



2023–24 IMPACT REPORT



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DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the past year at Kaufman Music Center, I can't help but revel in the inspiring musical stories, innovative concerts, and uplifting educational experiences that our community has shared. Each performance, class, and lesson has brought us closer together, weaving a tapestry of creativity and exploration that has enriched our lives and cultivated abundant joy among our students, performing artists, audiences, staff, and supporters.

This year has been particularly special: from soul-stirring concerts as part of Merkin Hall's *Listen Different* campaign to new offerings like Pathways that are expanding access at Lucy Moses School to innovative collaborations between trailblazing artists and budding musicians at Special Music School, each event has been a reminder of the power of music and art to uplift people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. These experiences serve as a crucial reminder of the profound joy we can and should continue to foster for ourselves and our communities—and the impact it can have on our lives.

Thank you for being an integral part of this effort.

With gratitude and excitement,



Orli Shaham
Chair, Board of Trustees



WELCOME TO KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER

Kaufman Music Center is the premier destination for learning and listening to music in New York City. Our performance hall presents today's most compelling artists, and our schools offer outstanding education in music, dance and theater that engages people of all ages and experience levels.

Founded in 1952 as the Hebrew Arts School, today's Kaufman Music Center, a secular institution, serves over 50,000 people each year. We offer a comprehensive musical experience for students, performers, and audiences in New York and beyond.



A photograph of two young children, a girl and a boy, playing a large, handcrafted instrument made of long, thin, light-colored strips, possibly paper or fabric, arranged in a fan-like shape. The girl, on the left, is wearing a white, ruffled dress and a tiara, and is smiling while playing. The boy, on the right, is wearing a dark suit and is looking intently at the instrument. The background is blurred, showing other people and lights, suggesting a performance or rehearsal space.

MERKIN HALL

The Center's intimate performance venue provides unparalleled access to groundbreaking artists.

LUCY MOSES SCHOOL

Manhattan's largest community performing arts school for students of all ages and abilities.

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

New York's only K-12 public school prioritizing an intensive, immersive and musically-focused education without financial barriers.

Image: Two children playing a unique, handcrafted instrument designed by our 2023–24 Artist-in-Residence, Angélica Negrón, and visual botanical artist Sophie Parker.

LUCY MOSES SCHOOL

STUDENT ENROLLMENT & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-24 2022-23 ○ = 100 STUDENTS

LUCY MOSES SCHOOL STUDENTS

[illegible]

2022-23 2,450

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

2023–24		\$172K
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2022-23		\$124K
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LUCY MOSES SCHOOL, Manhattan's largest community arts school, provides classes and lessons in music, dance, and theater to students of all ages and abilities. The School welcomes a broad range of families to connect with its accomplished faculty members. Scholarships make programming accessible for students experiencing financial difficulty each year. This year, the Center was pleased to award \$172,200 in scholarships to students in the Young People's Division experiencing financial need—a **38% increase from 2022–23 thanks to your support.**

Students enjoyed offerings like Dalcroze, Group Piano, Voice for Young People, Sight Singing, Ballet, Yoga Flow, and more. In the winter, participants enjoyed a winter arts camp. This spring, students celebrated their progress with recitals in Ann Goodman Recital Hall and full-scale concerts in Merkin Hall.

YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

Lucy Moses School's **YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM** serves youth who wish to seriously pursue music studies after high school through an advanced curriculum of weekly after-school study. This program prepares talented young students to study music at college or conservatory through specialized training that includes private lessons, ensembles, and music theory classes.

ADULT DIVISION

Lucy Moses School's **ADULT DIVISION** helps adults aged 18+ explore their creativity and re-ignite old passions. Offerings include private lessons, professional development courses in Dalcroze, jazz and chamber ensembles, senior-friendly classes, and more.



Image One: A child tries a new instrument at Lucy Moses School's Discovery Day in June.

Image Two: Adult students perform in a Jazz Recital in January.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PIANO COMPETITION

Inaugurated in 2013, Kaufman Music Center's **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PIANO COMPETITION** brings together some of the most talented young pianists from around the world. Held biennially and open to pianists up to age 18, the competition awards cash prizes and gives winners the opportunity to perform in Merkin Hall.

Selected from 258 applicants from 13 countries and 22 U.S. states, this year's 24 Finalists hailed from Canada, China, Thailand, and the U.S. It is an honor to host so many extraordinarily talented young pianists this year. We are also very proud of the prize winners at our previous competitions, who have gone on to win numerous other competitions and awards. They have given solo recitals and performed as soloists with orchestras in the U.S., Europe, Asia and Australia and have been featured on NPR's *From the Top*.

Image: Zarin Mehta, First Prize (shared) winner of the 2024 Kaufman Music Center International Piano Competition.

CHARLY PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT

In June, the International Youth Piano Competition Winners performed in the annual **CHARLY PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT** in Merkin Hall. The Fund supporting the initiative was launched by Trustee Danielle Dimston with a leadership commitment in memory of her late father and beloved Kaufman Music Center Trustee, Charly Dimston.



