



## 2019 Impact Report



**All Children Should Have Access To Music Education**

## A Note From Our Founder and Executive Director



*“The zip code of a child should not dictate their access to music education.”*

My name is Kirk Johnson and I am the Founder and Director of SOUNDS Academy. I want you to think about the first time that you heard or touched an instrument. Think about the first time that you figured out and practiced a song, performed it for others, and the sense of pride that you

had. For the “non-performers”, think about that song that had a positive or motivational impact on your life.

Now think about all of those memories disappearing. In Arizona, 134,203 students attend schools that do not have access to music education. 80% of schools spend less than \$1 per student per year on their arts education curriculum. 50% of schools have no budget for arts education. Although the opportunity to experience arts education varies, the music interest of children do not.

I have made it my life long mission to provide music education opportunities for children in underserved schools and neighborhoods. As a musician, performer, and educator; I believe that the zip code of a child should not dictate their access to music education. Out of this belief, I founded SOUNDS Academy as a non-profit music education organization that teaches, mentors, and provides musical experiences and opportunities for underserved youth.

With an emphasis on character development and outreach, we are helping to introduce children to music educational programs that have proven to help children with healthy self criticism, self-esteem, perseverance, resilience, and patience.

This Impact Report is meant to teach you about our organization and inform you of our progress in our first 5 years. I also hope that this impact report helps you to see how you have helped us to provide these experience for children. If you are new to SOUNDS Academy, then I hope that it inspires you to become part of the movement in providing music education to children. Either way, I am immensely grateful for you taking the time to read this and look to make you proud of this organization that started in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnson".

Kirk Johnson



## Our Impact and Accomplishments

SINCE 2014

# 59,520

Lessons have been given

# 15,103

Students impacted through our  
Musical Access Program and Instrument Petting Zoos

# 15,077

Students impacted through our  
During and After School Programs

# 100%

Of the students in our SOLO Program  
graduate and attend college on scholarship

IN 2019

# 300

students receive an instrument for  
their weekly classes and lessons

SOUNDS Academy serves  
students from over

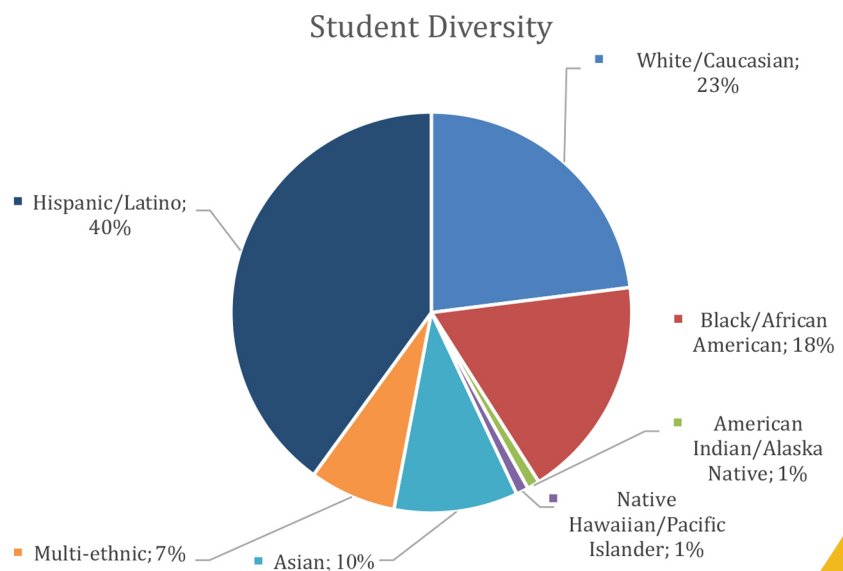
# 30

 zip codes

# 84%

of our students come from lower  
income neighborhoods and schools

## We Are Diverse





# The Mission and Vision



SOUNDS Academy is a non-profit music education organization that teaches, mentors, and provides musical experiences and opportunities for underserved youth. Students receive individual lessons, group classes, and perform on the violin, viola, cello, guitar, and piano. Instruments are provided to those who cannot afford one.

In SOUNDS Academy students learn the character values of creativity, leadership, perseverance, resilience, and teamwork through music education. We teach these values in our Musical Access Program, which connects students to live music and instruments through our Instrument Petting Zoos, our School Programs for lower income schools and community centers, and our SOLO Program, which provides one-on-one instruction.



Our mission is to teach, mentor, and provide musical experiences and opportunities to underserved youth. The vision of SOUNDS Academy is to provide music education opportunities to a wide variety of children while removing any barriers that children may have in receiving quality music education.



