

2026

PHILADELPHIA
SINFONIA

ANNUAL REPORT



The PS and Philly Pops America
250 Festival Concert at the
Kimmel Center, May 22, 2026.

MUSIC-MAKING: Shared Humanity and Lifelong Connection

As my first year as Music Director of Philadelphia Sinfonia comes to a close, I am feeling deeply grateful that I have the privilege to work with talented young musicians, dedicated families, supportive colleagues, and an entire community that believes in the power of music.

We performed music from different cultures, traditions, and genres; We explored new ways of listening, thinking, understanding, and connecting through music. Every piece and every concert brought a different perspective and reminded us that there is no single way to tell a story through art.

Some of the most memorable moments came through our collaborations

with professional musicians with The Philadelphia Orchestra and our season-ending concert with The Philly Pops. These experiences demonstrated just how much young musicians are capable of achieving when given the opportunity to perform at a high level. They also reinforced something I believe deeply: when we make music together, the labels of “young musician,” “professional musician,” and even “conductor” begin to matter less. We are simply musicians sharing a common purpose and passion. We learn from one another, challenge one another, and inspire one another. That, to me, is the true meaning of a side-by-side experience.

As we conclude the season, our graduating seniors will continue their musical

journeys, while others will pursue different paths. Yet I hope they leave knowing that the value of music extends far beyond the concert hall. Music teaches us how to collaborate, express ourselves, listen to one another, build meaningful relationships, persevere through challenges, and remain curious about the world around us. Wherever life takes us, we continue to do what we love, never give up, find our own path, and create our own destiny.

What stays with us are the people we met and the joy we created together. For me, that has been the greatest gift of this season, and I am excited to continue building this community in the year ahead.

Linus Ip
Music Director & Conductor

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Philadelphia Sinfonia is truly grateful to its generous donors, supporters and friends, whose gifts nurture the growth of many young musicians, further develop our organization, and contribute to a vital artistic community in the Philadelphia region. Gifts can be made online through our website or by contacting us at info@philadelphiasinfonia.com for donor materials. Donors and supporters are listed in our annual report. The current list includes donations received between June 3, 2025 and June 3, 2026.

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Impact Statement 2026

Music is a powerful medium. A language composed of wordless sound, music expresses emotion, speaks to emotion, transcends boundaries, and can bring people together. It speaks of joy, of sorrow, of love, of the infinite.... It is universal; from the dawn of time, human beings have made sounds with the voice and found materials to communicate what words could not, to celebrate, and to forge connection. Music can emotionally move hundreds of people at a time, and it can heal a solitary griever.

As our vision statement says, we believe that the endeavor to be creative and make meaning in our lives is central to human experience and that it is our responsibility to empower young musicians with the tools to do that in the context of classical music as a fundamental human art form.

Not only do we strive to train future musicians and foster the future of music, we also aspire through our programs to enrich society by nurturing students' problem-solving skills, their collaborative instincts, their empathy for others, and their artistic and social development, whether they pursue a career in music or not.

OUR IMPACT CAN BE DISCERNED IN THE WORDS OF OUR FORMER STUDENTS:

A current graduate student in cello performance at London's Royal College of Music: *"It's hard to sum up how much being a part of Sinfonia changed my life. Playing with the Chamber Orchestra and PS exposed me to so much incredible repertoire and led me to develop a really strong connection with classical music. I definitely never would have considered going to conservatory or desiring a career as an orchestral player if it weren't for Sinfonia."*

A professional clarinet performer and teacher: *"I have always felt that my participation in Sinfonia was a turning point in my study of music.... Sinfonia opened me to the world of orchestral music, which completely changed the way I studied music. My ear started to change and I believe my taste in music became much more refined. Being able to play the music of Brahms, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, and others really moved me in a way I had not been moved before, and I am just so grateful I had the opportunity to be a part of something so incredibly larger than life before studying clarinet performance at a university."*

A violinist who recently graduated from Sinfonia: *"As someone who has been a part of Philadelphia Sinfonia for five years and has been in all three ensembles, I can confidently say that every single moment was a chance for me to grow."*

As a graduate student in epidemiology and former Sinfonia violinist: *"Learning to be present and a part of the music didn't just make me a better violinist, it changed the way I listen to the world around me and how I focused on*

the moment I was in, no matter what moment it was. I think that made me a better student, but I also think those things impact me outside of the classroom and outside my academic career in crucial ways too.

A trumpet player reflected at the end of his senior year in Sinfonia: *"One of my favorite things about Sinfonia is the fact that nobody gets by on pure talent; the curriculum is designed to bring out the creativity, passion, and hard work that each and every student possesses.... Equally impressive is the fact that the conductors make the effort to get to know each musician well enough to weave their strengths and weaknesses into the ensemble".*

And from a professional violist: *"Along with the help my private teacher and family gave me, Sinfonia helped me develop essential skills that allowed me to confidently head into one of the top music schools."*

An oboe player, who has served in many professional capacities internationally, from NGO's to the U.S. state department: *"There are two ways in which music and Sinfonia have guided me.... The first is that playing in a group like Sinfonia, you learn how to **communicate**. You learn how to work together to build something. If you want to restore a synagogue in Ukraine, for example, it's like putting together a Mahler symphony from zero; you have no musicians, no conductor, no hall. You have the score: i.e. maybe a photograph of what the building originally looked like, and that's what you want in the end. But you must work backwards, **and together** to make it happen."*

Mission Statement

Philadelphia Sinfonia supports the artistic growth of young musicians in the Delaware Valley by providing high-level ensemble experience in a supportive educational environment.

We believe that the pursuit of excellence requires performers with integrity, working together toward a common goal. Thus our mission is three-fold: to provide ensemble opportunities for young musicians, to achieve the highest level of artistic advancement, and to educate young people broadly to be strong citizens and leaders as well as responsible musicians.

We recruit from a demographically diverse student population to provide an opportunity to anyone who musically qualifies and to enrich the experience of all members of the organization.



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