





Reflections on the Year

Dear Friends of Soundscapes,

As I reflect on the 2020-21 year, I am filled with gratitude for each of you. Because you value music and the students in our program as much as we do, you helped Soundscapes make it through the most difficult part of the COVID-19 pandemic without any gap in programming and without losing any staff members. We could not have done it without you.

Our theme for the year was *Lens on Life*. Our students and staff spent the year connecting through camera lenses and also worked hard to see the world through different “lenses” and perspectives. As a part of that process, they composed and performed “See My Friends Again,” a song that expressed their views on the dual crises of the pandemic and racial injustice, and received well deserved regional and national recognition for their work.

In July, Soundscapes assumed management of the Peninsula Youth Orchestra. Before last year, the PYO provided programming for our older and more experienced student musicians. When the PYO Board came to us saying they could no longer continue, we knew we needed to step in to keep this important 60-year-old institution alive for our students and our community.

These are just a few of the highlights from an extraordinary year. I am proud to share the rest with you through our 2020-21 annual report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick B. McDermott".

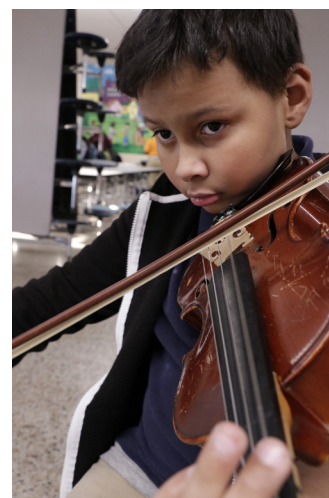
Patrick B. McDermott

Chairman of the Board of Directors



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About the Program

Soundscapes is a nonprofit youth development organization in Southeastern Virginia that uses music instruction and performance to develop life skills in students from early childhood to early adulthood. The organization provides daily after-school music programs, a regional youth orchestra, and several week-long summer camps. Through Soundscapes, youth from 1st grade through age 25 develop skills that prepare them to be today's successful students and tomorrow's engaged citizen artists.

soundscapes

A Year of Virtual Learning



Connecting Online

The virtual music education that started in March 2020 continued through June 2021. The talented teaching artists and dedicated students at Soundscapes met through Zoom for two hours after school four days per week. Concerts were also held online, with live premieres on YouTube and Facebook. For many students, Soundscapes was a support system and a creative outlet during a difficult year.



See My Friends Again

Let The Love Shine In

A song composed by students at Soundscapes was chosen for Carnegie Hall's "Voice of Hope" Concert on April 28. "Voice of Hope" featured songwriters and composers of all ages who reflected on the life-affirming power of music during times of crisis. The Soundscapes song that was featured, "See My Friends Again," was one of just 20 original compositions selected out of more than 80 submissions from musicians nationwide. The song was created through a group composition process and includes lyrics that address difficult topics like isolation and depression, police brutality, and the fear of COVID-19, but ultimately ends with a hopeful message: "Let the love shine in; I will see my friends again, see my friends again."

Peninsula Youth Orchestra



Opportunities for Older Students

In July 2020, Soundscapes brought the Peninsula Youth Orchestra under its umbrella to form a comprehensive music education program that benefits students on the Peninsula from first grade through age 25. In February 2021, Soundscapes formed a PYO chamber orchestra, which was small enough to rehearse in person and put on a concert for their families with appropriate social distancing. In addition, PYO hosted two virtual Creative Composition Weekend Workshops for students across the mid-Atlantic states, which were funded through a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. Soundscapes also received a grant in FY21 from Impact 100 that will allow PYO to re-launch a full in-person program in fall 2021 with a string orchestra and wind band for intermediate student musicians and a full symphony orchestra for advanced musicians. We can't wait to return to live public performances!



Student Parent Advisory Council



Leadership from Families

To give students and families a greater voice in organizational leadership, Soundscapes created a Student Parent Advisory Council. Two members of the newly formed council — student Hunter Bernsed and parent Shanara Gwaltney — have also joined the Soundscapes Board of Directors as full voting members. The council's purpose is to provide guidance and feedback to Soundscapes' staff and Board.

