

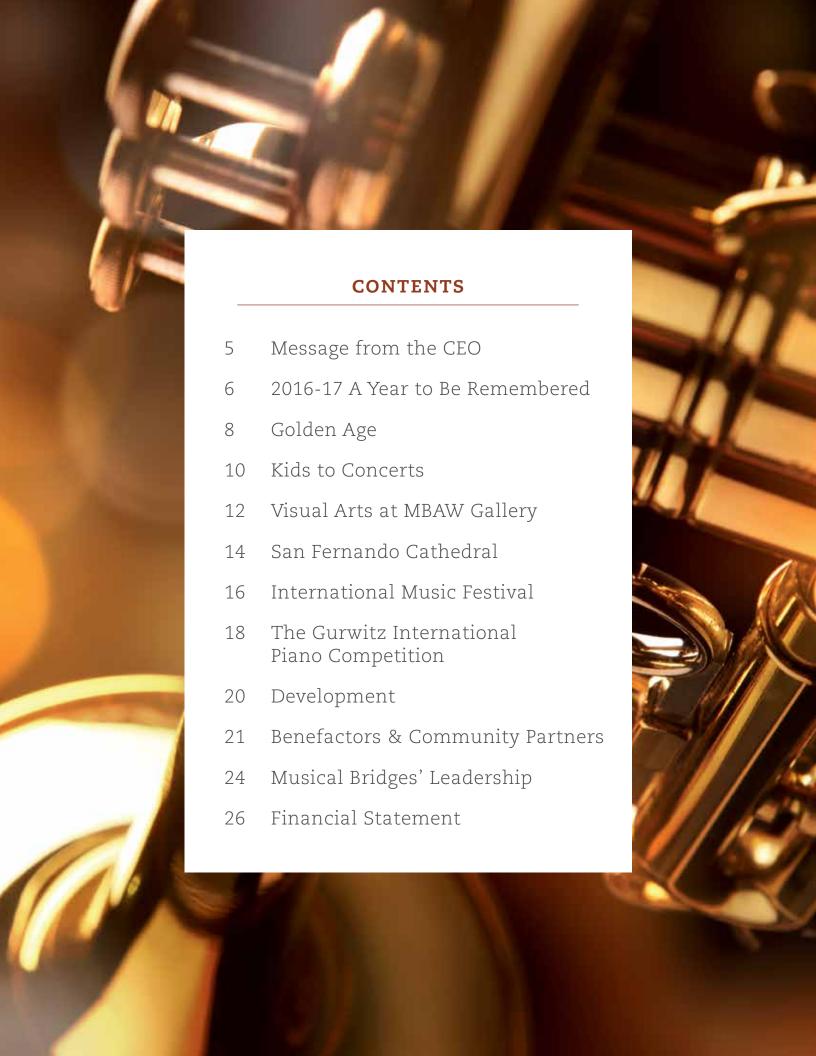


## **OUR MISSION**

UNITE EDUCATE INSPIRE

# Musical Bridges Around the World

welcomes the best and brightest artistic talent from across the globe to inspire audiences with dynamic, unparalleled excellence in the performing arts. Our performances and educational outreach programs reach 80,000 people annually!





## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# BUILDING THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS IN SAN ANTONIO

NOTHING IS MORE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR HUMANITY THAN THE ARTS. They ennoble and inspire us. They foster creativity, goodness and beauty. The arts bring us together regardless of ethnicity, religion or age, help us express our values and build bridges between cultures.

Musical Bridges Around the World introduces more than 50,000 school children annually to the music and customs of world cultures in a unique learning experience that teaches STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) concepts and lessons.

We provide access to the arts to the San Antonio community for the young, the old, the economically disadvantaged, those from different cultures and different countries.

Many excellent performing, community-based and educational arts organizations enrich and enhance the quality of life in San Antonio. Musical Bridges Around the World, however, is one which implements its mission of uniting, educating and inspiring through a unique array of culturally diverse performing and visual arts programs.

Looking to the future....

