



AMERICAN
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

BRYANT PARK PICNIC PERFORMANCES

Presented by BANK OF AMERICA

ASO Board Member Prospects

2025

AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Chris Lee, Bryant Park

AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S MISSION IS TO RENEW LIVE ORCHESTRAL MUSIC AS A VITAL FORCE IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN CULTURE.

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Photo by Matt Dine

INTRODUCTION

The **American Symphony Orchestra (ASO)** was founded in 1962 by Leopold Stokowski with the goal of providing **great music for everyone**. Leon Botstein expanded that focus when he joined the ASO as music director in 1992 by creating concerts that explore music through the lens of the visual arts, literature, religion, and history, as well as by reviving rarely performed works that audiences would otherwise never hear performed live. The ASO's signature programming includes its **Vanguard Series**, which features concerts of seldom-performed orchestral repertoire presented at Carnegie Hall, Bryant Park, and other historic venues, and its **Chamber Series**—curated by ASO's musicians—offering concert programs dedicated to reflecting the diverse perspectives of American culture. During the summer, the ASO is the orchestra in residence at Bard's SummerScape and performs at the Bard Music Festival. All of the ASO's presentations comprise a year-round series of vital and innovative programming for audiences of all backgrounds. As part of its commitment to expanding the standard orchestral repertoire and ensuring accessibility to musical masterpieces, the ASO offers free streaming of exclusive live recordings on its digital platform, **ASO Online**. Content includes SummerScape operas, chamber performances, and short films. In many cases, these are the only existing recordings of some of the forgotten works that have been restored through ASO performances.

LEON BOTSTEIN AND HIS AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ARE NATIONAL TREASURES. HIS MISSION TO SPREAD AWARENESS OF LESSER-KNOWN CLASSICAL PIECES IS AN ADMIRABLE QUEST. THESE EFFORTS SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED BY ALL WHO HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAR HIM AND HIS ENSEMBLE, WHEREVER THEY APPEAR.

—ASO Audience Member

Dear Friend,

It's a very exciting time to be a part of the American Symphony Orchestra community.

When I joined Music Director Leon Botstein in 2018 to help lead the ASO, we were adhering to founder Leopold Stokowski's vision of providing "great music for everyone." Since 2020, we've expanded that mandate by bringing our concert series to many more listeners.

As a result, our signature programming, including our Vanguard Series, which features concerts of seldom-performed orchestral repertoire presented at Carnegie Hall, Bryant Park, and other historic venues, are now being presented for a wider public than Stokowski had ever imagined. And our Chamber Series, curated by ASO musicians and dedicated to the brilliant and magical diversity of American culture, has expanded to showcase performances at venues from Bryant Park to PAC NYC, reaching hundreds more New Yorkers each year with these thoughtfully crafted programs.

We also increased ASO's programming through our digital platform, ASO Online, by streaming exclusive live recordings and SummerScape operas, chamber performances, and short films—all for free.

And so today, more than 60 years after its founding, the ASO's original imperative has expanded to encompass a unique thematic programming approach, expressed by Music Director Leon Botstein's statement that "Music should be an essential part of daily life as opposed to a prohibitively expensive luxury experience." Programs range from rarely performed Strauss scores, to great jazz standards, to Afro-Cuban Batá drumming, performed by music-makers from around the world and presented at the highest level. Musician-curated presentations, now core to ASO's overall mission, have expanded access to audiences of all races, ethnicities, and classes, particularly through low-or no-cost concerts.

The wealth and richness of our artistic vision and our exponential expansion of our audiences—now 10,000 annually—have galvanized and inspired our operational growth, which resulted in the recent completion of our five-year Strategic Plan. Our leadership is comprised of a vibrant mix of dedicated professionals—international in location and background, as well as possessing a wide range of disciplines and fields, who collaborate on making the orchestra the best it can be.

I am pleased to share this update, outlining some highlights from 2023-2024, which our supporters helped to make possible. I hope this report helps you get to know us and learn about the unique and important organization that, for more than 60 years, has always innovated, adapted, and nurtured the finest musicians, and presented unknown but highly worthy musical works which, but for the ASO, would never be heard.



Oliver Inteeworn
Executive Director, American Symphony Orchestra



Photo by Matt Dine, Bryant Park

ASO PROGRAMS

Vanguard Series

The Vanguard Series focuses on performing underrepresented works for full orchestra in thematic programming reflecting the diverse perspectives of American culture.



