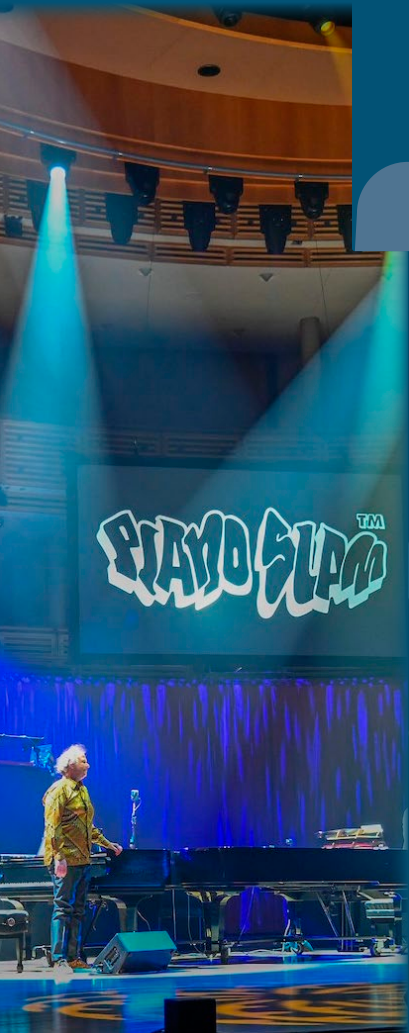




A HARMONY OF GRATITUDE

2024/2025 SEASON
IMPACT REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS



Emily Cardenas
Executive Director



Gabriele Fiorentino
Board President

We want to extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and engagement that made it possible for us to welcome an extraordinary lineup of artists who enriched us all with their talents.

Looking back at the 2024/25 season, what stands out most is the stellar artistic programming that brought diverse and colorful concerts to life while connecting with people in new and meaningful ways.

Our educational program inspired young minds, and our outreach efforts significantly ramped up our visibility and exposure to new audiences, funders, and the community at large.

The season also featured a successful leadership transition with the retirement of Carlene Sawyer in 2024, who served as Dranoff's executive director for two decades.

We rebranded from Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation to Dranoff 2 Piano Fusion to reflect the evolution of our programming that now emphasizes fusing two piano repertoire with music of many genres and cultures through concerts, collaborations, and education.

Despite the removal of arts funding from Florida's budget, we remained resilient with the help of COVID relief funds, support from Miami-Dade County Commissioners, the Knight Foundation, and cherished donors like many of you.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools also came to the rescue mid-year by offering us free office space, enabling us to substantially reduce our administrative expenses.

As Dranoff approaches its 40th anniversary, we are pleased to report that we are building larger audiences, developing collaborations, reducing our liabilities, and working toward expanding our board of directors as well as our programming.

Our accomplishments are a testament to the unwavering support of our resolute donors and patrons, the talent of our guest artists, the hard work of our board and staff, and the vibrancy of Miami's arts community.

We look to the future with excitement and optimism while acknowledging the precarious and changing realities of this new world in which we find ourselves. With your help, we will continue to persevere and grow.

Thank you once again for being a part of our journey as a vital part of our musical family. Together, we will continue to celebrate the beauty and power of music, push musical boundaries, and foster a shared sense of community.

2024/2025 SEASON IN REVIEW



CLASSICAL CLASSICS

Back to Beethoven

Internationally celebrated Ukrainian classical stars Olha Chipak and Oleksiy Kushnir wowed the crowd at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center on Nov. 24, 2024. Their presentation of Beethoven's *9th Symphony* in a two-piano arrangement by Franz Liszt was made even more special with the addition of Florida International University's Dr. Colin R. Williams on timpani. The first half of the program was equally as spectacular, featuring *La Valse – Poème chorégraphique* by composer Maurice Ravel, followed by *Reminiscences du Don Juan de Mozart* by Franz Liszt and the drama of *Night* by Turkish pianist and composer Fazil Say.