Our vision is to connect children and adults of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and stations in life with their heritage and their own cultures by transforming a downtown space into a cultural discovery center. Events and activities will focus on allowing an immigrant child, for example, to embrace his or her new home and new culture by enriching their understanding of their own cultural heritage.

We are very appreciative of your dedication to our mission and our belief in the importance of the arts in our lives. As you continue to support our efforts we will return your belief in us by bringing our message of "unite, educate and inspire" through a growing array of culturally diverse performing and visual art programming in the years to come.

ANYA GROKHOVSKI, DMA
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

## 2016-17

## A YEAR TO BE REMEMBERED

Musical Bridges' 19th Season saw growth across each sector of programming. With new members of the board providing fresh perspectives and alternate backgrounds to new partnerships and solidified relations with growing entities like DreamWeek, Main Plaza Conservancy and WellMed. Golden Age concerts in Senior facilities increased as 50,000 school children were reached through Kids to Concerts in primarily underserved, Title 1 schools bringing the world to their campuses - showcasing the beauty of foreign cultures through the performing arts. Additionally, Musical Sprouts - A Pilot Study researching the impact of Kids to Concerts with enhanced academic STEAM curricula, was launched at two Southwest Independent Schools to gauge the impact of this programming on standardized test scores. Remarkable improvements in year one promise fruitful results for the three year study! The MBAW Art Gallery continues to thrive, showcasing a unique selection of artists from across the globe while founding music series at Cathedral San Fernando alongside the 4th International Music Festival saw increased media coverage, attendance and overall community engagement.

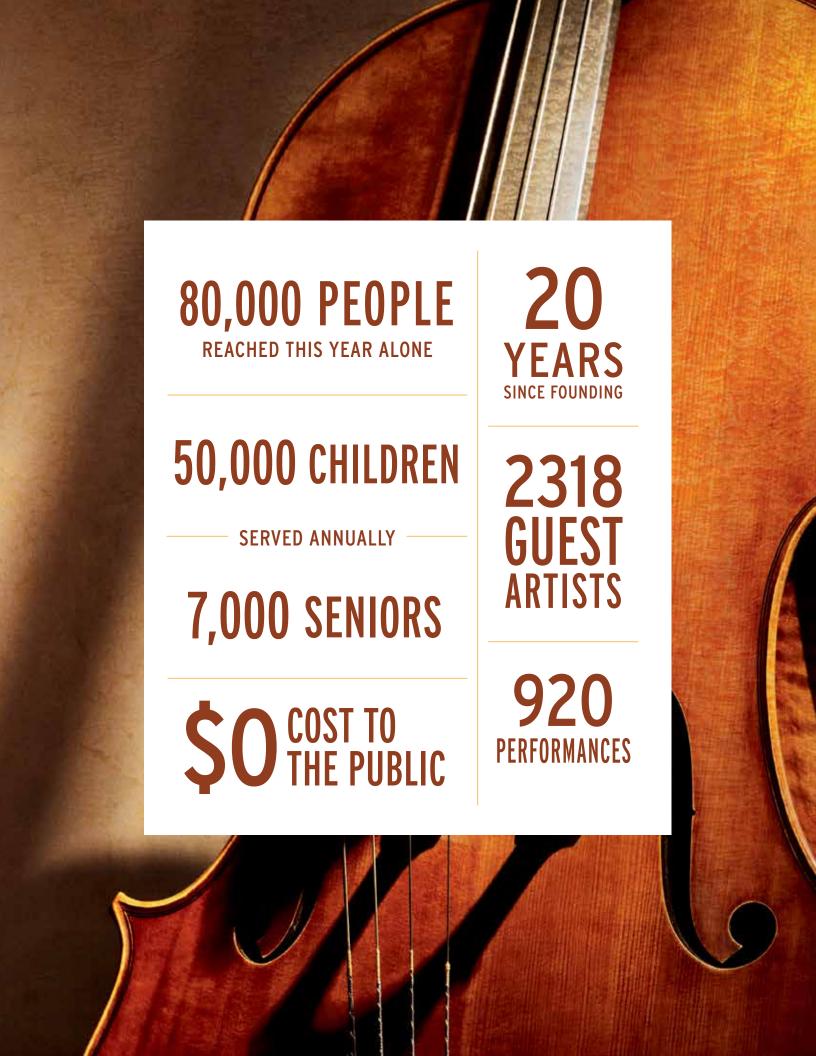
Last year Texas Commission on the Arts, an MBAW funder at the State level, designated 44 blocks of downtown San Antonio as The Zona Cultural. With this designation, MBAW sees the potential for growth of Musical Evenings at San Fernando Cathedral and is exploring the possibility of a future downtown headquarters. A Visioning Committee comprised of Members of the Board, Advisory Council, and stakeholders conducted a series of five meetings to devise a Case for Support which was circulated prior to 47 interviews conducted by Underwood & Associates and compiled into a feasibility study reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Organizationally Fiscal Year16/17 was a very productive year. MBAW's operating budget has increased from \$924,000 to a projected \$1,000,000 in FY 17/18. The board welcomed several new members throughout the year: Psychotherapist and Director of Luminous Counseling Center, Maria Fatima Winsborough; VP-Certified Financial Consultant at Charles Schwab, Dominic Anderson; management and administration professional of public, private, non-profit and for-profit organizations, Anne Johnson; Senior Vice President and CFO of Raba Kistner, Inc., Bryan Helbert; Vice Chairman for Aga Khan Foundation USA, Southwest Region, founder of the Muslim Cultural Heritage Society, Waheeda Kara; founder of JLen Events, Jaime Waltman; Program Leader for Design & Construction at H-E-B, Vernon Haney; and former Deputy General Counsel at the US Department of Agriculture Frank Stenger-Castro. MBAW hired full-time Artistic Coordinator, Elena Portnaya in September 2016. The Board of Directors voted to create this position responsible for negotiating artist contracts and programs, handling communications with the artists and artist managers, reviewing contracts and riders, and serving as the liaison between MBAW and stage hands at venues.

