

# 2022-2023

## Impact Report

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



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Digital copy made available at [soundsacademy.org/impactreport/](https://soundsacademy.org/impactreport/)

## A Note from the Founder and CEO

As I reflect on SOUNDS Academy and the progress that we've made this year, I am filled with gratitude. In 2014, I started SOUNDS Academy as a community music program, meant to impact the community. It is because of the community that we have thrived.

In starting the year, we were faced with the challenge of needing a new Central location twice! Ultimately, Osborn School District answered the call and welcomed us with open arms. When we needed new instructors for our Motown Band, Sandra Bassett's Motown Experience answered the call and stepped in to lead our students. There are so many other examples of the community helping us to thrive and I am so grateful for Phoenix!

We continue to find individuals in the community who align with our values, culture, and priorities. This year has been a year of learning and growth as we experienced new accomplishments. Your support has empowered us to explore new musical horizons, ensuring that **CREATIVITY** thrives not only in our classrooms but in the hearts and minds of every student we reach. We have added new **LEADERSHIP** to our Board of Directors, Staff, and Teachers that help us to develop new programs and solutions. **PERSEVERANCE** and **RESILIENCE** continue to be the beat and rhythm that sustains us through uncertainties. Our teachers, students, and supporters alike have showcased unwavering determination towards our mission of providing exceptional music education by turning obstacles into opportunities and setbacks into stepping stones. Our success is a testament to the power of **TEAMWORK**. From our dedicated teachers creating safe learning environments to our generous donors and supporters providing the instrumental resources for success, it is the collaborative efforts of our community that truly make a difference.

We are truly grateful to everyone for their contributions. To our donors, your generosity has been the melody that sustains our programs. To our teachers, you've orchestrated success in our classrooms. To our board members, your strategic direction has been the sheet music guiding our path. To our supporters, your enthusiasm has provided the rhythm that propels us forward.

Thank you for being the rhythm and melody that sustains us and the harmony that defines us!

Sincerely,

*Johnson*  
Kirk Johnson  
(Founder & CEO)



# Our Impact

## Since 2014...

**21,877**

Students impacted  
through the SOLO  
Program

**23,461**

Students impacted  
through the Musical  
Access Program

**48,279**

Students impacted  
through our During  
and After School  
Programs

**3,698**

Students impacted  
through the  
Collective Program

**\$387,963**

Scholarship Dollars  
Awarded

**100%**

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





# In 2022-2023

## SOUNDS Academy Served Students From

**2,170**

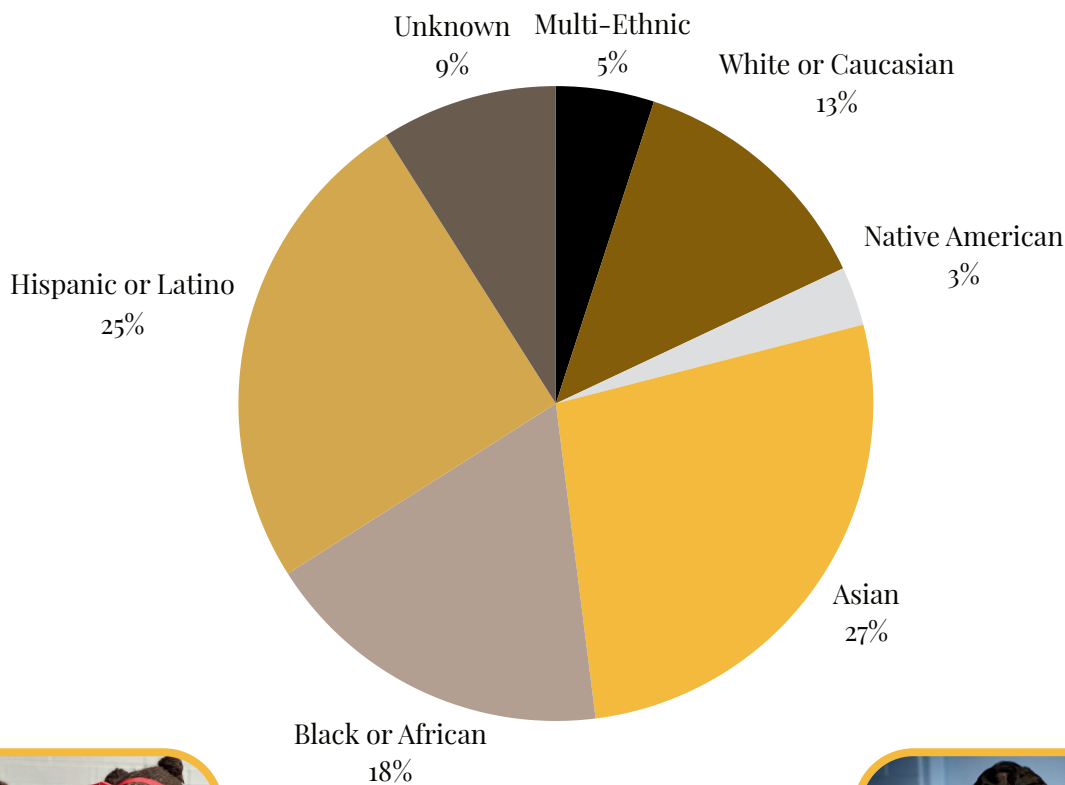
**Students Participated  
in SOUNDS Academy  
Programs**

