

SAGINAW SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION



# ANNUAL REPORT

[saginawbayorchestra.com](http://saginawbayorchestra.com)

→ 2024 - 2025

*Our 89th Season*

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Prepared by :

Arika Massey  
*Marketing Manager*

Presented at:

2024 - 2025 Annual Meeting  
June 24, 2025

## **AGENDA**

### **SAGINAW SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 24, 2025**

Call Meeting To Order	Claudia Zacharek
Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting	Claudia Zacharek
President's Report	Claudia Zacharek
Executive Director's Report	Cameron Massey
Financial Manager's Report	Dave Rupp
Introduce Board of Directors	Claudia Zacharek
Introduce Staff	Claudia Zacharek
Nominations Committee Report	Paul Chaffee
Vote for Slate of Nominations	Paul Chaffee
Patricia Koucky Volunteer of the Year	Cameron Massey
Music Director's Report	Fouad Fakhouri
Adjournment	Claudia Zacharek

**SAGINAW SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 24, 2024  
ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by President Claudia Zacharek. She welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked them for coming. She also thanked staff for setting up the meeting room and for preparing the annual report booklet.

Claudia asked the members to review the minutes of the 2022-2023 Annual Meeting printed in the annual report booklet. Lou Ognisanti moved to receive and file the minutes; Jill Rood seconded. Carried.

Claudia stated that the 2023-2024 Season, **A Journey Through Time and Space**, was a fantastic season! She stated that the last concert, Star Trek, was amazing and thanked Maestro Fouad Fakhouri and the musicians for a great experience.

Claudia introduced Cameron Massey, Executive Director, to talk about the season. His question to the audience was When is music more than Music? It's when the community and the people work together doing something beautiful. It's about creating magical and memorable experiences through the power of symphonic music. He mentioned that the orchestra played at the Opening Ceremonies of the Memorial Cup and helped our team to go on and win the Memorial Cup! Cameron thanked the audience for making the impossible possible and for being part of this incredible season. Can't wait until they see what we do together next!

Dave Rupp, Financial Manager, presented the 2023-2024 Financial Report. Dave reviewed the financial information contained in the annual report booklet. He stated that the orchestra will have a Net Loss from Operations of (\$40,000) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. It's the same result as last season, but for different reasons.

The great news is that single ticket sales almost doubled to over \$69,000 and we had the most concert sponsors for any one season! He asked how can we have a net loss for the season? We didn't have a fundraiser this season and we can't cover operating expenses without one. He stated that the board and Fouad wanted to go Big and Bold this season, and as a result, concert costs were up \$70,000 from last season. \$30,000 was for the Star Trek movie for licensing fees, equipment rentals, and the projectionist. We got a grant for \$10,000 from Huntington Bank to cover half of the licensing fees, but Cameron wasn't able to get sponsors for the other \$20,000 mainly because many businesses had already committed funds to the Memorial Cup. Similarly, the Memorial Cup performance cost of almost \$12,000 wasn't covered by sponsors resulting in the net loss from operations.

Our main focus next season is a new fundraiser that is scheduled for May 2025 and increasing general corporate donations. This will help to reduce future operating losses. Next month, we will be conducting another targeted mailing to potential new season subscribers to about 750 households in Saginaw and Bay City. We have over 300 single ticket purchasers this season to recruit for new season tickets.

Dave thanked all of our season ticket subscribers, donors, concert sponsors, and supporters for their financial support this season. We couldn't do these concerts without your support!

He referred to the next page for a list of this season's concert sponsors, season supporters, and media sponsors. The 12 new concert sponsors and supporters are in bold. Floyd Kloc moved to receive and file the financial report; Andreas Teich seconded. Carried.

Claudia introduced the current board members and staff. They were asked to stand, and Claudia thanked them for their hard work. They received a round of applause from the members.

Claudia introduced Paul Chaffee for the Nominations Committee report. Paul announced that three incumbent board members had accepted an additional three-year term: Don Carlyon, Deb Huntley, and Sam Tilmon. Carol Thomas, Attorney, and Melanie Beyers, Bankruptcy Attorney, were nominated as new board members. Paul asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received from the floor. Lou Ognisanti moved to close the nominations; Floyd Kloc seconded. Carried.

Paul Chaffee moved to approve the slate of nominations; Floyd Kloc seconded. Carried.

