

THE
Orchestra
of
NORTHERN NEW YORK

Sharing the Power of Music Since 1988

2025 ANNUAL
REPORT

The Orchestra of Northern New York seeks to enrich the lives of North Country residents with professional caliber performances of orchestral music, combining beloved classical repertoire with vibrant works from new voices as well as popular culture. We believe our music can inspire, comfort, and nurture both mind and soul, not only through high quality performances, but also through our educational programs and community engagement initiatives.

Colonel Michael J. Colburn, USMC (Ret.)
Music Director

Member, **League**
of American
Orchestras



The People and Organizations That Make ONNY possible

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OUR MISSION

The Orchestra of Northern New York seeks to enrich the quality of life for all people in our region by sharing the power of music to inspire, educate, and entertain.

OUR VISION

ONNY envisions a vibrant community in Northern New York and the Adirondacks where audiences and musicians of all ages are inspired and enriched through frequent, high-quality professional performances of orchestral music.

OUR ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING PHILOSOPHY

The Orchestra of Northern New York seeks to enrich the lives of North Country residents with professional caliber performances of orchestral music, combining beloved classical repertoire with vibrant works from new voices as well as popular culture. We believe our music can inspire, comfort, and nurture both mind and soul, not only through high quality performances, but also through our educational programs and community engagement initiatives.

OUR VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Core Values

- **Excellence** – Striving for the highest artistic and organizational standards
- **Respect** – Fostering a culture that values time, talent, and investment
- **Community** – Engaging deeply with residents, schools, and organizations
- **Accountability** – Managing resources responsibly and transparently
- **Sustainability** – Conscientiously and carefully preparing for and ensuring future programming

Operating Principles

- Our primary focus is high-quality orchestral music
- We pursue financially and operationally sustainable projects
- The Board accepts calculated risks to pursue growth and long-term impact
- All activities must align with strategic, artistic, ethical, and legal priorities
- Programming is intentionally cohesive, with full season planning and budgeting including all organizational offerings
- ONNY must be an active member of the broader regional musical ecosystem
- We support music education and engagement as a core part of our mission

A Message from the ONNY President

Dear ONNY Patrons and Community Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read this preview of The Orchestra of Northern New York's 2024-2025 Annual Report to the community.

This past year has been one marked by success for our organization.

First and foremost, our new Music Director and Conductor, Col. Michael J. Colburn, USMC (Ret.) wowed audiences with thoughtfully programmed and masterfully performed concerts in Potsdam, Watertown, Wellesley Island, and Massena. Consequently, ONNY had ticket revenues higher than our budget projections.

We held our inaugural Cabaret Show with Desserts at SUNY Potsdam with tickets sold out before the event.

Our community-favorite holiday brunch and silent auction also raised funds to support our annual programming.

We saw the return of our Young Artist Competition where the winner, 16-year-old violinist Eric Lee of Manlius, gave a stellar performance with ONNY in our April concerts.

This summer, ONNY musicians returned to the Adirondacks for four concerts in our Summer Chamber Music series.

Finally, through the generosity of our community, individual contributions last year exceeded our targets, resulting in a positive bottom line. I hope you'll agree that it was a banner year for ONNY!

The success of our 37th season last year will have lasting impacts. First, the



Kevin A. Angstadt, Ph.D.
President, Board of Directors

ONNY Board of Directors established a reserve fund to help our organization react to unexpected expenses and be more responsive to opportunities to share the power of music with our community.

Second, ONNY has been able to shift its focus to expanding musical offerings. For our 38th Star-Studded Season this year, we have returned to a full orchestra for all concerts, including our winter holiday concert.

I am grateful for our very capable Board of Directors, who recently adopted a three-year strategic plan aimed at returning ONNY to a six-concert season and strengthening our youth programs by our 40th season.

The strategic pillars for our plan are artistic programming, audience devel-

opment and community engagement, and accountability in finances and organization.

This year, our Board's focus is on preparing for growth by:

1. Meeting or exceeding our budgeted board fundraising goals,
2. Strengthening the Orchestra's financial and operational capacity,
3. Initiating preparations for a major fundraising effort to meet our growth targets,
4. Supporting efforts to expand regional outreach, and
5. Enhancing marketing and publicity.

As always, I remain incredibly grateful to our community for their support of ONNY. From housing orchestra members to moving equipment and distributing posters and concert programs, our volunteers are instrumental to ONNY's success. Thank you! In return for their service, volunteers receive complimentary tickets to our performances.