Following the close of the season, MBAW is proud to have merged with the San Antonio International Piano Competition, rebranded "The Gurwitz" for the 2020 Competition, a quadrennial event. A steady increase in budget with a fiscally responsible board, continues to allow for consistent growth for the organization.

Suhail Arastu

Director of Development & Marketing







I WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU from all of us at McCullough Hall for the performance yesterday. The residents just loved it. We would love to be added to itinerary whenever possible. Thank you."

CARLYE QUINONEZ, ACTIVITY DIRECTOR, MCCULLOUGH HALL NURSING CENTER, INC.







## GOLDEN AGE

### WIPING THE DUST FROM OUR SOULS

Musical Bridges Around the World continued its fourth year of retirement community outreach program, Golden Age. MBAW brought 39 performances to 16 retirement communities/senior centers in 2016-2017.

Russia | Pianists Duo AleAnya | October 4, 2016-October 6, 2016 | Adante Independent Living, Army Residence Community

Russia | Flying Balalaika Brothers | October 6, 2016 | Villa de San Antonio, Waterford on Huebner, Brookdale Shavano Park, McCullough Hall Nursing Center, New Forest Estates Assisted Living

Russia | Flying Balalaika Brothers | November 29, 2016 | District 2 Senior Center

Ukraine | Pianist Oleg Poliansky | November 30 - December 1, 2016 | Towers on Park Lane, Adante Independent Living, Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

USA & Russia | Soprano Icy Simpson, Mezzo Soprano Veronica Williams, Pianist Elena Portnaya | January 4, 2017 | Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center, Adante Independent Living, Blue Skies of Texas West Campus

Russia | Flying Balalaika Brothers | January 5-6, 2017 | Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One- Stop Center, Towers on Park Lane, Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center, Doris Griffin Senior One-Stop Center, Newforest Estates Independent Living

Spain | Victor Prieto Trio | February 13, 2017 | Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

Russia | Pianist Elena Portnaya & Violinist Mark Cheikhet | February 23, 2017 | Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center, Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center

Czech Republic | Clarinetist Felix Slováček Jr.; Pianist Viacheslav Grokhovski | April 17-18, 2017 | Elvira

