



2026 Annual Report



A Message from Our President

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



Dear Music Lover,

On behalf of the Board and management, I am pleased to present the Orchestra of Northern New York's 2026 Annual Report to the Community. ONNY remains deeply committed to enriching the quality of life for all people in our region by sharing the power of music to inspire, educate, and entertain.

We have much to celebrate from this past year, including:

- The return of our full orchestra for the December holiday concert
- Popular cabaret shows in both Potsdam and Watertown
- Sarvesh Sitaraman, winner of our 2026 Young Artist Competition
- The launch of our new community engagement performance program, ONNY Pops Up!

ONNY is actively implementing a strategic plan designed to expand our schedule to a full six-concert season by our 40th anniversary, bolster musician compensation, and seamlessly integrate the orchestra into the fabric of our

North Country and Adirondack communities. Each of these goals brings us closer to our vision of a vibrant community in Northern New York, where audiences and musicians of all ages are inspired and enriched through frequent, high-quality performances of professional orchestral music.

This past June, we concluded the first year of this strategic plan, focusing on establishing a rock-solid foundation for growth. While much of this critical work took place behind the scenes, it directly enables our future artistic vision. Key accomplishments from the past year include:

- **Financial Discipline and Growth:** Approving a balanced budget for our 39th season that adds a fifth concert and supports a modest increase in musician pay
- **Operational Growth:** Adding a part-time marketing staff member to assist our Executive Director and consolidating Board committees to boost efficiency, communication, and collaboration

- **Long-Term Stability:** Establishing a \$23,000 operating reserve fund and building an aggressive fundraising strategy to support our growth

I am profoundly grateful to the individuals, businesses, and foundations whose generosity fuels our artistic mission. You will find each of our past year's supporters recognized later in this report. If you are inspired to help support ONNY's next chapter, getting involved is easy—visit onny.org/support to learn

how to make a one-time or recurring donation, purchase needed music, or volunteer your time.

Thank you for being an essential part of the region's only year-round professional symphony orchestra! I hope you find this report both informative and inspiring as we look forward to another wonderful year of music.

With gratitude,

K. A. Angstadt



January 2026 was an especially happy time for Executive Director Kathy Del Guidice as she moved into her new office on the third floor of Bewkes Hall at St. Lawrence University, Canton. The University is providing two furnished offices and a storage room for use by ONNY through an in-kind sponsorship valued at \$18,000 annually.

A Message from our Music Director

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



From the White House to the North Country

I'm pleased to report that our "Season of Stars" was a resounding artistic success! We continued to hone our programming approach, blending classic orchestral works with music of stage and screen, as well as other works influenced by popular culture. In addition to orchestra performances, our regional impact was enhanced by our "Adirondack Outreach" and "ONNY Pops Up!" programs. While we still have work to do in terms of reaching more residents of the North Country, I'm very pleased that ONNY is continuing to evolve, which is so critical to the success of any performing arts organization these days.

This past season carried with it several reminders of my time in "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, an organization in which I was honored to serve as Director from 2004-2014. Many of my experiences conducting our chamber orchestra were at the White House, and those performances are among my most treasured memories.

I've shared a few of those experiences in the following account of ONNY's past season.

We began our year with our annual Summer Pops program, entitled "Under the Stars...and Stripes!" The concert included popular and patriotic music from composers like Henry Mancini, John Philip Sousa, Florence Price, John Williams, Richard Rodgers, and George Cohan. The Marine Band has an especially strong connection to two composers on this program - Sousa, our 17th Director, and Williams, one of the few composers who might rival "The March King" in terms of both patriotism and popularity. The Marine Band has had a close relationship with Mr. Williams since his first guest conducting appearance with the band in 2003, and the professional friendship that resulted is leading to some unique programming opportunities for ONNY. Stay tuned for more on that!