SPA Council Members



SHAMEL SYKES
Parent/SPA Chair



SHANARA GWALTNEY
Parent/SPA Vice Chair/Board Member



HUNTER BURNSED
Student/Board Member



EMMA THOMAS
Student/SPA Secretary



AMELIA CARO
Parent



JORDAN HILL
Student



LANASIA WALLS
Student



Family Profile: Shanara and DeAndre

Eleven-year-old DeAndre Ward has been a part of Soundscapes for more than 5 years. He first joined because he saw his sister in Soundscapes and he also wanted to learn to play an instrument. It took him several tries to find the right one — he first tried flute and trombone — but he now plays trumpet and loves the high sounds it can make.

Like all Soundscapes students, DeAndre took part in the program virtually from March 2020 through June 2021. Even though he says he's gotten used to virtual learning, he admits he prefers being in person. "When you're together, you can actually hear when it sounds better," he shares. Learning online can sometimes be frustrating, especially when it's hard to hear or connections are dropped. DeAndre is eager to go back and hug all his friends, and to be able to play with them and do all the normal things.

DeAndre's mother, Shanara Gwaltney, is a part of the Student-Parent Advisory Council and a new member of the Board of Directors. She has been interested in Soundscapes for a while, and the timing worked well for her to step into a leadership position this year. As a parent, Shanara sees the benefits of participating in Soundscapes first hand.

"It creates structure," she shares. "He stays on task more. It's all of the little things that they teach outside of music...the little pieces that you don't pay attention to that are being taught along with the music, they play a big role," Shanara explains. "It teaches them a lot of responsibility."

It's all of the little things that they teach outside of music

Soundscapes

Student Accomplishments



Congratulations

We are so proud of the students who earned medals in spring for being a part of Soundscapes for 5 or 10 years!



JORDAN HILL
Cello



EMMA THOMAS
Viola



ESABELLA BURNSED
Flute



JALIYAH DEANS
Trumpet



NOAH HILL
Flute



JALIYAH STEWART
Clarinet



SANIYA HUNDLEY-SWEENEY
Trumpet



The Briggs Scholarship Fund

Five student musicians received James F. and Mary Winston J. Briggs Scholarships to attend the Hampton Roads Chamber Players Summer Camp in June 2021.

The Briggs Scholarship Fund was established by the Petters Family Foundation to allow students to take part in extraordinary opportunities for musical growth outside of Soundscapes' regular programming.

The student participants were:

CHRISTINE PARK
Violin



CHLOE PARK
Violin

TYLER PICKETT
Violin

EMMA THOMAS
Viola



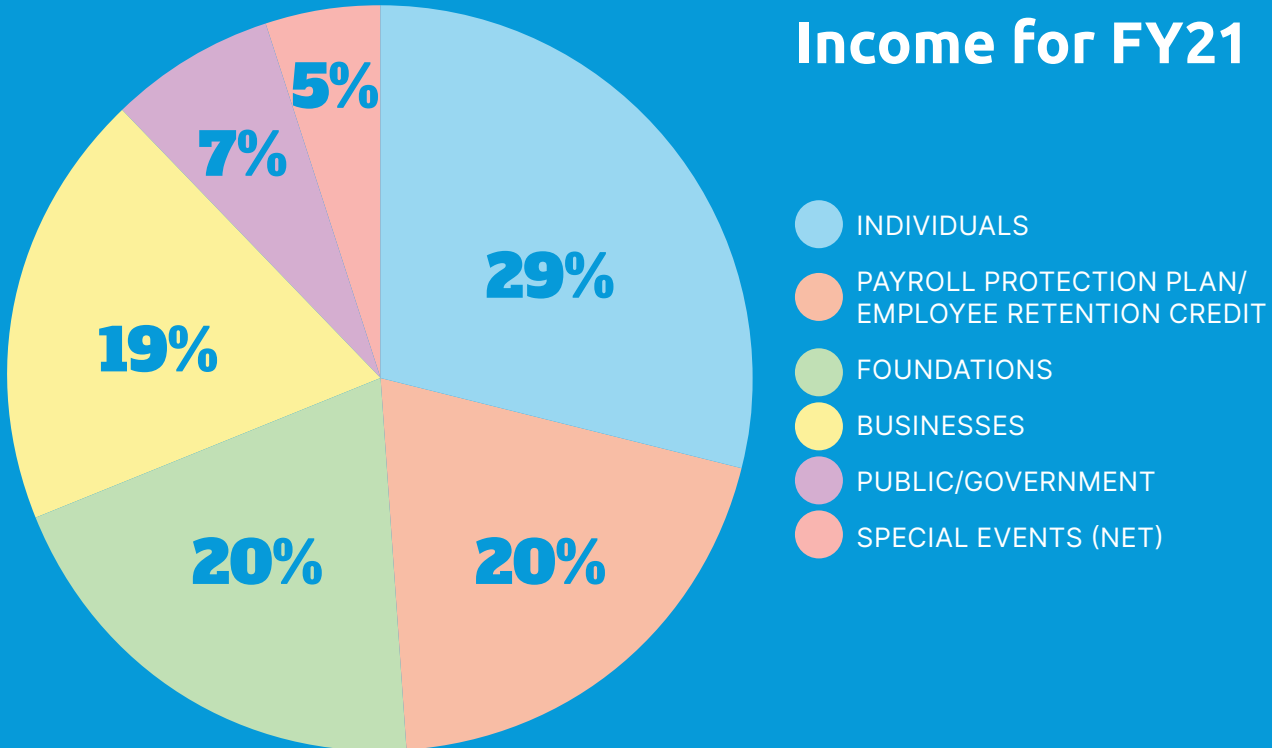
NEVEAH STARKS
Viola



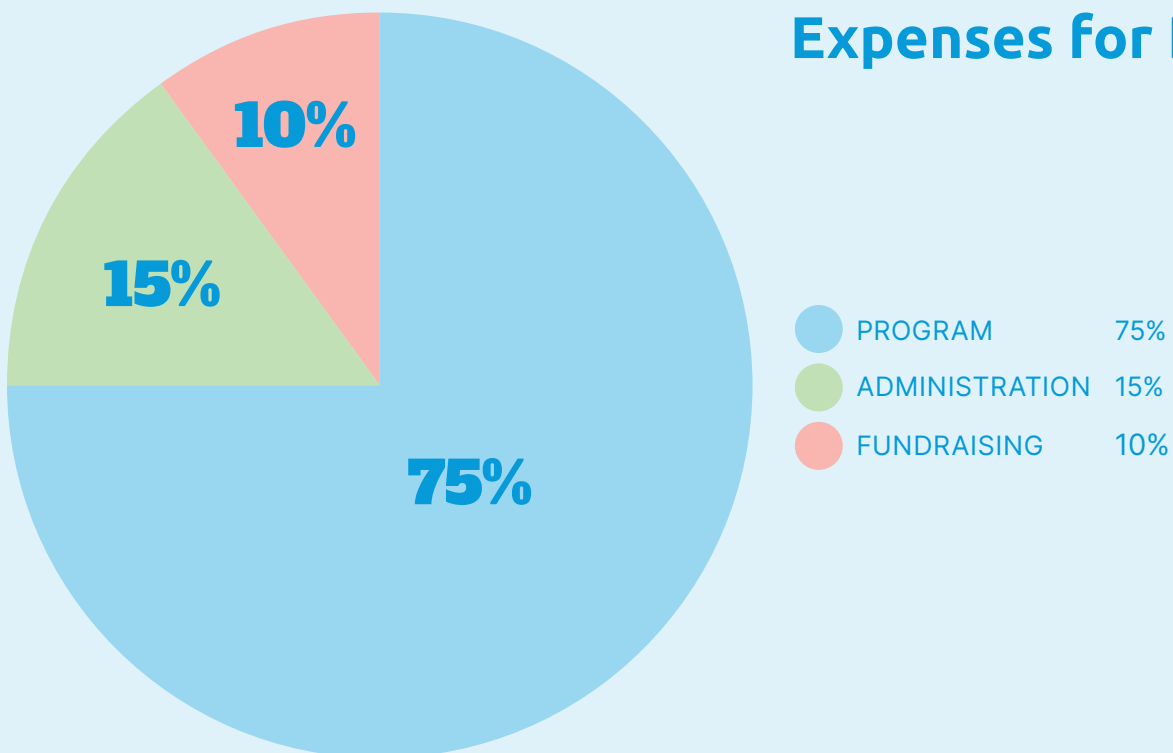


Financial Details

Income for FY21



Expenses for FY21



Our Supporters



Golf Tournament

Most of Soundscapes' fundraising events were canceled in FY21 due to the pandemic, which made the golf tournament all the more exciting! Our generous sponsors and players raised over \$50,000 for our students, making the FY21 golf tournament the most successful one yet. We are especially grateful for presenting sponsor Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamonstein.



Gratitude for Donors

This year was the most unusual in our history, but your support made it possible for Soundscapes to continue providing music education for our students without cutting any programming or losing any of our incredibly talented staff members. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you for supporting us during the most trying of times.

PLATINUM

Joseph & Patricia Barto
Carnegie Hall
J.W. Whiting Chisman Jr.
City of Newport News
Robert R. Hatten
Anne Henry
John & Marjorie Holt
Wendy Drucker
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation
Patten, Wornom, Hatten
& Diamonstein
Peninsula Community Foundation
of Virginia
Petters Family Foundation
TowneBank
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The Abbitt Group, Inc.
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Rotary Club of Newport News
Foundation
Rotary Club of Oyster Point
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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Ruth Steinberg
The Beach Group
John & Ellen Tompkins
Raul Agraït

SUPPORTER

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Mary Dame Broad