Claudia asked Cameron Massey to present the Patricia Koucky Volunteer of the Year Award. Cameron graciously thanked Roberta Bidwell for being on the Audience Development Committee and for her ideas for helping the orchestra. Roberta came up to receive her gift of appreciation and flowers.

Claudia invited Maestro Fouad Fakhouri to announce the new SEASON89. Fouad mentioned that he had agreed to move the concert start times to 7:30 for next season. He received applause from the audience. He also stated that next season's programming will feature a sixth concert and two of the concerts would be at the Malcolm Field Theatre at Saginaw Valley State University. Fouad talked about each concert and stated that there will be five guest artists next season: George Goad would open the season at SVSU, Art Lewis would narrate Copland's Lincoln Portrait and Valerie Allen would paint during the final two pieces of the October concert, Mike Brush and Brush Street will perform at the Holidays Pops concert; Jaymee Haeffner will perform Ginastera's Harp Concerto; Kevin Cole will be featured at the March concert at SVSU; and Elizabeth Pitcairn returns to play Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto to close the season.

Several questions were asked about buying tickets to the SVSU concerts and if they were included in season tickets. Season tickets are for the four concerts at the Temple Theatre only and must be paid through the Temple Theatre. The SVSU concerts have to be purchased online or in the lobby the night of the concert. There will be open seating only at SVSU.

Cameron Massey played the 2024-2025 Season Announcement Video and displayed the posters for each concert. The audience applauded at the end of the video.

Claudia thanked Fouad and Cameron for his work on the season video.

Claudia asked if anyone had any new business to bring up. She thanked everyone for attending and asked for a motion to adjourn. Andreas Teich moved to adjourn; Andrea Fischer seconded. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.



# SAGINAW BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OVERVIEW

The Orchestra is a fully-professional ensemble which draws its members from throughout Michigan. In addition to its classical concerts, the Orchestra has produced a wide variety of chamber, pops, educational, and historical concerts, as well as opera, ballet, and modern dance. Nearly 5,000 community performers, over half of whom are children, have shared the stage with the Orchestra in performances over the years.

The SBSO has established a proud legacy of providing quality musicianship, innovative programming, and excellent educational experiences for the residents of the Great Lakes Bay Region.



## VISION

Extraordinary Music Experiences that Inspire.

## MISSION

Creating magical and memorable experiences through the power of symphonic music.

# SBSO BOARD

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Dr. Claudia Zacharek**  
*President*

**Paul C. Chaffee**  
*Vice President*

**Dr. Norman Wika**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

**Dr. Deborah Huntley**  
*Past President*

**Andrea Fischer**  
*Member at Large*

**Floyd Kloc**  
*Member at Large*

## BOARD MEMBERS

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**Melanie Beyers**

**Floyd Kloc**

**Donald Carlyon**

**John Markey**

**Paul C. Chaffee**

**Amy Spadafore**

**Michael Elliott**

**Carol Thomas**

**Andrea Fischer**

**Sam Tilmon**

**Michael Goad**

**Dr. Norman Wika**

**Dr. Deborah  
Huntley**

**Dr. Claudia Zacharek**

## SBSO STAFF

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**Cameron Massey**  
*Executive Director*

**Rachel Jingles**  
*Production Manager*

**David P. Rupp**  
*Financial Manager*

**Ruth Ann Olorunlowo**  
*SBYO Administrator*

**Arika Massey**  
*Marketing Manager*

**Gregg Emerson Powell**  
*Orchestra Personnel Manager*

**Don Belcher**  
*Librarian/SBYO Manager*

# CLAUDIA ZACHAREK, M.D.

President of the Board of  
Directors of the Saginaw  
Symphony Association



## REFLECTING ON OUR 2024-25 SEASON

Tonight's annual meeting concludes the SBSO's 2024-25 concert season. Each concert highlighted the versatility, collaborative spirit, and talent of our musicians and guest artists and created unforgettable moments that enriched the cultural fabric of our community. Thank you for being here tonight to celebrate with us.

The season started at SVSU in September with Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, Phillip Glass's *Company*, and Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* featuring guest artist George Goad. The October concert at the Temple Theatre featured the Michigan Premiere of Catherine McMichael's *Celestial Navigation*, Rouse's *Symphony No. 1*, Michael Torke's pieces *Green* and *Bright Blue Music*, and Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*. The Holiday Pops concert with Brush Street, featuring Mike Brush, performing four original Christmas songs. The February concert included Wagner's *Rienzi Overture*, harpist Jaymee Haefner performed Ginastera's *Harp Concerto* and ended with Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*. Back at SVSU in March, Kevin Cole performed music from his world premiere tour including *Taking No Chances On You*, and his latest piece, *Cole Porter Medley*. Our season finale in May featured Elizabeth Pitcairn with her 'Red Mendelssohn' Stradivarius playing Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto op. 64* and the concert closed with Bruckner's *Symphony No. 1*. The perfect classical piece to end SEASON 89!

