

# 2013 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A MOMENT OF PRIDE FOR BUFFALO



photo: Mark Dellas



## DEAR FRIENDS OF THE BPO,

What an astounding year for the BPO! Over the course of the season, the orchestra poured their hearts into the music week after week, and when all was said and done, there is no doubt the BPO exceeded our wildest expectations. We began the year by telling all of you that the BPO had been selected to participate in the *Spring For Music* festival at Carnegie Hall. We knew it would be a terrific opportunity, but we never dreamed just how important this event would be for all of Western New York. The outpouring of support surpassed our expectations at every level.

Throughout the year, the staff and Board of Trustees worked diligently on the goals we outlined in our 2011 Strategic Plan. This is how we moved forward on our strategic themes:

### GROW OUR AUDIENCE

- We worked with new community partners to present Kathleen Battle, and with the University at Buffalo to bring poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko to Buffalo; both concerts engaged new audiences.
- We expanded and introduced new concert formats, BPO Rocks and Know the Score, designed to reach new and younger demographics.

### DEVELOP AND GROW ARTISTICALLY

- *Spring For Music* presented an opportunity to present significant and rarely-performed repertoire on the world's most famous stage, thereby motivating the orchestra to reach new levels of artistic excellence.
- We continued to release and make new and significant recordings for international release on the Naxos label.
- We highlighted the depth of talent in our orchestra with the world premiere of a triple trombone concerto written by Eric Ewazen and commissioned especially for the BPO's Trombone section.

### OPERATE WITH EXCELLENCE AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- We balanced our budget again, for the eighth time in the past nine years.
- We completed the integration of Kleinhans into the BPO operations, thereby creating operational efficiencies and new sources of revenue.
- We added significant gifts to our endowment through our planned gift program.

Please take a moment to celebrate with us and review a few of the stellar moments from this past season. We appreciate your support and are so pleased to have you as an important part of the BPO family.

Sincerely,

Louis P. Ciminelli  
Chair

JoAnn Falletta  
Music Director

Daniel Hart  
Executive Director



photo: Mark Dellas



BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

499 Franklin Street • Buffalo, NY 14202

*"JoAnn Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic take charge... offering a performance of the symphony full of character and conviction."*

— CLASSICS TODAY  
CD review

*Dear BPO,  
"Thank you both for planning and presenting our 2013 BPO Youth Concerts... The responses to both concerts were overwhelmingly positive with many saying that these were the best concerts ever."*

— MARK GARCIA  
Buffalo Public Schools

*"Tremendous national attention has been given to the grim future of America's orchestras... Orchestras that are succeeding, like the Buffalo Philharmonic, have demonstrated and communicated their own civic relevance, weaving themselves into their local cultural fabric beyond the limited confines of the "elitist" concert stage."*

— AMERICAN RECORD GUIDE



# ARTISTRY

**SEPTEMBER** **BPO Rock Series**  
The Indigo Girls kicked off a newly expanded rock series designed to attract new audiences. The series drew nearly 10,000 concertgoers over four concerts that also included a sold-out house for Western York favorite Natalie Merchant.



**OCTOBER** **Know The Score**  
*Know the Score* is the newest concert innovation that gives the opportunity to learn more in-depth about the music and composers in a shortened and casual setting; more than 1,800 people attended the three-concert series in its inaugural year.



**NOVEMBER** **Yevtushenko & Shostakovich**  
Eminent Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko appeared through a partnership with the University at Buffalo and with the support of the Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies; he worked with students and read on campus, and then provided emotional depth with a reading of his poem "Babi Yar," which inspired Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13.



**DECEMBER** **Master Classes**  
Master Classes were promoted in a new series featuring prominent guest artists and BPO musicians; all were free and open to the public and drew students from across the region as well as SUNY Fredonia, Potsdam, and Binghamton and as far away as Columbia University.