# The Programs

**The Musical Access Program** exposes children to musical experiences through **live performances and Instrument Petting Zoos**. In an Instrument Petting Zoo, SOUNDS Academy brings instruments to schools and community center so that children can try instruments such as the violin, viola, cello, and guitar. Through this program, children are inspired to explore music and play instruments. SOUNDS Academy brings performers and music professionals to schools.



**School Programs** provide instrumental instruction in a **group setting at schools and community centers**. Students learn the character values of creativity, leadership, perseverance, resilience, and teamwork through music education. While in the School Program, students receive instruments, music books, and other supplementary materials. The classes teach note reading and the fundamentals of instrument performance in bi-weekly hour-long classes.

**SOLO (Students Optimizing Leadership Opportunities)** provides one-on-one lessons to students. Students receive mentorship to **prepare them for auditions and high level performances**. While in the SOLO Program, students receive instruments, music books, and other supplementary materials. It is out of this program that students have received scholarships to play with orchestras and attend college. Students of this program also lead Instrument Petting Zoos throughout the valley.



**The Collective** consists of 25 hardworking students whom exemplify the character values of creativity, leadership, perseverance, resilience, and teamwork. Students in this program attend concerts, take lessons, play in a chamber ensemble, and take theory classes for 6 hours a week. Additionally, these students perform throughout the valley, using the **community as their stage**. This program gives children the opportunity to **impact the lives of others** through their community outreach while gaining a deeper understanding of their instrument and themselves.

# The People

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Bell, SRP (*Board Chair*)  
Alexis Ronstadt, Valle Del Sol (*Board Vice-Chair*)  
Ian Fischer, Lewis Roca Rothgerber  
Christie (*Secretary*)  
Illya Riske, Arizona Department of  
Transportation, (*Treasurer*)  
Kirk Johnson, SOUNDS Academy

Brittany Bryant, Fresh Start Women's  
Foundation  
Virginia Johnson, MIT  
Forest Melton, University of Arizona  
Ben Park, Abbot Downing  
Amish Shah, State Representative; LD 24  
Drew Shaw, Acumen Learning Innovations  
Shani Kamaria Stewart, Phoenix Children's  
Hospital

## BOARD OF ADVISORS

Patrick Armstrong, Canal Partners  
Reginald Bolding Jr., State Representative  
Robert Buchanan, Buchanan Music

Sentari Minor, Generation Next  
Andrea Stouder Pursley, Management Center

## STAFF

Kirk Johnson, Executive Director  
Carrie Day, Admin Assistant  
Janie Dailey, Program Assistant  
Cortez Sanchez, Intern

Elena Yraguen, Intern  
Ashley Williams, Intern  
Grace Flores, Intern



## TEACHERS

Cindy Baker  
Dustin Blaasch  
Katie Carmer  
Fred Chao

Janie Dailey  
Vivi Erickson  
Brandon Hebner  
Melanie Holm

Kendra Jack  
Kirk Johnson  
Sharon Nauman  
Amanda Romani

## LOCATIONS

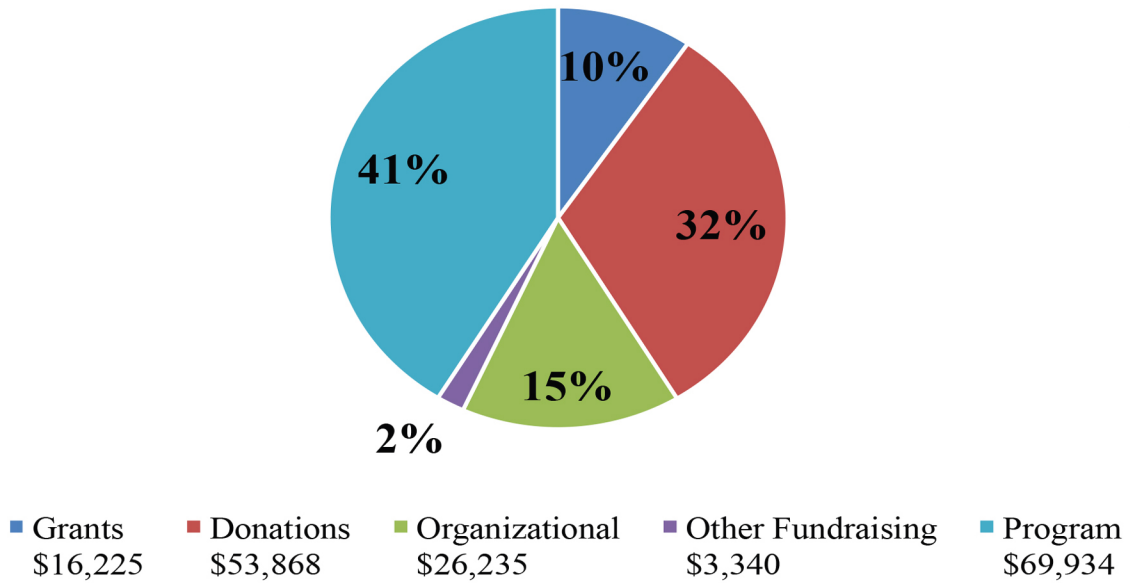
Estrella Mountain Community College  
Family School  
Fine Arts Academy (Littleton School District)  
First United Methodist Church of Mesa  
Gangplank Avondale

