales and concert sponsors were down \$35,000 each compared to the previous season. To offset these revenue shortfalls, the staff secured six grants totaling \$97,868! The youth orchestra received \$12,000 from three grants.

We still have a \$25,000 to \$40,000 budget shortfall that carries over every season. We haven't had a fundraiser since 2019 and have not generated new recurring revenue to make up for the revenue generated from Holiday Housewalk. More work needs to be done to raise more revenue.

Dave thanked all of our season ticket subscribers, donors, concert sponsors, and supporters for their financial support this season. He referred to the next page for a list of this season's concert sponsors, season and other supporters, grant support, and media sponsors. We can't do these concerts without your

continued support! Floyd Kloc moved to receive and file the financial report; Deborah Huntley seconded. Carried.

Claudia introduced the current board members and staff. They were asked to stand, and Claudia thanked them for their hard work. They received a round of applause from the members. Claudia thanked Norm Wika for his time on the board. He will continue to be involved with the youth orchestra.

Claudia introduced Paul Chaffee for the Nominations Committee report. Paul announced that three incumbent board members had accepted an additional three-year term: Michael Elliott, Andrea Fischer, and John Markey. Five were nominated as new board members: Cristine Cannon, Mary Patillo-Dunn, Andrew Hereza, Dr. Lekha Richardson, and Savannah Rust. Paul asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received from the floor. Floyd Kloc moved to close the nominations; Deborah Huntley seconded. Carried. Floyd Kloc moved to approve the slate of nominations; Ron Rood seconded. Carried. Paul congratulated the new board members.

Claudia asked Paul Chaffee and Floyd Kloc to come up. She thanked them for their 30 and 27 years of service on the board, respectively, and told the audience that the board had approved Director Emeritus status for them. Cameron Massey presented them with a Jade Crystal Above & Beyond award for their years of service on the board and a certificate confirming their Director Emeritus status.

Claudia asked Cameron Massey to present the Patricia Koucky Volunteer of the Year Award. Cameron graciously thanked Andrew Hereza for his contributions on the Fund Development and Saginaw Speak-easy committees for the past three years. Andrew came up to receive his gift of cigars and a certificate.

Claudia invited Maestro Fouad Fakhouri to announce the new **SEASON90 - An Ode to Joy**. Fouad mentioned that Saginaw has had an orchestra for 90 years and thanked the sponsors and donors for their support of the orchestra. He also thanked the audience for being at the meeting. He thanked Paul Chaffee and Floyd Kloc for their many years of service. They have provided stability and longevity to the Association, and we are indebted to both of them for their service on the board.

Fouad talked about the issues with the two SVSU concerts. We weren't able to bring the Temple audience out to SVSU and separate ticketing systems for each concert venue created some confusion. Fouad talked about each concert next season and stated that there will be guest artists for four of the concerts: Todd Michael Hall, Billy Petty, and Charles Allen for the Holiday Pops concert plus the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra; pianist Natasha Paremski in February; Kebra-Seyoun Charles in March; and the Saginaw Choral Society and four soloists for Beethoven's *Symphony #9* in May to close the season. He also said that we were bringing back the Young People's Concert in February 2026.

Claudia thanked Fouad and asked board members to stay after the meeting to have a short meeting to elect officers for next season.

Claudia asked if anyone had any new business to bring up. She thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Floyd Kloc moved to adjourn; Paul Chaffee seconded. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Tonight's annual meeting marks the conclusion of the SBSO's 2025-26 concert season and my term as President of the Association. Each performance highlighted the versatility, collaboration, and talent of our musicians and guest artists while creating magical and memorable experiences that enriched our community's cultural life. Thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate the season.

The season started in September with performances including a collection of film scores and video game themes including James Bond, Star Wars, Harry Potter and Mission Impossible. The Holiday Pops concert featured holiday classics and guest artists, Todd Michael Hall, Charles Allen, and Billy Petty performing pieces that were arranged especially for them. In February, we enjoyed Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, Natasha Paremski performing Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto #2* and the finale was Dvořák's *Symphony #9* from 'From The New World'. March's concert featured double bass, Kebra-Seyoun Charles performing *Nightlife: Concerto for Bass* and included the Michigan premiere of *Trance* composed by Music Director Fouad Fakhouri. The concert concluded with Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The season finale in May opened with Beethoven's *Egmont Overture*, Op. 84 and concluded with the Saginaw Choral Society, along with four guest soloists, performing Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9 in D minor*, Op. 125. It was the perfect masterpiece of Western classical music to close our 90th Anniversary Season!

Ticket sales increased by more than \$35,000, a 38% increase over last season and the Holiday Pops concert drew the largest audience since 2012! Special thanks to our concert sponsors and supporters, season subscribers, single-ticket buyers, donors, and volunteers for supporting the SBSO - we could not do this without you!

I want to thank Carol Thomas for leading the return of the Young People's Concert for local middle and high school students. More than 700 students attended and featured Natasha Paremski performing Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto #2* with the orchestra.



The Board of Directors honored Rod Bieber for his many years of distinguished service to the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra as a conductor and mentor, recognizing his lasting contributions to the SBSO's artistic excellence and educational mission. This annual concert will be known as the "Rod Bieber Young People's Concert" in recognition of his extraordinary service and enduring legacy.

We also held our second Saginaw Speakeasy fundraiser on May 30 in the Temple Theatre Ballroom, where many guests dressed in 1920s-inspired attire. It was a wonderful evening, and I am deeply grateful to the committee volunteers whose hard work made it possible.

We are fortunate to have such a talented orchestra in Saginaw, one that delivered outstanding performances throughout this season. Next season will continue our long tradition of presenting exceptional symphonic music.

My thanks to our Executive Director Cameron Massey, Maestro Fouad Fakhouri, Dave Rupp, Don Belcher, Rachel Jingles, and all the staff for their hard work this season.

Claudia Zacharek, MD

Claudia Zacharek, MD
President
Saginaw Symphony Association

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A lot of things have changed since 1935, when the Saginaw Symphony Association (Better known as Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra) was founded. You can no longer buy a house for an average of \$3,500, 15 cents won't buy you a gallon of gas, and you won't be booking a trip on a hydrogen zeppelin any time soon (for good reason). Still, through 16 US presidents and despite the advent of LP records, jet planes, the microwave oven, and now Spotify, the symphony orchestra continues to play, and our community continues to listen. How do we even begin to celebrate 90 years of playing music for and with this amazing community? How do we even begin to thank you for 90 years of support? Truly, there are no words to express our gratitude, but as Hans Christian Andersen once said, "Where words fail, music speaks."

Everything we do starts with our mission. As a nonprofit organization, our bottom-line goal is to support our community. 'Creating magical and memorable experiences through the power of symphonic music,' we call it. Now, when you have the word 'magic' in your mission statement, you know you're signing up for a big task, but really, there's no better word for it. To most of us, when you see the orchestra on stage, a brightly voiced testament to the beauty of human expression and cooperation, 'magic' is the only way to describe it.

It certainly felt like magic in September, when we watched children adorned in Star Wars and Harry Potter costumes enthuse over the near decade-old orchestra as if it were a brand new film premiere. We felt the same magic in December as families sang along together with three of Saginaw's most beloved vocalists (Todd Michael Hall, Billy Petty, and Charles Allen) and filled our seats in our highest-attended concert in the last 14 years.

In February, we invited over 10 school music programs and welcomed nearly 750 middle and high-school students to the Temple Theatre as a field trip during their school day to hear international piano sensation Natasha Paremski perform Rachmaninoff, followed by a showcase of their own peers. In March, we celebrated the art and creativity of music, inviting rising star Kebra



Seyoun Charles to play their original piece with our orchestra, and playing the Michigan Premiere of our own maestro's piece.

Then, on May 9, we celebrated our 90th with the Saginaw Choral Society, with Beethoven's 9th. Words cannot describe the power of over 140 voices joined on stage to share our joy and gratitude for 90 years of music. If there was one word to describe it, however, I would have to again say 'magic'.

There is a magic in what we do as an orchestra, it's undeniable, and it's palpable, but it's not mystical. It's not a mystery, even. Behind every note we play on stage, there are hundreds of donors, sponsors, volunteers, directors, and of course our incredible musicians. The magic in what we do comes from you, and we couldn't do any of it without you. For the last 90 years, and for the next 90 years, from the bottom of my heart:

Thank you for making music with us.

Cameron Massey

Cameron Massey
Executive Director
Saginaw Symphony Association

A LETTER FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the 2025–2026 season, I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable support of our audience, donors, musicians, volunteers, board members, and staff. Together, we experienced a season that celebrated the power of music and its impact on our community.

From the excitement of our opening concert, *Lights, Camera, Orchestra!*, to the joy and warmth of our holiday celebrations, the season showcased the remarkable versatility of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. We welcomed audiences of all ages and musical backgrounds through programs that entertained, challenged, and inspired.

One of the season's artistic highlights was our February performance of Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto with Natasha Paremski, paired with Dvořák's New World Symphony. Our commitment to education and community engagement was also reflected in two important initiatives: our Young People's Concert, which introduced approximately 750 students to the orchestra, and our annual side-by-side performance with the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra. Together, these programs help ensure that symphonic music remains a vibrant part of life in the Great Lakes Bay Region for generations to come.

The culmination of our season carried special significance as we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. Marking this milestone with Beethoven's monumental Ninth Symphony was both fitting and deeply moving. Few works embody the ideals of community, hope, and shared humanity more powerfully than the "Ode to Joy." As orchestra, choir, vocal soloists, and audience members came together for this unforgettable performance, we honored not only the achievements of the past ninety years, but also the vision, dedication, and generosity of all those who have sustained this orchestra across generations. The evening served as a powerful reminder that the SBSO's story is still being written.

The strength of our organization is measured not only by the music we perform, but by the community that stands behind it. Your support



allows us to present world-class artists, engage young audiences, foster educational opportunities, and continue serving as a cultural cornerstone of the Great Lakes Bay Region. For that, I offer my deepest gratitude.

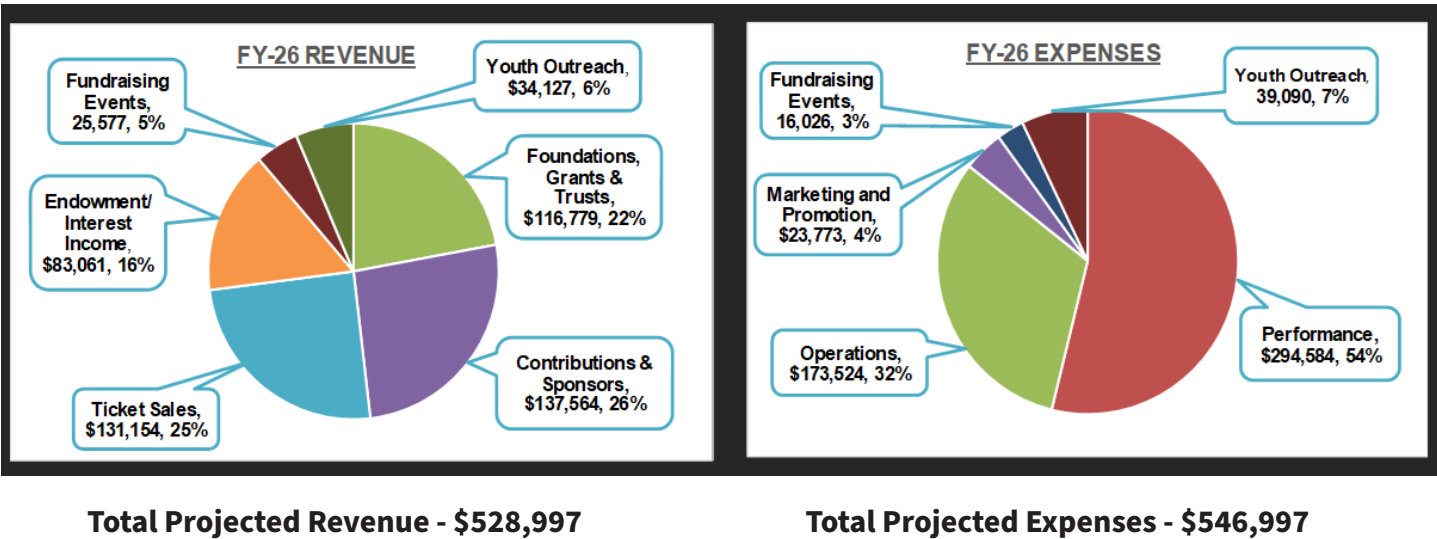
As we look ahead, I am excited by the opportunities before us. Building on the momentum of this season, we will continue striving for artistic excellence while deepening our connection to the community we proudly serve. I look forward to sharing another inspiring season with you and to continuing the remarkable journey of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fakhouri". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Fouad K. Fakhouri
Music Director

FINANCIAL REPORT



RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the Saginaw Symphony Association projects an operating net loss of (\$18,000) and Undesignated Net Assets of approximately \$195,000.

This season experienced both financial successes and challenges. Single-ticket sales rose by \$22,450 (46%) to \$71,164! The Holiday Pops concert generated \$30,695, the highest single concert total since the John Williams concert in 2012! Concert sponsor revenue increased by \$17,000 over the previous season. Our 90th Anniversary Campaign raised \$24,551 but was lower than projected.

Our second Saginaw Speakeasy fundraiser was a great evening, generating net income of \$6,500. However, attendance was lower than expected and additional sponsors are needed to support the event.

The projected \$18,000 operating loss is \$9,500 lower than last season's. Our primary goal is to increase individual and corporate donations to meet budgeted expenses. In July, we will send a major season brochure mailing to patrons who attended concerts over the past two seasons, as well as former season ticket holders.

Sincere thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters (see page 18). Our new season starts at the Temple Theatre on Saturday, September 26th.

David Rupp

David Rupp
Financial Manager



SEASON 90:
Celebrating the [Power](#) of Live Music

Season 90 honored the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra’s rich legacy while looking boldly into the future. From cinematic favorites and beloved holiday traditions to masterworks by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Dvořák, audiences experienced the extraordinary breadth of live orchestral music.

Throughout the season, SBSO welcomed longtime patrons and first-time concertgoers alike, creating opportunities for connection, discovery, and shared celebration. The result was a season that reflected both the enduring traditions of the orchestra and the vibrant, diverse community it serves.

SEASON AT A GLANCE



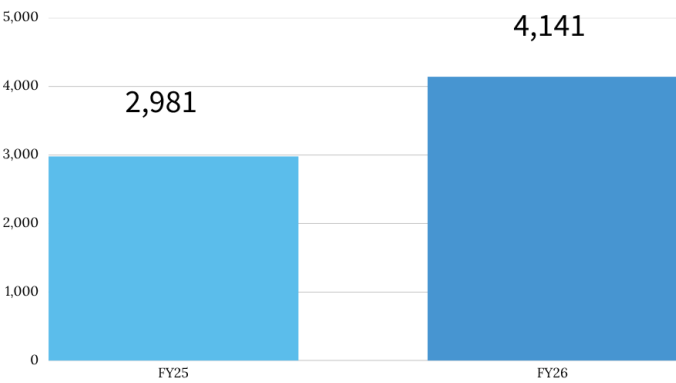
- 1** **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ORCHESTRA!**
September 27, 2025
Movie scores and pop culture favorites welcomed audiences of all ages.
- 2** **HOLIDAYS WITH SAGINAW’S STARS**
December 9, 2025
A festive collaboration featuring guest vocalists and the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra.
- 3** **RACHMANINOFF, DVOŘÁK & THE NEW WORLD**
February 7, 2026
A program of elegance and virtuosity featuring celebrated piano repertoire.
- 4** **MUSIC REFRAMED: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION**
March 28, 2026
An exploration of familiar works and new works and fresh artistic expressions.
- 5** **SBSO’S 90TH: AN ODE TO JOY**
May 9, 2026
A historic finale uniting SBSO and the Saginaw Choral Society for Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.



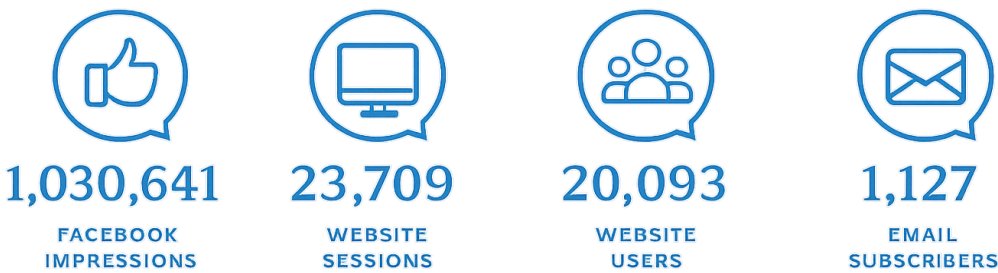
SEASON 90 BY THE NUMBERS

MAINSTAGE ATTENDANCE

Attendance continued to rebound during Season 90 as audiences returned to the concert hall and embraced the shared experience of live music.



COMMUNITY REACH



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“An unforgettable, spirited night to kick off the season. It felt like a big holiday celebration, and what a way to start the season. The orchestra brought together audiences of all ages in a wonderful way.”

—Chloë Cerva, Eye on the Arts

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

Season 90 marked the launch of an exciting new educational initiative for the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. In its inaugural year, the Young People's Concert welcomed hundreds of students from across the Great Lakes Bay Region to experience the excitement and artistry of a live symphony orchestra.

Designed to complement classroom learning while fostering a lifelong appreciation for the performing arts, the concert introduced students to orchestral instruments, musical storytelling, and the shared experience of live performance. Through this program, SBSO continues its commitment to ensuring that young people throughout our community have access to meaningful arts experiences.

In recognition of Rod Bieber's longstanding support of arts education and dedication to the cultural vitality of our region, the program was officially named the Rod Bieber Young People's Concert. His passion for enriching the lives of others through the arts will continue to inspire future generations of concertgoers. For decades, Rod Bieber championed the arts throughout the Great Lakes Bay

Region, recognizing their power to educate, inspire, and bring communities together. By naming this program in his honor, the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra celebrates a legacy of generosity, curiosity, and unwavering support for arts education.

Through the Rod Bieber Young People's Concert, his commitment to expanding access to the arts will continue to shape the experiences of young people for years to come.

BY THE NUMBERS

- ~750 Students and Chaperones Served
- 12 Participating Schools
- 11 School Districts Represented
- 03 Counties Served

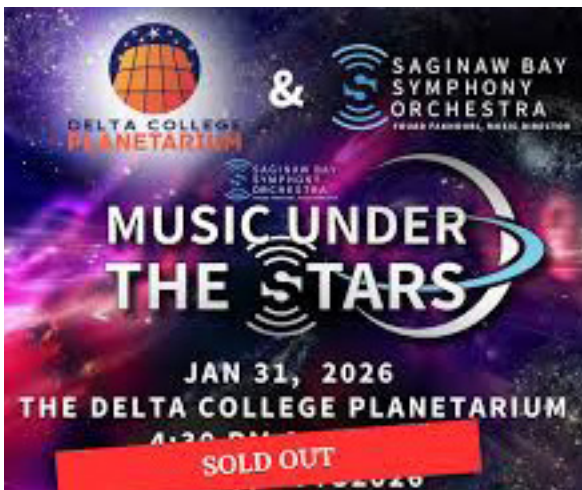
BEYOND THE CONCERT HALL

SBSO POP UPS



Through a series of community pop-up performances, SBSO musicians brought live orchestral music directly to audiences throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. The SBSO participated in the Lawn Chair Film Festival, introducing new audiences to the orchestra through an engaging outdoor community event. During the holiday season, musicians performed at the historic Montague Inn as part of Saginaw's Holidays in the Heart of the City celebration, creating a festive atmosphere for guests and visitors. These performances created unexpected opportunities to experience live music and reflected SBSO's commitment to strengthening connections throughout the region.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS



Presented in partnership with the Delta College Planetarium, Music Under the Stars invited audiences to experience the orchestra in an entirely new way. Combining live chamber music with immersive visuals beneath the planetarium dome, the event quickly became one of Season 90's most sought-after experiences, with both performances selling out both completely and quickly.

SAGINAW SPEAKEASY



The Saginaw Speakeasy returned as one of SBSO's premier fundraising events, bringing together supporters, sponsors, and community members for an unforgettable evening inspired by the glamour of the Roaring Twenties. With music, entertainment, and philanthropy, the event celebrated the vital role that community support plays in sustaining the arts throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region.



Our 90th Anniversary **THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

Our 90th season would not have been possible without the generous help of the following sponsors and supporters:

ENDOWED CONCERT SPONSOR

LEO & EMELIE KAHAN

CONCERT SPONSORS

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OUR NEXT SEASON

2026-2027

We Will Rock You: The Music of Queen & Journey

September 26 • Temple Theatre

Get ready for an electrifying night of rock anthems as the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra joins forces with renowned rock symphonic group Jeans N' Classics and the Saginaw Choral Society. Experience the unforgettable music of Queen and Journey in a powerful symphonic celebration featuring iconic hits including Don't Stop Believin', We Will Rock You, We Are the Champions, Anyway You Want It, Don't Stop Me Now, Bohemian Rhapsody, and many more. Sing along, relive the memories, and celebrate two of the greatest rock bands of all time.

Halloween at the Symphony

October 29 • Temple Theatre

Put on your favorite costume and join us for a thrilling evening of musical magic, mystery, and adventure. Perfect for the entire family, Halloween at the Symphony features hauntingly fun favorites and unforgettable music from blockbuster films including Wicked, The Avengers, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Jurassic Park, and more. From spine-tingling suspense to heroic adventures, this festive concert promises a night of chills, thrills, and spectacular symphonic entertainment.

Holiday Harmony

December 8 • Temple Theatre

Celebrate the season with one of the Great Lakes Bay Region's most cherished holiday traditions. The Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra opens the evening with beloved holiday favorites, filling the Temple Theatre with warmth, joy, and festive spirit. In the second half, members of the Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra join their professional SBSO counterparts side-by-side on stage for an inspiring celebration of community, mentorship, and music. Together they will perform additional holiday classics along with a selection of timeless orchestral masterworks, creating a memorable evening for audiences of all ages.

Passion & Power

February 6, 2027 • Temple Theatre

Internationally acclaimed, Grammy Award-winning pianist Sergei Babayan joins the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra for Rachmaninoff's breathtaking Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, one of the most beloved and virtuosic works for piano and orchestra. Audiences will recognize its famous 18th Variation, immortalized in the romantic film Somewhere in Time, filmed just north of us on Mackinac Island. The program also features Anna Clyne's evocative Restless Oceans, a vivid musical portrait of the sea, and concludes with Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5—a sweeping masterpiece of power, beauty, and triumph. From cinematic romance to dazzling virtuosity and orchestral grandeur, Passion & Power promises an unforgettable musical journey.

Eroica

April 24, 2027 • Temple Theatre

The season concludes with a celebration of musical brilliance, passion, and heroism. Bartók's vibrant Romanian Folk Dances opens the program with colorful rhythms and infectious energy inspired by Eastern European folk traditions. The spotlight then turns to the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra's own Concertmaster, Sonia Lee, whose artistry and leadership have become a hallmark of the orchestra's performances. She will be featured as soloist in Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5, the beloved "Turkish" Concerto, a work of elegance, charm, and dazzling virtuosity. The evening culminates with Beethoven's revolutionary Symphony No. 3, Eroica—a bold and inspiring masterpiece that forever changed the course of music history. Powerful, uplifting, and deeply moving, this season finale celebrates the artistry of the SBSO and the enduring power of great music.



SAGINAW BAY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
FOUAD FAKHOURI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

FY26