



Photo Credit: Nick Donnoli

# 2018 - 2019 REPORT



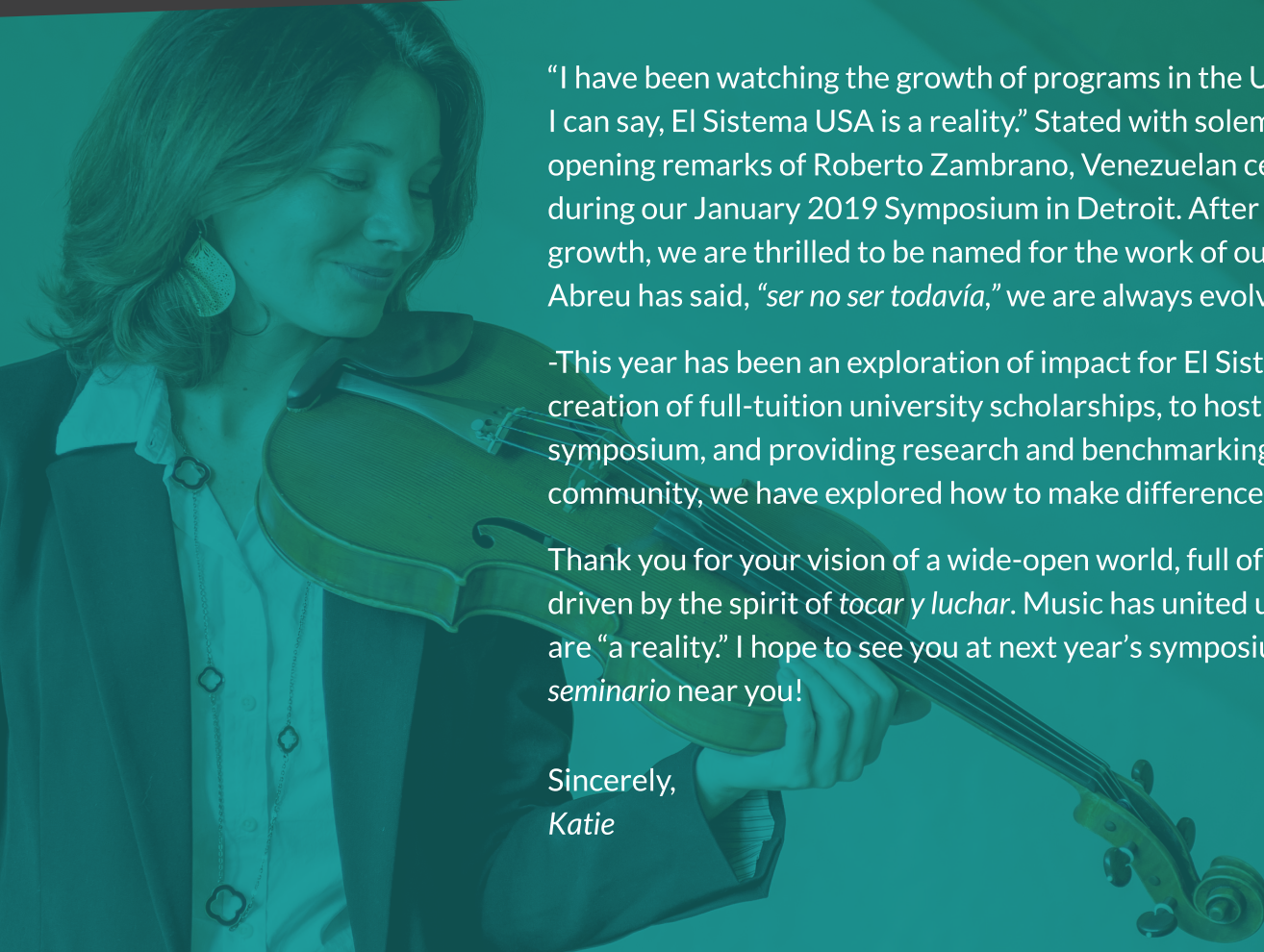
# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

“I have been watching the growth of programs in the United States. Today, I can say, El Sistema USA is a reality.” Stated with solemnity, these were the opening remarks of Roberto Zambrano, Venezuelan cellist and conductor, during our January 2019 Symposium in Detroit. After years of evolution and growth, we are thrilled to be named for the work of our field. As Maestro Abreu has said, “*ser no ser todavía*,” we are always evolving, always striving.