**JANUARY** **Community Spotlight**  
Nineteen student and community groups were featured in pre-concert performances throughout the season, with 1,071 student performers from Amherst, Buffalo Public Schools, Eden, Depew, Kenmore-Tonawanda, Lakeshore, Lancaster, and Springville-Griffith, Immaculata Academy, Park School, Buffalo Suzuki Strings, Chautauqua Children's Chorale, Buffalo Niagara Concert Band and the University at Buffalo.

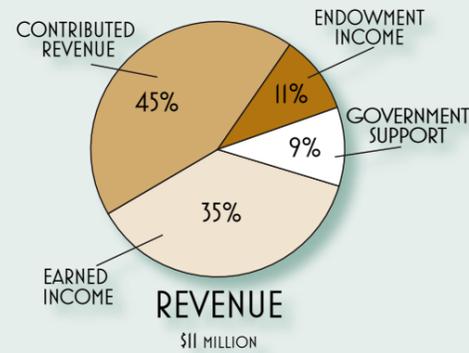


The BPO released two new CDs on the NAXOS label for worldwide distribution.



# 2012-13 HIGHLIGHTS

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT



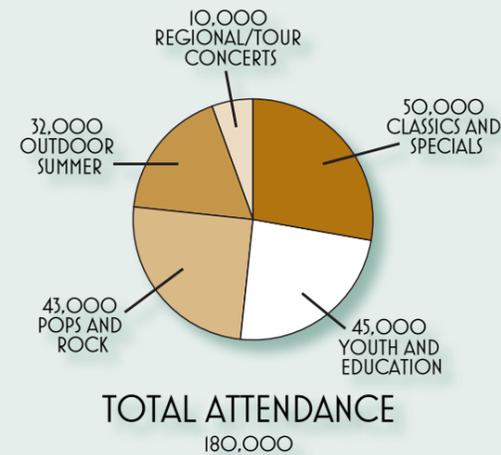
85% of the budget went to program expense (including orchestra and artist expense); 9% for administrative and 6% for fundraising.

## ENDOWMENT ASSETS



## ATTENDANCE

Plus hundreds of thousands that hear BPO concerts on WNED's *Philharmonic Fridays* and millions that listen to the BPO on American Public Radio's *Performance Today*



## Financial Highlights

- The Budget was balanced again, for the eighth time in nine years
- Ticket sales rose to another all-time high at \$1.78 million
- Endowment funds grew past the \$30 million mark for the first time ever
- Overall concert attendance increased 5%
- The Carnegie Hall concert became the largest single fundraising event in the history of the BPO, netting over \$500,000

# EXCELLENCE



**FEBRUARY**  
**Kathleen Battle and the Underground Railroad**  
More than 2,000 people, including 150 students from the Buffalo Public Schools, attended a performance by Kathleen Battle, one of the world's leading sopranos for an evening of spirituals commemorating our city's unique Underground Railroad history.



**MARCH**  
**Béla Fleck**  
Continuing a tradition of presenting cross-over artists in new works, the multi-talented instrumentalist performed his Banjo Concerto with the orchestra, and in the process reached out to audiences with an interest in jazz, folk and world music.



**APRIL**  
**West Side Connection**  
2,200 students participated in the fifth annual concert designed for 11 West Side schools; the audience included 450 refugees through the Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education program and was broadcast live to over 10,000 students via Time Warner Cable.



**MAY**  
**The Road to Carnegie Hall**  
As part of the *Spring For Music* festival, this concert was the highlight of the season. An unmitigated success, nearly selling out, the concert was an unparalleled fundraising opportunity led by M&T Bank. Fifty-one sponsors backed the trip, which also provided a unique collaboration among businesses, educational institutions and cultural leaders in Western New York.



**JUNE/JULY**  
**Canalside**  
Through a prestigious grant from the New York State Council on the Arts via the Regional Economic Development Council, the BPO created a two-day *Celebration of Music* at Canalside that drew over 5,500 people. This was part of a busy schedule of summer concerts that reached 32,000 concertgoers.

VISIT US AT [BPO.ORG](http://BPO.ORG)  
499 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
(716)885-0331