Our October concert, “Star-Crossed,” began with Jose Serebier’s expansive 12-movement setting of music from Bizet’s *Carmen*, a spectacular showcase for many of our outstanding soloists. The second half of the concert featured two works directly related to the Shakespeare play that inspired our program title: Tchaikovsky’s Overture-Fantasy *Romeo and Juliet*, and Leonard Bernstein’s modern reimagining of the classic tale, *West Side Story*. The arrangement of the latter is part of the Marine Chamber Orchestra’s standard White House repertoire. I’ll never forget one of my last White House performances of the work, during which Rita Moreno spontaneously started dancing across the marble floor of the Grand Foyer during “America!”

It was wonderful to once again perform our December holiday program, “Home for the Holidays,” with full orchestra. The concert was a perfect example of our revamped approach to programming, and included classical favorites from Tchaikovsky, Bizet, and Rimsky-Korsakov, as well as several film, pop, and jazz favorites. Leroy Anderson’s *Christmas Festival* and *Sleigh Ride* were fixtures in the White House holiday receptions for which our chamber orchestra regularly played.

Our April program, “Summon the Heroes,” was the first in a series of three concerts marking our nation’s semi-quincentennial. Composed for the 100th anniversary of the modern

Olympics, John Williams’ stirring *Summon the Heroes* established the heroic tone of the program. It was a pleasure to feature a young local hero, Sarvesh Sitaraman, the 16-year-old violist who won ONNY’s Young Artist Competition. In addition to Howard Hanson’s powerful and heroic Symphony No. 2, the central work of the event was Aaron Copland’s monumental *Lincoln Portrait*, featuring Crane faculty member Dr. P. Wesley Roy as narrator. Lincoln was very fond of the Marine Band and was especially grateful for the brief moments of war-time distraction and respite the band provided. The Marine Band accompanied Lincoln to Gettysburg for the dedication of the National Cemetery, where he delivered the “Gettysburg Address.” I’ll never forget the honor of conducting the Marine Band at the 150th anniversary of this dedication ceremony in 2013, and couldn’t help but reflect on what it must have been like to be there in 1863.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the Orchestra of Northern New York musicians, staff, board, patrons, and donors. I think it was a very successful year for the orchestra on several fronts, and I look forward to helping move the organization onward and upward in the coming season and years beyond!

Musically yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Colburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "M".

From Winds To Strings

Musician Highlights

Julianne Doyle is a Professor of Clarinet at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music and joined the Orchestra of Northern New York in 2013 as co-principal clarinet and became principal clarinet in the 2019-2020 season. In 2020, she joined ONNY's Programming Committee helping with ideas during the COVID-19 pandemic. Julianne served on the Operations Committee during the music director transition, helping with operational details from the musician's perspective. In 2024, she was invited to join the Board and succeed Charles Guy as the players' liaison at the beginning of the '25-26 season. She likes working with Music Director Michael Colburn, her musician colleagues, and organizing meetings and creative discussions with committees. "I have enjoyed the collaborative nature of our organization and appreciate Michael's artistic leadership, his thoughtful attention to programming and the musicians, and the opportunity to be a liaison between the orchestra and our leadership when concerns arise. I take satisfaction in brainstorming with musician colleagues to hear their ideas, find out what excites them, their hidden talents, and communicate those thoughts and ideas to our leadership."



Dr. Shelly Tramposh is Professor of Viola at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, where she teaches viola, Irish fiddling, and is the founder and director of the Crane Mariachi ensemble, "Mariachi los Osos del Norte." She joined ONNY as the principal violist over two years ago. Dr. Tramposh is a well-known recitalist and frequent presenter at ASTA national conventions and American Viola Society events, where she performs and speaks about issues such as practicing, hypermobility, the pedagogy of bow strokes, and the inclusion of non-classical music in the schools. Her articles have appeared in *The Strad*, and her CD "Sprezzatura" is available on Spotify. Dr. Tramposh holds degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory, Eastman, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Prior to joining the faculty at Crane, she held positions in the Colorado Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, and the Berkeley Symphony, as well as the National Repertory Orchestra and the Taos Chamber Music Festival. Her mariachi studies include private *vihuela* and *guitarrón* lessons with recording artists Francisco Hernández and Jessie Vallejo, Crane alumna and former member of the Grammy-nominated Mariachi Tesoro, as well as working as a *violinista* for mariachi performances in California during her recent sabbatical.