-This year has been an exploration of impact for El Sistema USA. From the creation of full-tuition university scholarships, to hosting our second annual symposium, and providing research and benchmarking data for our growing community, we have explored how to make differences both large and small.

Thank you for your vision of a wide-open world, full of people who are driven by the spirit of *tocar y luchar*. Music has united us in our work, and we are “a reality.” I hope to see you at next year’s symposium, and at a future *seminario* near you!

Sincerely,  
Katie



# MISSION

To support and grow a nationwide movement of programs inspired by El Sistema to effect social change through music for children with the fewest resources and the greatest need.

# A YEAR OF GROWTH



**115**

Member organizations  
(100% growth  
from 2016)



**34**

States & Territories



**20,000**

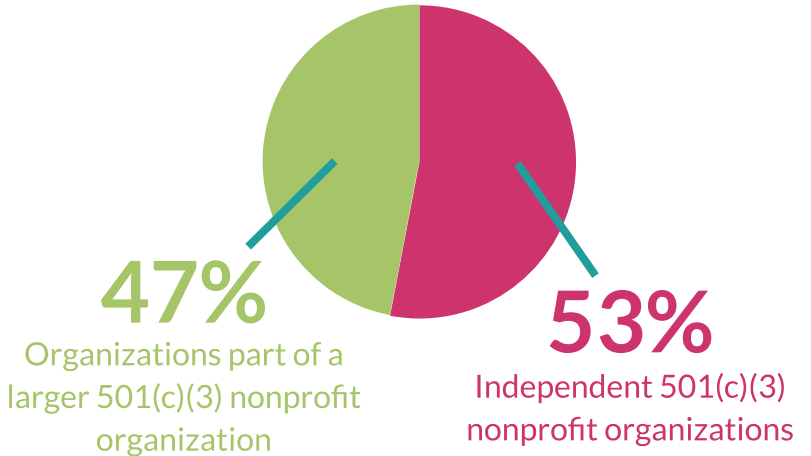
Students



**1,500+**

Teaching Artists

# WE ARE MEMBERS OF EL SISTEMA USA



## OUR MOST COMMON PARTNERS:

- Symphony Orchestras
- Schools
- Community Organizations
- Youth Orchestras
- Education Alliances

# EL SISTEMA USA MEMBER SUPPORT



## LEARNING AND NETWORKING EVENTS

- National Symposium
- Regional seminarios & gatherings
- Professional development forums & webinars



## ADVOCACY FOR MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Promoting national policies that support state and federal funding for music education
- Development of toolkits for lobbying local legislators



## FUNDING

- Small grants for member-based projects
- Member discounts & scholarships through partnerships
- Leveraging national funding opportunities for Members



## EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

- National census and benchmarking reports
- Impact evaluation of El Sistema nationally



## AWARENESS BUILDING AND ONLINE RESOURCES

- Online resources & video library
- Increasing brand awareness of the El Sistema movement nationally

# 2019 EL SISTEMA USA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “360 DEGREES OF EXCELLENCE”



**200+**  
Attendees



**60+**  
Teaching Artists



**30+**  
Students from  
Detroit-area programs



**80+**  
Organizations  
Represented

## SYMPOSIUM CO-CHAIRS:



**CALIDA JONES**

Director of Development & Advocacy,  
PROJECT MUSIC Stamford, CT; Board  
of Directors, El Sistema USA



**TINA ROWAN**

Executive Director, Accent  
Pontiac Bloomfield Hills, MI

*“When I thought about the theme “360 Degrees of Excellence”, I considered the following: We cannot look at this process as what do I gain but rather how many people’s lives will be changed because I served them freely, and wholeheartedly. Then and only then will you feel and see those degrees of excellence working together as a team to create an environment that carries multiple access points and opportunities for our deserving children across the nation.”*

- CALIDA JONES

El Sistema USA  
**2019 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

**360 DEGREES  
OF EXCELLENCE**

**January 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> • Detroit, MI**

**SPHINX**

Aaron P. Dworkin ▪ Founder

Thanks to our partnership with the Sphinx Organization, an organization that transforms lives through the power of diversity in the arts, almost 100 attendees attended “SphinxConnect2019: Leaders Rising” for free.

