LEADING THE CAUSE FOR MUSIC EDUCATION
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory (the “Symphony”) was organized in 1948 under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes. We are the sixth oldest continuously operating youth orchestra in the United States. Based in Balboa Park, we are the San Diego region’s leading youth music education organization. We are committed to developing student performance skills and character through music education and have the goal of “Making Music Education Accessible and Affordable to All.”

LEADING THE CAUSE FOR MUSIC EDUCATION
We believe that every young person inspired by the art and rigor of making music embodies a future rich with hope, joy and the rewards of personal achievement and community involvement. For these reasons, we continue to advance our vision of making high quality music education accessible and affordable for all students. We pursue this vision through the following four Impact Areas.

PERSONAL MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT
Our Conservatory programs in Balboa Park offer students at every level the opportunity to achieve aspirations of personal and artistic excellence. More than 600 aspiring musicians, aged 8 to 25 from as far as Riverside and Imperial Counties and northern Baja California, Mexico, participate. They gathered every Saturday and Sunday to rehearse under the guidance of Music Director Jeff Edmons and our expert faculty for eight concerts in professional venues. Our Inspiration, Showcase and Ovation programs offer three tiers of increasingly advanced instruction.

To supplement our core orchestral and wind ensemble instruction, we offer chamber music, concerto competitions, mentoring programs, music theory and sponsored lessons. Through our expanded partnership with La Jolla Music Society (LJMS), our Chamber Orchestra performed with world-class artists and we offered a second year of The Music Institute for 9th through 12th graders with college level instruction and master classes with visiting artists.

Our 13th Annual International Youth Symphony attracted 24 of the finest young musicians from around the world to play alongside our talented musicians. Our musicians also received invitations to Carnegie Hall’s National Youth Orchestra of the United States, National Symphony Summer Institute, Tanglewood Music Institute, and LA Phil Take A Stand Festival.

PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY ACCESS
To fulfill our vision, we open pathways and align resources to ensure access to music education for all children. We collaborate with schools and districts to restore and strengthen music programs locally and nationally.

Our signature Community Opus Project, in partnership with the Chula Vista Elementary School District (CVESD), served more than 350 students with after school music instruction. The district observed that Opus students had better attendance rates, improved test scores, less disciplinary issues and more engaged parents. As a result, CVESD made a $15 million commitment to fully restore arts education to the regular school day curriculum for all 29,000 of its students in 2015-16. CVESD renewed its $15 million arts education investment in June 2017 to extend through June, 2021.

Through our consulting with the Fortissimo program, San Marcos Unified School District announced its return of music education to the school day at all 11 of its elementary schools. Additional partnerships with Casa de Amistad, Gompers Prep Academy, and the Hoover High cluster of schools in City Heights are all focused on strengthening music in schools.

We are just as devoted to ensuring personal access to our Conservatory programs. We remove participation barriers by providing need-based tuition awards as well as instrument loans, sponsored lessons and free tickets for families. We also partner to serve under-resourced youth through our Tickets with Purpose program to give access to concerts.

In the 2016-17 season, SDYS provided 98 students with $62,925 in need-based tuition assistance, 54 students with sponsored lessons to support individual improvement, and 550 free concert tickets for low-income families. 42 Community Opus Project musicians participated in the Conservatory Programs alongside peers from across the region.
Our newest initiative is Baby and Me Music (BAMM). BAMM focuses on child and parent bonding through shared music making and movement. BAMM is offered in Balboa Park and community sites.

RESEARCH, MEASUREMENT, AND EVALUATION

Essential to advancing the cause of music education for all children is having strong evidence of music’s benefits. SDYS collaborates with multiple partners to gather and analyze outcomes associated with music learning.

CVESD works with SDYS to analyze its own data and provide data to other research partners. The most profound impact CVESD identified after returning music and the arts to every school was a half percent increase in student attendance across the district. This bodes well for student learning and brought an extra $500,000 to the district. SDYS and UC San Diego researchers are now examining multi-year attendance data to identify patterns associated with student access to music education.

SDYS worked with the Longy School of Music at Bard College and WolfBrown Consulting to track the social and academic achievements of student musicians in El Sistema programs across the country compared to non-music students. Findings show Opus musicians have the largest increase in academic behavior measures compared to both the local control group and their national peers. These outcomes affirm Opus contributes to strong preparation for students’ ongoing success in school.

Our five-year SIMPHONY study with UC San Diego’s Center for Human Development examines how music learning affects the physical development of the brain, language acquisition and attention span. Early results show that students learning music have more stable developmental progression than the control group in perception, cognition, and language growth. This study receives international and national media attention for its role in advancing the field of music and cognition.

STORYTELLING, AWARENESS, AND ADVOCACY

We educate the community and the nation about the value of music education and share stories of individual and social change resulting from music education.

KPBS profiled our role in providing a new musical home for two sisters when they arrived in San Diego after fleeing the war in Syria. Their story was shared nationally as an example of the power of the arts to create stability and continuity for young people experiencing extreme change or disruption. The National Endowment for the Arts, Education Commission of the State/Arts Education Partnership, UC TV, and NAMM Foundation have all published online, video, or print stories about SDYS.

We meet routinely with policy makers and elected officials to influence decisions that strengthen music education. Likewise, we speak locally, regionally and nationally at conferences, on webinars and during legislative hearings. 2016-17 presentations were at Grantmakers for Education, California School Board Association, Miami Performing Arts Council and Society for Music, Cognition and Perception.

SDYS influences the return of music education well beyond the direct reach of our own programs. We consult with philanthropists, school leaders and parents locally and nationally to share our knowledge and experience.

MISSION | VISION | VALUES

Mission: Instill excellence in the musical and personal development of students through rigorous and inspiring musical training experiences.

Core Values:
- Personal Achievement — Motivating and facilitating performance excellence
- Inclusiveness — Embracing diversity and promoting collective learning
- Community Leadership — Developing respectful and responsible citizenship for the greater good

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

As SDYS continues to grow its budget, its impact in the community grows. Financial highlights for the year:

- Earned income of $710,220, contributed and government grant income of $1,125,382 and endowment distributions of $65,309 gave SDYS total operating revenues of $1,900,911. An operating surplus of $2,347 was achieved after operating expenses of $1,898,564.
- Over $400,000 of this total was raised from individuals, foundations, government grants, and school districts to specifically support outreach programs like the Community Opus Project.
- Our 2017 Encore! Scholarship Fund Raiser generated nearly $200,000 to support the Annual Scholarship Fund’s need and merit based tuition scholarships, sponsored lessons program, audition coaching, and musical instruments.

Our audited financial report is now available online at www.sdys.org under “About SDYS.”

INCOME
- 46% Conservatory and Community Donations (individuals, foundations, businesses)
- 37% Earned (tuition, tickets, contracts)
- 19% Administration & Fundraising Staff
- 14% Government (city, county, state, national)
- 5% General & Administrative (technology, storage, insurance)
- 4% Endowment Disbursement

EXPENSES
- 58% Program Staff (faculty, production)
- 19% Administration & Fundraising Staff
- 14% Conservatory & Community Programs (concert halls, music, programs)
- 5% General & Administrative (technology, storage, insurance)
- 4% Fundraising (mailings, events)