**40**

**Zip Codes**

**75%**

**Of Our Students Come  
from Lower Income  
Neighborhoods and  
Schools**



**We are  
Diverse!**



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 and group classes on all instruments and voice. Instruments are provided to those who cannot afford one.



**Our Mission** is to teach, mentor, and provide musical experiences and opportunities to underserved youth.



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 which provide group instruction in lower income schools and community centers, our SOLO Program, which provides one-on-one instruction, and The Collective Ensembles that teach music theory and ensemble playing techniques.

**Our Vision** 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 centers 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 also brings performers and music professionals to schools.



**The SOLO (Students Optimizing Leadership Opportunities) Program** 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 in this program also lead Instrument Petting Zoos throughout the valley.

**The 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.

**The Collective** consists of 30 hardworking students who 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 & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Board Chair:** Ian Fischer (Jaburg Wilk)

**Vice-Chair:** Forest Melton (Univ. of Arizona)

**Treasurer:** Ronald Stoffle (PetSmart)

**Secretary:** Michael Peterson (Thrivent Financial)

Selma Babic (Collins Aerospace)

Tony Bell (Salt River Project)

Rob Donat (GPS Insight)

Eddie Gonzalez (SVN | Desert  
Commercial Advisors)

Kirk Johnson (SOUNDS Academy)

Virginia Johnson (Massachusetts  
Institute of Tech.)

Illya Riske (City of Mesa)

Christy Strauch (Author)

Steven Mountjoy (Bell Bank: Internal  
Affairs Committee)



## STAFF

Kirk Johnson, Founder & CEO

Ben MacDonald, Program Manager

Zarinah Nadir, Development Manager

Justin Worlock, Administrative Assistant

Mat Weddle, Program Assistant

Callie Worthen, Intern

## TEACHERS

Cindy Baker

Karen Bea

Janie Dailey

Aejin Ham

Mahadevan Iyer

Jaime Johnson

Jamie Kellogg

Thomas Lynch

Jackie Marotta

Sherri Maxson

Christopher McKay

Laura Meader

Arath (Alex) Muela

Julian Nguyen

Yeil Park

Daga Suchon



## BOARD OF ADVISORS

Patrick Armstrong (JDA Investments)

Reginald Bolding Jr. (Arizona State Rep.,  
District 27)

Sentari Minor (Gen Next)