Photo Credit: Zaw M Kyaw

# SOCIO-CULTURAL AWARENESS FORUM

In January of 2019, El Sistema USA launched the Socio-Cultural Awareness Forum, a program of El Sistema USA's Racial Diversity & Cultural Understanding Committee. Each month, the forum offers El Sistema USA Members a chance to gather virtually to discuss best practices on inclusion and culturally responsive pedagogy in their programs.

## FORUM FACILITATORS:



**MONIQUE VAN WILLINGH**

Director of Music & Social Change Programs, Longy School of Music of Bard College; Board of Directors, El Sistema USA



**HILLARY HARDER**

El Sistema Coordinator, Elkhart County

*“Culturally responsive engagement is integral to our work in the community, as teachers, leaders and advocates of equitable arts education. Our hope is that this forum will be a platform that ‘holds space’ for those interested in having the hard conversations around diversity and culture in a supportive, collaborative, yet candid environment.”*

**- MONIQUE VAN WILLINGH**



Photo Credit: Tim Porter

# HUNDREDS OF NEW INSTRUMENTS



Our partnership with Guitars 4 Gifts has created an opportunity for over 120 instruments to be donated to more than 40 El Sistema USA Member organizations.

Photo Credit: Salty Cricket Composer's Collective



# EL SISTEMA USA SECURES FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS



This year we launched the El Sistema USA Scholarship at the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University. Three students from El Sistema USA Member organizations received full-tuition university scholarships!



**BOBBY BUSH**, A recipient of the El Sistema USA Scholarship & Miami Music Project student

*"Ever since I was ten years old, I would discuss with my guitar instructor where I would go to college. Even then, Peabody Conservatory was my top choice. When I was accepted into Peabody I knew all my hard work had paid off and now I am overjoyed. Given this amazing scholarship, I am truly grateful to the El Sistema USA organization that they made it all possible."*

# El Sistema USA PRESTO

Program for Rising El Sistema Organizations

PRESTO, the Program for Rising El Sistema Organizations, was launched with a \$1 million grant from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. Thirteen El Sistema-inspired programs are receiving comprehensive professional development, mentorship, and funding. PRESTO supports early-stage El Sistema-inspired programs to become financially stable, strengthen program leadership, and increase student participation.

*"I love being a PRESTO mentor because I think it fits within the spirit of El Sistema. One of our core values at MYCincinnati is learning and growing together, and that informs our approach both programmatically, and to how we work as an organization."*



**LAURA JEKEL**, PRESTO Mentor  
Founder & Teaching Artist,  
MYCincinnati

*"I believe that our program's goals can be achieved not only by using the funding allocated to us through PRESTO, but also by leaning on my fellow cohort members and mentors for their skills, experience and support."*