Photos by Matt Dine, The Riverside Church

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 - Bryant Park
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 - Kupferberg Center for the Arts
American Expressions - Free Admission

The ASO highlights the different forms of expression and musical languages that emerged in the 1920s, including new elements of dance, theater and jazz in this season-opening program.

DECEMBER 14, 2023 - The Riverside Church
Judas Maccabaeus

Set amidst the story of Hanukkah, the oratorio is a dramatization of the Jews' resistance towards their oppressors during the Maccabean revolt.

JANUARY 24, 2024 - Carnegie Hall
Dvořák's Requiem

Dating from the composer's late creative period, Antonín Dvořák's Requiem remains a rarity in his impressive oeuvre. It is nowhere near as well known, or as frequently performed, as the composer's late symphonies, chamber works, or other choral works.

MARCH 22, 2024 - Carnegie Hall
Schoenberg's Gurre-Lieder

One hundred and fifty years after the composer's birth—and more than 90 years since ASO founder Leopold Stokowski premiered the work in the U.S. with the Philadelphia Orchestra—the ASO presents Arnold Schoenberg's massive *Gurre-Lieder*.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 - Bryant Park
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 - Kupferberg Center for the Arts
Beyond the Hall- Free Admission

The ASO explores music that draws its inspiration from outside the traditional concert setting. From dance-inspired composition (Florence Price's Suite of Dances) to the theater (Weill's *Threepenny Opera* and Bernstein's *On the Town*), and from the opera stage (Joplin's *Treemonisha*) to the silver screen (Herrmann's film score for *Psycho*, Alfred Hitchcock, 1960).



Photo by Chris Lee, Bryant Park



Photo by Matt Dine, Kupferberg Center for the Arts

JANUARY 24, 2025 - St. Bartholomew's Church
Bach at St. Bart's

Long associated with the instrumental genre, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach is most well-known for his concertos, sonatas, and symphonies. Less well-known are his vocal compositions. The ASO performs the U.S. premiere of *Die Auferstehung und Himmelfahrt Jesu* (*The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus*) (1774) along with his choral work *Heilig* (*Holy*).



Photo by Matt Dine, David Geffen Hall

MARCH 23, 2025 - David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
Tapping into the Twenties

The ASO looks back to the influential composers who came of age during the rise of jazz, skyscrapers, and American prosperity. Including works by John Alden Carpenter, Erwin Schulhoff, William Grant Still, and Edgard Varèse, the concert featured soloist Orion Weiss on piano.

THE MUSIC TOUCHED OUR HEARTS AND GAVE US
WINGS TO FLY IN THE PAST AND FUTURE. ONCE MORE
THE MUSIC BROUGHT US JOY AND PEACE.

—ASO Audience Member

JUNE 6, 2025 - Carnegie Hall
Strauss's Guntram

Richard Strauss's very first opera is rarely performed today—the ASO's presentation marks its first performance in New York City in this century. A riveting story of love, guilt and renunciation, *Guntram* reveals a young Strauss positioning himself as the successor to Wagner.



Photo by Matt Dine, Carnegie Hall

ASO PROGRAMS

Chamber Series

The Chamber Series began in response to COVID restrictions with programs curated by ASO musicians and taking place across multiple boroughs.



APRIL 19, 2024 - Perelman Performing Arts Center **The Glenwood Quartet**

The Glenwood Quartet brings the spirit of the American Symphony Orchestra to this program by celebrating underperformed works by Silvestre Rivueltas and Manuel Ponce alongside a well-loved masterpiece.

MAY 13 & 14, 2024 - Bryant Park **String Quartet**

A string quartet of ASO musicians performs works by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson, William Grant Still, and Antonín Dvořák, in a program curated by violinist Ashley Horne, a longtime member of the American Symphony Orchestra.

MAY 20 & 21, 2024 - Bryant Park **Woodwind Quintet**

This program features works by American composers including William Grant Still, Amy Beach, and John Philip Sousa. Curated by ASO member Gilbert Dejean, the works on the program draws inspiration from across the Americas, from folk melodies to jazz.

MAY 12 & 14, 2025 - Bryant Park **The Music of Louis Armstrong**

The ASO Jazz Ensemble honors jazz trumpet virtuoso and innovator, Louis Armstrong, by performing a selection of the composer's lesser-recorded works, in this program curated by longtime ASO member Louis Bruno.