Cisneros Senior Community Center, Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

Canary Islands & Russia | Flamenco Dancer Yolanda G. Sobrado & Pianist Nina McIntire | May 9, 2017 | Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center, Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

India | Sitarist Indrajit Banerjee & Tablaist Gouri Sankar Karmakar | May 15, 2017 | Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center

France | Actress Julya Jara & Pianist Elena Portnaya | May 17-18, 2017 | Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center, Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

Russia | Pianists Duo AleAnya | May 23, 2017 | Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

USA & Russia | Mezzo Soprano Veronica Williams & Pianist Elena Portnaya | May 30,2017 | Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center, Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior One-Stop Center

USA | Flutist Katchie Cartwright; Guitarist Mike Maddux | June 22, 2017 | Doris Griffin Senior One Stop Center

Russia | Flying Balalaika Brothers | July 26-28, 2017 | Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center, Mc-Cullough Hall Nursing Center, Doris Griffin Senior One Stop Center, Brookdale Castle Hills, Army Residence Community

India | Sitarist Indrajit Banerjee; Tablaist Jason McKenzie | August 15, 2017 | Doris Griffin Senior One-Stop Center

This program reached approximately 7,800 senior citizens this year and was highly praised by seniors and retirement communities. MBAW has received numerous calls from retirement communities requesting the program for their residents.

# EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH AT MUSICAL BRIDGES AROUND THE WORLD

### EDUCATION GATHERS MOMENTUM

Musical Bridges Around the World (MBAW) is dedicated to the children of San Antonio by partnering with the school districts of San Antonio. Through its student educational outreach programs, MBAW is able to reach over 50,000 children in grades K-12 through interactive, multicultural performances by world-class artists of the highest caliber. MBAW has created two programs: Kids to Concerts and Musical Sprouts. Both programs provide lessons and concerts that connect academics to the world of Music and the cultures they celebrate.

Kids to Concerts (KtC) is an educational outreach program that introduces students of San Antonio to cultures from various countries through music and dance. It is a sort of virtual field trip without having to leave the school. The countries of the world come to the schools to engage the children of San Antonio in a unique experience of meeting and connecting to people from places they learn about in their texts books. Nations from around the globe come to life through the Kids to Concerts series.

Educators and children continuously praise the program for being innovative, engaging and educational. Ms. Muñoz, principal of Indian Creek Elementary said, "I felt like the artists were teachers because they knew how to engage the students and they talked like teachers." One vital component of the program is that the concerts integrate Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) into its programming allowing the concerts to be an extension of the classroom. Along with TEKS, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) activities are also integrated into the curricula.

Along with Kids to Concerts, MBAW has piloted a program called Musical Sprouts. The mission behind Musical Sprouts is to be that connection between STEM and the countries we learn from in our Kids to Concert series. The program consist of 5 lessons with assessments before and after the lessons. The students learn the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math concepts in addition to more in depth information about the country they are studying. It is a way for the students to take a deeper look into the country and learn more about its contributions to the worlds of Science, Engineering, Math and Technology. They also learn more of the artistic side of the country allowing us to take a deeper look into the Arts of the country through Art, Drama, Music and or Dance. While Kids to Concerts is an extension to the classroom; Musical Sprouts is a part of the classroom.

Caleb Gonzalez Educational Outreach Coordinator







THANK YOU for sharing MY music with my new friends."

SYRIAN REFUGEE STUDENT TO SYRIAN CLARINETIST KINAN AZMEH AFTER KIDS TO CONCERTS PERFORMANCE



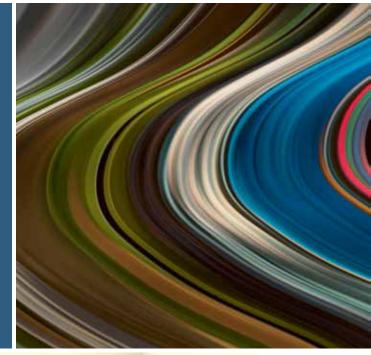






TO CREATE THE WORK OF ART is to create the world."