**YUKI NUMATA RESNICK**,  
PRESTO Cohort Member  
Artistic Director & Co-Founder,  
Buffalo String Works

# EL SISTEMA USA 2018 MEMBER CENSUS

## KEY FINDINGS & TRENDS



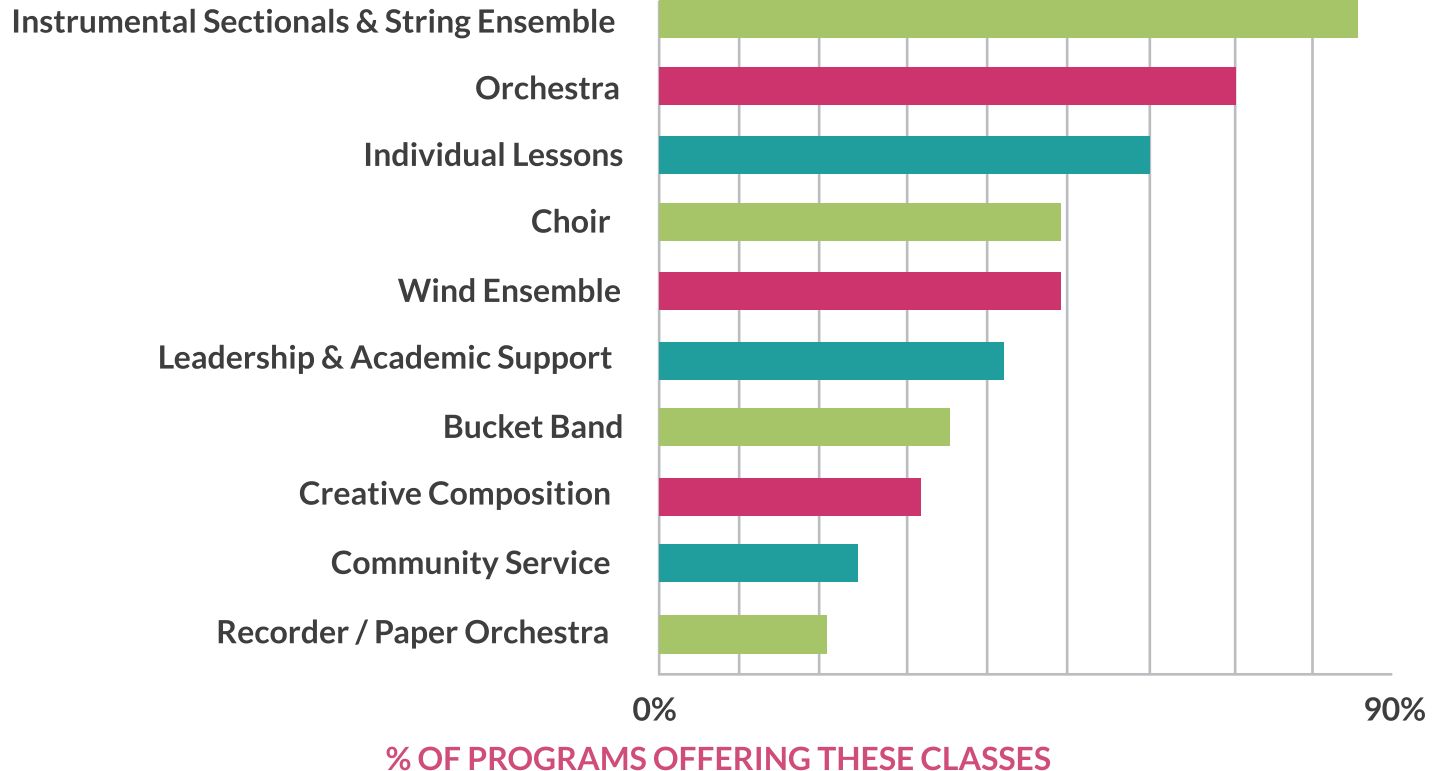
El Sistema USA partnered with Duke University's Social Science Research Institute on the 2017-2018 National Census. Data represents a response rate of 87%.

### MEMBERS AT A GLANCE

	<b>TIER 1</b> Organizations with Operating Budget < \$150,000 34 Organizations	<b>TIER 2</b> Organizations with Operating Budget \$150K to \$400K 21 Organizations	<b>TIER 3</b> Organizations with Operating Budget \$400K to \$800K 10 Organizations	<b>TIER 4</b> Organizations with Operating Budget \$800K+ 11 Organizations
<b>AVERAGE # OF STUDENTS SERVED</b>	<b>71 STUDENTS</b> (Range = 22-190)	<b>120 STUDENTS</b> (Range = 50-280)	<b>157 STUDENTS</b> (Range = 90-354)	<b>650 STUDENTS</b> (Range = 214-1050)
<b>AVERAGE STAFF SIZE</b>	<b>3 PROGRAM &amp; ADMIN STAFF</b>	<b>7 PROGRAM &amp; ADMIN STAFF</b>	<b>16 PROGRAM &amp; ADMIN STAFF</b>	<b>34 PROGRAM &amp; ADMIN STAFF</b>
<b>AVERAGE # OF TEACHING ARTISTS</b>	<b>9 TEACHING ARTISTS</b>	<b>14 TEACHING ARTISTS</b>	<b>38 TEACHING ARTISTS</b>	<b>50 TEACHING ARTISTS</b>

Statistical outliers with regards to number of students served have been eliminated in the averages represented above.