Jennifer Brown
Cristy Burguete
Carol Butler
Christine Cann
Ward & Anne Cates
Richard B. Chance
Kristin Cochran
Leroy & Cora Collins
Bettie Minette Cooper
Wilson & Ann Cooper
Susan Cowling
Cozy's Comedy Club & Tavern
Sylvia Weinstein Craft
Dorothy & Lake Critzer
Marilen Crump
Michael Curry
Jane & Gordon Cutler
Paul Danehy & Shelly Simonds
Sue Danehy
Libby & Buddy David
David Dirlam
Jenna Eppink
Charles Frechette
Wallace & Barbara Garner
Janet Gecowets
Gordon Gentry, Jr.
GFWC Woman's Club of
Hampton Roads
Carlyle Gravely
James Gray

Margaret Gregory
LeRoy & Kathi Griffin
L. Warren & Helen Haley
Hampton Roads Eye Associates,
Oyster Point
Bill & Anne Hart
Lee & Vicki Hauser
Ted & Merrill Hemmert
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Wythe Holt
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Brian & Maureen Hutchens
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Myfanwy & Peter Morgan
Nancy Moseley
Judith Myers
Amy Nathan

IN-KIND

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 Virginia Nelson
 Newport News Arts Commission
 Bradley Norris
 Craig Nuckles
 Rick Overbaugh
 Francie Pearce
 Joan & Kevin Peterson
 Marc & Kate Powell
 Irma & Reynaldo Ramirez Jr.
 Reynaldo & Cynthia Ramirez
 Wayne Conners & Margaret
 Mary Rand
 Teresa Randolph
 Patricia Robert
 Deborah Roe
 Neal & Barbara Rosenbaum
 Robert & Alice Rubinstein
 Janet Salley
 L. Wallace & Elizabeth Sink
 Laurence Smail
 Luvia & Tim Sniffen
 Raymond Spencer
 Troy & Theresa Stavens
 Wendy Stephens
 Target Corporation
 Helmuth Triesmann &
 Tamzen Burgess
 Sandra Tudor
 Joseph Umstead
 Charlotte & Doug Vaughan
 W.M. Jordan Company
 James & Mildred Wassum
 Chip & Peggy Watson
 Carolyn Webb
 Charles Webb & Kathy
 James-Webb
 Wendy C. Drucker Family
 Foundation
 Virginia Wertman &
 Stanley Bolding
 Raymond & K.D. Whipple