Attendance was down for all of our concerts this season, and ticket sales decreased 27% from last season. Six grants were secured by the Association's staff that greatly helped financially. Special thanks to all of our concert sponsors and supporters, season ticket subscribers, single ticket buyers, donors, and volunteers who supported the SBSO - we can't do this without you!

We also debuted our new Saginaw Speakeasy fundraiser in the Temple Theatre Ballroom on May 17th, and most attendees dressed up in 1920's style apparel. It was a fun night, and I sincerely thank all the volunteers on the committee who worked so hard to put the event together.

We are so fortunate to have such a talented orchestra in Saginaw that consistently delivered remarkable performances all season long. Our 90th Season will continue our long legacy of performing exceptional symphonic music.

Tonight, we remember Don Carlyon who recently passed away at 100 years old. Don served on the SBSO board of directors for over 60 years. I express my gratitude for the many ways that he enriched our board and our mission. He will be deeply missed.

My thanks to our Executive Director Cameron Massey, Maestro Fouad Fakhouri, Dave Rupp, Don Belcher, Rachel Jingles, and all the staff for their hard work this season.

Claudia Zacharek, MD  
President  
Saginaw Symphony Association

# CAMERON MASSEY

Executive Director of the  
Saginaw Symphony Association



We started the 2024-2025 faced with a great challenge. Not a 'great challenge' as in a large, unsurmountable task, but a 'great challenge' in the sense that some problems are just good problems to have. The challenge - how do we top last season? Between the blockbuster Holiday Superstars concert, the Great Lakes Bay's first live orchestrated film screening, and the opening ceremony of the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup (a cup that I still suspect our team won because of our orchestra's wonderful performance at the ceremony), it was going to be a hard act to follow. When the answer came to us, it seemed as if it had always been obvious: more music, more people.

Typically, a symphony orchestra - especially one of our size - would host one or two major guest artists per season. This season, not only did we expand our season to 6 full length concerts, but we featured at least one guest artist per concert. As the regional symphony orchestra for Saginaw and Bay City, our responsibility lies not just with performing masterworks and new additions to the classical canon, but with using music to strengthen our community and to enhance the lives within it. Our strategy this year was to play music not just for Saginaw, but with Saginaw.

By moving two concerts to SVSU to reach wider audiences in Bay City and Northern Saginaw, and by featuring not only two national level guest musicians (Jaymee Haefner and Elizabeth Pitcairn), but also two more national level guest musicians who were born and raised right here near Saginaw (George Goad and Kevin Cole), we worked to bring our local music community together, using our music to showcase the breathtaking talent born right here in our state, or even our neighborhoods. To take our community involvement even further, we featured local legendary radio talent Art Lewis narrating Copland's Lincoln Portrait, local painter Valerie Allen painting live on stage, and Brush Street Featuring Julie Mulady, a jazz band made up of highly influential local music teachers and band leaders, with our Holiday Pops concert. Then, two weeks after our season finale concert, we brought a brand new flagship fundraiser experience to The Temple Theatre Grand Ballroom with Saginaw Speakeasy, featuring Saginaw Elite Big Band.

We made a lot of music together this season, and when I say we, what I mean is **you**, our season ticket holders, our donors, sponsors, grant funders, our supporters, and our volunteers. Nothing we do is possible without your support, and every note we play begins with you. My deepest appreciation and gratitude to our Maestro, Fouad Fakhouri, our incredible musicians, our guests, our hardworking staff, our board of directors, and all of our committee members.

The music that this orchestra makes is incredibly important to me, and to our entire area. The fact that you are here to read this tells me that it's important to you too, and so I urge you to continue your support and to get further involved with the orchestra. This September, we begin our 90th season, a collection of all of the best things that SBSO has to offer all wrapped up in one package. I hope you will continue to make music with us, and I cannot describe how grateful I am to be part of it.