Ignacio Conchos Elementary School  
(Roosevelt School District)  
Little Big Minds (Encanto)  
Phoenix Center for the Arts  
Wigwam Creek Middle School

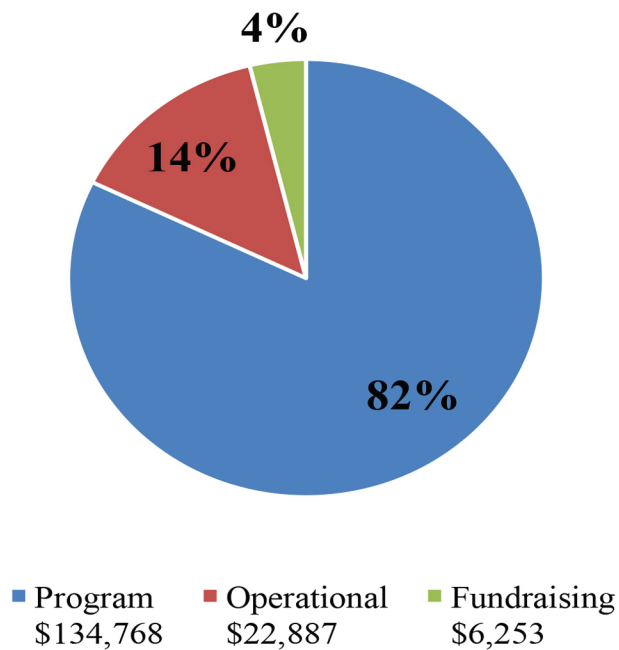


# Budget and Financials

Support and Revenues: \$169,602



Expenses: \$163,908





## Supporters

### FRIENDS OF SOUNDS ACADEMY: \$2,499 <

Albie Micklich  
Alexis Ronstadt  
Amanda Riske  
AmazonSmile  
Foundation  
Amish Shah  
Amy Steele  
Andrea Pursley  
Andy Shirk  
Angela Cardone  
Anna Montalbo  
Annette Johnson  
Antonio Escalante  
APS  
Arizona Community  
Foundation  
Arleth Garcia  
Ashley St. Thomas  
Beverly Kerr  
Blake Kammann  
Bonnie Verhoeven  
Brenda Unsworth  
Brian Moore  
Brittany Bryant  
Carmen Cannon  
Celi Olson  
Charles Blanton  
Chelsea Hesla  
Christopher Kendi  
O'Mard  
Christy Strauch  
Colleen Schiman  
Cory Kincaid  
Crescent Ballroom  
Curtis Larson  
D'addario Foundation

Dane Aye-Englert  
Danny McCall  
Darshan Karwat  
David Kelly  
Deryl Heitman  
Drew Shaw  
Dwight Combs  
Elizabeth Lyons  
Esther Fairley  
Fastine Marshall  
Fletcher Montzingo  
Forest Melton  
Forrest Valora  
Gabriel Moreno  
Gary Owens  
Gladis Bryant  
Grace Lyons  
Ian Fischer  
Illya Riske  
Inora Russell  
Intel  
Jacob Arrington  
Jamie Halavais  
Jason Brown  
Jeanine Decker  
Jeffrey Kressaty  
Jennifer Brady  
Jennifer Brian  
Jessica Smothermon  
Jessica Yokley  
Jim Unsworth  
John Bevell  
Joseph Logan  
Julio Rodriguez  
Kasia Chavez-Vasquez  
Kendra Scott LLC

