



Expanding the Reach of Every Note

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





DEAR FRIENDS,

Around the globe, Piano Cleveland is known as the host of the Cleveland International Piano Competition—one of the most prestigious events in classical music. This year, we presented a city-wide celebration of piano in all its forms called Piano Days. While we are a world-renowned organization, Cleveland is our home—and our home city is our stage.

From free Piano Cleveland Live concerts to Piano Days artists, we strived to bring world-class artists with the express purpose of adding to the vibrant arts scene of our city. In presenting a variety of artists and genres we made some new friends like Kenny Crumpton from Fox 8's News in the Morning while at the same time strengthening bonds with our long-time supporters. Ongoing efforts like the piano donation program and partnerships with schools cultivates young musicians who live here in Cleveland.

In the following pages you'll see how Piano Cleveland engaged with new audiences through innovative programming. We'll show how strategic partnerships mutually benefited us and other arts organizations across our city. Finally, we will share the wealth of opportunities our education program offers to area students and how it will impact the future of classical piano in our city.

Our efforts across 2025 built off the successes of our anniversary celebration last year and set the stage for more worldwide and local growth in 2026. While our reach extends across international borders, we are ensuring our roots stay firmly planted in Cleveland.

Sincerely,

Marissa Glynias Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Yaron Kohlberg
Artistic Director

OUR 2025 MARQUEE EVENT:

PIANO DAYS

"I appreciate the wide range of programming for Piano Days — it truly does show the range of what a piano can do."

- AMY W.

Over the course of two weeks, Piano Days celebrated piano in all of its forms by presenting a combination of free and ticketed events from a variety of artists who expanded how audiences think of piano.

First, we kicked off Piano Days with a performance from **The 5 Browns**. Then, we explored the depths of piano with Indian ragas, original neoclassical works, and electronic interpretation by rising stars in the piano world. We pushed the boundaries that define classical music and along the way, we met new friends and deepened our connection to Cleveland as a whole.



PIANO DAYS

PIANO CLEVELAND LIVE

BRINGING THE CONCERT TO YOU

Casual listeners become ardent fans when Piano Cleveland takes the piano out of the concert hall and places it in venues where people gather.

Our free concert series, Piano Cleveland Live, reduces barriers to classical piano by providing approachable performances from world-class artists in established community gathering places like the Cleveland Museum of Art and beloved hometown bars.



12

FREE
CONCERTS
IN 2025

503

FREE DRINKS
TO NEW
MAILING LIST
SUBSCRIBERS

2K+

ATTENDEES

At left and top three images: Daniela Liebman, named as "100 Most Creative and Powerful Women" by *Forbes Mexico*, plays for audiences at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Center image and at right: Piano Cleveland Virtu(al)oso finalist, Arseniy Gusev, performs with violinist Shannon Lee at Forest City Brewing.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Strategic partnerships within the Cleveland community during Piano Days strengthened existing relationships, while new connections made forays into more diverse arts-focused communities.

Dobama Theatre partnered with us to present back-to-back sold-out performances by neoclassical pianist and composer BLKBOK.

After inviting pianist Utsav Lal for Piano Days, we networked with the Federation of India Community Associations to engage new audiences. On the night of his recital, patrons drove from as far away as Pittsburgh to hear Utsav play.

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, sponsored the Piano Days finale concert featuring composer, singer-songwriter, and Juilliard-trained pianist, Natalie Tenenbaum, at Playhouse Square.



Clockwise from upper left: Natalie Tenenbaum closes out Piano Days with a concert at Hanna Theatre; BLKBOK meets with members of his audience following back-to-back sold out Piano Days performances at Dobama Theater; Utsav Lal engages with the audience before and after his performance; Audience members enjoy the sounds of Piano Days under summer skies at Forte Fridays, held at both Crocker Park and the Van Aken District.



Overture

This past July, Piano Days festival opened with **Overture: A Grand Brunch** gala featuring a benefit performance by **The 5 Browns**.

The event raised over \$428,000 from tickets, sponsorships, and fund-a-need support for our education programs.