MAY 19 & 20, 2025 - Bryant Park **Salon 1898: Cuban Dance Music at the Turn of the Twentieth Century**

The first in a selection of chamber music programs that highlight the rich musical history of Cuba and its influence on American concert music and culture, from the turn of the twentieth century through today.



THE AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IS EXCELLENT AND PRESENTS INTERESTING, CURATED, OFF THE BEATEN PATH PROGRAMS.

—ASO Audience Member

ASO PROGRAMS

ASO Online

Content includes live video recordings of SummerScape operas, video recordings from live chamber performances, and short films.



Screen grab from “Gurre-Lieder”

ASO Online Library

- | | |
|---|---|
| Oresteia | King Arthur (Le roi Arthus) |
| Die Liebe der Danae (The Love of Danae) | A Salute to America’s Jazz Royalty: |
| Le roi malgré lui | The Count, The Duke and The King |
| Euryanthe | Celebrating New York* |
| The Wreckers | The Silent Woman (Die schweigsame Frau) |
| Iris | Ficciones |
| Dimitrij | American Expressions* |
| Demon | Taneyev’s At the Reading of a Psalm |
| The Miracle of Heliane | Henri VIII |
| United We Play | Beyond the Hall* |
| The Magic of Nino Rota | Gurre-Lieder |
| Samuel Barber’s String Quartet in | Le prophète |
| B minor, Op. 11 | |
| Trevor Weston’s Juba for String Quartet | |
| George Walker’s String Quartet | |
| No. 1, “Lyric” | |
| Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson’s String | |
| Quartet No. 1, “Calvary” | |

**Streaming has concluded*



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The ASO is dedicated to increasing access to live orchestral music for all New Yorkers through its Community Access Program.

We are committed to presenting free concerts at venues across the city, meeting communities where they are. The ASO maintains affordable admission prices to all its ticketed performances and offers at least 30% of those tickets to underserved populations through community partnerships: the ASO distributes free tickets to community organizations across New York City, including:

- Veteran Tickets Foundation
- Institute of International Education
- Disabilities Institute
- United Nations Hospitality Committee

90% of our audience attends concerts for free, **40%** of tickets are available for sale at \$25 or under, and **52%** are available for \$30 or under.

When a concert sells out and there is high demand for paid tickets, we remain committed to making free tickets available to our community, including our community partners.



Photo by Chris Lee, Bryant Park

DIGITAL REACH

Content on ASO Online has reached a global audience of 250K+

The impact of ASO concerts has been made even greater through our free streaming library, ASO Online. The library includes live video recordings of SummerScape operas, video recordings from our live chamber performances, and short films. Each September, the ASO's mainstage concerts are livestreamed by Bryant Park, reaching audiences who otherwise cannot attend, increasing access beyond 5,000 in-person attendees.



Screen grab from "Gurre-Lieder"

Gurre-Lieder

In September 2024 the ASO released a short film about the orchestra's massive undertaking of Arnold Schoenberg's *Gurre-Lieder*. The film takes a behind-the-scenes look at the rehearsal process leading up to the highly anticipated March 22, 2024 performance at Carnegie Hall with context provided by music director Leon Botstein and chorus director James Bagwell. The film was released in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Schoenberg's birthday.

Since its release the short film has received **33K+** views.

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Joshua Winograde, Vocal Casting Director

WHO WE ARE

ASO MEMBERSHIP

In March 2023, the American Symphony Orchestra launched its **first-ever Membership program**. With its launch, the ensemble and its staff has connected with new and returning audience members, and some of whom have been attending ASO performances for decades. Through the program, which offers each member exclusive access to meet-and-greets with artists, special events such as concert receptions, complimentary tickets to various venues, priority concert seating, Friends & Family discounts, memorabilia such as autographed Playbills, and more, the organization works to further its goal to provide “**great music for everyone.**”

Structured in three giving levels, ASO’s new membership program further diversifies the orchestra’s Individual Giving outreach to sustain its free and discounted presentations to expand arts access in New York City, while simultaneously welcoming audiences to get a closer look at the ASO’s impact through an enhanced season-long concertgoing experience. The orchestra’s membership program aims to connect patrons more closely to the ensemble, and the ensemble’s musicians with audiences across NYC.