If you would like to become an ONNY volunteer, please give us a call, send us an email, or fill out the online form on our website at onny.org/support.

I am sure you will find this report helpful and informative.

For long-time patrons, thank you for making ONNY part of your family. If you are new to ONNY, I hope you will join us again for enriching and inspiring musical experiences.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "K. A. Angstadt".

Kevin A. Angstadt
President, Board of Directors

Ways to Support the North Country's Professional Orchestra

THE
Orchestra
of
NORTHERN NEW YORK

Sharing the Power of Music Since 1988

1. Bring a friend to an ONNY concert.
2. Give concert tickets as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.
3. Become a monthly sustaining donor where a nominal gift grows into a larger contribution.
4. Donate to ONNY, in memory of a lost loved one or in honor of family or friends.
5. Contribute to the Music Fund to help purchase music and pay for music rentals.
6. Sponsor a Principal Chair in the orchestra.
7. Become a Business Sponsor or Advertiser.
8. Provide for ONNY in your estate planning.
9. Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from a taxable IRA.
10. Offer appreciated stocks, bonds, or annuities.

Our Musicians: the Heart & Soul of ONNY

ONNY musicians are Crane School of Music faculty members, public school music teachers, and a handful of exceptionally talented students from Crane.

Others are a medical doctor, an internship coordinator, a translator for museum and art book publishers, orchestra teachers, a former US Marine Band musician, a training and development coordinator, a retired Montreal Symphony musician, a lecturer, curriculum coordinator and teacher of 3D graphics for video games, a composer, a content creator, and even a world-class fiddler.

In 2024-2025, 117 gifted musicians were engaged in one or more of ONNY's programs. About 80% live in the North Country or Adirondacks, while roughly



ONNY musicians present concerts after only three rehearsals.

20% travel in when special positions cannot be filled locally.

Together, these remarkable individuals form the heart and soul of ONNY.

Their artistry, dedication, and diversity of backgrounds enrich our community, and we are deeply grateful for every one of them.

ONNY Concertmaster: an Accomplished Crossover Artist



Liesl Schoenberger Doty began her tenure as Concertmaster of the Orchestra of Northern New York in July 2025.

A renowned artist, recitalist, and chamber musician, she is equally celebrated as a soloist, having performed with numerous orchestras across the United States and at many distinguished festivals and concert series.

In addition to her classical career, Liesl is an accomplished crossover artist.

She has released three commercial fiddle albums in collaboration with

musical legends Buddy Spicher and David Grier.

In 2012, she joined Boston's Grammy-nominated chamber orchestra A Far Cry, where she met bassist Karl Doty—now her husband and musical partner in their crossover duo, The Dotys.

She currently serves as Associate Professor of Violin at the Crane School of Music, with previous faculty appointments at Dartmouth College, the University of New Hampshire, Yale and other institutions.

My Musical Journey Includes Excellence, Mentorship & Community

BY CHRSTINE PREVOST

As a charter member of ONNY, I was honored to be among the first students invited to perform alongside seasoned professionals.

That opportunity was both exhilarating and formative, offering me a level of musical challenge and artistic collaboration that far exceeded my college orchestra experience.

The repertoire was consistently demanding, pushing me to grow as a musician and deepening my love for orchestral performance.

From the very beginning, ONNY stood out as a place where excellence, mentorship, and community converged, and



I knew I had found something truly special.

What has kept me with ONNY for 37 years is the enduring spirit of the organization. While the orchestra has grown from a small chamber group into a full-size symphony,

its core mission has remained unchanged: to bring live, professional music to audiences across the North Country and to inspire young musicians.

I have always been passionate about ONNY's youth initiatives, especially the annual Concerto Competition, which gives high school students the chance to perform with us—an experience that mirrors my own early excitement. Seeing

their joy and pride on stage is a powerful reminder of why I continue to play.

ONNY's consistent leadership, first under Ken Andrews and now with Michael Colburn, has ensured that our artistic standards remain high while embracing new musical horizons. It is this blend of tradition, innovation, and heart that has made ONNY my musical home for nearly four decades.

Christine Prevost, Central Square, NY, first joined the Orchestra of Northern New York — then known as the Chamber Orchestra of Northern NY (CONNY) — as a student in 1988 while studying cello at the Crane School of Music.