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Charly Dimston showed me the world. I hope you have the opportunity to see the world and that your music education supports you throughout your life in ways that will surprise you and that it lifts you and takes you places that you have yet to imagine.

— Danielle Dimston
Trustee



SUMMERFEST

This August, Kaufman Music Center hosted **SUMMERFEST**, an intensive week of masterclasses, lessons, workshops, chamber ensembles and performance opportunities led by world-renowned guest artists and faculty for 32 advanced pianists, violinists and cellists ages 14–22.

During one intensive week of high-level music-making, students had an unrivaled learning experience with renowned guest artists Adele Anthony, Fabio Bidini, Amir Eldan, Ilmar Gavilán, Richard Goode, Grigory Kalinovsky, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Masao Kawasaki, Tomiko Magario, Clara Minhye Kim, Patinka Kopec, Julia Lichten, Li Lin, Amit Peled, Gil Shaham, Orli Shaham, Robert Shannon, Ignat Solzhenitsyn, Terrence Wilson and David Ying, and chamber faculty members Alex Croxton, Natela Mchedlishvili, Lynelle Smith, and Yari Bond.





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LUCY MOSES SCHOOL HAS BEEN A TRUE GIFT TO OUR FAMILY.

A few years ago, I was looking for a school where my three young daughters could take piano classes – I grew up in a musical family and it is important to me to give my kids a musical education. What I found here was a wonderful artistic community.

Inspired by my daughters, I challenged myself to take some jazz classes, and at the same time I was able to take piano solo and chamber music lessons from world-class teachers working closely to refine my classical piano skills. That inspired my husband to get his guitar out of its case and take blues classes and voice lessons. As a family, we now thrive musically and we are so grateful for all the wonderful opportunities given to us by attending the school: we made friends, connections, and musical projects were born thanks to the fantastic community of teachers, students and administrators.

Lucy Moses School is a precious resource for anyone dreaming of learning something new, refreshing or advancing old skills, at any level or age, making that learning dream a fulfilling reality.”

— Francesca Bucci Vernizzi-Miron

Lucy Moses School Parent and Adult Division Student

Image: The Vernizzi-Miron Family

LONGTIME VOLUNTEER, SUBSCRIBER,
AND FRIEND OF THE CENTER

CREATES LEGACY WITH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

When she's not at the gym, you will find Estelle Greco at Kaufman Music Center.

After retiring from a career in advertising – during what she describes as the “Mad Men” era – Estelle was enjoying a *Tuesday Matinee* performance in Merkin Hall when she thought to herself how wonderful it would be to volunteer for the Center. Countless volunteer hours later, Estelle has not only become a fixture at the gym but also an invaluable part of the Kaufman Music Center team. She is an unsung hero who helps make our programs possible each day.

Estelle has always been a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of the Center's Annual Fund. However, this year

Estelle decided to “up the ante” and create a provision in her estate plan to establish **THE GRECO SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Estelle's fund will provide promising young students for whom cost is a barrier the opportunity to take private lessons at the Center for many generations to come.

Estelle notes, “I came from a family who had nothing. I worked very hard for many years. I had a little luck in finance, which has enabled me to give back, support the next generation, and bring more joy to the world through music. There is no greater gift.”

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It is such a privilege to be able to give back, support the next generation, and bring more joy to the world through music.”

— Estelle Greco



THE LIFE-CHANGING BENEFITS OF AN INTENSIVE MUSIC EDUCATION

Kaufman Music Center is equipping and empowering young people from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in the field of music by removing barriers at the start of their journey.

We partner with public schools, community centers, cultural organizations, and music teachers all over NYC to recruit highly motivated elementary and early middle school students. Participants have access to a wide range of Kaufman Music Center resources and programs, including:

- Tuition-free weekly private instrument lessons in trumpet, trombone, French horn, euphonium, and tuba
- Group classes in music theory
- A musical instrument at no cost for the duration of their study
- Performance opportunities and participation in ensembles
- Free invitations to masterclasses, workshops, and performances
- Preloaded MetroCard for students and caregivers to travel to lessons and related activities

The Pathways program served 10 students in its inaugural 2023–24 school year and will add an additional 10 students in 2024–25. We intend to reach our goal of 50 students by 2028. Our community partners include Bronx House Community Center, Goddard Riverside Community Center, and SCAN-Harbor Performing Arts Academy at SCAN-Harbor Inc.

Lucy Moses School's Pathways is made possible thanks to support from Rose Hirschel, The Joel Foundation, and The Keith Haring Foundation.

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We come from a low-income family. It's only me and my daughter. She doesn't have a mom due to the fact of losing her to leukemia approximately three years ago. So this program helped me financially. This gave us a great opportunity and we're going to try to give it our best. Without this program we wouldn't be here."

— Parent of Pathways Student



Image: Pathways student Skylar Rodriguez participates in a lesson with instructor Priscilla Rinehart.

