



# About the Fenton Community Orchestra

The Fenton Community Orchestra was founded in August 2010 by three Fenton residents who wanted the opportunity to play in a multi-generational orchestra. Now in its fourteenth season, the FCO organization has more than 130 orchestra members and includes a second group for novice students - Simply Strings. The orchestras perform to thousands of audience members every year. FCO is a regional organization with musicians from Fenton, Lake Fenton, Bancroft, Brighton, Clarkston, Columbiaville, Davisburg, Davison, Durand, Freeland, Flint, Flushing, Goodrich, Grand Blanc, Hartland, Holly, Howell, Lennon, Linden, Owosso, Perry, Rochester Hills, Saginaw, Shelby Twp., St. Johns, Swartz Creek, Vassar and other communities. Since the inception of the FCO, more than 325 musicians have performed with its ensembles.

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Since its founding in 2010, the FCO has grown from 30 musicians to over 130 members. FCO musicians range in age from 14 to 90.
- In the past 13 years, over 41,000 community members enjoyed FCO offerings through concerts, events and activities.
- The FCO's commitment to education is shown by our Simply Strings programs, past performances at local schools, and our participation in the 2023 statewide music educators conference.



## PANDEMIC RECOVERY

The FCO and Simply Strings have rebounded robustly from COV-19. Season 13 saw the organization following the health policies of Fenton Area Public Schools, who in turn followed the Genesee County Health Department. Masking and vaccinations were optional, while members who were exposed followed the necessary guidelines to protect their fellow musicians. Our membership numbers are now similar to what they were before the pandemic. Also, pre-pandemic practices such as concert receptions and our donor Afterglow have been reinstated.



## SEASON 13 SUMMARY

The FCO's Season Thirteen provided many opportunities for musicians and community members to be inspired and engaged in the arts. We also represented greater Fenton on a statewide level at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, where a combined ensemble of the FCO and Simply Strings served as the demonstration group for Music Director Andrew Perkins' educational session: Weird FLEX, but ok - Making Flexible Arrangements WORK for your Ensemble. The FCO hosted an audience of more than 3,000 attendees between our December & April concerts held at Fenton High School, our annual Concert in the Park, and the MMC in Grand Rapids.

Simply Strings, Summer Strings and Saturday Strings introduced new members to our organization, giving them a relaxed environment in which to further their skills in a group environment under the tutelage of string pedagogue Jane Ball. These ensembles provided less experienced musicians a platform to learn, grow and perform music. They also allowed the FCO string members to have another group to perform with, also serving as mentors to our novice musicians. The FCO also participated in local community events such as the Fenton Ghost Walk, Jingle Fest and the July Art Walk. We also partnered with the Fenton High School Jazz Ensemble at the Southern Lakes Parks and Recreation Concert in the Park Series.



# Annual Report

SEASON 13 | FISCAL YEAR 2023



## FCO STRATEGIC PILLARS



**Creating Opportunities**  
for Musicians to participate in a Community Orchestra under qualified artistic leadership.



**Enriching Community Life**  
by sharing the Orchestra experience and performing arts with all citizens.



**Engaging Stakeholders**  
to advance the sustainability of the organization and its mission.

## MISSION

*The Fenton Community Orchestra provides a place for musicians of all ages to connect through music and offers uplifting, educational, and entertaining programs, both for our members and our audiences.*

**The FCO is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible (Tax ID: 27-3332801).**

## CONTACT US:

P.O. Box 73, Fenton, MI 48430 • (810) 390-5020  
FentonCommunityOrchestra@gmail.com • FentonOrchestra.org

[WWW.FENTONORCHESTRA.ORG](http://WWW.FENTONORCHESTRA.ORG)



# CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FENTON COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023

**THANK YOU** to our supporters for enabling the FCO to continue providing meaningful musical and educational opportunities for the greater Fenton community.

## LARGO CIRCLE SPONSORS (\$50-\$249)

Amazon Smile Foundation  
William & Beth Atkinson  
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Cause and Affect Gallery  
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## DIRECTOR CIRCLE (\$1,000-\$4,999)

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Melba Clapp  
Fenton Community Fund, a division of the  
Community Foundation of Greater Flint  
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Jerry & Kathleen Kortge  
Jim & Kathy Kortge - Fidelity Charitable Trust  
Lou & Sue Oleszkiewicz  
David & Linda Roeser - Marathon Flint Oil Co.  
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## CHAIRMAN CIRCLE SPONSORS (\$5,000+)

Greater Flint Arts Council  
Share Art Genesee Grant Program  
Michigan Arts & Culture Council & The  
National Endowment for the Arts

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

Season Presenting Corporate Sponsors:  
AMD Urgent Care  
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## BUSINESS COUNCIL SPONSORS

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## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Fenton Community Fund & Community Foundation of  
Greater Flint  
University of Michigan - Flint  
James and Donna Sens (Summer Strings sponsor)

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Cause and Affect Gallery  
City of Fenton: DDA & Arts & Culture Commission  
Fenton Area Public Schools  
Fenton High School Bands  
Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Fenton Village Players  
Southern Lakes Parks & Recreation  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church

## ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP)  
GuideStar.org  
Fenton & Linden Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Michigan Nonprofit Association  
League of American Orchestras

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
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**Vice President**  
John Krajny

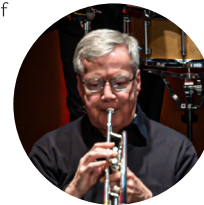
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Izzabella Schlusel  
Laurie Stiers  
Pat Valentine

Kistin Tesner - Chair Emerita

**Music Directors**  
Andrew David Perkins - Full Orchestra  
Jane Ball - Simply Strings

**Staff**  
Eric Crimmins, Operations Manager  
Tetyana Clarke, Consultant  
Eric Szczepanski, Consultant

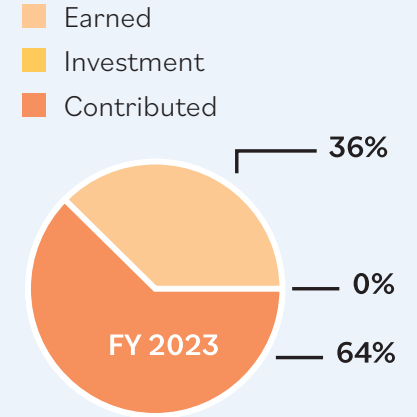


THE FCO IS  
SUPPORTED IN PART  
BY GRANTS FROM:

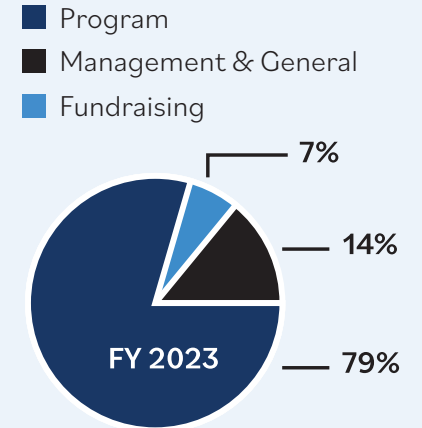


## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**Revenue: \$69,448.00**



**Expenses: \$86,856.00**



FCO programs are sponsored by the Greater Flint Arts Council Share Art Genesee Grant Program made possible by the Genesee County Arts Education and Cultural Enrichment Millage funds. Your tax dollars are at work!