She has performed with many groups including ONNY, Northern Choral Society, Northern Lights Orchestra, Syracuse Chorale, and Trillium String Trio.

A Message from Our Music Director

Greetings,

I'm pleased to report that we've got another exciting season of music lined up for the Orchestra of Northern New York!

As was the case last season, all our programs will feature classic orchestral works, music of stage and screen, and works influenced by popular culture.

We promise that you'll leave every concert humming the beautiful melodies you've heard the magnificent musicians of ONNY present!

Our October concert, entitled "Star-Crossed," was a reference to William Shakespeare's phrase to describe the ill-fated couple at the heart of his play Romeo and Juliet.

The play is directly responsible for two works on the program: Tchaikovsky's Overture-Fantasy Romeo and Juliet and Leonard Bernstein's modern reimagining of the classic tale, West Side Story.

The concert began with music from Bizet's classic opera Carmen, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year! The affairs at the center of Carmen represent a different type of star-crossed love, but one every bit as destined for a tragic fate. This timeless music also reflects the beauty, joy, passion, and happiness that are essential to these timeless tales!

Although we are grateful to our fabulous brass and percussion musicians for presenting our holiday concerts for the last two seasons, I'm excited to report that we will once again utilize our entire orchestra for this year's program, entitled "Home for the Holidays."



The concert will include classical favorites from composers like Tchaikovsky, Bizet, and Rimsky-Korsakov, pop and jazz favorites from Irving Berlin, Leroy Anderson, and Mel Tormé, and works from beloved holiday film scores like Miracle on 34th Street, The Polar Express, and Home Alone. I'm especially excited to feature Alfred Reed's magnificent Russian Christmas Music, a work that is a standard for the concert band, but is rarely heard in an orchestral setting.

Our April program begins a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. We've entitled the program "Summon the Heroes," and will

begin the concert with a stirring work of the same title composed by the incomparable American composer John Williams.

The central work of the event is Aaron Copland's monumental Lincoln Portrait, a work that features not only Copland's inspiring music, but also the words of our 16th President. Our narrator for the performance will be North Country legend Guy C. "Chip" Lamson. The final work on the concert is Howard Hanson's gorgeous and powerful Symphony No.2, better known by its subtitle "Romantic."

As usual, the season wraps up with our annual Summer Pops program, but this year there's a twist! Joining us as co-presenters is the Frederic Remington Museum in Ogdensburg. One of our nation's most accomplished artists, Remington was not only born in the North Country, but he lived for many years in Canton, Ogdensburg, and the Thousand Islands.

The program will view the history of our nation through Remington's unique lens, and will include the music of composers like John Philip Sousa, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Charles Ives, Morton Gould, Scott Joplin, and others.

I couldn't be more excited about our upcoming season, and as always, hope that you'll stop in the lobby after the concert to say hello and let me know what you thought of the concert.

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael L. Colburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

Michael L. Colburn, USMC (Ret.)
Music Director

Mark Your Calendar...Upcoming ONNY concerts!



Home for the Holidays

- **Sat., Dec. 13, 7:30 pm**, Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam
- **Sun., Dec. 14, 3 pm**, First Presbyterian Church, Watertown

ONNY gets you in the holiday spirit with a wonderful mix of music for the season! Whether you love classical favorites by Tchaikovsky, Bizet, and Rimsky-Korsakov, crooner tunes like White Christmas and Mel Tormé's Christmas Song, or holiday music from around the world, this program has something to put you in the mood for mixing up your eggnog and wrapping your presents.



Summon the Heroes

- **Sat., April 25, 2026, 7:30 pm**, Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam
- **Sun., April 26, 2026, 3 pm**, Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown

ONNY starts celebrating our nation's 250th birthday with this stirring program by American composers, including John Williams, who has been called a modern day John Philip Sousa. Enjoy Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait that combines his rousing music with Lincoln's words. The program concludes with Howard Hanson's beautiful Symphony No. 2, better known by its subtitle, "Romantic."

We extend our deepest gratitude to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported ONNY in 2024 - 2025!

The impact of donors on the Orchestra of Northern New York (ONNY) is both profound and far-reaching.

Your support sustains every aspect of our work—whether sponsoring a musician's chair, underwriting youth programs, funding the summer chamber

music series, or, most importantly, helping us compensate our talented professional musicians.

Contributions and grants are ONNY's lifeblood, providing 62% of the funds needed to bring a season of world-class orchestral music to our community.