# MOST COMMON CLASSES



# ABOUT OUR 20,000 STUDENTS

## INTENSITY OF INSTRUCTION



**2-3 hours**/day



**3-4 days**/week



**34 weeks**/year

AND, **70%** of programs offer summer programming

## SEX

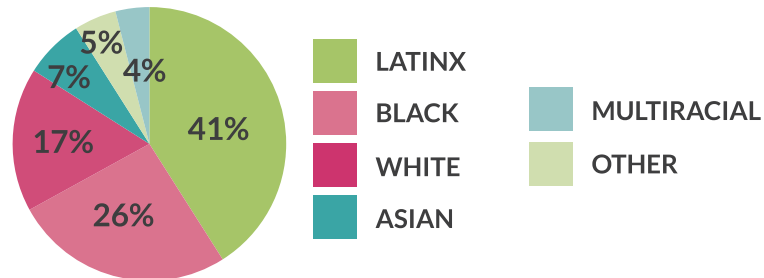
**57%**  
FEMALE

**40%**  
MALE

## GRADE LEVEL

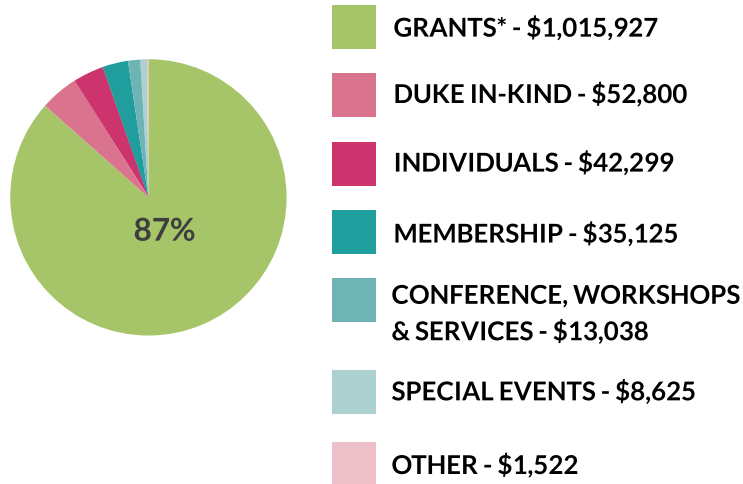


## RACE/ETHNICITY

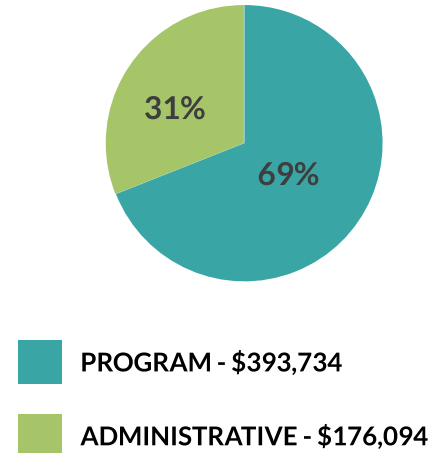


# FY18 YEAR-END FINANCIALS

## INCOME: \$1,169,336



## EXPENSE: \$569,828



\*Indicates full amount of the Angell Family Foundation gift for PRESTO, to be disbursed over three years.

# 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Chair and Executive Committee Chair:

**Christine Taylor Conda**, Chicago, IL  
Director, Reach\*Teach\*Play Education  
Programs at Ravinia

## Vice Chair and Governance Committee

**Chair: Dalouge Smith**, San Diego, CA  
President and CEO, The Lewis Prize

**Secretary: Leni Boorstin**, Los Angeles, CA  
Director, Community and Government Affairs,  
Los Angeles Philharmonic

## Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair:

**Anna Klimala**, Miami, FL  
Executive Director, Miami Music Project

**Michael Angell**, Chevy Chase, MD  
Director of Performing Arts Grants for the  
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation

**Daniela Bedoni**, New York, NY  
Boards of Lang Lang Piano Foundation,  
New England Conservatory, Harmony  
Program NYC

**Hermes Camacho**, Austin, TX  
Program Director, Austin Soundwaves;  
Co-founder, Picardy; Adjunct Faculty UIW

**Mark Churchill**, Boston, MA  
Founder, El Sistema USA; Dean Emeritus,  
Preparatory-Continuing Education, New  
England Conservatory, MA

**Armand Hall**, Rochester, NY  
PRESTO Committee Chair; Artistic and  
Executive Director, ROCMusic

**Joseph Hamm**, Newport News, VA  
Racial Diversity & Cultural Understanding  
Committee Co-Chair; Program and Media  
Manager, Soundscapes

**Calida Jones**, Waterbury, CT  
Racial Diversity & Cultural Understanding  
and Symposium Committee Co-Chair;  
Director of Development & Advocacy,  
PROJECT MUSIC

**Myka Miller**, Los Angeles, CA  
Executive Director, Harmony Project  
Los Angeles

**Rita McLennon**, Chicago, IL  
Fundraising Committee Chair; Nonprofit  
Consultant

**Scott Laird**, Durham, NC  
Chair of Fine Arts, North Carolina School  
for Science and Math

**Daniel Trahey**, Baltimore, MD  
Co-Creator, BSO OrchKids

**Monique Van Willingham**, Boston, MA  
Director of Music and Social Change  
Programs, Longy School of Music of Bard  
College