Pop In To See Our Pops Up!



ONNY Pops Up! continues to grow following its launch in spring 2026. This community chamber music initiative is chaired by ONNY bassoonist Max Grube and committee members Maggie McKenna (ONNY violinist) and Marie-Elaine Gagnon (ONNY cellist).

ONNY Pops Up! aids the orchestra's efforts to build new community partnerships, expand the orchestra's capacity for future outreach, and bring live music to new and unexpected spaces around Northern NY.

This series represents a vital opportunity to introduce talented ONNY musicians to audiences across this region. The focus on public engagement serves to meet an increasing need for engaging youth, families, and listeners in non-traditional spaces. Making this series free to the public aims to increase public access to high-quality music-making in the North Country.

Since its inception, this program has connected with audiences at the North Country Children's Museum in Potsdam, the Remington Museum of Art in Ogdensburg, Boldt Castle in Alexandria Bay, and summer performances at farmers markets in Canton/Potsdam. The committee is planning performances for the upcoming season, including new venues in Canton, Tupper Lake, and Massena. With an eye on engaging programming, committee members are also considering concerts focused on fun themes for kids, about nature, and variety acts featuring a mix of ONNY chamber groups.

ONNY is delighted to announce its family-oriented Pops Up! program was recently awarded a \$4,000 grant by Stewart's Shops to sponsor these concerts and compensate musicians in 2026-2027.

It is with our deepest gratitude that we thank Susan Law Dake of the Stewart's Foundation for its support.



Youth Program Rising Artists

Vernice N. Church Challenge for Young Artists

(L to R) Morristown Music Teacher Jessica Woodard, Renee Rivers '26, Sarah Dousharm, Noel, Brad Dousharm, and Elsie Munsterteiger.



ONNY hosted the **Vernice N. Church Challenge for Young Artists** at the Crane School of Music in May. Noel Dousharm, a blind 8th grader from Ogdensburg, has been learning to play the flute by ear since 5th grade.

She performed movements 3 and 4 from Tango Etudes by Astor Piazzollo (1921-1992). Noel received feedback and coaching from flutist Renee Rivers, Crane Class of 2026. Renee is an exceptional flute player who has performed with ONNY in past concerts. Noel has performed with the Potsdam Community Band, All-County, and NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band. She studies flute privately with Elsie Munsterteiger and violin with Dr. Timothy Yip.



(L to R) Accompanist Guy C. "Chip" Lamson, soprano Logan Legault, alto Abigail Froats, soprano Abigail Polniak, music teacher Brianne Sterling, and Crane School of Music voice teacher Dr. Colleen Skull. Soprano Ashlan Foster is absent from the photo.

Students from Madrid-Waddington Central School participated in the ONNY **Challenge**, which provided coaching for their upcoming NYSSMA performances. Crane School of Music voice teacher Dr. Colleen Skull gave the students feedback and guidance.

The **Vernice N. Church Challenge for Young Artists** is not a competition; rather it is an excellent opportunity for students pursuing artistic growth to receive expert advice. For more information about the Challenge, visit onny.org/youth-programs or call/text 315-212-3440.

Potsdam High School Student Performs With ONNY

Violist Sarvesh Sitaraman, 15, took home First Prize in ONNY's James and Katherine Andrews Young Artist Competition (YAC) held for instrumental students "Pursuing Artistic Excellence." He earned a \$500 cash prize and the opportunity to solo with ONNY in its April 25 and 26 concerts in Potsdam and Watertown, respectively. Sarvesh performed the First Movement Allegro Moderator of Haendel's Concerto in B Minor on the viola.

