Iris Orchestra Annual report 2018–2019
Friends of Iris Orchestra,

The 2018–2019 season has been a rewarding year for Iris Orchestra.

Iris orchestral concerts took shape from Iris’ dedication to American music and to the great classics, and ranged from the iconic to the unexpected. World-renowned violinist Midori performed Bernstein’s “Serenade,” a challenging piece for listeners as well as for the performer. In contrast, Bach was the featured composer in the unusual appearance of a classical accordion concerto soloist, the brilliant young Hanzhi Wang.

“Iris at the Brooks” at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art launched in October, 2018. Designed by the guest artists and hosted by conductor Michael Stern, Iris at the Brooks offers an intimate and approachable hour-long concert paired with a featured art exhibition and a reception. Complementing Iris’s orchestral subscription series, the four events featured performances incorporating Iris Orchestra members with the prior evening’s concerto soloists.

Concerts are our most visible offering, but they are not the only thing that keeps us busy. Iris musicians are out in the community working in the schools, collaboration with community arts and culture partners, and engaging with underserved neighbors year-round. The Iris Artist Fellows are especially active in these programs. As Iris Orchestra looks forward to our 20th anniversary, I invite you to look back at a season of accomplishments this past year.

Sincerely,

Marcia Kaufmann
Executive Director, Iris Orchestra
Concerts

Iris is known for exceptional quality of performances and guest artists. The vibrant core for a substantial portfolio of programs, the orchestra is the foundation for all of Iris’ programming.

2018
October
The magic of Midori
Guest Artist: Midori, violin
Rouse, Bernstein, Bizet/Shchedrin

Iris at the Brooks
Guest Artist: Midori, violin
Bach, Mozart, Schnittke, Norman

What we do

December
Season of wonder
Guest Artist: University of Memphis Chorus
Lallerstedt, Mozart, Rouse, Barber, Strauss

2019
February
Bold new world
Guest Artist: Hanzhi Wang, accordion
Clyne, Corigliano, Bach, Tchaikovsky

Iris at the Brooks
Guest Artist: Hanzhi Wang, accordion
Bach, Piazzolla

March
A night to remember
Guest Artist: Inon Barnatan, piano
Cowell, Haydn, Beethoven

Iris at the Brooks
Guest Artist: Inon Barnatan, piano
Bach, Dvorak

April
Straight from the soul
Guest Artist: Itamar Zorman, violin
Martinu, Dvorak, Brahms

Iris at the Brooks
Guest Artist: Itamar Zorman, violin
Bach, Ben-Haim, Mendelssohn
Outreach

Iris musicians created events throughout the metro area, including four noontime concerts at Health Sciences Park and Edge Alley; a children’s Halloween concert and a concert of chamber music by African American and Latin composers at the Morton Museum of Collierville History; concerts for seniors at Kirby Pines, The Village at Germantown, Trezevant, Duration Fine Arts, and Creative Aging; a concert for Carpenter Art Garden’s Music Day; and a noontime Live Lunch orchestra concert with the entire Bodine School sitting in as the live audience.

In a season highlight, Iris partnered with the National Civil Rights Museum to create "Without Regard to Sex, Race, or Color: An Evening of Art and Music." This event celebrated the legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities through a composition inspired by photography on the topic. Performed by orchestra, vocalists, and narrators, it played to a more-than-sold-out house. Iris used its network and roster to build an orchestra of musicians of color from Memphis, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Boston, and Chicago for this event.

What we do

The season by the numbers

- 15 Memphis-area zip codes
- 28 different venues
- 70 outreach events
- 749 Shelby County schoolchildren taught by Iris Artist Fellows

Iris Artist Fellows

Fellows for the FY19 season were violist Rosa Ortega Iannelli, from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and cellist Carrington Truehart, a native Memphian. The Fellows performed as orchestra members on all Iris orchestral concerts, in all of the collaborative performances, in almost all of the outreach and education events, and on the final Iris at the Brooks concert. Ms. Iannelli taught the violin class at Carpenter Art Garden and in the Caldwell-Guthrie music program through the year, while Mr. Truehart taught at S.T.A.R. Academy. For FY20, Truehart has elected a second year in the Artist Fellowship program. He will be joined by violist Amaro Dubois, a native of Brazil.
Financial Statement

How we do it

Iris Orchestra is rooted in a commitment to excellence and an organizational model that connects the Memphis musical community with a nationwide network of world-class artistry. Iris’ flexible artistic model, a roster of musicians participating in the Iris season according to their performance schedules and Iris needs, creates an excellent, efficient, and sustainable ensemble—a unique model nationally. These top-level performers with home bases in 27 states invigorate Memphis’ classical music community with their connections in leading orchestras and ensembles nationwide.

Expenses 2018–2019
Program Services $68%
Marketing $11%
Fundraising $7%
General & Administrative $14%

Revenue
Contributions $453,886
Grants $123,240
Concerts $176,146
Educational programs $12,515
Other earned $16,930
In-kind contributions $252,103

Expenses
Program services
Concert production $617,015
Educational programs $82,683
Marketing $113,918

Supporting services
Management & general $140,616
Fundraising $77,103

Change in net assets $3,484
Net assets beginning of year $162,078
Net assets end of year $165,562
Host Families

Host families are a cherished part of the Iris experience for Iris Orchestra members. Providing hospitality and respite after long days of rehearsals and performances, host families experience in turn a rare opportunity: getting to know the extraordinary musicians they see performing on stage. Host families are an essential part of Iris Orchestra, and are appreciated for their generous, personalized, support of the arts.

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*2020 Vision Contributors
2020 Vision contributors are focusing on IRIS’ future, celebrating IRIS’ upcoming 20th anniversary by increasing their annual gifts by 20% in 2019 and 2020. To join, contact Marcia Kaufmann 901-751-7669.

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Gifting and pledges to April 8, 2019
Looking forward: 20 years

Next year we celebrate Iris Orchestra’s 20th anniversary. There will be much to celebrate. In addition to Iris’ anniversary, Memphis’ 200th anniversary takes place in 2019, while 2020 brings the 250th anniversary of Ludwig van Beethoven. For a touch of nostalgia, Iris’ five orchestral concerts will welcome back artists and pieces featured in our inaugural year. The season will include plentiful Beethoven. And, in keeping with Iris’ dedication to new works and to American composers, there will be commissions and premiers including Conrad Tao’s tribute to Memphis’ anniversary inspired by Charlie Patton’s “A Spoonful Blues.” Make plans to join us.