2023–24 SELECT LUCY MOSES SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

JOSEF BELL

Cello Student of Yari Bond

Winner, 2024 Lucy Moses School
Concerto Competition

SAMUEL BELL

Violin Student of Nurit Pacht

Winner, 2024 Lucy Moses School
Concerto Competition

YICHEN CAO

Piano Student of Svitlana Syrtsova

2nd place winner in Ukrainian
International Youth Music Competition and
Participant in corresponding Winner's Recital
in Weill Recital Hall

TOR COHEN

Violin Student of Luis Casal

2nd Place, Prima Volta Music Competition
Participant, Heifetz Music Institute 2024
Summer Program - Junior Session
Participant, Elizabeth Morrow String Festival
Participant, Kinhaven Junior Session

SCARLET DENNIS

Piano Student of Irina Krivonos

Participant, Orfeo Music Festival in Vipiteno, Italy

WILLIAM LEHNINGER SWIST

Piano Student of Igal Kesselman

Winner, 2024 Elena Leonova International
Young Pianists Competition
Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall
Selected to Perform at Carnegie Hall
as part of their Gala Concert
Performer, Música no Museu
Classical Music Series in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

LEONARDO ORTEGA-CHU

Piano Student of Svitlana Syrtsova

1st Prize Winner in junior group of
International Youth Music Competitions

AUDEN PARK

Piano Student of Sohyun Ahn

Winner, Special Venue Music Awards
Finalist, American Virtuoso International
Music Competition
2nd Prize Winner, 2024 Golden Classical Music
Awards International Competition

POLINA STRELA

Piano Student of Natela Mchedlishvili

Winner, 2024 Lucy Moses School
Concerto Competition
Winner, Cremona International Music Competition
Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall
Participant, SummerFest at
Kaufman Music Center

TIFFANY TSUI

Violin Student of Nurit Pacht

Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall

VAISHNAVI VENKATESH

Violin Student of Matthew Reichert

Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall

DANIEL YOONSUH LEE

Cello Student of Yari Bond

Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall
Participant, SummerFest at
Kaufman Music Center

TETRAD QUARTET

Nathan Robertson, violin

Tiffany Tsui, violin

Mack Scocca-Ho, viola

Theona Hsu, cello

Performer, Henry Schneider Young Artists
Concert at Merkin Hall



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL

Founded in 1996, **SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL** (M. 859) is New York City's only K-12 public school that provides in-depth curricular musical training alongside a rigorous academic education. The School represents a unique partnership between Kaufman Music Center and New York City Public Schools. The Center provides daily music instruction—including private lessons, classes in music theory and history, ensembles, and more—alongside New York City Public Schools' academic curriculum, all within the school day.

Special Music School is tuition-free for its 300 New York City students each year. The School develops passionate, engaged, and creative individuals who have the skills, competencies, and knowledge needed to be successful in music or in other fields. Kaufman Music Center provides Special Music School students with a full spectrum of deeply enriching activities.

Highlights of 2023–24 included collaborations with the self-conducted orchestra and Artists-in-Residence **A Far Cry**, who led workshops on conductor-less performing, and tenor and Artist-in-Residence **Nicholas Phan**, who worked with students on the world premiere of **Vivian Fung's** *Songs for a New Generation*.



SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL OFFERINGS

At Special Music School, Kaufman Music Center provides all students with essential musical training that helps them build musicianship, explore their creativity, and develop confidence.

THE MUSIC CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

WEEKLY PRIVATE LESSONS ✓

WEEKLY PERFORMANCE CLASSES ✓

BIANNUAL GRADE CONCERTS ✓

BIWEEKLY MUSIC ENSEMBLES ✓

BIWEEKLY MUSIC THEORY CLASSES ✓

MUSIC HISTORY CLASSES ✓

Special Music School High School's unique, **21ST-CENTURY-FOCUSED CURRICULUM** adds age-appropriate classes that give teens the tools to succeed as future musicians, composers, and creators.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CLASSES OFFERED:

HANDS-ON TECHNOLOGY CLASSES & LABS ✓

MUSIC ELECTIVES ✓

ARTIST MASTERCLASSES & RESIDENCIES ✓

MUSIC ENSEMBLES* ✓

* Wind Ensemble, Concert Orchestra, Advanced Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Guitar Ensemble, Composers' Forum, Vocal Chamber Music, Chorus, and Baroque Ensemble

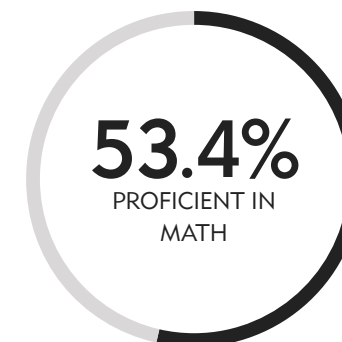
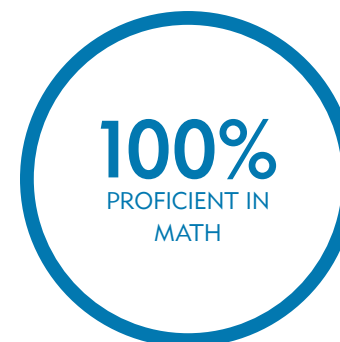
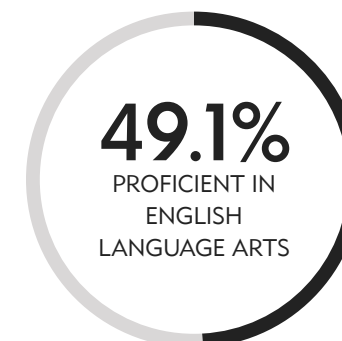
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

MUSIC SUPPORTS SKILL-BUILDING ACROSS ALL AREAS

Special Music School students demonstrate impressive musical and academic achievement, showing that music supports skill-building across all areas. State-wide test scores show the highest levels of proficiency.

SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL
3RD – 8TH
GRADE PROFICIENCY

NEW YORK CITY AVERAGE
3RD – 8TH
GRADE PROFICIENCY



MENTORSHIP IN ACTION

Kaufman Music Center's interconnected schools and programs bring students together to collaborate with guest artists all year long in masterclasses, workshops, side-by-side performances, and more.

In 2023–24, the Center provided students with unique opportunities to perform at Merkin Hall and collaborate with guest artists throughout the school year.

A FAR CRY

conductorless string orchestra

JENNY Q. CHAI

piano

JEREMY DENK

piano

NICHOLAS PHAN

voice

WEST POINT

Brass Quintet

AWADAGIN PRATT

piano

JANE MARSH

voice

JAY SUN

piano

CAROL WINCENC

flute

OXANA YABLONSKAYA

piano



Image: Carol Wincenc and Special Music School student.

THE 2023–24 PETER MICHAEL GRAY AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO JONATHAN BERROA

Jonathan (Special Music School High School Class of 2023) received the second annual **PETER MICHAEL GRAY AWARD**.

This award recognizes one Special Music School High School jazz student who exemplifies the core values of a Special Music School education: top-notch musicianship, leadership inside and outside of the classroom, and the potential to advance in the field of music.

The Peter Michael Gray Fund was established by an anonymous donor with a gift of \$250,000 and was the first-ever fully endowed scholarship for a Special Music School student.

Jonathan received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music, where he began this fall.



2023–24 SELECT SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

REBECCA BEATO

Violin Student of Viktor Basis
Second Prize (Junior Division),
26th Annual Sphinx Competition
Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award

JONATHAN BERROA

Jazz Piano Student of Adam Birnbaum
Recipient, 2023–24 Peter Michael Gray Award

EVIE BRIMBERG

Violin Student of Anna Elashvili
National Merit Scholar Certificate of Merit

LIAM CAWLEY

Violin Student of Matthew Reichert
First Prize, VIVO International Competition

ANA ISABELLA ESPAÑA

Violin Student of Lynelle Smith
First Prize (Junior Division),
26th Annual Sphinx Competition
Concert Master (2023–24 Season),
New York Youth Symphony
Participant, National Youth Orchestra

ROSELYN GUAMAN

Flute Student of Keith Bonner
Recipient, QuestBridge Scholarship

ILARIA HAWLEY

Flute Student of Diane Taublieb
Participant, Luna Composition Lab

SYLVIA HWAN

Piano Student of Genia Betman
Certificate of Excellence,
Piano Teachers Congress Century Festival

TOBIA IM

Violin Student of Anna Elashvili
First Prize, Prima Volta Competition
Second Prize, Manolov Competition

SHAWN JONES

Clarinet Student of Ian Tyson
Finalist, Young Maestro International Competition

ALEXANDER JOVANOVICH

Piano Student of Irina Nuzova
First Place, Charleston International 18th Century
Music Competition
Second Place, Pacific Stars
International Piano Competition

ANNA KESSELMAN

Piano Student of Natella Mchedlishvili
Lang Lang Young Scholar (2024–26)

SERINA KOBAYASHI

Piano Student of Santiago Lomelin
Recipient, Pauline Styler Award

YOSEF KOGAN

Violin Student of Viktor Basis
First Prize, Young Soloist
International Music Competition
First Prize, New York Young Virtuoso Competition
First Prize, International
Clara Schumann Competition

LETAO LI

Piano Student of Natella Mchedlishvili
First Place, Barum International Virtual
Piano Competition
Soloist, Richard County Orchestra

GIBSON MCASSEY

Jazz Piano Student of Julian Shore
Honorable Mention, YoungArts Jazz Award

VANESSA NIU

Voice Student of Natella Mchedlishvili
Participant, Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center's Innovation Challenge

SIMON OSTROWER

Composition Student of Dr. Howie Kenty
Winner, Best Film Invitational –
Claustrophobic Creativity Challenge Award,
All American High School Film Festival

VIOLET PARIS-HILLMER

Voice Student of Mary Nessinger
Winner, Philadelphia Region Schmidt
Vocal Competition
Finalist, National Schmidt Vocal Competition
Participant, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln
Center's Innovation Challenge

HANNAH PARK

Violin Student of Naoko Tanaka
Participant, Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center's Innovation Challenge
Honorable Mention,
YoungArts 2024 Classical Music

YUMI PARK

Violin Student of Ellen dePasquale
Participant, Chamber Music
Society of Lincoln Center's
Innovation Challenge