**Katie Wyatt**, *ex officio*, Durham, NC  
President & CEO, El Sistema USA

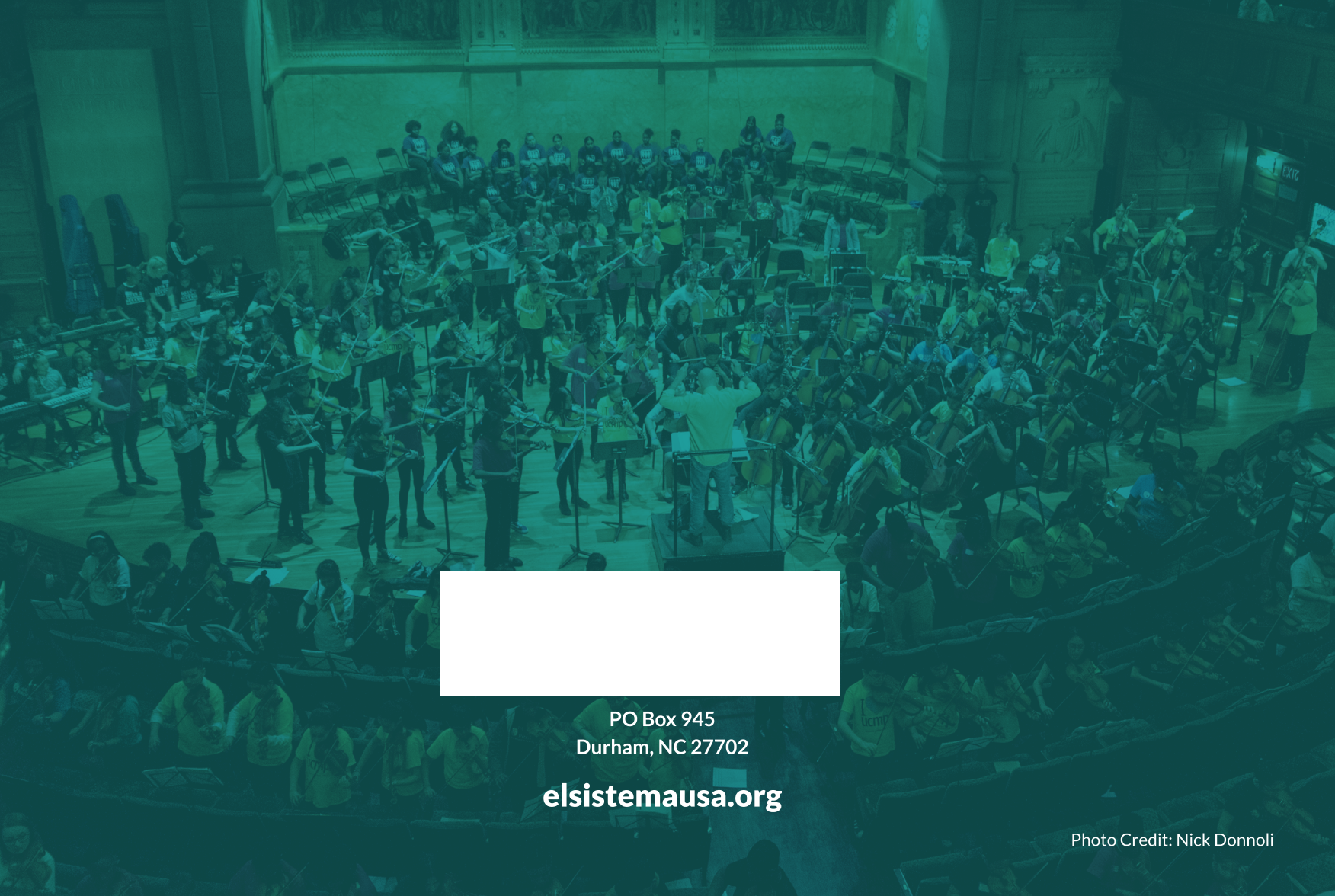
**Jessica Zweig**, Philadelphia, PA  
Membership Engagement Committee  
Chair; Program Director, Play on Philly

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PAUL M. ANGELL  
FAMILY FOUNDATION







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[elsistemausa.org](http://elsistemausa.org)

Photo Credit: Nick Donnoli