WEST AFRICAN BEATS

One Song

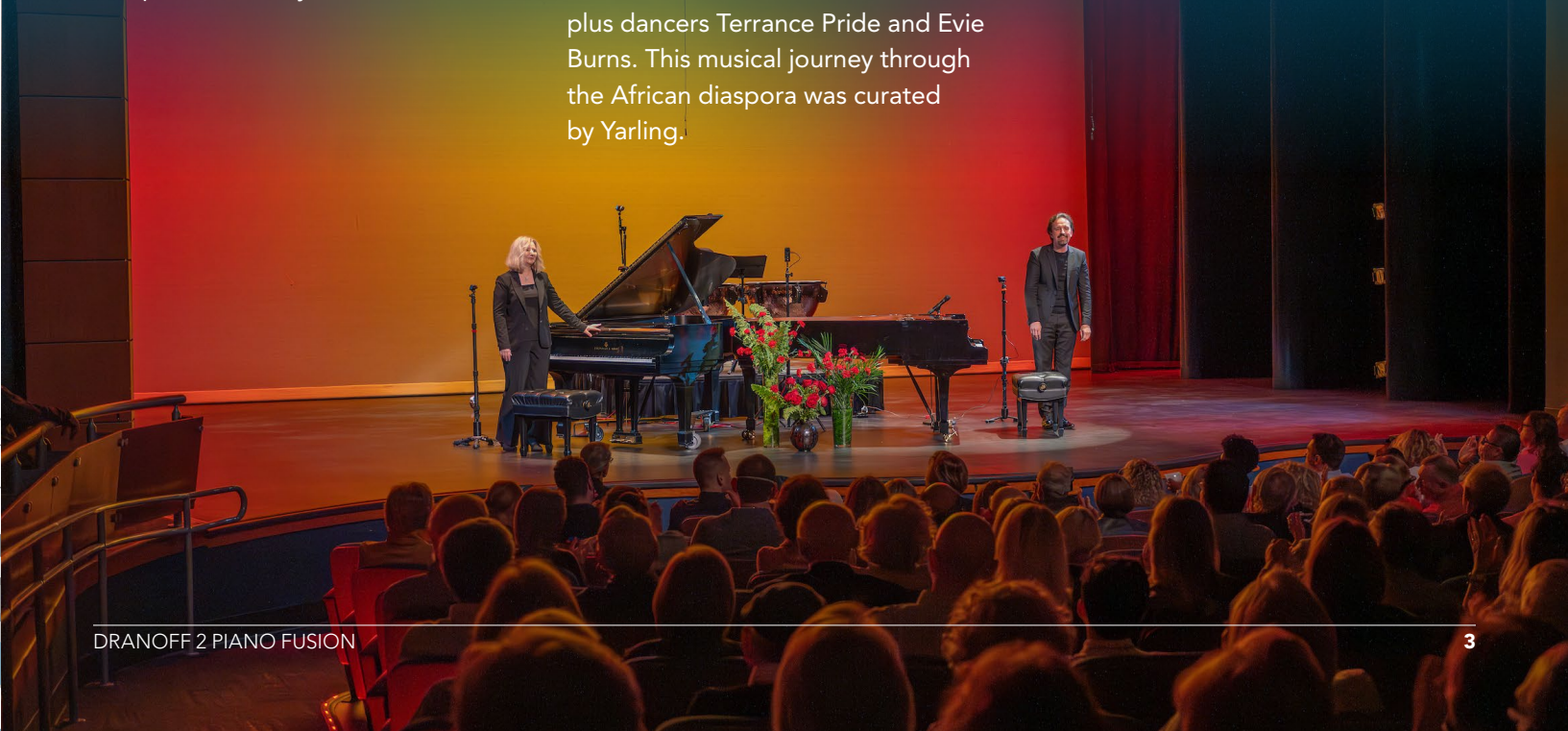
From Soca and Rara to blues, spirituals, jazz and the music of New Orleans, this performance at the Miami Beach Bandshell on Feb. 16, 2025, proved how the joy of music and dance creates humanity's bond. Billed as the musical voyage of a lifetime, the concert explored the influence of West Africa on cultures throughout the world through song and dance featuring violinist and vocalist Nicole Yarling, and pianists Martin Bejerano and Jim Gasior. They were joined by Jean Caze on trumpet, Mark Small on saxophone, John Yarling on drums, Nanyamka Graham on percussion, Marty Quinn on bass, and Alex Cameron on fiddle, plus dancers Terrance Pride and Evie Burns. This musical journey through the African diaspora was curated by Yarling.