Cameron Massey  
Executive Director  
Saginaw Symphony Association





SAGINAW BAY  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# MARKETING OVERVIEW

This year has been a remarkable one for our marketing efforts. We've successfully leveraged social media as our primary tool for reaching and engaging with our community, with Facebook continuing to be our standout platform for growth and interaction. We also expanded our email communications, utilizing a cleaner, letter-style format that better aligns with our audience preferences. Email campaigns like our biweekly Soundcheck helped reinforce our concert promotions and fundraising efforts. These integrated strategies underscore our commitment to connecting with our audience through diverse and effective channels, ensuring that our music touches as many hearts as possible.



## STATS AT A GLANCE

**65K**

Social Media Reach

**9.2K**

Found us on Google

**62%**

of our Audience are Women

## WEBSITE

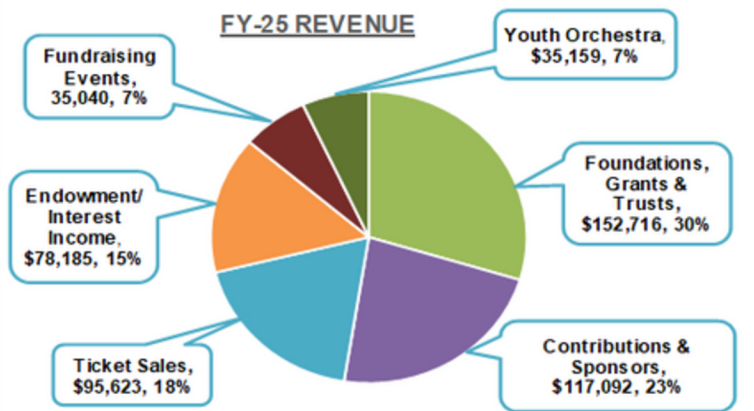
This year, our website welcomed 12,267 visitors, with over 75% of that traffic coming organically through Google search. Our most-viewed blog post, Top 7 Most Recognizable Classical Music Pieces, brought in over 1,000 unique views, showcasing the growing value of our educational content. Visitors accessed the site primarily from iOS devices for both desktop and mobile, and hailed from across the country, with notable traffic from Michigan, Virginia, New York, California, and Illinois.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

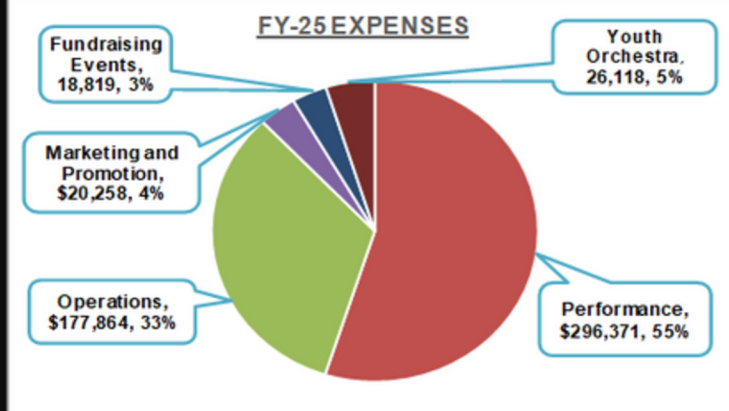
Our social media efforts reached a combined 65,000 users, with 64,279 reached on Facebook alone. Facebook remains our most active platform, particularly among users aged 35 to 65+, followed by engagement from the 25–34 age group. Women represented 62.2% of our audience, while men made up 37.8%. Our top-performing post “Announcing the Return of Music Under the Stars”, reached over 41,000 people, generating 185 likes, 17 comments, and 47 shares.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**FY-25 REVENUE**



**FY-25 EXPENSES**



**TOTAL PROJECTED REVENUE - \$514,430**

**TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES - \$539,430**

### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The Saginaw Symphony Association is projected to have a Net Loss from Operations of (\$25,000) and Undesignated Net Assets of approximately \$255,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Season 89 experienced both financial successes and challenges throughout the season. We introduced our new Saginaw Speakeasy fundraising event and held the Return of the Red Violin concert with Elizabeth Pitcairn in May. Additionally, there were two great concerts at SVSU, but attendance was lower than expected. Total ticket sales decreased by \$35,063 (27.4%) to \$92,873, and concert sponsor revenue declined by \$35,000 compared to the previous season. To offset these revenue shortfalls, the Association's staff secured funding from six grants totaling \$97,868, with \$85,868 dedicated to concerts and \$12,000 allocated to the youth orchestra.

