

Together, We're Setting the Stage



Charleston
Jazz

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Setting the Stage for More

Looking back on the past year, the unwavering support from our community, patrons, volunteers, and sponsors takes center stage. Your dedication to jazz performance, education, and outreach has been instrumental in preserving and promoting America's original art form, bringing joy to audiences near and far.

In 2023, your investment increased by 27% and **85% of every dollar served our community through our performance, education and outreach programs.**

This report shines a spotlight on just a few ways you are making a lasting impact through our three program areas: performance, education and outreach.

Your partnership with Charleston Jazz ensures that everyone can access the transformative power of music through quality music experiences and education within an inclusive environment where every member of our community can thrive. None of this would be possible without your participation and generous support. Together, we'll continue to nurture Charleston as a vibrant hub of jazz music for generations to come.



Tatjana Beylotte
Executive Director



Alva Anderson
Board President





The Power of Jazz

Why Jazz Is Our Mission

Our society faces looming problems, such as climate impacts, cultural-political divisions, racial injustice, poverty, and mental health issues. If we are to overcome them, it will require innovative solutions and collaborative problem-solving. It will require something beautiful for us to celebrate together. We need to be inspired to work together and play off each other's strengths. **That's exactly what jazz has the power to do.**

The mission of Charleston Jazz is to grow and cultivate a local and global community for jazz through performance, education and outreach while celebrating and preserving Charleston's rich history in jazz.

If we want to enjoy the beauty, joy, and benefits of jazz, we must create environments for people of all ages to experience it together. That includes experiential opportunities for listening to jazz performances as well as educational opportunities to inspire and train the next generation of jazz musicians and leaders.

Amplifying the power of jazz is essential for honoring its legacy, inspiring innovation, fostering social change, building community, and empowering individuals to create a better world.



A World of Jazz, for Everyone

Our Vision

Through performance, education, and outreach, we positively impact lives through jazz music within a collaborative community that celebrates and perpetuates jazz.



Jazz Is Extraordinary

Celebrating Jazz Performances

Live jazz experiences cultivate a strong, passionate community. The artform is a balm to both our individual inner worlds as well as our collective outer worlds.

America is the birthplace of jazz, and Charleston is one of its cradles. And it's an extraordinary gift to the world.

There's nothing like this music, which is why it must be preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

We present locally, nationally, and internationally renowned professional musicians in live jazz performances.

Providing musicians with the opportunity to perform—and to be compensated for it—is an essential part of our mission.



2023 Impact

\$300,611 Paid to 272 musicians

8 Charts written by members of the Charleston Jazz Orchestra

22 Performances

15,000+ Attendees

“ We are season subscribers of the CJO and say so proudly. The talent you have gathered together to form this group is awesome and never ceases to bring me pleasure and tears whenever you all play. Many, many, many, thanks for all you do! Thanks for being instrumental in keeping Charleston the Jazz mecca that it has always been. You all make me proud to say I live here. ”

—Lloyd Mandel

Only 36% of revenue comes from ticket sales. Your gifts are essential for our mission to thrive!



OUR PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Charleston Jazz Orchestra - An 18 member big band led by Robert Lewis. Pushing the boundaries of musical excellence, the CJO works to ensure that the legacy of big band jazz thrives for generations to come. The annual season featured six performances at the Charleston Music Hall featuring guest performers **Wycliffe Gordon, Heather Rice, Alva Anderson, Duda Lucena, Quiana Parler** and **Melissa Aldana**.

Charleston Jazz Festival - A four-day celebration featuring internationally renowned jazz performers. Headliners included **Samara Joy, Diane Reeves, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**, and **Cindy Blackman Santana**.

Art of Jazz - a collaboration with the Gibbes Museum, this annual three-concert series showcased original jazz music inspired by works on display at the museum. The series featured three groups led by **Manny Houston, Heather Rice**, and **Abdiel Iriarte**.

Momentum - Led by Demetrius Doctor, Momentum performs an eclectic mix of Classic and Contemporary Fusion, R&B, Soul Jazz, and Gospel.

A Jazz Mindset

Charleston Jazz Academy

Minds that “think like jazz” are adept at listening, adapting, integrating others’ perspectives, and contributing to collective solutions rather than striving to be solo heroes. This is why leaders and workforce development specialists are so interested in young musicians.

A jazz mindset is invaluable for tackling today’s complex challenges, and it’s the essence of our programs at the Charleston Jazz Academy. We develop jazz musicians and nurture future leaders, fully believing in the transformative power of jazz education.