Donor generosity ensures that

we can keep ticket prices affordable and offer discounts for seniors, military members, and students. It enables us to engage the finest musicians from across the region and beyond. Most of all, it makes a real and lasting difference in people's lives by keeping the music alive.

If you contributed during this period and do not see your name listed, please contact Executive Director Kathy Del Guidice at executivedirector@onny.org or 315-212-3440 so we may update our records.

Symphonic Sustainers

(\$20,000+)

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

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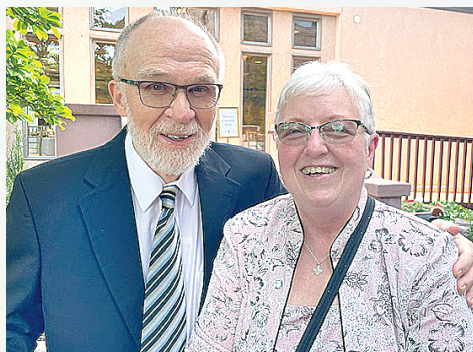
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*"We enjoy listening
to good music
and not having to
drive to a large city
to accomplish this."*

Ken and Carol Coskran
Potsdam



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David Socha, Adams
Dave "John" and Mary Stone, Watertown
Martin Szkotak, Liverpool

* In-Kind donation

** Cash and In-Kind donation



The Orchestra of Northern New York's Youth Programs Thrived in 2024 - 2025

Crane Student Apprentices

Each year, a select group of outstanding students from the Crane School of Music are invited to perform alongside ONNY's seasoned professionals in one or more concerts.

These apprenticeships set a high bar of excellence while offering an unparalleled opportunity to experience life as part of a professional symphony orchestra.

Since 2019, The Secret Sits Pro Musica Ensembles, Inc. (TSS) of Athens, GA, and Gull Pond, NY, has generously underwritten the apprentices' stipends. ONNY is deeply grateful for their continued support.

Young Artist Competition

High school students who embrace the motto "Striving for Excellence" compete each year for the chance to perform as a soloist with ONNY and earn a \$500 first prize.

In 2025, 16-year-old violinist Eric Lee impressed audiences in Potsdam and Watertown with a dazzling performance — played entirely from memory — of the first movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor.

Now a senior at Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, Eric is the son of Kelly and Young Lee of Manlius.

Second- and third-place prizes of \$350 and \$150 are also awarded. The next competition will take place on Saturday, January 24, 2026, with applications due January 9, 2026.



Full details—including rules, repertoire, and application forms—are available at onny.org/youth-programs.

Challenge for Young Artists

The Vernice N. Church Challenge for Young Artists invites middle and high school musicians preparing for NYSSMA to pursue "Artistic Growth."

Unlike a competition, this program provides valuable feedback and coaching from ONNY musicians.

The 2026 Challenge will be held in April 2026.

More information is available at onny.org/youth-programs or by calling or texting 315-212-3440.

Arts Administration Internships

Each semester -and over the summer- ONNY offers a limited number of highly

sought-after college-level internships with Executive Director Kathy Del Guidice.

Students gain hands-on experience in arts administration, including fundraising, grant writing, marketing, finance, and concert production. SUNY Potsdam students receive two academic credits for 80 hours of work.

In-School Performances

ONNY is excited to bring back chamber ensembles and school visits, thanks to a generous grant from James and Diane Woods of Armonk and Gull Pond, NY.

We look forward to our busy schedule of school performances across the North Country and Adirondacks in 2025–2026.

To request a school visit, contact Executive Director Kathy Del Guidice at executivedirector@onny.org or call/text 315-212-3440.

2025 - 2026 ONNY Strategic Plan

Our Pillars and Goals

Artistic Programming

- Achieve the appropriate number of musical personnel for varied programming
- Provide professional caliber performances of orchestral music
- Deliver six full-ensemble concerts annually by FY 2028
- Transform the Adirondack Summer Chamber Series into a self-funding program
- Maximize artistic programs for youth to reach all counties in our region

Audience Development & Community Engagement

- Increase attendance year over year
- Integrate ONNY into the fabric of North Country communities
- Expand demographic reach and visibility through innovative marketing
- Revitalize youth and student engagement initiatives
- Strengthen partnerships with colleges, schools, and community organizations
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Accountability in Finances and Organization