Kenja Hassan  
Kirk Johnson  
Kirstin Story  
Lance Decker  
Laurie Stoff  
Lena Coleman  
Liz Fischer  
Logan Marshall  
Makoto Matsumoto  
Malory Aye-Englert  
Marcus Steele  
Maricela Lopez  
Mark & Darla Burnett  
Mark Michaud  
Mary Larson  
Matthew Cooper  
Melanie Barrett  
Nancy Rojas  
Network for Good  
Niccole Gusz  
Nichole Kizer  
Nubia Manning  
Orpheus Male Chorus  
of Phoenix  
Patrick Bowman  
Paul Gose  
Paula Sands  
Penny & Steve  
Papadopolous  
Perri Chase  
Peter Anderegg  
Rebeca Garcia  
Reina Montalbo  
Richard Marx  
Richard Milford  
Robbie Schwartz

Robert Navarro  
Robert Slifer  
Robert Withers  
Rosalynn Fulbright  
Ruth Rimmer  
Sally-Heath Lloyd  
Samara Glassman  
Sarah Megan Daley  
Sarah Selzer  
Scott & Linda Blake  
Scott Calhoun  
Scott Hesla  
Sentari Minor  
Sharon Luckett  
Shirlene Melton  
Stephanie Lake  
Steve Papadopolous  
Stinkweeds  
Styx  
Sun Byun  
Tamara Rayls  
Tammy Rocker  
Tanice Hughes  
Teach For America  
The Birthday Club  
Theodore Wimsatt  
Thomas Gulliver  
Toby Cardone  
Tony Bell  
Verna Jones  
Virginia Agar  
Virginia Johnson  
Yan Fen Li

### STUDENT SPONSOR: \$2,500 >

Arizona Community Foundation Black Philanthropic  
Initiative  
Camelback Kiwanis Club  
Chris Vine

D'Addario Foundation  
Valley of the Sun United Way  
SRP

### QUARTET SPONSORS: \$5,000 >

Armstrong Family Foundation

Wells Fargo

### SCHOOL SPONSOR: \$10,000 >

Christy Strauch Foundation

Discover Card

### In-Kind and Partnerships

ASU Gammage  
Always Timeless Productions  
Arizona Opera  
Buchanan Music  
Estrella Mountain Community  
College

First United Methodist Church of  
Mesa  
Garfield Storage  
Northern Arizona University  
Orpheus Male Chorus  
Phoenix Center for the Arts

Phoenix Symphony  
Restore Arts  
Valley of the Sun Violin



# Ways to Support

## Donate

- As a federal 501(c)3 charitable organization, your donation can qualify for a tax deduction.
- As a Qualifying Charitable Organization, Arizona residents can claim a dollar for dollar Arizona state tax credit.
- Donate long-term appreciated investments such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

## Sponsor an Event

There are opportunities to sponsor

- A student in the SOLO Program
- A School Program
- A SpeakEasy
- The Benefit Concert

Contact us for specific details.



## Engage

- Serve on the SOUNDS Academy Board or Committee
- Teach with SOUNDS Academy
- Volunteer with SOUNDS Academy
- Learn more by meeting with our Director

## Contact

1202 N 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

Phoenix, AZ 85004

623-349-4774

[info@soundsacademy.org](mailto:info@soundsacademy.org)

[www.soundsacademy.org](http://www.soundsacademy.org)

## Social Media

- Facebook: [soundsacademy.org](https://www.facebook.com/soundsacademy.org)
- Instagram: [SOUNDSAcademy](https://www.instagram.com/SOUNDSAcademy)
- Twitter: [@SoundsMaestro](https://twitter.com/@SoundsMaestro)



## I Appreciate SOUNDS Academy Because...

*My child is autistic and I have been searching for a music program for her throughout the Valley. When I would hear about a music program I would immediately apply but most often the programs would be full and the cost would be out of my financial range. SOUNDS Academy has made it possible for my daughter to learn to play the guitar and heighten her communication and social skills. Above all to pursue her love for music. When she says, "momma I go to lessons today." My response is, "yes, baby, today is lessons." Without SOUNDS Academy, I would not be able to utter those words to her.*

— SOUNDS Academy Parent

*SOUNDS Academy has been a great blessing for my children. Ever since they began lessons their love for music has only grown. I hear them practice every day and anxiously wait for their next lesson. I had trouble finding something that my 8-year-old would be passionate about. Although she was initially hesitant and reluctant to taking piano lessons, she was quickly won over by the music and her music teacher. She now sets piano goals for herself and can't wait to continue learning and growing.*

— SOUNDS Academy Parent