Jazz ignites creativity, fosters empathy, and instills a lifelong love of learning. By providing access to high-quality jazz education and experiences, we do more than teach music—**we empower individuals to find their voices, hone their unique talents, and contribute meaningfully to the world.**

Our offerings include private lessons, ensembles, camps, and masterclasses for students of all ages.

Meet Donovan

For the past two and half years, Donovan has been a private lesson and combo class student at the Charleston Jazz Academy. He’s not only becoming a more proficient musician, but he’s also gaining a jazz mindset that will make him an innovative thinker and problem solver.

Donovan gains much from the private lessons but enjoys the creativity of playing with others because it’s “more free through the improv sessions.... I enjoy getting to know my peers in a human aspect and musical aspect.”

Your gifts ensured that Donovan had access to world-class training that is already shaping his future. Donovan plans to attend Coastal Carolina University to study music. We cannot wait to see how his jazz mindset takes him into the future!



Student Success

Five of our students secured coveted positions in the esteemed South Carolina All-State Jazz Honors Combo, an ensemble comprising of eight exceptionally talented musicians from South Carolina. Furthermore, six of our students attained positions in the South Carolina All-State Jazz Band, including the only two female musicians.

Graduating students received scholarships to attend Berklee College of Music, and College of Charleston. Our advanced student combo was invited to perform at the 2023 Spoleto Festival USA opening ceremony! The students performed an arrangement of an original song by Abdulah Ibrahim, one of the esteemed Festival performers.

2023 Impact

302 Students – **30%** increase

143 Scholarships – **20%** increase

\$86,000 in Scholarships – **15%** increase



Jazz Unites Us

Cultivating Jazz Appreciation

Our impact extends far beyond the confines of a classroom or concert hall. Through our outreach initiatives, we have reached individuals who may have never had the opportunity to experience jazz otherwise.

We take jazz music and its history to schools and the community through jazz performance and education programs to raise awareness for the art, to share the history of how jazz developed in Charleston and its place in American history, and to center African American ingenuity and creativity.

“

By facilitating access to such culturally enriching experiences, you have empowered our students to explore new artistic expressions and develop a deeper connection to the world around them. Your dedication to nurturing the next generation of musicians is truly commendable and greatly appreciated.

We are profoundly grateful for the impact Charleston Jazz has made on our students' lives.

”

— Kayela Clark, Assistant Principal, E. B. Ellington Elementary School



2023 Impact

3,989 Youth Served – 60% Increase

38 Schools

Jazz Day for Kids

In partnership with the Gaillard Center, the Charleston Jazz Orchestra, with Charlton Singleton performed for elementary and middle school students.

1,446 students

Jazz Pass Program

We provided free tickets to K-12 students to attend Charleston Jazz Orchestra and Festival performances.

688 students

Lowcountry Jazz Day for Girls

In partnership with the University of South Carolina Jazz Department, we hosted the first Lowcountry Jazz Day for Girls for young female jazz musicians.

24 students

Family Jazz Day

The annual Family Jazz Day presented 4 high school and middle school jazz bands including the Charleston Jazz Academy combos.

80 students

Melodica Project

For the second year, we partnered with Angel Oak Elementary on Johns Island to introduce 4th and 5th graders to jazz using the melodica.

55 students

Jazz Combo Class

To expand our reach, we offered a weekly jazz combo class at Haut Gap Middle School on Johns Island.

6 students

In-School Performances

In partnership with Charleston public schools, we offered free performances and masterclasses, bringing professional jazz programs and inspiring artists to schools.

9 performances; 1,755 students

In partnership with Spoleto Festival, we presented two education workshops featuring Festival artists Brandee Younger for students at Allegro Charter School of Music and a program with Abdulah Ibrahim for the general public.

2023 Tip of the Hat Award

Oscar Rivers

In loving memory of our co-founder Jack McCray and his signature hats, we present the annual Tip of the Hat award. This honor is given to a jazz luminary who has made a significant impact in the Charleston jazz community. In 2023, Oscar Rivers received the award.

Oscar Rivers is known as Charleston's Jazz Patriarch. He made a name for himself in 1970s Chicago, playing with everyone from Charlie Parker, Sonny Stitt, Stevie Wonder, BB King, the Temptations, and the Quincy Jones Orchestra. Rivers is featured in *An Encyclopedia of South Carolina Jazz and Blues Musicians*, which documents South Carolinian musicians from the 19th century to the present. Truly a Lowcountry legend, Oscar's influence on Charleston's music community is far-reaching and it is our great honor to recognize his contributions to jazz.