AMPLIFYING OUR IMPACT

ONE NOTE AT A TIME

Year-round, Piano Cleveland reaches northeast Ohio students through a variety of educational programs designed to encourage a lifelong love of music.



“Doing PianoLab was an amazing experience because I was able to learn new skills.”

- BROOKLYN, ORCHESTRA MAJOR AT CLEVELAND SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



PIANOLAB

When our free group piano instruction program, PianoLab, launched in 2023, we had 15 students enrolled. Now, PianoLab has reached more than 150 students across two locations with plans for a third location in 2026. To continue fostering an early love of piano, we have been able to add free private lesson opportunities for ten students.

KEYS TO READ

Our signature arts-integrated program, Keys to Read, combines music and literary arts learning for middle schoolers. Launched in 2022 with Cleveland Public Library and support from KeyBank, it quickly became a favorite among students and teachers alike, whose feedback is integrated to deepen the program’s impact. After an enthusiastic response from partners in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, we’re excited to expand Keys to Read into a multi-week program in 2026.



When our CIPC laureates return to northeast Ohio, they give back to the local community.

Since winning the 2024 Mixon First Prize, James (Zijian) Wei has returned to Cleveland twice, thanks to the special prizes he won during the competition. In June, Wei performed as part of ChamberFest Cleveland as part of the eponymously-named special prize. Then, in October, Wei fulfilled the residency he won with the Cleveland Institute of Music. During the residency, he collaborated on teaching masterclasses with fellow CIPC First Prize Winners Antonio Pompa-Baldi and Ilya Itin as well as famed pianist Dr. Daria Rabotkina.

Kotaro Fukuma, a CIPC First Prize Winner from 2003, returned to Cleveland for the first time in 20 years! Not only did he grace audiences with a superb recital, he also taught a masterclass and played a free concert at the Cleveland Museum of Art.



[L] James (Zijian) Wei performs at Pinstripes Dining & Bowling; [R] Kotaro Fukuma with Carol Arnold Porter, Piano Cleveland President's Council



OUR EFFORTS ARE SUSTAINED BY YOUR GENEROSITY

Piano Cleveland is extremely grateful to the following individuals who make our work possible. This list includes gifts given from January 1, 2024 to September 1, 2025 as outright donations, in-kind gifts, and/or attendance at fundraising events.

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“I deeply value Piano Cleveland continuing to bring in a wealth of artists across culture and different styles.”

- BEN M.

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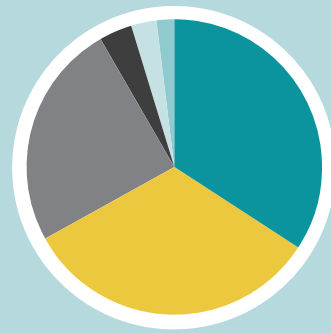
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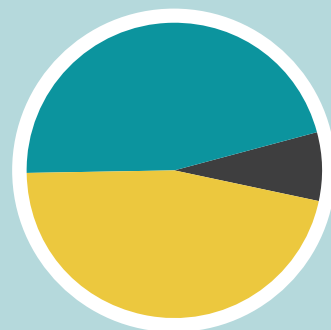


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\$428,048
- Individual Giving
\$410,858
- Institutional Giving
\$310,218
- Box Office
\$44,563
- In-Kind and Other
\$35,027
- Endowment
\$22,297



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- Programming and Promotion
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- General Administration
\$571,739
- Office Costs
\$91,417



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for Young Artists

ORDINARY KIDS,
EXTRAORDINARY TALENT.

July 24 - August 1, 2026

An international competition and institute for pianists ages 10-18



Photo by E.Caren

Classical piano luminary and Cleveland competition winner, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, returns to Cleveland to teach and perform during the 2026 Cleveland International Piano Competition for Young Artists.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Jean-Yves leads a first-of-its-kind Final Round Masterclass where audiences see a master at work with the next generation of piano stars at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

THURSDAY, JULY 30

Jean-Yves performs a rare solo recital of Debussy's *Preludes*.

PRESENTED BY:  PIANO
CLEVELAND

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