LATIN 2 PIANO

From Rio to Miami

Samba, Choro, Bossa Nova, Baião, Maracatu and more, the audience at Sanctuary of the Arts in Coral Gables reveled in our sold-out show on May 9, 2025. It delivered the passion and soul of Brazilian music featuring pianists Thito Camargo and Phil DeGreg, accompanied by Michael Ramos on bass, Wesley Cosvosk on drums, and Brian Potts on percussion. The concert featured music from some of Brazil's most beloved composers, such as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Pixinguinha, Sivuca, Hermeto Pascoal, Jacob do Bandolin, and Joao Bosco.



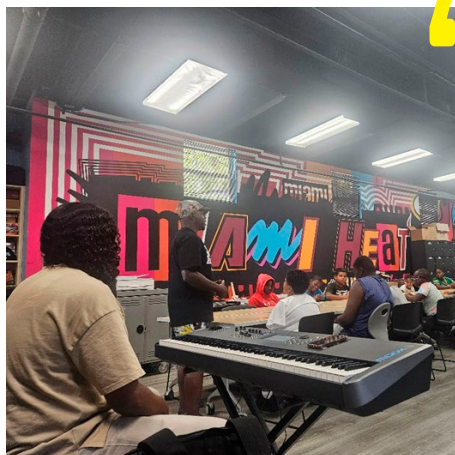
EDUCATION

PIANO SLAM™



IN SCHOOLS

More than just a single show, Piano Slam is a STEAM-integrated program that starts each academic year with specialized professional development workshops to train educators on how to implement Piano Slam curricula in their classrooms. This year was no exception. Subsequently, we engaged students in 33 classrooms across twelve schools with a live piano duo concert, a spoken word presentation, two poetry writing workshops, and experiential learning field trips to several of Miami-Dade County's most imperiled habitats. The program improved students' creative writing skills and enhanced learning in core subjects. It also prepared them to participate in our annual poetry competition that yielded more than 600 submissions.



AT CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP

Dranoff took Piano Slam from the classroom to the homeless shelter to serve youth at Chapman Partnership North and South. Students of various middle and high school ages came together in common spaces for monthly piano concerts and poetry writing workshops. Teaching artist Calvin Early said, "Of all the work that I have done with Piano Slam, my sessions with Chapman Partnership North have been the most meaningful by far. Understanding this transitional period and the vulnerable state of these young people's lives, I know just how therapeutic a tool like creative writing is." In a notable session with poet James Klynn, the song *If I Ruled the World* by the rapper Nas was employed as a writing prompt. Students expressed that in their ideal world everyone would have a big home and tasty food to eat.

“PIANO SLAM BROUGHT OUT THIS SIDE OF ME THAT I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED OR WAS TOO SHY TO BRING IT OUT. I NOW BELIEVE THAT I HAVE MORE POWER IN MY VOICE ... IT CHALLENGES YOU AND I THINK POLISHES YOU INTO A BETTER VERSION OF YOURSELF.”

—Jenima Gabriel
Dr. Michael M. Krop
Senior High School

“PIANO SLAM IMPROVED MY DAUGHTER'S PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS, SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND SOCIAL SKILLS.”