Photo by Tony Melone, Private Residence

ASO SUPPORTERS

INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

GOVERNMENT

National Endowment for the Arts
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts

FOUNDATIONS

Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation
The Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation
Howard Gilman Foundation
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
Leon Levy Foundation
Music Performance Trust Fund
E. Nakamichi Foundation
The Spektor Family Foundation, In memory of Anya Botstein
The Spektor Family Foundation, In memory of Mira J. Spektor
Thomas P. and Cynthia D. Sculco Foundation
Kurt Weill Foundation

INDIVIDUAL GIVING

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Philippe Lebard
Sheila Lehman
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Pam Loree
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Karen Manchester
Cynthia Marion
Loretta Hunt Marion
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David Badler
Jeanne Bartlett
Marc Basch
Daniel B. and Gisela Berkson
Robert Blacker
Mike Blehert
James Jaffe
Raissa Ravitcher

*List current as of
August 31, 2025.*

AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Leon Botstein, **Conductor**

Violin

Cyrus Beroukhim, *Concertmaster*
Richard Rood, *Principal*
Diane Bruce
John Connelly
Patricia Davis
Yukie Handa
Ashley Horne
Pauline Kim Harris
Katherine Livolsi-Landau
Kobi Malkin
Wende Namkung
Elizabeth Nielsen
Naho Parrini
Philip Payton
Bruno Peña
Ragga Petursdottir
Dorothy Strahl
James Tsao
Alexander Vselensky
Robert Zubrycki
Sarah Zun

Viola

William Frampton, *Principal*
Adria Benjamin
William Hakim
Shelley Holland-Moritz
Jason Mellow
Rachel Riggs
Veronia Salas
Debra Shufelt-Dine
Sally Shumway

Cello

Eugene Moye, *Principal*
Diane Barere
Emily Brausa
Sarah Carter
Roberta Cooper
Jordan Enzinger
Annabelle Hoffman
Maureen Hynes
Eliana Mendoza
Alberto Parrini

Bass

John Beal, *Principal*
Louis Bruno
Peter Donovan
Jordan Frazier
Richard Ostrovsky
Jack Wenger

Flute

Keith Bonner, *Principal*
Rie Schmidt
Diva Goodfriend-Koven, *piccolo*

Oboe

Alexandra Knoll, *Principal*
Julia DeRosa
Melanie Feld, *English Horn*

Clarinet

Shari Hoffman, *Principal*
Benjamin Baron
Lino Gomez, *Bass Clarinet*

Bassoon

Gina Cuffari, *Principal*

Horn

Zohar Schondorf, *Principal*
David Smith
Lawrence DiBello
David Peel
Chad Yarbrough

Trumpet

Gareth Flowers, *Principal*
John Dent
John Sheppard

Trombone

Richard Clark, *Principal*
Nicole Abissi
Jeffrey Caswell, *bass trombone*

Tuba

Kyle Turner, *Principal*

Timpani

David Fein, *Principal*

Percussion

Jonathan Haas, *Principal*
Kory Grossman

Harp

Ruth Bennett, *Principal*

Personnel Manager

Matthew Dine

Assistant Conductor

Zachary Schwartzman

Orchestra Librarian

Marc Cerri



Photo by Matt Dine, Carnegie Hall

FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year ending June 30, 2024

	Years Ended June 30,					
	2024			2023		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT						
Private contributions	\$ 1,288,476	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,308,476	\$ 1,165,551	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,190,551
Concert service fees	1,125,483	-	1,125,483	1,505,769	-	1,505,769
Ticket sales	71,356	-	71,356	44,253	-	44,253
Grants	110,535	-	110,535	114,510	-	114,510
Membership dues	8,600	-	8,600	-	-	-
Contributions, in-kind	179,475	-	179,475	170,647	-	170,647
Other	29,148	-	29,148	5,929	-	5,929
Net assets released from restrictions	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-	-
Total revenues and support	2,838,073	(5,000)	2,833,073	3,006,659	25,000	3,031,659
EXPENSES						
Program						
Production	2,166,623	-	2,166,623	2,293,410	-	2,293,410
Supporting services						
Marketing	245,253	-	245,253	234,823	-	234,823
Development	194,392	-	194,392	186,736	-	186,736
Management and general	220,085	-	220,085	212,974	-	212,974
Total expenses	2,826,353	-	2,826,353	2,927,943	-	2,927,943
Change in net assets (deficit)	11,720	(5,000)	6,720	78,716	25,000	103,716

ASO’s financial statements are audited by BST & Co. The Statements of Activities for the years ended June 30, 2023 and 2024 were derived from ASO’s financial statements.