“ *Jazz music is improvisational—it’s a gift.
You cannot play what you cannot hear.* ”

—Oscar Rivers

The Charleston Jazz Team

STAFF

Tatjana Beylotte
Executive Director

Brent Swaney
Director of Performances

Basil Kerr
Director of the Charleston Jazz Academy

Janthina Moorer
Charleston Jazz Academy Coordinator

Lisa McDonald, CPA
Finance

Lacy Miller
Marketing + Communications Director

Kimberly Gleason
Development Associate

Abby Shirey
Education Outreach + Box Office Coordinator

Lauren Sears
Production Assistant

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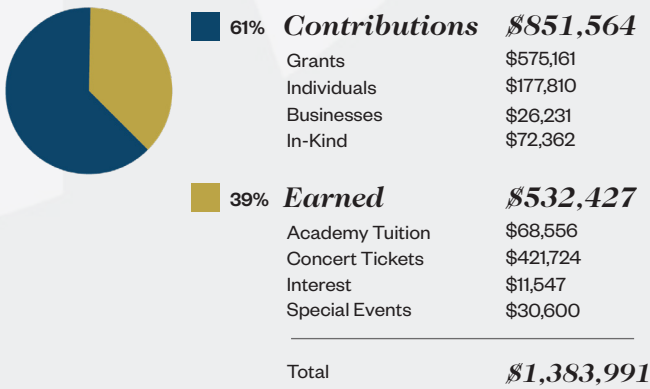
Joe Clarke
Forte Jazz Club

Scott Watson, Ex-Officio
Director, City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs

Financial Snapshot

Your 2023 Investment

Total Funding

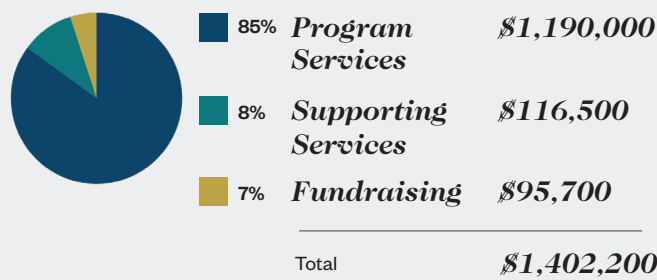


Direct Mission-Impact per Program





Highest Impact to Date



Our Growth
Annual Revenue by year



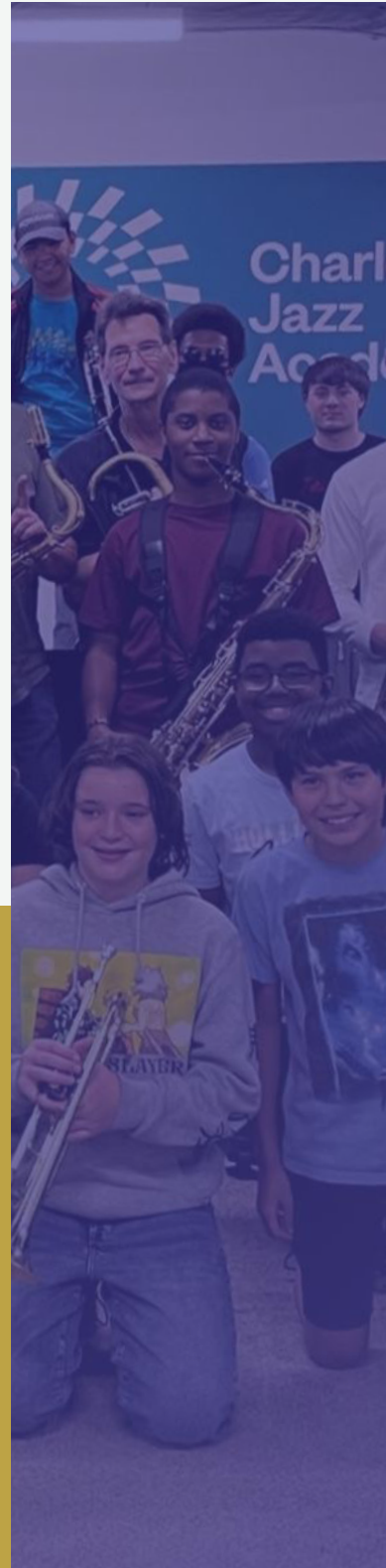
Giving Sets the Stage for Jazz

Your Partnership

Thank You

Your 2023 donations enabled us to invest in our community in the deepest way possible!

Thank you for setting the stage so jazz could spread joy and strengthen our community and the world.



2023 DONORS**\$70,000+**

Anonymous
City of Charleston

\$40,000 - \$69,999

Holland Family Charitable Fund of Coastal
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\$20,000 - \$39,999

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