—Martin Angkawijaya

“THIS PROGRAM FOSTERS MY STUDENTS' CRITICAL THINKING, READING, AND WRITING SKILLS, ALONG WITH THEIR COMPREHENSION AND USAGE OF FIGURATIVE AND STEM DEVICES. BEST OF ALL, IT ALLOWS THEM TO WORK OUT THEIR CREATIVE MUSCLES, WHICH SADLY DON'T ALWAYS GET MUCH USE DURING A REGULAR SCHOOL DAY.”

—Ana Cristina Martinez, Hialeah Senior High School

ON STAGE

This year's poetry competition in public schools culminated on April 23, 2025, with our annual free performance of piano and spoken word fusion where rhythm meets rhyme on the Knight Concert Hall stage, co-presented with the Adrienne Arsht Center. It featured Miami's aspiring top teen poets, directed by the award-winning Teo

Castellanos and performed alongside renowned classical pianists Jeroen van Veen and Mike del Ferro. From an ode to the singular music note and a tribute to the sounds of Haiti to verses about growing pains, the music bed of Miami, and saving the ocean's song, Piano Slam finalists skillfully integrated this year's theme, "Music of my past ... Sounds of the future," into their poetry. Using music and science terms, our 15 finalists addressed topics as weighty as

discrimination, hatred, and family struggles to lighter subjects such as the joy of dance and childhood memories. Each poem was an original piece of art that represented the unique voice of every student. Four won \$1,000 cash prizes, selected by a prestigious panel of judges that included Miami-Dade County poet laureate Caridad Moro-Gronlier and 2013 presidential poet laureate Richard Blanco.



Daniel Benitez



Savier Almeida

FEATURED ARTISTS

Concerts presented by Dranoff 2 Piano Fusion showcased piano duos among a myriad of other talented musicians and artists.



Martin Bejerano



Nicole Yarling



Teo Castellanos



Nanyamka Graham



Jean Caze



Jeroen van Veen



Michael Ramos



Mike del Ferro



Wesley Cosvosk



Phil DeGreg



Thiago "Thito" Camargo



Mark Small

- Nina Ahmadi**, Poet
- James Balo**, Poet
- Martin Bejerano**, Pianist
- Cecilia Andrea Benitez**, Dancer
- Evie Burns**, Dancer
- Thiago "Thito" Camargo**, Pianist

- Alex Cameron**, Violinist
- Teo Castellanos**, Director
- Jean Caze**, Trumpeter
- Chipak & Kushnir**, Pianists
- Wesley Cosvosk**, Drummer
- Aeon De La Cruz**, Dancer
- Phil DeGreg**, Pianist
- Mike del Ferro**, Pianist
- Jim Gasior**, Pianist

- Nanyamka Graham**, Percussionist
- Anthony Laurencio**, Synth Player
- Brian Potts**, Percussionist
- Terrance Pride**, Dancer
- Marty Quinn**, Bassist
- Michael Ramos**, Bassist

- Mark Small**, Saxophonist
- Jeroen van Veen**, Pianist
- Dr. Collin R. Williams**, Percussionist
- John Yarling**, Drums
- Nicole Yarling**, Vocalist & Violinist

COMMUNITY IMPACT

We are grateful to serve the diverse audiences that make Miami-Dade County home and to contribute toward the abundant cultural landscape where we all live, work and raise our children. Nothing pleases us more than to see joy on the faces of the people who appreciate what Dranoff has to offer.

