



2023 Year-end report

Our greetings. We are absolutely thrilled to report that Sinfonia completed another great year. Our Winter Concert Season included four terrific sets of performances with each taking place in both in Minneapolis and St. Paul. We were joined by incredible soloists, - cellist Dmitry Kousov, pianist Inna Fallicks, trumpeter Rodney Marsalis and Pipa player Gao Hong, and they were terrific. As I say time and time again, “it is great fun to have such good friends come and join our musicians and me to collaborate at such a high artistic level. It is incredible!”

The pandemic had many downsides, but it did give me time to do some research for new and unknown works by composers of color. Nearly all these works were composed for piano, so I had the honor of arranging them for Sinfonia. Most of the composers had all but been forgotten, so it was especially fun and important to bring their works to life. This was a much-needed education for our musicians, our audiences and for me.

Last year, after a four-year Covid-caused hiatus, we were able to restart our Music in the Schools with performances in thirteen Minneapolis and St. Paul inner-city schools. The program was Water-Our Most Precious Resource, and not only did the kids enthusiastically embrace Sinfonia performances (cheers after every piece), but we also video-taped a complete in-studio recording of this program, which is now accessible to over 1000 schools and thousands and thousands of students free of charge across the state. Want to see what our Music in the Schools is really all about? Check out the links, not only to this production but also to our first – The Magical Mysteries of Math and Music.

Water-Our Most Precious Resource:

<https://www.mnsinfonia.org/2023-mis-video-program-water-our-most-precious-resource>

The Magical Mysteries of Math and Music:

<https://www.mnsinfonia.org/2022-mis-video-program-the-magical-mysteries-of-math-and-music>

We also had a very successful Young Artist Competition with two exceptional winners –senior winner was violinist; Cecilia O’Malley and our junior winner was cellist Anahit Bashir.

This report could not be complete without mentioning a very successful summer season which included classical and Lighter side performances at Lake Harriet, Como Park, Gibbs Farm, Roseville Central Park, Sholom Home West, Story Lake and all culminating with 20 students joining us for rehearsals and a performance of Beethoven's glorious Seventh Symphony, as part of our Youth Outreach Week.

We are soon to embark on another season – our 35th, concert season! And what a season this will be. Our programs will include music by some of our favorites – Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart, and the soloists – Rodney Marsalis who will be joined by violinist Helen Chang, Inna Falicks, Amit Peled and Yevgeny Kutik, are all returning for encore performances.

Our Music in the Schools will be back in full force, working with up to twenty schools! The program will be Music Tells a Story, with the academic emphasis on literature. Music and stories will include Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, (African) Chevalier de Saint-Georges' overture to *L'Amant Anonyme*, and of course there will be stimulating activities to help students meet academic literature standards, songs for them to sing and music for the orchestra students to play with Sinfonia as part of the in-school performances. And, in the spring we will be doing a full in-studio video production of this program! Later in the spring we will hold our Young Artist Competition, and when we get into the summer, we will have a full season of classical and "lighter side" concerts. Our Youth Outreach Week, featuring some of the region's very talented instrumental students will complete our season in late July, with a grand finale performance at the Lake Harriet bandstand.

Like all Sinfonia offerings, our 35th season of concerts and performances will be offered free of admission charges, and children will of course be welcome to all performances. We thank you for your continued and enthusiastic support, and as we say in the trade – Stay Tuned!

Jay Fishman
Artistic Director

Tina Enberg
President, Sinfonia Board of Directors