HAZEL PEEBLES

Viola Student of Laura Mount
Participant, National Youth
Orchestra 2

OWEN POWER

Flute Student of Diane Taublieb
Winner, New York Flute
Club Young Musician's Contest

SOPHIA SHAO

Piano Student of Natela Mchedlishvili
Second Prize, United States Marine Corps
Concerto Competition

CASEY SCHOPFLOCHER

Voice Student of Mary Nessinger
Participant, Schmidt Vocal Competition

JESSE SCHOPFLOCHER

Viola Student of Yi-Fang Huang
Participant, National Youth Orchestra

NICKITA ZHANG

Violin Student of Viktor Basis
First Prize, Young Artist Concerto Competition
Semifinalist, Il Piccolo Violino Magico
International Competition

PHILINA ZHANG

Piano Student of Irina Morozova
Winner, New York MTNA Composition Award
Winner, Symphony of Westchester's 9th Annual
Concerto Competition

ALEXANDER ZHOU

Piano Student of Natela Mchedlishvili
First Prize, 31st International Fryderyk Chopin
Piano Competition for Children
First Prize, Nashville International Chopin
Piano Competition

LUKA ZYLIK

Violin Student of Jisun Kang
Third Boy in The Magic Flute, Metropolitan Opera

CLASS OF 2024 COLLEGE MATRICULATION

In June 2024, Special Music School High School seniors celebrated 100% graduation and college acceptance rates for the eighth consecutive year. The list below indicates schools where our students chose to matriculate.

Amherst College
Berklee College of Music
Binghamton University
Brandeis University
Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music
Colburn Conservatory of Music
Colgate University
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Eastman School of Music
The Juilliard School
Laguardia Community College
Loyola University
Marist College
McGill University
Montclair State University
New York City College of Technology
New York University
Oberlin Conservatory
Old Westbury College
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Queens College
Royal Conservatoire of The Hague
Rutgers University
Sarah Lawrence College
Siena College
Skidmore College
SUNY Geneseo
SUNY Purchase
Tulane University
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Glasgow
University of Michigan
Vanderbilt University
Wellesley College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

100%
GRADUATION & COLLEGE
ACCEPTANCE RATES

A COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

25.2%

STUDENTS BELOW THE
POVERTY LINE



58.5%

STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS
PEOPLE OF COLOR



31.5%

STUDENTS ON THE
ECONOMIC NEED INDEX



//

In my Freshman year at Special Music School, I distinctly remember the first high school multicultural day. Almost everyone brought in a dish from their culture, teachers and students alike. From southern mac and cheese to Pakistani biryani, the food was as diverse as the high school community. The way everyone was able to just enjoy each other's differences and have a great, enjoyable time with each other is something uniquely Special Music School."

— Liam

Special Music School Student



A GAME CHANGING INVESTMENT



In a landmark gesture of support, longtime arts funder the **JEROME L. GREENE FOUNDATION** made a historic pledge of \$1.5 million to support music programming at Special Music School High School in the coming years. This transformative award will significantly enhance the Center's ability to provide an innovative and in-depth music curriculum for 175+ public school students who attend the High School each year.

The pledge marks a pivotal moment for Special Music School High School, which has long been a beacon of musical excellence in New York City's arts community and celebrated its 10th anniversary this past spring. High School students regularly garner high praise in competitions and other activities, and students have achieved 100% graduation and college acceptance since the High School's first year.

With this groundbreaking investment from the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, the School aims to continue elevating its programs and providing unique learning opportunities that support the next generation of musicians. Thanks, in part, to the Foundation's generosity, Special Music School High School will continue to operate at no cost to students and their families, ensuring that students have the opportunity to pursue their passion for music without financial constraints.

Image: Special Music School students and 26th annual Sphinx Competition winners, Rebecca Beato and Ana Isabella España performing at the 2024 Gala with pianist Philina Zhang.

MERKIN HALL

Kaufman Music Center welcomed audiences back to **MERKIN HALL** for its 2023–24 season, “Listen Different,” which fostered a direct connection between listeners of all ages and interests and extraordinary artists—including the best new talents in the classical world.

Performances included well-loved audience favorites like *Tuesday Matinees*, with soprano **Magdalena Kuźma**, pianist **Clayton Stephenson**, and harpist **Charles Overton** with flutist **Anthony Trionfo**, which introduced listeners to works by Bach, Poulenc, and Rodgers and Hammerstein, and others. Signature Merkin Hall series like *What Makes It Great?* explored the inner workings of music by composers like Beethoven and Mussorgsky and songwriters like Simon and Garfunkel. *Artist as Curator*—newly launched this season—presented innovative collaborations from genre-bending musicians, inviting a different artist each concert to curate their ideal evening of music-making.

Additional performances featured the Center’s 2023–24 Artists-in-Residence: composer, creator, and multi-instrumentalist **Angélica Negrón**; vocalist and educator **Nicholas Phan**; and self-conducted orchestra **A Far Cry**. The Center was also pleased to host several free concert events throughout the season, including interactive “Listening Labs” and concerts featuring Kaufman Music Center’s talented students.