WASSILLY KANDINSKY





## MBAW ART GALLERY

## THE POWER OF ART

In our Musical Bridges Around the World family we strongly believe in the power of art to impact lives - whether it is the musical harmony of live performance or the beauty of color and composition in a visual work of art. For this very reason we couldn't pass up the opportunity to turn MBAW Headquarters into a gallery space, where we have showcased 39 artists during our 2016/2017 season alone!

Following our mission to unite, educate and inspire audiences through culturally diverse programming, we were able to bring together artists representing different cultures under our roof. One of the great highlights was a live web conference and Q&A with artists Chan Hao, Ge Qiang and Geng Minxia all the way from Wuxi, China during the opening reception of *Whispers of Wuxi*. Wuxi is San Antonio's Sister City and the exhibition was made possible through collaboration with Luminaria and support of the city's International Relations Office. A group of high school students from Wuxi visited the exhibition during its run and the kids were amazed to find the cultural connections between their own city and San Antonio while on their exchange trip.

We believe in partnerships that benefit our audiences, as such we collaborated with Olaju Art Group to showcase the work of London based photographer Juliana Kasumu during DreamWeek 2017, and also tapped into San Antonio's very own Lone Star Arts District - curated by MBAW Gallerist Julya Jara, Of Lace and Steel featured Laura Mijangos and Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga at Dock Space Gallery, giving us the opportunity to introduce MBAW to demographics in the downtown area.

Art openings at MBAW Gallery are lively events with great attendance and are always accompanied with live music from San Antonio-based talent. People from all walks of life enjoy FREE, inspirational entertainment at just about the only highly artistic entity on the corridor between downtown San Antonio and the city of Boerne. We are proud to have been able to reach more audiences through the visual arts segment of our programming, and have far reaching plans for our 2017/2018 season! We hope to see you at our exhibitions.

Julya Jara Gallerist

7 SHOWS | 39 ARTISTS | 7 COUNTRIES: CHINA, KENYA, LATVIA, MEXICO, RUSSIA, UNITED KINGDOM, USA

# MUSICAL EVENINGS AT SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL

## ALIVE WITH MUSIC

Russell Hill Rogers Musical Evenings at San Fernando Cathedral 2016-2017 showcased guest artists of the highest caliber from Ukraine, Austria, Russia, Lithuania, Switzerland, and the United States in five free public offerings between October 2016 and May 2017. This was our best season yet as the cathedral was full to capacity for each concert with approximately 2,500 in attendance! Concert-goers were invited to meet the artists at the free catered dessert reception following each performance:

**Con Fuego!** | **October 30, 2016** | Vadym Kholodenko emerged as one of the most musically dynamic and technically gifted performers of his generation, heralded for interpretations that are "impeccable, tasteful and vibrant, and also something more: imaginative" (Cleveland Plain Dealer). Winner of the coveted gold medal and all special prizes at the Fourteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2013.

**Chicken Soup | December 4, 2016 |** New York's hot ensemble Ljova and the Kontraband brought together influences from classical, klezmer, tango, jazz and Gypsy music. The ensemble featured world renown composer Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin and his close collaborators on accordion, bass and percussion. The ensemble brought together traditions from around the globe into one delicious melting pot.

**Spirituals in Concert | January 15, 2017 |** In collaboration with San Antonio DreamWeek "Spirituals in Concert" was a collaborative effort of two young sopranos: Icy Simpson and Veronica Williams alongside UTSA concert choir under the direction of Maestro John Silantien. The program was a glorious celebration of African American heritage and included spirituals in addition to new works.

**Viennese Tort | March 26, 2017 |** The members of the Janoska Ensemble are united not only by their talent and family ties, but first and foremost by the musical vision they share. On the strength of their virtuosity and improvisation, the musicians are able to perform a wide-ranging repertoire extending from popular classics and their own compositions to unique arrangements that cover genres such as gypsy, tango and pop.