Sarvesh began playing the viola at age 10 and performs with the St. Lawrence University Orchestra. He studied viola initially with Nancy Kear, then with Lorie Gruneisen, and is currently taking private lessons with Christian Hosmer, all of whom are former ONNY musicians.

In 2023, he attended Crane Youth Music, a summer camp at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, on a Scott LaVine Scholarship. He has participated in area all-state and all-county orchestra since 2022. He began playing viola at NYSSMA in 2021.

Apart from playing viola, Sarvesh enjoys playing violin, clarinet, and piano. He also loves singing. He has been part of his school band,



orchestra, chorus, and select choir since 2019. In 2024, he received coaching and feedback as a participant in ONNY's Vernice N. Church Challenge for Young Artists. He is the son of Sitaraman Krishnan and Sinduja Sitaraman, Potsdam.

The James and Katherine Andrews Young Artist Competition was established in 2007 for talented high school students in Northern and Central New York. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews were great supporters of various activities for young people and were especially fond of those involving music. The mission of the YAC is to inspire young musicians to reach the highest level of artistry they can achieve. For more information about the Young Artist Competition, visit onny.org/youth-programs, email info@onny.org, or call 315-212-3440.

Watertown Advisory Committee

The dedicated volunteers of the WAC continue to focus on the comfort of their musicians and audiences and the expansion of the size of the latter. They aim to support the needs of the Orchestra members and to promote the highest attendance possible at Watertown ONNY events, making all participants feel welcomed and having any enjoyment obstacles removed.

They would like to give special thanks to Kyle Ramey and Trinity Episcopal Church, Cam's Pizzeria, and young musicians Damian Marin Gonzalez,

Eimiglia Montando, and Elias Phillips from Indian River High School for their help on the crew.

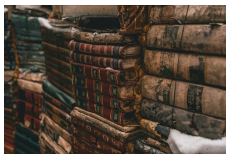
The WAC looks forward to ONNY's 39th season with its trademark readiness to roll up their sleeves. This year, they take special satisfaction in the Thompson Park Concert, which, though foiled by inclement weather, was the scene of their proudest performance. All was in readiness when the cancellation came, and everything was taken down before the first raindrops fell.

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Concerts

2026

American Lit. 101

October 17 at 7:30pm
Hosmer Hall,
SUNY Potsdam



October 18 at 3:00pm
Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown

'Tis The Season

December 12 at 3:00pm
Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam



December 13 at 3:00pm
First Presbyterian Church, Watertown

2027

Four Seasons

February 6 at 7:30pm
First Presbyterian
Church, Potsdam



February 7 at 3:00pm
Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown

National Treasure

April 24 at 7:30pm
Hosmer Hall, SUNY Potsdam



April 25 at 3:00pm
Trinity Episcopal Church,
Watertown

It Takes A Community

It is with our sincerest Appreciation that we recognize each individual, business and organization who supported ONNY in 2025-2026.

The impact of donors on the Orchestra of Northern New York is profound and far-reaching. Keeping music and the arts alive makes a real and lasting difference in people's lives.

Symphonic Sustainers (\$20,000+)

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** In-Kind donation*

*** Cash and In-Kind donation*

If you contributed during the 2025-2026 season and your name is not listed, please contact Executive Director Kathy Del Guidice at 315-212-3440 or executivedirector@onny.org so we may update our records.



The 2025 Holiday Concert was attended by more than 600 people.

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A Cabaret Show fundraiser with desserts was held in Watertown on September 21, 2025.

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ONNY is supported, in part, by NYSCA,
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Governor Kathy Hochul and the
NYS Legislature.



We are delighted to announce the
addition of St. Lawrence University
as our newest Major Sponsor.