- Ensure balanced budgets and efficient operations annually
- Grow alternative streams of long-term funding, including our endowment
- Build and maintain a six-month operating reserve fund
- Increase compensation for musicians
- Add staff to support operations and fundraising
- Reduce reliance on ticket sales as a primary revenue stream
- Increase music acquisition budget
- Enhance board engagement and committee involvement

Sold-out Cabaret Show Benefits ONNY

Earlier this year, eight talented North Country singers generously donated their time to present a Cabaret Show with Dessert, accompanied on piano by noted musician Josh Barkley. From left: Kimberly Busch, former ONNY Board of Directors president and Vocal Music Director at Canton Central School; Laura Fitzsimons Gilbert, PreK–12 vocal music teacher at Morristown Central School; Andrea Ellison, music teacher at Parishville-Hopkinton Central School; Meghan Janovsky, fifth-grade teacher in Massena; Hailey Hodge, owner of Luna, a women's clothing and lingerie store in Canton; Jennifer Blewett, Director of Compliance and Continuing Education at Auto Manager; Kyle Flint, clinical pharmacist at Canton-Potsdam Hospital; and Jim Fryer, Associate Professor of Psychology at SUNY Potsdam.



Adirondack Communities Host Music Amid the Pines

The Orchestra of Northern New York's 2025 Summer Chamber Music Series was a resounding success, with performances in Lake Clear, Childwold, and Wanakena.

The season opened to a full house in Lake Clear with the husband-and-wife duo of Karl Doty (bass) and Liesl Doty (violin).

Their program featured popular tunes as well as many original compositions by Karl.

Cellist Marie-Élaine Gagnon presented Echoes of the Forest:

Cello, Fauna, and Flora, accompanied by her Crane School of Music colleague Risa Okina on piano.

Her performance in Childwold was warmly received by the audience.

Noted NCPR radio host of String Fever, guitarist, and vocalist Barb Heller joined forces with Liesl Schoenberger Doty for performances in Wanakena and Lake Clear. Barb's engaging storytelling and vocals paired with Liesl's virtuosic fiddle



Liesl Schoenberger Doty and Barb Heller

playing made for an entertaining and memorable program.

The Summer Chamber Music Series is made possible through the generosity of The Secret Sits Pro Musica Ensembles, Inc. (TSS, Inc.) of Athens, GA, and Gull Pond, NY. A \$125,000 grant awarded to ONNY

in 2021 by benefactor Bernie Patten underwrites the series, ensuring that all artists and musicians are compensated and that concerts remain free to the public.

ONNY is deeply grateful to Mr. Patten, who established TSS in loving memory of his late wife, Marie.

Discover ONNY for the First Time!

ONNY offers a complimentary admission voucher to anyone who has not yet experienced this cultural gem of the North Country. Last year, 97 first-time concert-goers took advantage of this opportunity — and now they enjoy 25% off their next ticket.

Vouchers are valid for any ONNY program during the 2025–2026 season.

To receive one (redeemable at the box office for a ticket), email info@onny.org or call/text 315-212-3440.



A Standing Ovation for ONNY volunteers

From the warm welcome at the concert hall door to the seamless execution of our events, the spirit of our community volunteers is present in everything the Orchestra of Northern New York does.

They are the friendly faces who usher our patrons, the ambassadors who spread the word with posters, the gracious hosts who open their homes to visiting musicians, and the steady hands who

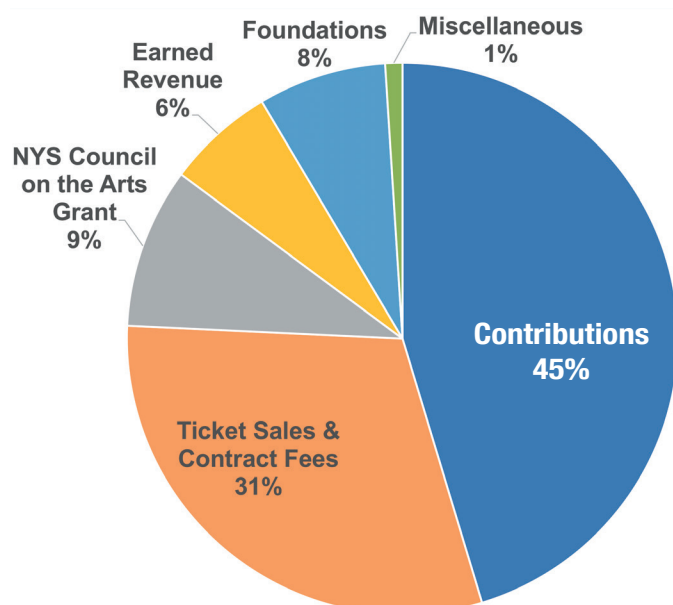
support our hospitality and office needs.

