

rdyo

RICHMOND DELTA
YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





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At Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra, we **envision** a world where **every child has the courage and opportunity to become what they can be.**

For over half a century, our **mission** has been to **inspire a journey of self-discovery and belonging through exceptional youth orchestral training programs**

Welcome to our Annual Report, a showcase of our achievements, progress, and commitment to excellence throughout the year.

Message from Music Director

Stephen Robb



Creativity, Community, Courage

Our 2023-2024 season has become a pivotal moment in our history. After more than five years of work, we leaped forward in our 2023-2024 season to invest in a professional management staff for the RDYO for the first time in its history to manage and direct the day-to-day orchestra operations.

Our youth orchestra program continues to grow and prosper. Our organization has experienced incredible growth over the past five years. I credit this to the professional way our board and musical staff negotiated the Covid years; moving the whole orchestral training process online and finding new creative ways to teach and communicate with our orchestra members and families. Through virtual training, virtual rehearsals, live recording sessions in-person, and then returning gradually to socially distanced safe rehearsal practices, we achieved what many other youth orchestras were unable to achieve. This process culminated in our 50th anniversary celebration concert at the Chan Centre in May 2022.

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After the success of 2021-2022, our 2022-2023 season became a challenge as we faced the closure of our main rehearsal space at Brighthouse United Church, and we faced unprecedented uncertainty as we ended our concert season with our final awards concert at Gateway Theatre in May 2023 without knowing where the orchestra would be rehearsing the following season. It was not until the beginning of August 2023 that we secured new rehearsal space for our 2023 – 2024 season.

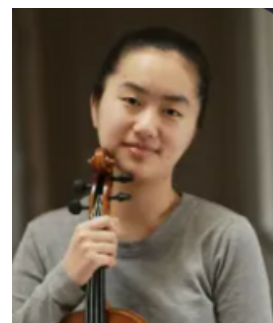
Indeed, the largest challenge facing RDYO as we move forward is securing more appropriate storage and rehearsal spaces in order to conduct our orchestral programs better. This basic insecurity has impeded our orchestra operations and our delivery of services and caused many hours of administrative time to be consumed with unnecessary attention to logistics simply due to the lack of basic rehearsal spaces that meet our needs. An example would be calculating how many hours were spent securing timpani drums for our Junior Strings, Wind Ensemble and Symphony performances during the past few months. During the Covid years when these restrictions were removed, we enjoyed a more even playing field with the other youth orchestras in our province as we are all restricted from using proper facilities.

In 2023- 2024 we produced our regular season of five concerts including the November Rotary Fundraiser Concert, our December all-division concert, our March Strings concert, our April Winds and Symphony concert, and finally our Year-end Awards Concert on June 1st. This is augmented by other regular season events such as our Fall Orchestra Camp at Camp Stillwood, our Winter Workshop in February and our Junior String Workshop in March. We also conducted our Annual Concerto Competition and Scholarship Competitions (December and April).

Congratulations to our board of directors, faculty, all families and our admin team for a very successful year. I look forward to our 2024-2025 season.

Stephen Robb

Faculty



From left to right and top to bottom:
Jonathan Der - Chamber Music Director and RDYO Associate Conductor (Senior Strings)
Manti Poon - RDYO Associate Conductor (Intermediate Strings)
Bo Peng - RDYO Associate Conductor (Junior Strings)
William Broverman - RDYO Associate Conductor (Junior Winds)
Alvin Tran - Sectional Coach
Clara Su - Junior Strings Assistant Coach

Message from the Board of Directors



From left to right and top to bottom:

Isabella Chin - President, ***Yao Song*** - Vice President, ***Dean Markel*** - Past President
Ava Cui - Treasurer ***Sarah Xie*** - Secretary, ***Susan Mao***, ***Katherine Poon***, ***Greta Cornejo***,
Michael Cam, ***Alex Ma***, ***Perrin Swanson***, ***Jerry Zhong***

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we present the first annual report for Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra. The 2023-2024 season has become a pivotal moment in our history. As part of our 2022-2027 strategic plan, we moved to a governance board model last year and hired our first full-time manager in RDYO to manage and direct the day-to-day operations of the orchestra. We also welcomed our first Operations Director and together with our Music Director, they have formed a remarkable team and are leading RDYO to new heights.