William Wilds
 Michael Williams-Hickman
 Josephine Williams
 Kristen Witt
 Woman's Club of Hilton Village
 Stephen & Eileen Chadis Wood
 Patricia & Gerard Woodbury
 Jim & Joan Wool
 Emily Worley
 Russell Wright
 Betty Wrightson
 Amy Zakrzewski Watson

**Deceased*

Christopher & Brynn Beal
 Rose Benton
 Sue Danehy
 David Hamilton
 Robert R. Hatten
 Judith Hilburger
 Wilford & Kristie Holcombe
 Lou Tiller Joyner
 Kathrin Loeffert
 Jeannine Moga
 Valerie Wallace
 Bobby & Joy Walters



Looking Ahead



Dear Friends,

It is a joy to return to live teaching, rehearsing and performing again, as schools re-opened in September 2021 to in-person classes. After bonding through virtual lessons, recordings, and concerts together, the students are even more excited than we are to be reunited.

During the 18 months that our programs were virtual, we had fewer opportunities for recruitment, so this year and the next will certainly be rebuilding years. However, we are well on our way and expect to be back on a growth trajectory very soon.

Our acquisition of the Peninsula Youth Orchestra in July 2020 was a milestone that effectively completes a continuum of education for Soundscapes musicians, from early childhood through young adulthood. This fall we have re-launched all three components of the PYO — wind band, string orchestra, and symphony orchestra — and have found a home at The American Theatre in Hampton for this year's concerts. Now that PYO is under the Soundscapes umbrella, we look forward to redefining what a youth orchestra can be!

To prepare for a new period of growth, we will be exploring ways to reach more students and make our programming model more efficient through a study funded by a generous grant from the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Foundation. We expect to have results to share with you in next year's annual report.

There are exciting years ahead! Thank you for being a part of our journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne W. Henry".

Anne W. Henry
Co-founder and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reynaldo Ramirez".

Reynaldo Ramirez
Co-founder and Program Director

How to Support Soundscapes Now

Generous community supporters like you to make our program possible. To learn about volunteer opportunities, instrument donation, and specific ways to give, like the Encore Club and the Yaffa Howell Music Fund, please visit the Soundscapes website. We always welcome questions from our supporters and friends.

Contact Carol Minter anytime at 757-273-6178 ext. 5 or cminter@soundscapeshr.org to learn more.

Join the Encore Club

Every phenomenal performance deserves an encore. The new Encore Club at Soundscapes recognizes donors who make monthly gifts to the program. By joining the Encore Club, you are giving our student musicians a standing ovation every month and allowing them to come back to the program day after day, year after year.



Make a Gift

The vast majority of students at Soundscapes are considered economically disadvantaged, which is why our daily program is FREE to all participants and PYO is offered on a sliding scale. You make our program possible with your generous support!

For individual gifts of at least \$500 and corporate gifts of at least \$616, we are pleased to offer Neighborhood Assistance Program state tax credits worth 65% of your donation. That means the out-of-pocket cost of a \$1,000 donation would be only \$350. NAP tax credits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call to confirm availability before making your gift.



Donate an Instrument

Do you have an instrument hidden away in a closet or under a bed that hasn't been played in a while? Consider donating it to Soundscapes! For students from low-income households, purchasing or renting an instrument can be a significant barrier, which is why we provide free instruments for all students in the program.



Volunteer Your Time

We provide volunteer opportunities to suit your needs, whether you are looking for a regular commitment to work with the students during weekday afternoons, a one-time volunteer opportunity during an event, or something in between. Let us know your interests and availability, and we will be glad to find a way for you to get involved!

We always welcome questions from our supporters and friends.





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Use the QR code or visit soundscapes.org/FY21AR to see an interactive version of this report, including videos of student performances, a Carnegie Hall concert featuring an original Soundscapes composition, and an NNPS-TV feature on Soundscapes.