The projected \$25,000 operating loss is primarily due to the absence of an annual fundraiser since 2019, which generated \$25,000 in net income from Holiday Housewalk. The Saginaw Speakeasy made \$7,500, but more sponsors will be needed next season. The average cost for the five classical concerts this season was \$51,678.

Our main focus next season is to increase individual and corporate donations and to increase ticket sales to reduce operating losses. In July, we will be doing a big season brochure mailing to patrons who have attended our concerts during the last two seasons and those who were season ticket holders.

**We sincerely thank all of our sponsors and supporters (see next page).**

Our 90th Anniversary Season starts at the Temple Theatre on Saturday, September 27th!

*David P. Rupp*

David P. Rupp  
Financial Manager

# *Our 89th Season*

# **THANK YOU SPONSORS!**

**OUR 89TH SEASON WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS HELP OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS:**

## **ENDOWED CONCERT SPONSOR**

LEO & EMELIE KAHAN

## **CONCERT SPONSORS**

COVENANT HEALTHCARE  
VITALE WEALTH MANAGEMENT  
PAUL & BONNIE CHAFFEE  
DOW CREDIT UNION  
MORGAN STANLEY  
TRI-STAR TRUST  
MICHAEL & CLAUDIA GOAD  
GARBER AUTOMOTIVE GROUP  
DR. DEBORAH & ALTON HUNTLEY  
FISCHER FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICES  
GARPIEL GROUP  
FRANKENMUTH INSURANCE

## **GUEST ARTIST SPONSOR**

JIM & CHRISTINE CHURCH

## **GRANT SUPPORT**

SAGINAW COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
ROLLIN M. GERSTACKER FOUNDATION  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HARVEY RANDALL WICKES FOUNDATION  
HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK  
MORLEY FAMILY FOUNDATION (SBYO)  
SAGINAW ARTS & ENRICHMENT COMMISSION (SBYO)

## **CONCERT SUPPORTERS**

THE JURY FOUNDATION  
PATRICIA G. RENNERT TRUST

## **SAGINAW SPEAKEASY PRESENTING SPONSOR**

DOW CREDIT UNION

## **SBSO/SBYO SUPPORTERS**

MAXWELL K. PRIBIL SYMPHONY TRUST  
DR. CLAUDIA & DR. ANTHONY ZACHAREK (SBYO)  
TEMPLEARTS (IN-KIND)  
LAW OFFICE OF CAROL THOMAS (IN-KIND)  
HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER (IN-KIND)  
MORLEY TRAVEL (IN-KIND)  
EUGENIA JAREMA, REALTOR (IN-KIND)

## **MEDIA SPONSORS**

WNEM TV-5 (IN-KIND)  
CUMULUS MEDIA (IN-KIND)







# SEASON 90

## 2025-2026

### *An Ode to Joy*

## LIGHTS, CAMERA ORCHESTRA



## RACHMANINOFF, DVORAK & THE NEW WORLD

## MUSIC REFRAMED PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

## SBSO'S 90<sup>TH</sup> | AN ODE TO JOY!

September 27, 2025

SBSO goes to the movies with a collection of film scores and video game themes including James Bond, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Medal of Honor, Mission Impossible, The Simpsons, and more! Enjoy clips from your favorite films projected behind the orchestra as they play selections from the score live.

December 9, 2025

Our annual Holiday Pops concert returns with Saginaw's '3 Tenors'; Todd Michael Hall, Billy Petty, and Charles Allen, along with some of your favorite holiday selections including Josh Groban's *You Raise Me Up*, Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, and the Christmas singalong, featuring side-by-side performances with Saginaw Bay Youth Orchestra.

February 7, 2026

A celebration of one of the most beloved piano pieces in history, along with a beloved masterpiece. Natasha Paremski performs Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, also featuring Dvořák's *Symphony No. 9. 'From The New World'* and Barber's *Adagio for Strings*.

March 28, 2026

Two timeless classics, two modern original compositions performed by their composers. Special guest Kebra-Seyoun Charles, rising star of the orchestra landscape, performs their composition *Nightlife: Concerto for Bass* following the concerto's recent premiere at Carnegie Hall. The Michigan premiere of *Trance*, an original composition by our own composer and Music Director, Fouad Fakhouri. Also featured in the program is Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* with accompanying visual effects.

May 9th, 2026

A massive joint celebration of SBSO and The Saginaw Choral Society's 90th seasons as the full choral society joins our symphony orchestra for Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, one of the most famous compositions of all time.

ALL CONCERTS 7:30 PM  
AT THE TEMPLE THEATRE