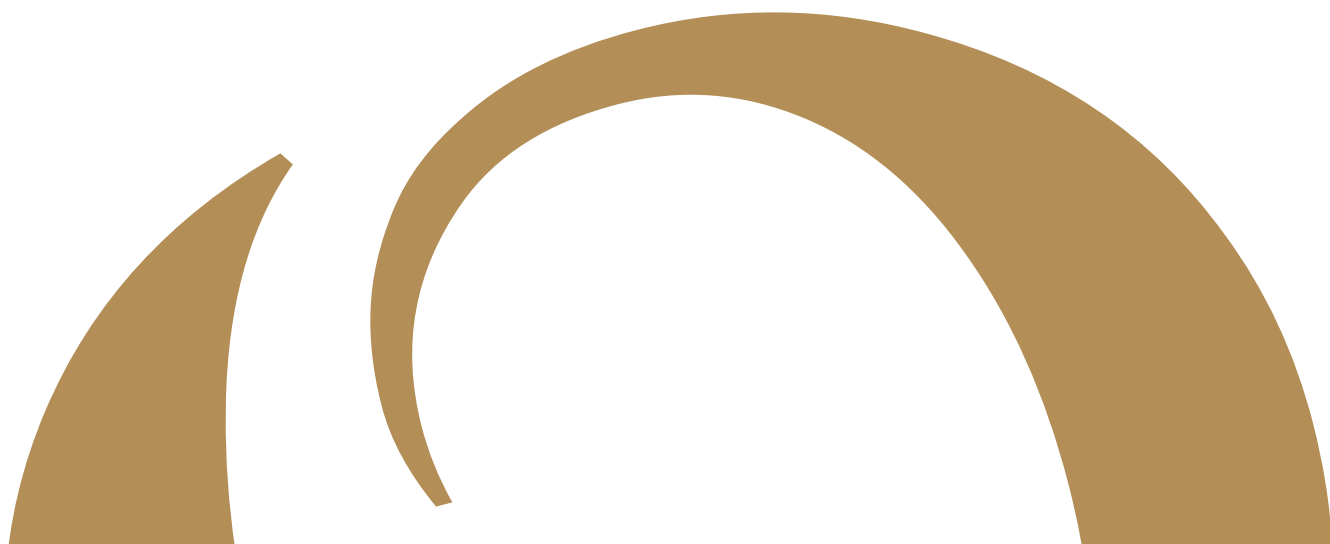
This year continues to be one of remarkable growth, resilience and artistic excellence. The sense of community and the passion of our young musicians are the cornerstones of RDYO, and it is incredible to see the joy and excitement on their faces at every rehearsal, workshop and concert. Lifelong friendships are formed over their common passion of ensemble music-making.

The Board plays a crucial role in ensuring RDYO's growth and sustainability. This year, we pursued new partnerships and funding opportunities, continued our vigorous search for a new home, implemented structure to invite more involvement from the families, and envisioned ways to serve our diversified community. I thank my fellow Board members for their dedication to RDYO.

I also thank our amazing Faculty for their passion, dedication and professionalism. They inspire our young musicians to become better players and to immerse themselves in the wonderful opportunity of ensemble playing.

I thank all of you who were there with us last season and look forward to another year of music excellence at RDYO.


Isabella Chin
RDYO Board President



New leadership towards Growth & Sustainability



In 2023-24, RDYO marks its growth as a Charity with moving the Board to governing and establish its new operational structure with with the co-leadership of Music Director Stephen Robb and Operations Director Trang Trinh. Together with the Orchestra Coordinator Loren Ma, their expertise and passion are invaluable assets to our organization, ensuring that our programs run smoothly and effectively.