2025-2026 Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 38,595
Accounts Receivable	\$ 100
Other Current Assets	<u>\$161,743</u>
Total Current Assets	\$200,438

Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Other Assets	<u>\$252,023</u>
Total Assets	\$452,461

Liabilities and Equity

Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,053
Credit Cards	\$ 2,942
Total Deferred Revenue	\$ 3,816
Other Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 5,840</u>
Total Liabilities	\$11,834

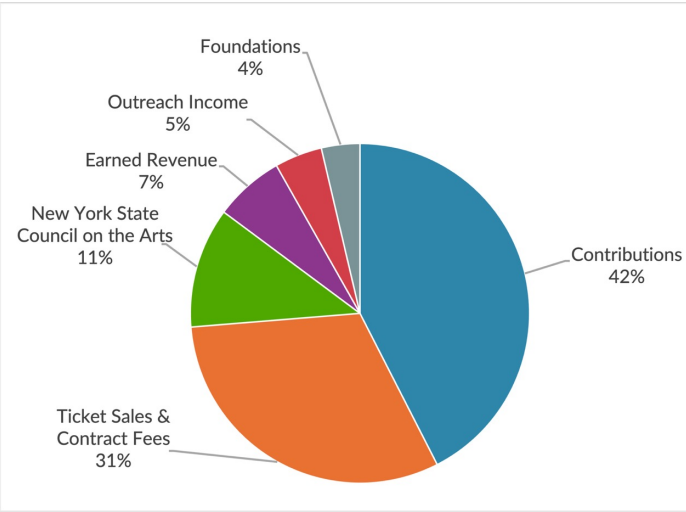
Equity – Unrestricted	\$260,412
Equity - Restricted	\$ 57,019
Equity – Temp. Restricted	\$ 99,404
Retained Earnings	\$ 0
Net Income	\$ 23,792
Total Equity	<u>\$440,627</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$452,461

2025-2026

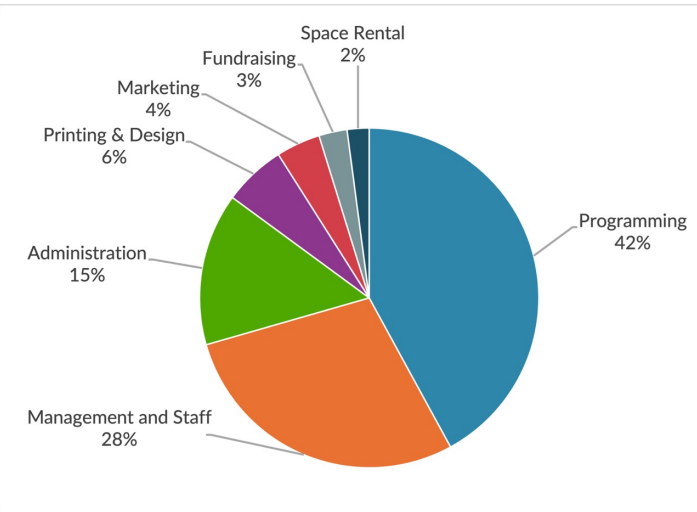
Statement of Activity

Total Revenue	\$218,210
Operating Expenses	<u>\$236,853</u>
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 18,643
Other Revenue	\$44,213
Other Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,778</u>
Net Other Revenue	\$42,435
Net Revenue	\$23,792

REVENUE



EXPENSES



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 (QCD) that enable those 70 ½ 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.

To learn about all the ways to support ONNY, visit www.onny.org/support

It is with our sincerest gratitude that we announce ONNY has been notified of a seven-figure planned gift from a couple who wish to remain anonymous. Their generosity speaks for itself about how committed they are to live music and the arts in Northern New York and the Adirondacks.

**2025-2026
Attendance**

6,154

2026-2027 Budget

\$287,455

ONNY's 2025 Costume Contest entrants.



About ONNY

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/Carefully preparing for and ensuring future programming

Operating Principles

- Our primary focus is high-quality orchestral music across Northern New York and bringing professional, live arts and opportunities to the region.
- 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
- 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



In August 2025, Liesl Doty joined Barb Heller, North Country Public Radio personality and host of String Fever who performs vocals and on guitar, for two performances in Wanakena and Lake Clear.