15,600
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

280
ARTISTS

68
PERFORMANCES



Image: Rob Kapilow hosting *What Makes It Great?* in Merkin Hall

// ARTIST AS CURATOR IS ROOTED IN THE BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD LET ARTISTS LEAD.

Each season, it broadens the range of musical perspectives we hear on the Merkin Hall stage by inviting six different musical artists to tell us what they want to see and hear. They bring colleagues, collaborators, and commission projects that inspire and surprise. This propels Kaufman Music Center to constantly expand its artistic community, to have more voices heard, and to enrich both our own and the greater musical ecosystem that we are supporting through a collaborative curation process."

—John Glover
Director, Artistic Planning

Image: Kaufman Music Center 2023–24
Artist-in-Residence Angélica Negrón performs
at Merkin Hall in January.



// MERKIN HALL IS LIKE A SUPERHERO FOR MUSICAL CREATORS.

I was able to realize an ambitious program from solo work to a first-time collaboration with pianist Aaron Diehl to world premieres with a full string orchestra. The Hall's instinct to say 'yes' to artists is an indispensable part of our musical community."

— Curtis Stewart
2024–25 Artist-in-Residence and
former Artist as Curator Artist



Image: Chanticleer performing at Merkin Hall.

THANK YOU FOR PAYING IT FORWARD

Through our community-based partnerships, we make more than 5,000 free tickets to Merkin Hall performances available each year.

This year, your support of our **PAY IT FORWARD** campaign helped us deepen our impact and give hundreds of audience members the opportunity to experience the magic of live music.

Thank you for giving the gift of music and purchasing tickets for New Yorkers in need.



THEATER@KAUFMAN

SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

Children and young adults aged 5-16 enjoyed this year's **SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP**, which culminated in a performance of *Spellbound*—five magic-themed original musicals written by Workshop faculty.

100 YOUNG NEW YORKERS

PARTICIPATED IN THE 2023
SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

\$22,000 AWARDED
IN NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

BROADWAY PLAYHOUSE

BROADWAY PLAYHOUSE makes the songs, stories, and stars of musical theater accessible for thousands of schoolchildren from across New York City every year. Each season, host and Director of Theater@Kaufman, Sean Hartley, alongside a company of professional actors—each with exceptional experience in children's theater—guides young attendees through the creative process. Through sing-a-longs, sketches and songs, trivia and games, and a mini-musical, Hartley introduces New York school children to the great writers of the American musical theater and guides them through the creative process to learn what goes into making a musical and discover the thrill of the stage.

This year's Broadway Playhouse hosted over 2,000 public school attendees across our school-day matinees, hailing from schools like the South Bronx Charter School For International Cultures & the Arts, The Patricia Larkin School (P.S. 129), and others. Students learned about works by Comden & Green, Jerry Herman, and more.

Image: 2024 Summer Musical Theater Workshop Finale performance

// THE LOVE AND WONDER THAT MUSIC INSPIRES MUST BE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

It's not something you can learn from a book, or on the internet. It's more than learning to read music or playing an instrument. It's about having music become a part of your being, and this comes from personal contact, instruction and inspiration. Kaufman Music Center has many opportunities to do just this and that's why we must continue to support it."

—David Frost

25-Time GRAMMY Award-Winning Record Producer & Engineer

Special Music School Parent

2023–24 Gala Honoree



LEADERSHIP & FINANCIALS

NEW TRUSTEES

Kaufman Music Center's Board of Trustees has elected two new members.

ROSE HIRSCHEL



Music has always been a part of Hirschel's life. As a young person she played instruments and sang but realized that she most enjoyed being a dedicated audience member and supporter.

Thirty-five years ago, Hirschel founded Musicians' Travel Services and continues it as a boutique agency for a roster of world-renowned artists, ensembles, management companies, and arts presenters. For Hirschel, this is a wonderful combination of business and musical involvement. Hirschel served for 25 years on her New York co-op board, too, addressing everything from tenant issues to supervising major capital projects including lobby renovation, façade reconstruction, and roof replacement.

Hirschel believes that music education enriches the lives of young people, helping them to develop qualities and strength they could not have imagined. Hirschel was the lead funder for the Kaufman Music Center's Pathways program in its inaugural year, which provides unparalleled opportunities for young people from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in the field of music.