A Year in numbers

Joy is in the Journey

176

Young musicians

14

Faculty, Guest
Coaches & Staff

20

Concerts & Events

3

Gold Medal and First place in Kiwanis
Festival for Junior Strings & Chamber. Silver
for Junior Strings at MusicFest Canada

26

Scholarships given

520

hours of instructions

5k +

Audience reached
through in-person &
online performances

60k +

Grant Fundings
Donation & Sponsorship



Programming Highlights

Rehearsals

Over the course of nine months, we held more than **232** rehearsals, offering our youth extensive practice time guided by our esteemed faculty. This allows them not only the opportunity to expand their musical horizons through learning new repertoire selections, but also encourages them to be engaged and inspired through valuable exchanges with fellow musicians.

Orchestral Development Camp (6-8th October, 2023)

This year, our three-day, two-night camp at Camp Stillwood in Abbotsford brought together over 100 students, offering them an immersive and unforgettable experience. Positioned strategically at the start of the season, the camp provided youth with a special opportunity to build meaningful connections with their fellow musicians. At the camp, students engaged in more intensive rehearsals, enjoyed captivating performance by our faculty, and participated in a variety of team-building activities and games. The camp concluded with a concert. Beyond honing musical skills, our camp aimed to cultivate a sense of unity and teamwork among our musicians.

Annual Concerto Competition (3rd December, 2023)

40 applicants participated in our annual concerto competition. We are honored to have Mr. Eric Wilson as our adjudicator. Following a day of musical performances, we had a total of 5 winners, one from Junior Strings, Intermediate Strings, Senior Strings, Senior Winds and Symphony. These winners are showcased as soloists in our concerts later in the season.



Annual Scholarship Competition (1st - 27th April, 2024)

Over 70 applicants participated in the annual scholarship competition, which this year took the form of online video submissions. We were privileged to have experienced adjudicators Mr. Jacob van der Sloot, Mr. Jasper Wood, and Mr. Mark McGreggor lending their expertise. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and sponsors, we were able to give out 26 awards to deserving recipients.

Workshops

In Spring 2024, Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra organized two days of workshops, featuring eight professional clinicians who conducted masterclasses with our talented musicians. These workshops provided invaluable opportunities for our students to receive guidance and feedback on their performance. In addition to the enriching masterclasses, the workshop days also included pizza lunches, fostering a relaxed and friendly atmosphere where students could bond and socialize with each other.



2024 Graduate Messages

One of the best things about joining RDYO is the overarching sense of community within the group. Over the years, I've gotten to know my peers, parents, and staff, building relationships that I will treasure as I continue through my life.

Martin Cam



Coming to rehearsal every Saturday morning is definitely a struggle, but I always get to see my orchestra friends which makes up for it as I never get to see them. Being able to play so many different genres of music and performing every few months is also quite fun because we get to showcase our hard work!

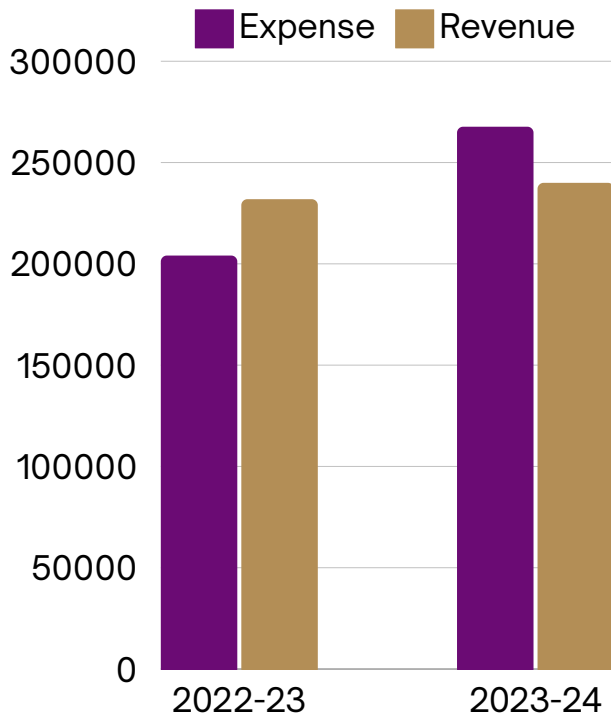
Rachel Yan

The best thing about RDYO is making music with others, which is so much more fun than practicing alone. For me, one of my favorite memories was being with friends at orchestra camp and watching the conductors perform. While not planning to pursue music professionally, I may join the orchestra at UBC in the future!

