



Minnesota Sinfonia Annual Report, December 2014

To all our friends and supporters,

My very best year-end greetings. As I look back at this past season, I am absolutely overwhelmed. First of course, reaching the milestone of 25 years is quite an accomplishment, especially given the Sinfonia's unique position in our community. We are far from the largest of the region's major orchestras and other arts organizations, but I can safely surmise (please ignore my vested interest) that we have the most fun, and very importantly, provide services, be they are for our community's children or our many friends and neighbors with few resources, that are critically needed and appreciated. And, that we were able to continue our policies of free admission and children welcome to all performances, is incredible!

I am so pleased that we were able to perform 7 winter and summer "classical" programs (both in Minneapolis and St. Paul) that attracted very large and very enthusiastic audiences, and best of all, lots of children and grand children. And at this year's October season opener for our classical programming, we had our largest audience ever in St. Paul.

As in previous years, the Sinfonia again worked with approximately 10,000 children and 19 schools, 17 of which were in inner-city Minneapolis and St. Paul. Our Music in the Schools performances are my personal favorite, pride and joy. Relating our music content to ongoing required academics has made MIS one of the most important and innovative music education programs in the entire business. And to hear the kids cheer for the music of Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, and others is a thrill that is nothing short of amazing.

And the accomplishments continue: the orchestra organized and performed two Music and Arts Festivals, the first in North Minneapolis, and the second in Fridley. These events not only involved the Sinfonia, but also community artists, musicians, The Sounds of Blackness and students from the Lundstrum Center for the Arts and N'motion.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our Youth Outreach Week. We started this program 5 years ago, where local talented students rehearse and then perform major repertoire with us as part of our last major summer concert performance at Lake Harriet. Originally we started with 25 students per year. This past summer we had 40 students, all participating in an incredible performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. I know that I keep using superlatives, but this was incredible.

None of this could happen without our very talented and dedicated musicians. Not only are they excellent players, but they absolutely understand and support our mission, our work with children, and our goals of community service. They are the ones who create

and keep the orchestra's high standards and reputation, and allow us to attract great soloists, all who want to come back and play again and again.

As I think everyone knows, the Sinfonia is run on a very tight and financially conservative track. The orchestra has never ended a fiscal year with any outstanding debt, and always with money in the bank. This does not happen by chance. Our excellent administration (brother Ray and our newest part-time assistant, Michaela Gardner), deals with all of financial matters, publicity, grant writing, social media and the many other necessary activities that allow the organization to function smoothly. And our board – I think that this is without question, the hardest working and strongest group of volunteers we have ever had. With all of the above, I am indeed a very lucky and happy man.

Of course, without your past and continued financial support, even with the best of intentions, our great musicians, staff and volunteers, we could not continue our vital community work. Thank you!

Our new season (the beginning of the next 25) is already underway, so please plan to join us. I personally promise great fun, exciting programs, and a good time to be had by all! Until, we meet again, I wish you

My very best regards,



Jay

Financial Summary of FY 2014 and FY 2013

Support and Revenue	FY 2014 \$586,577	FY 2013 \$573,032
Expenses		
Program Services	504,335	463,376
Management and General	44,847	43,094
Fundraising	24,547	27,546
Expenses Total	\$573,729	\$534,016

The entire audit/review is available on our website.