



ARKANSAS
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

EVERY NOTE,
EVERY NEIGHBOR



2025 - 2026 IMPACT REPORT

Careful stewardship and your generosity allowed the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra to balance its budget and employ our musicians to serve the community.

Your support helps the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra thrive.

"Because of you, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra had one of the strongest years in our history. Your generosity helped us balance our budget for the 17th year in a row, close the year with a surplus, and share that success directly with the musicians who bring the orchestra alive in so many ways. Two years into life at the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center, one thing is certain: this is YOUR symphony, and it's thriving because of you."

— ASO CEO Christina Littlejohn

65K+

Arkansans heard live
music at 55 concerts
across the state

180+

professional musicians
employed in the
2025-26 season

30K+

students reached
annually through the
E. Lee Ronnel
Music Academy

17

consecutive years of a
balanced operating
budget

\$14M

ASO's endowment grew
to \$14 million, providing
long-term stability

1.3K+

Arkansans enrolled in
the \$9/month Concert
Membership



EDUCATION



COMMUNITY



OUR MUSICIANS



ACCESSIBILITY

Your Gifts at Work



Hiring World-Class Musicians Who Call Arkansas Home

180+

professional musicians
employed in the
2025-26 season

14

full-time ASO musicians,
plus more than 70
part-time

1

new commissioned
recording: Tania
León's *Pasajes*

260

performers on stage
for *Carmina Burana*

Expanding Our Music Education & Engagement Programs

30K+

students reached annually
through the E. Lee Ronnel
Music Academy

127

ASO Youth Ensemble
musicians, from 37
Arkansas zip codes

700+

students visiting the
Music Center
each week

30%

of ASO Youth Ensemble
students attended
on scholarship

"Diction was perfect from the entire choral force, even the youngsters. I don't recall hearing a better choral sound even on recordings. Conductor Geoffrey Robson ably, nay, superlatively marshalled the massive musical forces."

— Eric Harrison, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
review of *Carmina Burana*



Keeping Music Accessible for Everyone

12.8K+

students reached through the
annual Children's Concert

1.8K+

free Bank OZK Kids' Tickets used,
saving families \$98,000+

1.3K+

Arkansans enrolled in the
\$9/month Concert
Membership

4K+

audience members across
two *Carmina Burana*
performances

Your Gifts at Work

MUSIC CENTER

Two Years at the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center

Two years ago, gifts like yours helped open the ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center, a radically welcoming hub of musical activity for all Arkansans. Moving the River Rhapsodies chamber series into the recital hall let ASO double its chamber music calendar. A \$1 million anniversary gift from Susie and Charles Morgan launched the ASO Children's Choir and expanded free and low-cost music education, investments that are already paying off.

2

years open in the
East Village

6

new programs
and counting at
the Music Center

1st

orchestra-owned
community Music Center
of its kind in the U.S.

\$11.75M

Music Center, funded by 200+ donors



FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Built to Last

Thanks to donors like you, ASO balanced its operating budget for the 17th year in a row and grew the ASO Endowment to \$14 million — all while taking on a bigger season and a new building. Your support funds this season's concerts and helps secure this orchestra's music for generations to come.

17

years of
balanced budgets

\$14M

ASO
Endowment

\$5M

budget



Thank You!