Makoto Devolin



Financial Overview



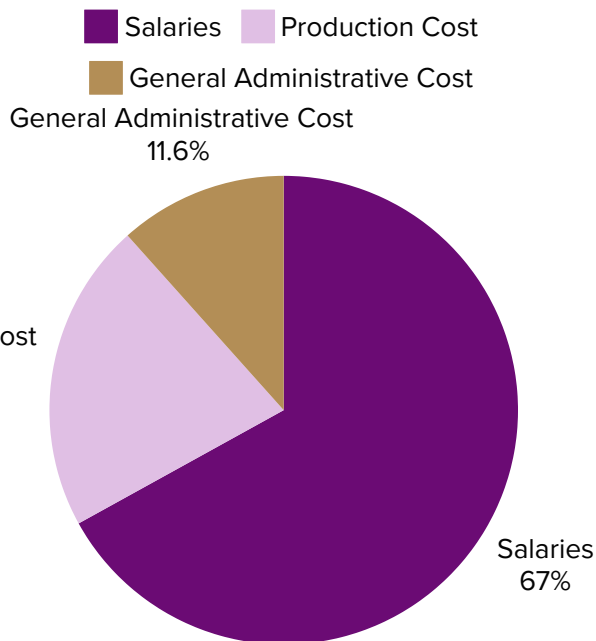
RDYO’s expenses for 2023-2024 has increased by **30%** due to rising costs, the move to a new location, the need for storage as well as the strategic plan to invest in operational structure.

Our **revenue** has also increased with **16% more funding** from the provincial & municipal grants, however, following Canadians’ declined giving trends, our **donations** has significantly decreased.

RDYO is well prepared for this period of growth and investment in its sustainability. We continue to work hard on **cutting cost** while maintaining the **best possible learning environment** for students, **equitable pay** for staff and faculty, and striving to establish new partnership, sponsorship and fundraising campaign.

We thank all of our parents, donors, partners, funders, sponsors and volunteers for making this season a reality! We look forward to the 2024-2025 season with renewed hope as we were awarded an important **BC Arts Council** grant to research and plan for a potential new home.

A full financial statement is available by request to info@rdyo.ca



Please continue to support RDYO!

Message from the Cam's 18 years with RDYO



As a family we have been with RDYO for about 18 years. Both Matthew and Mark were also multi-instrumentalists and continue to play to this day. They owe much of this to RDYO and most especially to the amazing conductors and coaches. It not only gave them the opportunity to learn but also friends to play with and a home to perform in. We are truly blessed with having met so many wonderful people and to be a part of such an incredible organization. While leaving RDYO may evoke a sense of sadness for all of us, we are forever grateful for the experiences the boys have had and the impact the organization has made. It's evident that RDYO has played a significant role in shaping Martin and his brothers into the musicians and individuals they are today.

Micheal Cam



Thank you to all our Partners, Donors, Funders & Volunteers

DONORS & FRIENDS OF RDYO

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Stephen Robb | Tetyana Krygina | Tian Zhang | Trang Trinh |
Vanessa Sobie | Winnie Siu | Xiao Yan

Your gift will change the future

If you would like to join this incredible group, please scan this QR code or click here: [GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC](#)



We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia, the City of Richmond, Metro Vancouver. RDYO rehearsals, concerts, and event activities are made possible by generous support from donors like you. Please consider donating to RDYO.



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 rdyo.ca

 info@rdyo.ca

 PO Box 26064 Paulik Park
RICHMOND, BC V6Y 3V3