



CKYO Board Reports: 2024–2025 Season Summary

CKYO's Donors and Contributors: Click [HERE](#)

CKYO's program sponsors: <https://www.ckyo.org/programsponsors>

CKYO 2024-2025 By the Numbers

Audition Based Orchestras

Symphony Orchestra - 80
Concert Orchestra - 61
Repertory Orchestra - 64
Bravo String Orchestra - 39
Jazz Arts Orchestra - 16
Jazz Repertory Orchestra - 10
Percussion – 9

Friends in Music

Middle Schoolers - 120
High School Mentors - 62

MusicWorks

Strings – 29
Clarinets – 6

2024-2025 Season Mainstage Performances

Sunday, November 10, 2024 at Singletary Center for the Arts
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at Singletary Center for the Arts
Sunday, May 4, 2025 at Singletary Center for the Arts
Sunday, May 18, 2025 at Singletary Center for the Arts
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at Singletary Center for the Arts

2024-2025 Community Program Performances

October 26, 2024 – MusicWorks Costume Concert
November 13, 2024 – Friends in Music – Leestown Recital
November 18, 2024 – Friends in Music – Bryan Station Recital
December 13, 2024 – MusicWorks Holiday Concert and Potluck
March 31, 2025 – Friends in Music – Bryan Station Recital
April 2, 2025 – Friends in Music – Leestown Recital
May 18, 2025 – Friends in Music – Side-by-side performance, CKYO Season Finale Concert
May 19 & 21, 2025 – MusicWorks Spring Concert and Picnic

2024-2025 Special Events and Performances (small ensembles)

Sunday, August 25, 2024 – Chamber Music Festival of Lexington
Sunday, November 17, 2024 – CKYO Concerto Competition at Singletary Center for the Arts
Thursday, February 27, 2025 – LexArts Fund for the Arts Kick-Off Event, ArtsPlace
Thursday, March 13, 2025 – Leadership Lexington Arts Day Performance, ArtsPlace
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 – Sayre Christian Village Performance + Outreach, Friendship Towers



President's Report – Kirsten Clingerman

- Significant artistic and organizational growth across all programs.
- Friends in Music nearly doubled in size.
- Mission continues to resonate: inspiring through music and community.
- Financially responsible in a challenging climate.
 - Continued growth of endowment at Blue Grass Community Foundation.
 - Endowment now contributes \$25,000–\$30,000 annually to Friends in Music and MusicWorks.
- Strategic Plan updates under review for finalization next year.
- Renewed focus on Board committee engagement due to fewer full board meetings.
- Strengthened partnerships with:
 - Fayette County Public Schools.
 - Alumni and social media engagement.
- Upcoming highlights:
 - CKYO's role in Lexington's 250th Anniversary.
 - Premiere of commissioned orchestral anthem funded by 250Lex Commission.
- Appreciation for ongoing support from the board and community.

Executive Director's Report – Amelia Groetsch

- CKYO engages over 450 students weekly from 40+ schools across 12 counties.
- Programs include:
 - 7 audition-based ensembles.
 - 2 community programs (Friends in Music and MusicWorks).
- Season Highlights:
 - 5 mainstage concerts at Singletary Center.
 - Concerto Competition with 21 advanced musicians.
- Community Programs:
 - Friends in Music participation doubled at Leestown and Bryan Station Middle Schools.
 - MusicWorks to relocate to William Wells Brown Elementary in Fall 2025.
- Key partnerships:
 - FCPS support for space and promotion.
 - Lexmark reduced printing costs by 70% through In-Kind support of printing program booklets.
- Fundraising accomplishments:
 - Two-year LFUCG ESR grant for Friends in Music.
 - Ongoing LA Philharmonic support for MusicWorks.
 - Support from BGCF donor-advised funds, Roop Foundation, and Virginia Clark Hagan Foundation.
 - \$10,000 Good Giving Challenge prize for MusicWorks Endowment (third consecutive win).
- Challenges:

- Rising inflation and decreased general donations.
 - Tuition covers only 64% of audition-based orchestral program costs.
 - Looking ahead:
 - Continued alumni and donor engagement.
 - Explore more earned revenue (CKYO merchandise, sponsorships).
 - Premiere of 250Lex orchestral anthem – Fall 2025.
-

Finance Committee Report – Louise Shouse, Chair

- Members: Bob Stadelman, Beth Florence, Tyler Powell, Joe Gibson.
 - FY 2024–2025:
 - Beginning cash: \$64,175.
 - Projected ending cash: ~\$16,000 (budgeted negative cash flow).
 - Revenues: ~\$479,000 | Expenses: ~\$528,000 | Net loss: (\$49,000).
 - Loss covered by Baird investment withdrawals.
 - Successes:
 - Increased ticket sales and ensemble participation.
 - Increased non-endowed grant support.
 - Maintained sponsorships and staff.
 - MusicWorks Endowment: 3rd consecutive Good Giving Challenge prize.
 - Challenges:
 - Decline in general operating donations and corporate sponsorships.
 - Inflation impacting operating costs.
 - Tuition covers 64% of orchestra costs; financial aid available.
 - FY 2025–2026 Budget:
 - Revenues: \$491,585 | Expenses: \$533,356 | Net loss: (\$41,371).
 - Expenses reflect mainly fixed costs (salaries, rent).
 - Forward Plans:
 - Focus on alumni and corporate fundraising.
 - Recruit for increased audition participation.
 - MusicWorks relocating to William Wells Brown Elementary.
-

Personnel Committee Report – Enrique Farfan, Chair

- Members: Candace James, Joyce Nicholson, Virgil Covington.
- Focus Areas:
 - Development of updated Personnel Manual.
 - Reflects legal standards and CKYO values: equity, transparency, inclusion.
 - Includes: job classifications, emergency response, leave benefits, evaluations.
 - Annual performance review cycle in progress.

- Reviewing and updating staff contracts.
 - Challenges:
 - Coordination of schedules.
 - Navigating complex policy development.
 - Looking Ahead:
 - Complete Personnel Manual and review cycle.
 - Finalize staff contracts ahead of next season.
 - Continue staff support and alignment with organizational direction.
-

Board Development and Diversity Committee – Kirsten Clingerman, Chair

- Members: Tomoko Stoss, Candece James, Patricia Price.
 - Achievements:
 - Board now better reflects community diversity: generational, economic, racial.
 - Areas for Growth:
 - Strategic recruitment to support complex organizational needs.
 - Prioritize expertise in: finance, law, education, music.
 - Outreach:
 - Building new community connections (e.g., Rotary events, business leader networking).
 - Appreciation for board engagement in recruitment and outreach.
-

Alumni Committee Report – Pat Price, Chair

- Members: Marie Bradshaw, Chelsea Compton, Candece James, Kirsten Clingerman, Tracy Lovan, Joe McGrannahan.
 - Purpose:
 - Maintain historical records.
 - Update alumni database.
 - Plan anniversary celebrations.
 - 2024 Activities:
 - Intern Jenna James (alumna): led social media, alumni outreach, content creation.
 - November meeting: alumni involved in Good Giving Challenge promotion.
 - Alumni encouraged to complete survey at ckyo.org/alumni-survey.
-

Community & School Relations Committee – Devin Onkst, Chair



- Members: Cody Birdwell, Lester Diaz, Christa Dunn, Cathy Mejia, Meredith Spaeth.
- 2024 -2025 Focus:
 - Increase enrollment in CKYO ensembles.
 - Promote equitable access and lifelong music engagement.
 - Presence at school and honors concerts for audition promotion.
- Challenges:
 - Limited in-person interaction; most work done via email.
- Future Plans:
 - More in-person meetings for idea sharing.
 - Continued school outreach and audition promotion.
 - Identify broader community outreach opportunities.
- Appreciation extended to Board and Staff for support.

CLICK [HERE](#) to view the video and [HERE](#) to pose questions or make comments.