CHRISTA SOMERS

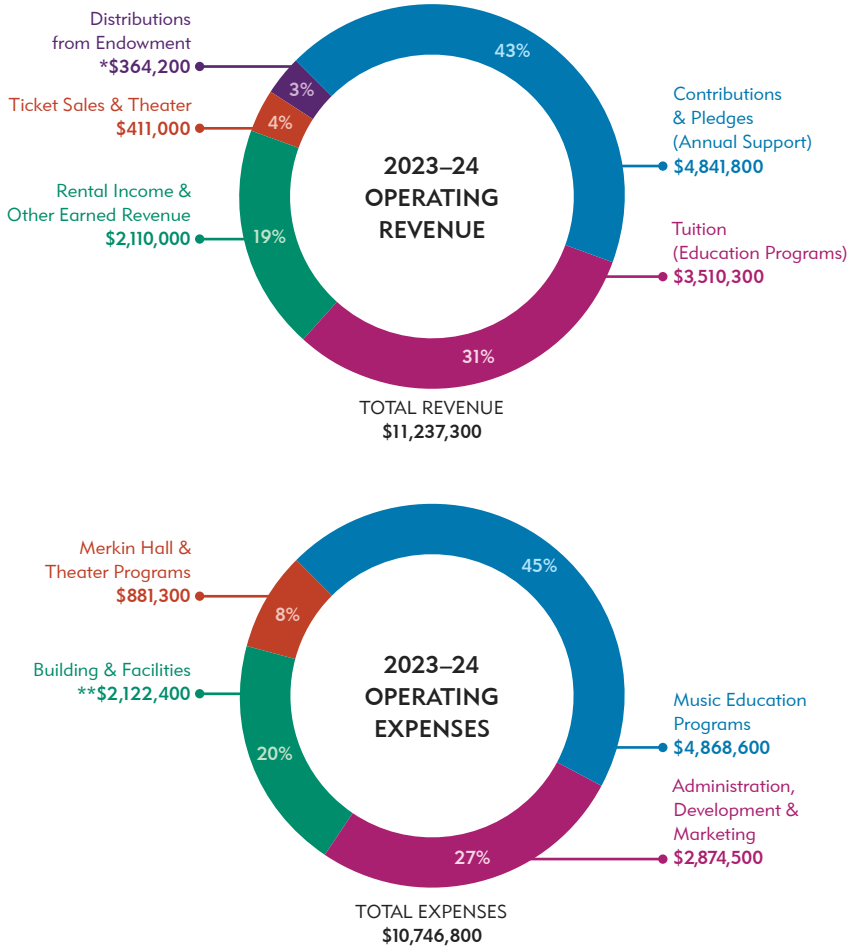


Somers is a proud parent of three young musicians who study at Kaufman Music Center. She is also a clarinetist and holds degrees from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Manhattan School of Music. Somers can be found performing throughout New York City with groups such as the Chelsea Symphony, Park Avenue Chamber Symphony, and New York Repertory Orchestra.

Somers currently serves as PTA President for Special Music School. Last year she served as PTA Treasurer and made financial decisions on behalf of the Special Music School parent community. Prior to this, Somers led the front of house usher staff at David Geffen Hall, worked on the trading floor at Hess Corporation, and lived as an expatriate in Rio de Janeiro and the Netherlands.

Somers is incredibly grateful for the support, community, and quality music-making that her family has found at Kaufman Music Center.

OPERATING REVENUE & EXPENSES



Expense and revenue numbers as of October 8, 2024

Numbers are preliminary and unaudited, and reflect direct expenses. Amounts are rounded to the nearest hundred.

* Represents distributions from endowment in accordance with board-approved spending policy. Does not include realized and unrealized investment income and gains/losses.

** Does not include depreciation. Also does not include capitalized expenses of approx. \$80,000 for facilities and technology upgrades and refurbishments.

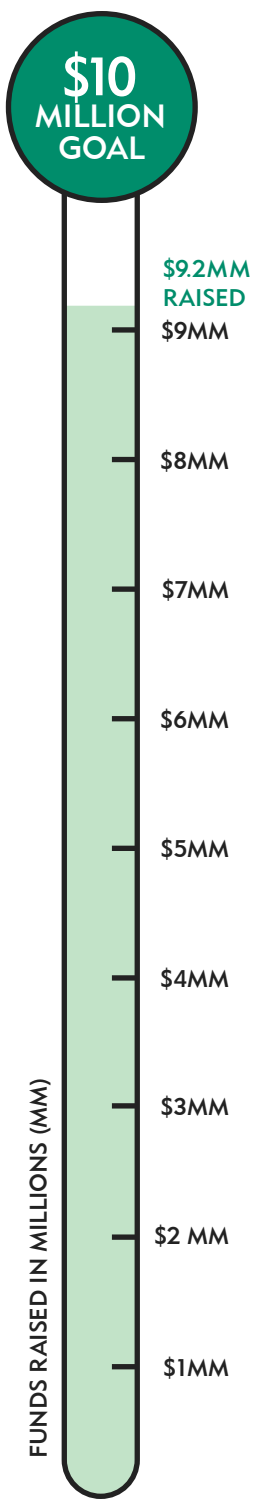
KAUFMAN FAMILY CHALLENGE

In 2022, Kaufman Music Center announced a \$5,000,000 pledge from Elaine and Henry Kaufman to the institution’s operating endowment. This unprecedented gift—which the Kaufmans so generously made in the hope of inspiring the wider community to invest in the Center’s future—spurred an endowment campaign known as the **KAUFMAN FAMILY CHALLENGE**.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Elaine and Henry, the Center’s endowment has grown substantially in the years since. As of September 2024, we have received commitments totaling **\$9,198,450, or 92% toward our \$10 million goal**.