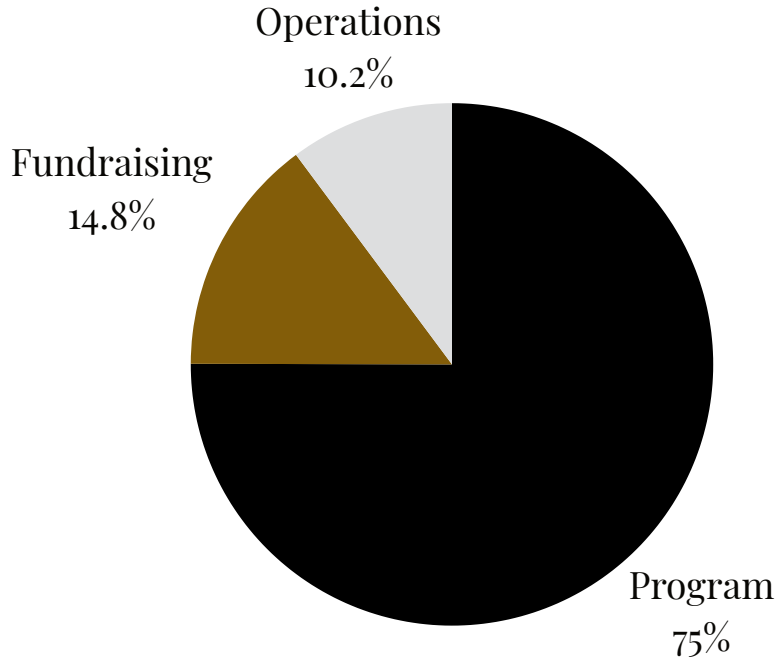
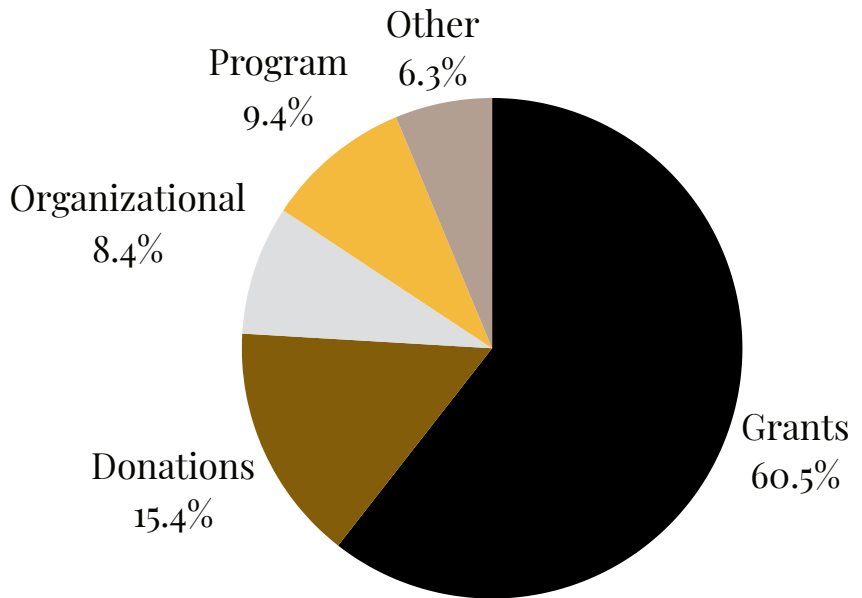
Amish Shah (Arizona State Rep., District 24)

Andrea Stouder Pursely (Management  
Center)



# Budget and Financials

**Support &  
Revenues:  
\$519,820.45**



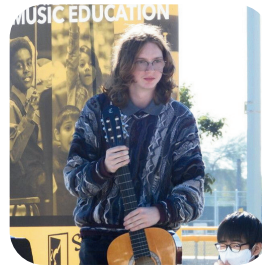
**Expenses:  
\$544,540.49**



# Highlights

Join us in celebrating the bright futures ahead for our remarkable high school graduates! Our seniors will be attending the following colleges:

- **Calvin Worthen, Jr.**, South Mountain Community College (General Studies)
- **Chloe Olson**, Grand Canyon University (Nursing)
- **Aaron Barrett**, Northern Arizona University (Dentistry)
- **Liam Boik**, Northern Arizona University (Secondary Music Education)
- **Juan Rojas**, Arizona State University (Aviation)



Within our commitment to fostering musical excellence, our dedicated staff embarked on an inspiring journey to the NAMM Conference in Anaheim. This annual gathering served as a pivotal moment for our team to expand horizons, connect with industry leaders, and immerse themselves in professional development opportunities. Their participation reflects our unwavering dedication to staying at the forefront of music education, ensuring that our students receive the best possible learning experiences.



# Highlights

Our exceptional CEO, Kirk Johnson, was awarded the esteemed Virginia G. Piper Fellowship! As one of the distinguished 2022 Piper Fellows, Kirk embarked on a transformative journey of professional development, enriching our organization's leadership and empowering us to enhance music education to underserved youth.



Help us congratulate the 1st-place winner of the 63rd annual Young Musicians Competition! SOUNDS Academy Student, Abraham Kim is the first to be ever awarded the Jean & Robert Frankenberger Grand Prize. Abraham was the featured soloist for the Side-by-Side Concert with Phoenix Symphony and Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra, playing the 4th movement of the Elgar Cello Concerto!

SOUNDS Academy has found its new home at Osborn Middle School, marking a significant partnership that amplifies our commitment to music education. This collaborative initiative brings our office and lesson rooms to Central Phoenix, creating a vibrant hub for nurturing musical talents within the school community.





# Sponsors & Supporters

## LEGACY SPONSOR: \$25,000 >

Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Burton Family Foundation  
Giles W. & Elise G. Mead Family Foundation  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

## SCHOOL SPONSOR: \$10,000 - \$24,999

Amazon.com Services, LLC  
Arizona Community Foundation  
City of Phoenix Office of Arts + Culture  
Robert Donat  
Los Angeles Philharmonic (YOLA)  
National Endowment for the Arts  
SRP  
The City of Phoenix  
Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW)

## QUARTET SPONSORS: \$5,000 - \$9,999

APS  
Cardinals Charities  
Gary Jaburg  
Jaburg and Wilk  
Penny and Steve Papadopoulos  
Stephen & Mary Birch Foundation  
Thrivent Foundation  
Thunderbird Charities  
William and Ruth T. Pendleton Memorial Fund

## STUDENT SPONSOR: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
Ian Fischer  
Michael Peterson  
Chris Vine



## FRIENDS OF SOUNDS ACADEMY: \$250 - \$2,499

Layla Alalawi  
Amazon Smiles Foundation  
Grant Anderson  
Arizona Women's Partnership Inc.  
AZ Gives  
Selma Babic  
Jessica Baker  
Clayton Bedoya  
Tony & Rebecca Bell  
Bell Bank

Raunel Rebollar and Remedios Bocanegra  
Valerie Bontrager  
Brophy College Preparatory  
Charles Schwab Foundation  
Perri Chase  
Jessica Cottrell  
Carlian Dawson  
Lance and Jeanine Decker  
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John Draftz  
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Jendry Fernandez  
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Eric Folland  
Robert Freund  
Friends of the Arizona Historical Society  
Rebeca Garcia  
Colleen Gautam  
Goff Family Foundation  
Eddie Gonzalez



# Sponsors & Supporters



## FRIENDS OF SOUNDS ACADEMY: \$250 - \$2,499

Ceceliaann Green  
Stephanie Grinage  
Daniel Gruber  
Marci Hadley-Mairel  
Jamie Halavais  
Hanna & Tareq Nassar & Sarama  
Sylvia and Gary Hanneman  
J.D. & Judy Helms  
Scott Holcomb  
Jessica Hosain  
Tanice Hughes  
Julie and Bruce Iacobelli  
Constance Jahrmarkt  
Annette Johnson  
Kirk Johnson  
Virginia Johnson  
Bridget Jones