**Black Swan | May 7, 2017 |** A new voice in the world of violin performers, Tim Fain is a multimedia visionary exploring the intersection of music, art, dance and cinema. His performance of the maniacal Tchaikovsky underpinning Natalie Portman's footwork in Black Swan shook the world! "I feel like I've got movies running through my veins." —Tim Fain







THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE of Musical Bridges this year has been absolutely incredible. You have managed to capture the imagination of everyone that attends the events."

DENIS CONNOLLY
VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT | CLAIMATIC











THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL that Musical Bridges produces every year is really an inspirational experience. You have the opportunity to see individuals from all over the world come to San Antonio and share their talents. It's something that we don't get every day."

ADRIANA FLORES
VICE PRESIDENT, ALAMO MUSIC CENTER





## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

### AN INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE

MBAW's 4th Annual International Music Festival took place from Feb. 12-26, 2017, offering eight entertaining concerts. The festival was a tremendous success, attended by over 5,000 people. Here are some excerpts from descriptions in an article written by Adam Tutor in San Antonio's Rivard Report:

The Jones Family Singers are made up (in part) of five sisters, two brothers, and their father, and hail from the tiny Texas town of Markham. Their stewardship of a long musical tradition has led to performances at the Lincoln Center, the Monterey Jazz Festival, and even a tour of Russia. A more modern approach, Soul Fruit Gospel brought an R&B and Soul tinge to the gospel tradition.

Hailing from Spain, accordionist Victor Prieto combined elements of Galician-Celtic music, New York City jazz, and multi-tonal singing. Trained at Berklee College of Music, Prieto recorded with Yo-Yo Ma, received a Grammy Award, and still found time to teach master classes all across Europe. "It's very romantic jazz," Anya Grokhovski said.

A one-woman orchestra, cellist Zoe Keating has torn the covers off the classical musician's solo act to unveil an approach that merges 21st century technology with an ageold art form. According to Grokhovski, Keating records layers of her cello on top of one another, thus displaying an intricacy of soundscape.

Inspired by his performance for the great Herbie Hancock in his native Indonesia at the age of 8, pianist Joey Alexander began his remarkable ascent into the record books of jazz. At 13, he has already graced the stages of the Newport Jazz Festival, visited nearly every continent, and performed with Wynton Marsalis at the heralded Lincoln Center.

Kevork Mourad, a visual artist from Armenia, presented his performance "Lost Spring" in a multimedia offering. A live orchestra was incorporated, along with dancing, singing and live drawings projected at the Tobin Center's Carlos Alvarez Studio."

Argentine Bandoneon player JP Jofre and his band showcased their intricate arrangements in a performance that had attendees dancing tango in the aisles! Jofre has performed alongside greats such as Paquito d'Rivera and with Philharmonics across the nation, including our very own San Antonio Symphony!

During "A Tribute to Charlie Haden," Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba and his quartet paid homage to the jazz great, who helped give Rubalcaba his American start in the early '90s. Steeped in the piano jazz tradition of Monk, Powell, and Peterson and the influence of Bird and Diz, Rubalcaba displayed his skills on the ebonies and ivories to conclude the festival's whirlwind world tour at the Tobin Center's H-E-B Performance Hall.

## THE GURWITZ

# RUTH JEAN GURWITZ INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION



San Antonio International Piano Competition has been the pride of our Cultural Scene for 32 years.

In 2016 the competition's leadership decided to join forces with Musical Bridges Around the World and in 2017 both organizations completed the merger.

During the process of negotiating it was decided to rename the competition after it's longtime Director and supporter Ruth Jean Gurwitz.

MBAW Staff, Board of Directors and Competition Leadership are looking forward to taking the competition to the international stage, showcasing San Antonio as a true Cosmopolitan Cultural Center.







IT IS EXCITING to be a part of the move into this new era for the Gurwitz International Piano Competition"

ANNE JOHNSON
MUSICAL BRIDGES BOARD MEMBER

FORMER BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE SAN ANTONIC





## MUSICAL BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT

### SERVING A DIVERSE AND GROWING AUDIENCE

While in these United States our businesses depend on the sale of goods and services for their existence, and governments are funded by appropriations, not-for-profit organizations must depend on the generosity of those who are affected by their programming for their sustenance.