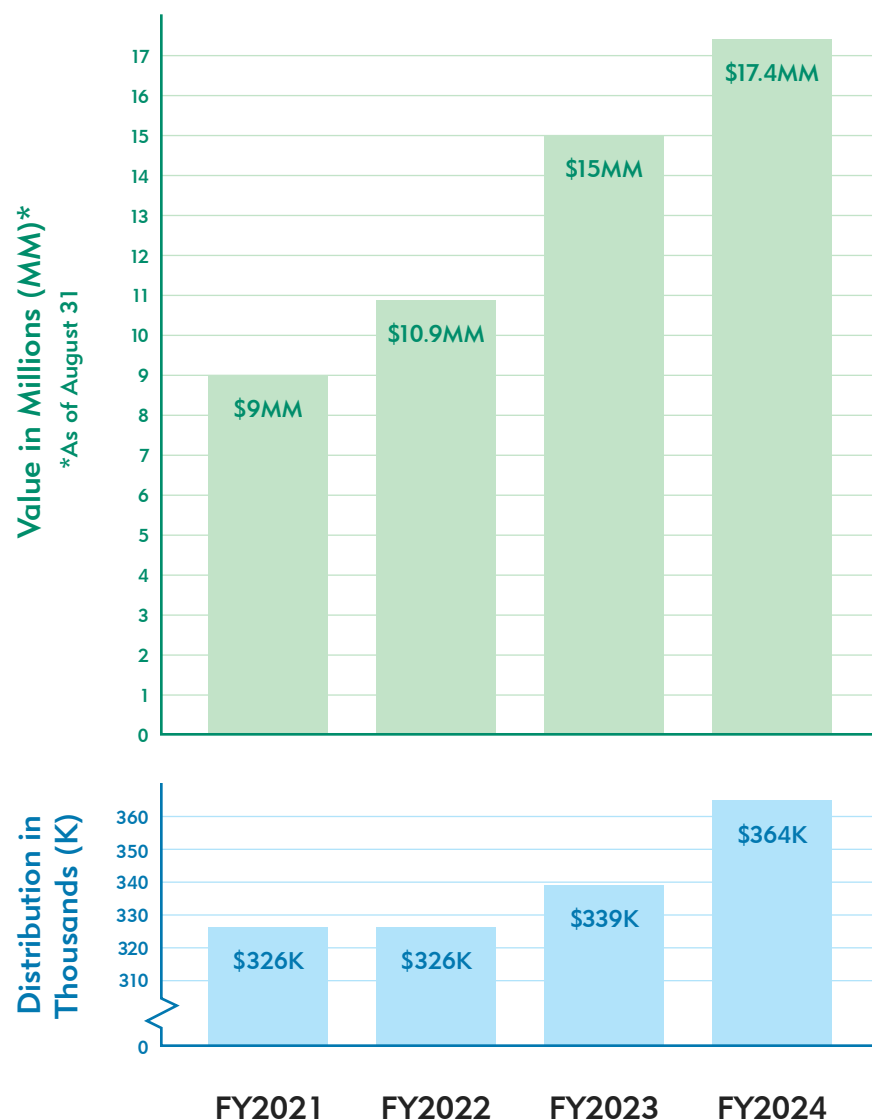
We are delighted to recognize those who have already made leadership commitments to the Campaign.*

- Bloomberg Philanthropies
 Justin Berrie
 Kevin Cho
 Niki Renée Daniels & Jeff Kready
 Rosalind Devon
 Danielle Dimston
 Noel & Ruth Friedland
 Emanuel & Ellen Genauer
 The Estate of Leonard & Constance Goodman
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 The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund
 Faye Menken Schneier & Roger Schneier
 Orli Shaham & David Robertson
 Kate Sheeran
 Eileen Shin & Roger Chen
 Janet & Gil Spitzer
 Simon Tom
- *List Current as of September 5, 2024



ENDOWMENT VALUE & DISTRIBUTIONS

FOR FISCAL YEARS (FY) 2021 TO 2024



LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

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 Elaine Kaufman, *Honorary Chair*
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 Solange Landau
 Roz Lasker
 Solomon Merkin
 Marjorie Penrod
 Eileen Shin
 Christa Somers
 Gil Spitzer
 Simon Tom
 Kara Unterberg

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Emily Grant
 Igal Kesselman

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 Emily Grant, *Chief Operating Officer*
 Sean Hartley, *Director, Theater@Kaufman*
 Igal Kesselman, *Director, Lucy Moses School
 & Music Director, Special Music School*
 Dianna Mesion-Jackson, *Senior Director of
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 Christine Todd, *Chief Financial Officer*

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Lydia Kontos

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, THE HEBREW ARTS SCHOOL 1951-1985

Dr. Tzipora H. Jochsberger z"l

*Kaufman Music Center gratefully acknowledges
 the generous support of Mollie and Abraham
 Goodman and the Goodman family.*

Board listing accurate as of November 2024.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER
Abraham Goodman House
129 West 67th Street
New York, NY 10023



The love and wonder
that music inspires
must be passed down
from generation to
generation."

— David Frost

KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER

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New York, NY 10023

give.kaufmanmusiccenter.org
(866) 222-6330 or (212) 501-3350
development@kaufmanmusiccenter.org

For a full list of supporters,
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