Kareem Education Consulting Services, LLC  
Blake Keathley  
David Kelly  
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Michael Leon Jr  
Richard Livoni  
Elizabeth Lyons  
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Nubia Manning  
Logan Marshall  
Richard Marx  
Carol McKenzie  
Forest Melton  
Jeffrey Miller  
Michelle Miller  
Anna Montalbo  
Gabriel Moreno  
Nina Mullins  
Lori and Moe Muraweh  
National Bank of Arizona  
Celi Olson  
Joanne & Thomas Pennington  
Brandy Perez  
Quinton Presley  
Andrea Pursley  
Jennifer Randle  
Amanda Riske

Marc and Vicki Riske  
Julio Rodriguez  
Bonnie Roesch  
Raydel Rojas Pompa  
Christina Rosales-Stoffle  
Ralph Sandoval  
Savanna Sandoval  
Sarah Selzer  
William (Andy) and Verna Shirk  
Maria Simiz  
Maria Speth  
Ronald Stoffle  
Kirstin Story  
Christy Strauch  
Gris Tapia  
Bethany Taylor  
The Torosian Foundation  
Angela and Bob Tucker  
Tyler Technologies  
United Health Group  
Unity Church of Practical Christianity DBA Unity of Phoenix Spiritual Center  
Forrest Valora  
Sam Weissberg  
West Valley Mavericks Foundation  
Greg Wilkins  
Theodore Wimsatt

## An Update from our Alumni

Sounds Academy profoundly impacted my life, instilling five crucial character values vital throughout my music education. Currently a Junior at ASU studying computer science, my journey wasn't devoid of challenges, notably stepping beyond my comfort zone. Thanks to Sounds Academy, I've embraced discomfort, becoming more vocally confident and accustomed to performing in front of crowds through numerous concerts. Attending events like benefit concerts and summer camps expanded my network, fostering valuable connections. Among the character values taught, resilience stands out. Initially puzzling, it's now the most crucial; persisting despite tough assignments or test results has been key—I've learned to persevere, understanding that missed opportunities pave the way for future rebounds.



**- Raymond Zou  
Class of 2021**



**- Ezra Calvino  
Class of 2016**

Participating in SOUNDS Academy as a young musician laid the foundation for a rich and diverse career in classical music, granting me opportunities and skills I would have never had access to otherwise. Now working professionally as a conductor, I've been recognized for insightful, clear, and sensitive music interpretation. My studies have spanned from baroque to modern genres, and have shaped a unique artistic view tied to our complex history. I reject the limits of tradition, and tend to see classical art as a catalyst for societal healing. With degrees in both Orchestral Conducting and Viola Performance, I've trained in renowned programs like the National Orchestral Institute and the Eastern Music Festival. I'm honored to have worked side-by-side with living composers Jennifer Higdon, Augusta Reed Thomas, and Samuel Adler, and am grateful for my mentors Emily Freeman Brown and Marin Alsop. I currently reside in Chicago, where I work as an Associate Conductor for the Ravinia Festival's 'Sistema Ravinia' youth ensembles.



## I appreciate SOUNDS Academy because...

SOUNDS Academy is an amazing program. Our children have been provided with many opportunities through all of the SOUNDS Programs but especially the Musical Access Program, the SOLO Program, and The Collective. I see all of my children learning and applying the character values in their everyday lives. The team is able to meet each student where they are and help them on their musical journey.

– SOUNDS Academy Parent

SOUNDS Academy has helped me build confidence and develop a love for music.

– SOUNDS Academy Student

SOUNDS Academy has helped my children come out of their shy shells and strengthen their self-esteem. They have learned that hard work does pay off.

– SOUNDS Academy Parent

SOUNDS Academy is the best thing that happened to my daughter

– SOUNDS Academy Student



# Ways to Support



DONATE

COLLAB

SHARE



623-349-4774



info@soundsacademy.org



www.soundsacademy.org



PO Box 44497, Phoenix, AZ 85064



## 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.

## Engage

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

## 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