Musical Bridges has developed a wide ranging source of funding from public grants from the city of San Antonio and the County of Bexar, to charitable foundations from around the state and corporations. But our most cherished support comes from individuals who see the merit of the work being done for the people of all ages, social and wealth levels, ethnic backgrounds and education attained.

The number of programs that are offered free to the public including the much acclaimed concert series in San Fernando Cathedral, which is sponsored in large part by the Russell Hill Rogers Fund for the Arts, the Kid's to Concerts, an educational outreach program designed to benefit children in grades k-12 through interactive, multicultural musical and dance performances by world class artists is also offered to some 50,000 children for free, the Golden Age program where concerts are produced and brought to retirement communities in San Antonio at no charge to the centers.

To make these and other programs available to the community, in addition to the corporate and foundation support, we have created the Musical Bridges Society which provides for those who join at levels ranging from \$120 to \$10,000 or more with benefits available to members according to the Society level to which they subscribe. Of the six Musical Bridges Society levels of participation, the most popular, aside from the programs for Finetunerz who are the young (and young at heart), is the Musica Viva level which provides an amazing array of world famous artists performing in the living rooms of some of the most elegant homes in Bexar County.

For the year of this report, nearly one million dollars was generated for programs. This year the goal is to exceed that magic million dollar mark. We hope that if you are a participant of the Society or some other giving program that you will continue and consider some of the higher levels of participation. If you are not yet a participant. Come join us won't you? See what all the talk is about.

Cliff Underwood Development Consultant

## BENEFACTORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## 1 SEPTEMBER 2016 - PRESENT

The Board of Directors of Musical Bridges Around the World extends its heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations that have supported us over the past year.

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MUSICAL BRIDGES AROUND THE WORLD has been able to form a strong "bridge" between San Antonio and world-class visual and performing arts. I am proud to be a part of an organization that is altering the cultural landscape of our great city."

ERIC MILLER, MD
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MUSICAL BRIDGES' LEADERSHIP

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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PAUL MARTIN

AWILDA I. RAMOS, MD

RAFA J. VERAZA

JAIME WALTMAN

MARIA DE FATIMA WINSBOROUGH

STAN O. ZEBROWSKI, DDS

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

## ANYA GROKHOVSKI-MICHAELSON, DMA

Founder, Artistic Director & CEO

#### **SUHAIL ARASTU**

Director of Development & Marketing

### **DIANA TATU**

Executive Administrative Assistant

### **ELENA PORTNAYA, DMA**

Artistic Coordinator & Staff Pianist

#### JULYA JARA

Donor Relations Director & Gallerist

## **CALEB GONZALEZ**

Director of Educational Outreach

#### **EMILY ESTILL**

Volunteer Coordinator & Office Assistant

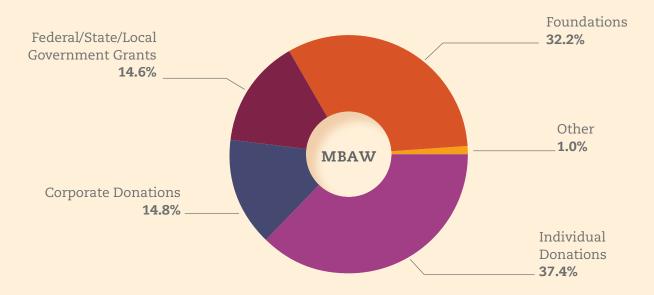
## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2016

## **REVENUES AND SUPPORT**

Individual Donations	\$ 369,497	37.4%
Corporate Donations	\$ 146,500	14.8%
Federal/State/ Local Government Grants	\$ 144,182	14.6%
Foundations	\$ 318,550	32.2%
Other	\$ 9,942	1.0%
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	\$ 988,671	
AND SOLI ON		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 579,991	65.6%
Fund Raising	\$ 115,041	13.0%
Administrative	\$ 188,535	21.3%
	\$ 883,566	

## **REVENUES AND SUPPORT**



## **OPERATING EXPENSES**

