

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) is a cultural resource that touches the lives of tens of thousands of Pittsburgh-area children and adults each year through a variety of well-planned programs. Today, among the Orchestra's annual audience are more than 54,000 children, students, and adults who participate in educational and community engagement programs throughout the season. Over 150 public and private schools participate in educational programming annually. The vast majority of these programs are **free of charge**. This rising cost of producing these programs (\$2.5) has not deterred the PSO from continuing and enhancing these important initiatives that help schools meet State music standards, expose diverse audiences to classical music, and use the Orchestra as an asset in the community.

Education Programs

The PSO has built a successful music education model that is accessible to children of various ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our programs reach children from infancy through college age and include performances at Heinz Hall, as well as more intimate programs in Pittsburgh-area schools. Programs include:

Schooltime Concerts are free of charge and introduce orchestral instruments, live symphonic music, and the creative processes of composing and performing music to students in grades two, four, and six. Roughly xx concerts per season are performed at Heinz Hall. Total attendance in 2007-2008 was 25,650.

Tiny Tots Concerts are free of charge for children ages three to six years of age. Each concert engages children through interactive and listening activities which illuminate symphonic works and composers while learning musical concepts. One of the three programs is a Tiny Tots Book Concert. Total attendance in 2007-2008 was 8,787.

Fiddlesticks Family Concerts is a series of three Saturday morning concerts that are designed for families with children ages three to eight. The series focuses on music in the lives of children: how music is created, produced, and received in the home and community. Prior to the concerts, patrons participate in one-hour Discovery Time Adventures that enable children to meet and listen to PSO musicians, learn songs and dances for concert interaction, create crafts and explore a variety of musical and educational activities. Total attendance in 2007-2008 was 5,580.

Audience of the Future Program enables local high school students to plan, produce, program and implement a PSO concert over the course of a season. Once a month, students visit Heinz Hall to attend PSO rehearsals, determine program repertoire, promotions and publicity strategies, develop a documentary video, and participate in the creation of a program book. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the arts and music programs of the participants' schools. In 2007-2008, 81 students participated in the Audience of the Future program.

Student Side-by-Side Program gives music students in grades nine through twelve the opportunity to rehearse and perform side-by-side with their Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra counterparts. The final concert is shared with the Bayer "Audience of the Future" program. Students receive

coaching sessions and attend at least three rehearsals prior to the final concert. In 2007-2008, 66 students participated in the Side-by-Side program.

Early Childhood Program encourages the development of music aptitude in children (the potential to understand and produce music) by providing access to high quality musical experiences and encouraging musically enriched environments. The program places PSO musicians in classrooms with children ages six weeks to five years to interact, make music and have fun.

In the Community

Community Engagement programming connects audiences throughout the Pittsburgh region with the PSO using a variety of innovative outlets and builds connections between the PSO and Pittsburgh communities through ongoing and multi-leveled relationships. PSO staff work directly with a diverse group of area residents (educators, faith-based leaders, business owners and other individuals) to create a Community Engagement Committee which helps to identify and support music education needs in the those communities. Through collaboration with the Committee, the PSO provides music education programs and performance opportunities (based on community needs as determined by the Committee) in schools and other area venues for children and adults who would traditionally not have access to or an opportunity to participate in high quality symphonic music experiences. These programs include youth concerts at Heinz Hall, intimate adult question and answer sessions with PSO musicians at neighborhood locations, and visits by PSO musicians to school classrooms.

Over the past several years, the PSO reached a point where some of its community relationships met their desired outcomes of self-sustainability. Therefore, the PSO has taken this opportunity to refocus the program's mission and forge new and expanded relationships with diverse and underserved, but culturally rich communities where the PSO has not engaged in a Community Engagement relationship in recent years, including Wilksburg, the Hill District and East Liberty. Communities are identified by a 40% or above utilization of their school district's free-and-reduced lunch program. The award-winning Community Engagement partnership between the PSO and Wilksburg, now in its fifth year, has served as a model for these new relationships.

In the Hill District, the PSO and the Hill House have forged a partnership that has included the Hill House offering their "Jazz at the Hurricane" program during 2008 as a pre- and post-concert event for the PSO's annual *Tribute* concert at Heinz Hall. It has also included PSO musicians traveling to the Hill to perform as an ensemble for area residents. In East Liberty, PSO musicians continue to visit Dilworth Traditional Academy to work with pre-kindergarten students as a part of the PSO's Early Childhood program. PSO ensembles have also visited both Dilworth and Rogers CAPA Middle School for performances for music students in the past year.

Other Community Engagement Programming includes:

Unlocking the Classics allows individuals to capture an insider's view on the PSO and its upcoming concerts. These intimate sessions explore the background and musical structure of masterpieces performed by the Orchestra. A PSO musician or PSO staff member attends each session to speak, perform, and answer questions. Facilitating these sessions is WQED's classical music host, Jim Cunningham. Approximately 25 sessions will be presented each year throughout the community.

Music and Wellness Program connects the PSO and UPMC to create an innovative program which focuses on the healing power of music, empowering individuals to use tools for incorporating music into their daily lives, and promoting wellness and stress reduction. Sessions are presented to groups in hospitals, corporations, schools, community sites, as well as at Heinz Hall prior to concerts.

Community Side-by-Side gives adult amateur musicians (over the age of 18) the opportunity to perform with the PSO in Heinz Hall. Coaching sessions, master classes and large group rehearsals prepare the amateur musicians for the performance of a lifetime. Participants have included music teachers, doctors, retirees, police officers and college students.

Service Exchange Programs provide the opportunity for PSO musicians to go into schools, libraries, hospitals and other community centers to interact with and make music with children and adults. Musicians participate in many different Service Exchange programs including ensemble performances, professional development presentations, coaching/masterclasses, musician ambassadors to schools, as well as many others. Musicians attend training sessions prior to their involvement in the program. These programs are offered free of charge. Last year, seventy musicians participated in Service Exchange programs performing over 560 sessions.

Community Partners Concert is another example of the PSO's collaborative spirit and impact in the greater-Pittsburgh community. This performance partners the PSO with 50 Pittsburgh-area non-profit organizations that receive 100% of the proceeds for the tickets they sell. This win-win scenario raises funds and builds awareness for partnering non-profits. The event also brings new constituencies to Heinz Hall. The *Community Partners Concert* has been chaired by outstanding members of the Pittsburgh community, including Pittsburgh Steeler Max Starks, former Steeler Franco Harris, and in 2008, Sheridan Broadcasting's Ron Davenport and his wife Lynn will chair the event. ***These concerts have raised over \$380,000 for partnering groups since they began in 2004.***

Tribute: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture is an annual concert the PSO first performed in January 2007. The 2009 performance featured a tribute to jazz classics with Marcus Roberts Trio as soloist. The Mt. Ararat Baptist Church Choir also joined the PSO for gospel pieces *Anthem of Praise* and *Bless the Lord* and the anthem *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*. This initiative will continue annually as the PSO has formed a community advisory committee consisting of leaders in Pittsburgh's African American community representing local organizations such as the August Wilson Center for African American Culture to provide insight and feedback in the planning process.