4

PERFORMANCES PRESENTED

26

ARTISTS FEATURED

1,438

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

1,000

STUDENTS SERVED IN SCHOOLS

600

POEMS SUBMITTED TO PIANO SLAM COMPETITION

516

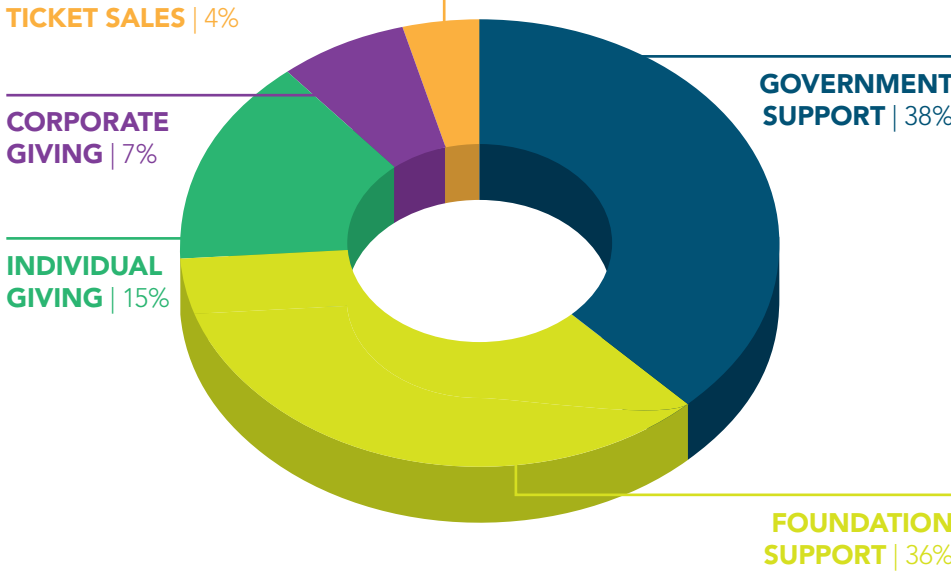
ONLINE CONCERT VIEWS

912,775

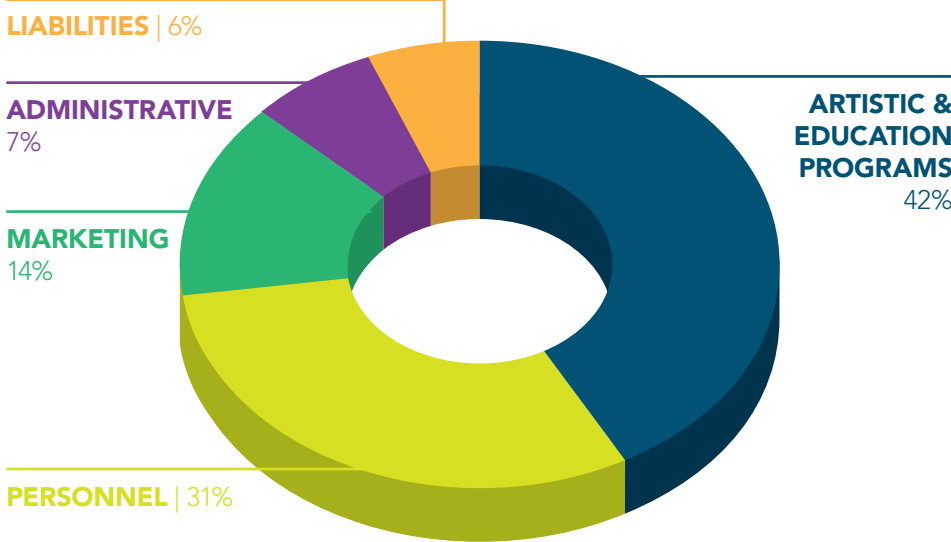
TOTAL SEASON REACH VIA ONLINE MEDIA

2024/2025 FINANCIALS

INCOME \$593,029



EXPENSES \$550,899



SUPPORTERS



ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
CHAIRMAN
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, DISTRICT 10



We gratefully acknowledge all our contributors, including those not listed here
and Miami Dade County Commission sponsors of Piano Slam.

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9889 Hammocks Blvd | Miami, FL 33196 | (305) 572-9900 | Email: mail@dranoff2piano.org

www.dranoff2pianofusion.org

MISSION:

To create community by fusing 2 piano repertoire with music of many genres
and cultures through concerts, collaborations and education.

Learn more about Dranoff 2 Piano
Fusion by scanning the QR code:

