

24
25



IMPACT REPORT

SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
DELTA DAVID GIER, MUSIC DIRECTOR



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WELCOME TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IMPACT REPORT!

The SDSO thanks you, the donors, audiences, volunteers,
and musicians for the many successes of the 2024-25 season.



OUR MISSION.

To inspire the best in all of us through music.

OUR VISION.

To be South Dakota's artistic leader and our nation's model for how an orchestra serves its communities.

OUR VALUES.

Dedication: we are committed to excellence in all we endeavor.

Integrity: we serve our communities with honesty and respect.

Belonging: all are welcomed at the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

OUR COMMITMENT.

Our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion is to empower all constituents to actualize equity, belonging, diversity, and inclusion throughout the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

PEOPLE OF THE SDSO

29 BOARD MEMBERS

David Flicek,
President
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66 LEAGUE MEMBERS

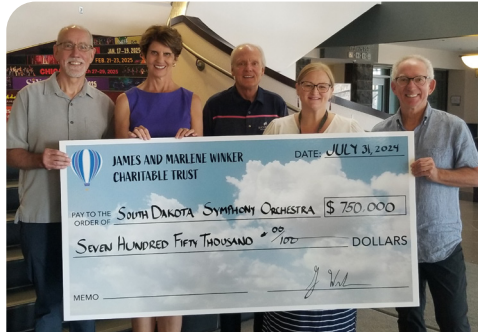
8 FULL TIME STAFF **4** PART TIME STAFF

4 PART TIME INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

1 MUSIC DIRECTOR

1 ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

1 CHORUS DIRECTOR



SDSO 2024-25 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

This season affirmed the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra's notable gift for bringing our community together through the transformative power of music and meaningful collaboration.

The journey began with violinist **Rachel Barton Pine** and Sioux Falls' own **Julian Beaudion** in a rare performance of Wynton Marsalis's ***The Fiddler and the Dancin' Witch***. Musical partnerships continued with principal cellist **Robert Erhard's** moving interpretation of **Dvořák's Cello Concerto**; **Jean-Efflam Bavouzet** delivered virtuosity and insight with his performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto; and the grandeur of **Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor** was sung beautifully by our very own SDSO Chorus. The season culminated in a landmark production of ***Giants in the Earth***, an opera rooted in our region's Norwegian heritage and brought to life by 28 partners and donors—a testament to the enduring resonance of community connections through music.



23

PERFORMANCES

14,112

IN ATTENDANCE

4/970

LIVESTREAMS/VIEWS

GIANTS IN THE EARTH



2024-25 SEASON STATISTICS

45 GUEST ARTISTS

Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Julian Beaudion, narrator

Capathia Jenkins, singer

Sydney Harper, singer

Rajdulari, singer

Randy Chalmers, singer

Jennifer Johnson Cano, mezzo-soprano

Robert Erhard, cello

Margaret Matejcek, soprano

Anna Laurenzo, alto

Scott J. Brunscheen, tenor

Yazid Gray, bass

Natalie Campbell, piano

Paul Loren, singer

Elissa Cassini, violin

Camilla Tassi, projection designer

Leo Taylor, percussion

Aaron Ragsdale, percussion

Leigh Wilson, percussion

Ed Zaryky, percussion

Joseph Horowitz, cultural historian

Kyan Carlson, horn (*2024 Young Musician Concerto Competition winner*)

Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, piano

Doosook Kim, violin

Richard Troxell, tenor

Magdalena Modzelewska, fiddle

Jeffrey Paul, Brentonian folk oboe & penny whistle

Hannah Celeste Lu, soprano

Clara Osowski, alto

David Walton, tenor

Andrew Kane, bass

Michael J. Hawk, baritone

Meredith Lustig, soprano

Jude Lundeby, actor

Lucille, Lundeby, actor

Andrew Gilstrap, bass-baritone

Sarah Nordin, mezzo-soprano

Dylan Morrongiello, tenor

Megan Koch, soprano

Benjamin Dutcher, tenor

Abby Brodnick, soprano

Joshua Jeremiah, bass

Steve Pence, bass

Peter Tuff, pantomime

10 GIANTS IN THE EARTH PRODUCTION STAFF

Robert Neu, stage director
Antonio Colaruotolo, lighting & projection designer
Sarah Larson, costume designer
Cal Metts, master carpenter
Victor Shonk, set designer
Kristina Sneshkoff, makeup designer
Erin Joy Swank, stage manager
Matt Cook, sound designer
Larissa Giddings, assistant stage manager
Jocelyn Cartwright, props designer

7 NUMBER OF FEATURED LIVING COMPOSERS

Wynton Marsalis, *The Fiddler and the Dancin' Witch*
Paul Moravec, *A New Country*
Viet Cuong, *Re(new)al: Percussion Quartet Concerto*
Theodore Wiprud, *Violin Concerto No. 2: On The Brink*
Sy Bordeaux, *Anxiety* (Music Composition Academy student)
Kili Cole, *Unfinished* (Music Composition Academy student)
Anna Clyne, *Masquerade*

70 TENURED
MUSICIANS

95 SDSO
CHORUS
MEMBERS

7 SDSO LEAGUE
LUNCHEONS

7 7@7'S BEFORE
CONCERTS

8 CONCERT
INSIGHTS

CONCERT CONNECTIONS 2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Through programs like Concert Connections, the SDSO embraces collaboration with educational and cultural organizations to create musical experiences that are responsive to the unique interests and needs of these partners' constituents. Concert Connections initiatives have included guest artist visits to universities, speakers at community events, behind-the-scenes rehearsal access for students, and more.



BEATS & BEETHOVEN

University of South Dakota Biology and Sustainability students had poster presentations in the 3rd floor lobby while Sioux Falls Sustainability Coalition organizations and Climate Music Project had tables for information.



GIANTS IN THE EARTH

Jennifer Teisinger and David Gier gave a panel discussion on Giants in the Earth.



NEW WORLD ENCOUNTERS

David Gier, Joseph Horowitz (cultural historian), and former US Ambassador to Russia John Beyrle visit an Honors Music Appreciation Course at South Dakota State University.

SDSO IN THE MEDIA

Argus Leader.

THE ARGUS LEADER

"With what Gier calls his 'fabulous musicians' under his baton, he is a risk-taking music maker, always leaning toward the unconventional contemporary works, and many clamor to see what he'll do next."

musicalamerica
WORLDWIDE

MUSICAL AMERICA

"That 'bolder and savvier' plaudit? At the SDSO in 2025, it's truer than ever."

from Musical America

Opera
with
OPERA
NEWS

OPERA WITH OPERA NEWS

"Gier's deep immersion in the score showed in these performances, driven as they were by the orchestra..."

SDSO IN THE MEDIA

The New York Times

MAY 11, 2025

AN OPERATIC 'DIAMOND ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD' CATCHES LIGHT AGAIN

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Joshua Barone (*opera review*)

"Delta David Gier, the orchestra's transformative music director, has referred to the opera as "a diamond on the side of the road." Now, it's more like a gemstone on display."

"Listening to music like this in a quality concert hall must be an unforgettable experience."

"A superb, intoxicating recording of inspiring maximalist music."

OCTOBER 31, 2024

5 CLASSICAL MUSIC ALBUMS YOU CAN LISTEN TO RIGHT NOW

THE NEW YORK TIMES

John Luther Adams recording
An Atlas of Deep Time

"This piece premiered two years ago, with the more than capable South Dakota Symphony Orchestra under Delta David Gier; now, their recording has been released, an awe-inspiring experience through headphones that mightily conjures the scale and tectonic force of Adams's ambition."



READ THESE
ARTICLES
AND MORE BY
SCANNING HERE!

JUNE 3, 2025

LAKOTA MUSIC PROJECT MERGES TWO TRADITIONS FOR ONE COMMON CAUSE

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Zachary Woolfe,
classical music critic

"Classical institutions like to talk a big game about making social justice a part of their mission, but the South Dakota Symphony and the Lakota Music Project – which commissions works for combinations of Native and non-Native musicians and tours the state – have committed more deeply than most."

"We all have our music...It's our common ground. It's not what makes us different, it's what makes us similar." (Emmanuel Black Bear)

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION PROGRAMS





**PROGRAMS
FOR CHILDREN**

9,821
IN ATTENDANCE

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S
CONCERTS HIGHLIGHTS**

4,321
IN ATTENDANCE

74
BUSES

**PROGRAMS
FOR ADULTS**

7,730
IN ATTENDANCE



MUSIC COMPOSITION ACADEMY 2024

The two Music Composition Academies offer 5 days of composition workshops with individual mentorship by professional composers. They serve as guides for each student to help them translate a musical idea into an instrumental composition, resulting in a new piece of music for either the Dakota String Quartet or the Dakota Wind Quintet.

23

ORIGINAL PIECES

11

NEW WORKS FOR
STRING QUARTET

12

NEW WORKS FOR
WIND QUINTET

11

WEST RIVER
STUDENTS

12

SISSETON
STUDENTS

SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

- Browns Valley Public School (Middle School)
- Lakota Tech High School
- Rapid City North Middle School
- Rapid City Central High School
- Sisseton Middle School
- Sisseton High School
- Tiospa Zina Tribal School



The students at the Sisseton academy traveled to Waubay National Wildlife Refuge. During this trip, students learned about the environment from park rangers and had the opportunity to explore the trails in small groups and scale a fire tower to process the greatness of the natural world in front of them.

The students at the West River academy visited the studio and Sturgis ranch of sculptor Dale Lamphere in Sturgis for a 2nd consecutive year. During this trip, the students toured Lamphere's metalworking studio and explored the trails in the surrounding meadows. Unique this year was a presentation about a new sculpture of Lamphere's, created to honor the victims and survivors of the Rapid City Indian Boarding School's troubled history.

Both experiences built upon the 2023 program which first introduced excursions into nature. The impact of discovery and introspection, made possible by these outings, reflected heavily in the deep exploration of both philosophical themes and ways of expression through sound and score.

SISSETON PERFORMANCE TOUR

- 13 student works at Sisseton Performing Arts Center for public
- 6 student works at Sisseton Middle School for students
- 6 student works at Sisseton High School for students

WEST RIVER PERFORMANCE TOUR

- 8 student works at Lakota Tech High School for students
- 11 student works at SDPB (Rapid City) for public (livestreamed)
- 8 student works at Rapid City Central High School for students
- 6 student works at Rapid City North Middle School for students



SOUTH DAKOTA SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA (SDSYO)

The South Dakota Symphony Youth Orchestra is an elite music education program comprised of five student ensembles, ranging from a string orchestra for beginning students to a symphonic orchestra for advanced players, and chamber orchestras for student musicians ages 6 – 18. These ensembles provide an inspiring group setting that

gives young musicians the tools and training to pursue artistic passions, develop musical talents, and build leadership skills. Performances are scheduled at major venues throughout the season, giving students multiple opportunities to showcase their musical talents.

Nicholas Sharma's tenure with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra began with the 2024-25 season, and we now say farewell as he continues his flourishing career with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as resident conductor. Thank you, Nicholas, for a great season with the SDSO!



5 NUMBER OF
ENSEMBLES

121 NUMBER OF
TOTAL STUDENTS

12
PRELUDE
STRINGS

10
SINFONIA

43
PHILHARMONIA

40
YOUTH
ORCHESTRA

16
CAMERATA





The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra (SDSO) would like to thank our generous corporate and foundation donors for their support of the SDSO and SDSYO for the 2024/2025 season. These businesses and organizations have chosen to invest in the future of the SDSO and the communities we serve.

\$50,000 +

Bob and Rita Elmen Family Foundation
First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard
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South Dakota Arts Council
South Dakota Trust Company and
Private Trust Company Friends

\$25,000-\$49,000

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Nordby Family Foundation

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Pomegranate Market



The South Dakota Symphony Orchestra thanks these generous individuals for their support of the SDSO for the 2024-2025 season. The music you hear on stage and in our communities is possible thanks to these donors.

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Jim and Marlene Winker

THANK YOU

**A heartfelt thank you
to the dedicated SDSO
administrative and
operations team!**

Their tireless efforts,
commitment to excellence,
and unwavering dedication
behind the scenes
are invaluable.

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Emily Anderson, *Administrative & Development Coordinator*

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**A special thank you to the
SDSO's artistic staff** for their
guidance, excellence, and dedication
to making the South Dakota
Symphony Orchestra the premier
arts institution in South Dakota.

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Music Director

Nicholas Sharma,
Assistant Conductor/SDSYO Music Director

Timothy Campbell,
Chorus Director

Jeffrey Paul,
Philharmonia Conductor



2024-25 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS / REVENUE

\$ 540,915

TICKET SALES

\$ 372,169

ENDOWMENT

\$ 1,140,148

CONTRIBUTIONS

\$ 103,018

OTHER

\$ 225,378

GALA

\$ 2,381,628

TOTAL REVENUE

Financial data is unaudited

2024-25 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS / EXPENSES**\$ 701,577**

ADMINISTRATION

\$ 2,026,262CONCERTS, EDUCATION,
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**\$ 321,131**

MARKETING

\$ 67,743

DEVELOPMENT

\$ 3,116,713

TOTAL EXPENSES

Grant revenue received in prior years was utilized for special project expenses in FY25, including Giants in the Earth and the Lakota Music Project.

Financial data is unaudited



§SDSO