In April, we had the pleasure of celebrating these incredible individuals at a special reception at Sergi's Banquet Hall in Potsdam.

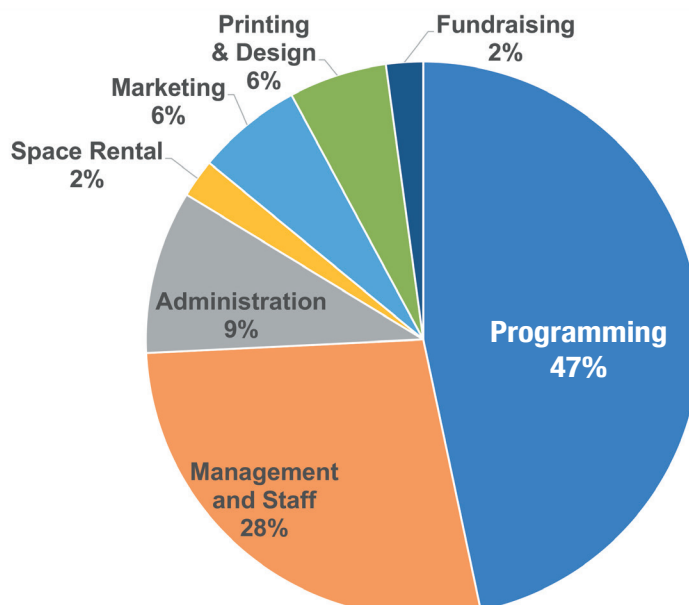
"We couldn't do it without you," said Music Director Michael J. Colburn. His words reflect a simple, profound truth: our volunteers are indispensable to the music we create.

2024-2025 Orchestra of Northern New York Finances

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Board Establishes Reserve Fund

Thanks to the generosity of donors in 2024-2025, the ONNY Board of Directors has established a new \$23,000 reserve fund.

This dedicated savings account will provide support in the event of unexpected financial emergencies and unique, mission-aligned opportunities -- once all other reasonable funding sources have been considered.

The Board intends to build and maintain a reserve equal to six months of regular operating expenses.

Growth of the fund will come from year-end surpluses of unrestricted funds as well as one-time donations, gifts and grants specifically designated for reserve purposes.

2024-25

Statement of Activity

Total Income:	\$267,866
Operating Expenses:	-\$242,340
Net Operating Income	\$ 25,526
Other Income	\$ 36,469
Other Expenses	-\$ 1,503
Net Other Income	\$34,966
Net Income	\$ 60,492

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 48,248
Accounts Receivable	\$ 11,275
Other Current Assets	<u>\$150,458</u>
Total Current Assets	\$209,981

Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Other Assets	<u>\$220,833</u>
Total Assets	\$430,814

Liabilities and Equity

Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,808
Credit Cards	\$ 376
Other Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 29,338</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 31,522

Equity-Unrestricted	\$101,246
Endowment Fund	\$133,489
Equity-Temp. Restricted	\$ 86,708
Retained Earnings	\$ 17,357
Net Income	<u>\$ 60,492</u>
Total Equity	\$399,292

Total Liabilities & Equity	\$430,814
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Planned Giving

Your planned giving and donations can help ensure the Orchestra of Northern New York continues to enrich the lives of Northern New Yorkers for years to come.

In the past, ONNY has received Qualified Charitable Distributions that enable those 70½ or older to donate up to \$105,000 from a taxable IRA instead of taking their Required Minimum Distributions. A QCD is not a tax-deductible gift but does reduce one's reportable income.

Donating appreciated stocks, bonds, or annuities provides special tax advantages, including no tax on capital gains and, many times, a charitable deduction for the full market value.

Planned gifts through one's will or trust can be an important way to secure your legacy with the North Country's only year-round symphony orchestra.

In all cases, discuss your intentions with your financial advisor.

Please remember ONNY in your philanthropic giving.

2024-2025 Attendance

6,053

2025-2026 Budget

\$228,294

THE
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ONNY is supported, in part, by NYSCA, a state agency with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the NYS Legislature



**Northern New York
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Your Support Allows ONNY to Present Many Valuable Programs.