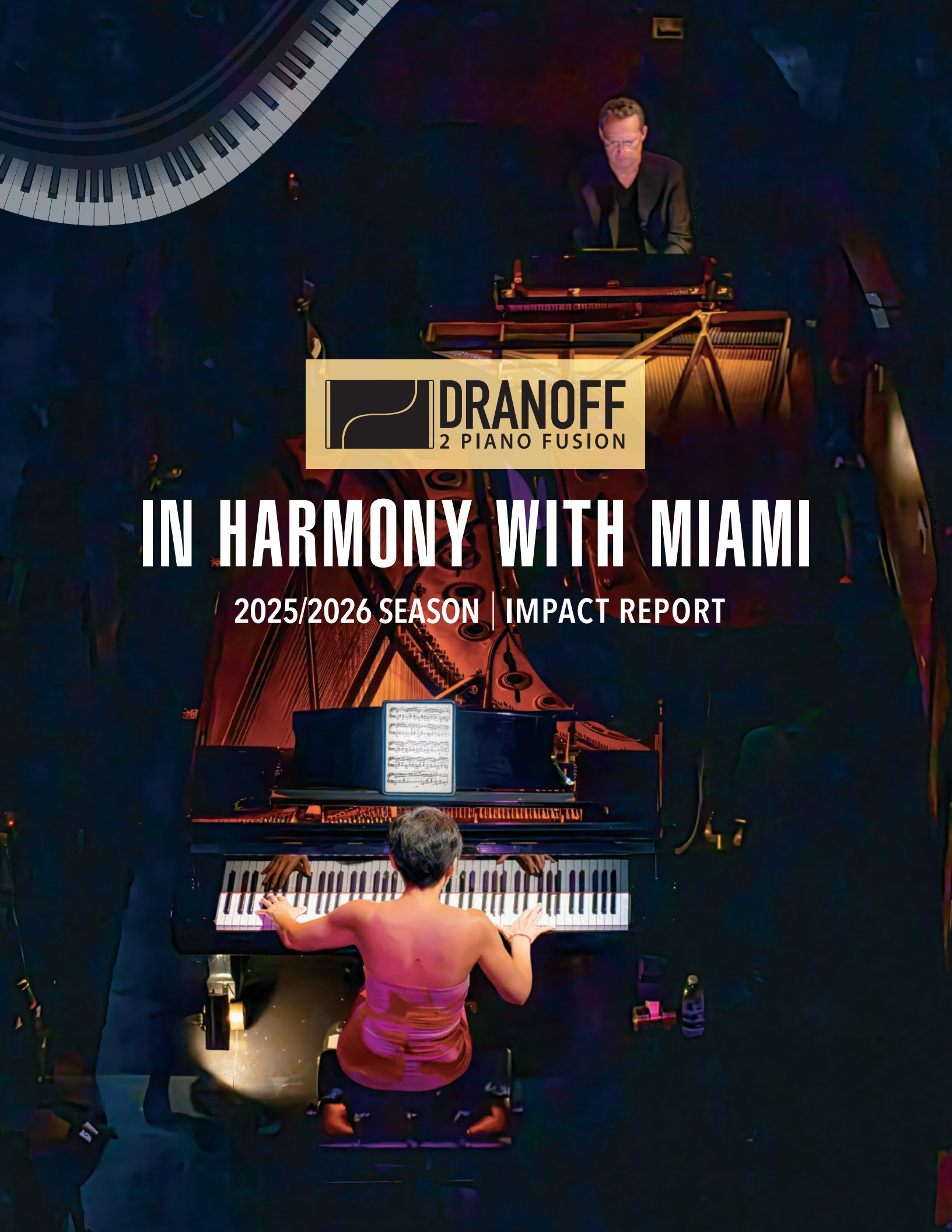


DRANOFF
2 PIANO FUSION

IN HARMONY WITH MIAMI

2025/2026 SEASON | IMPACT REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

What a season it has been! From the elegant concert hall of Aventura to a bustling shopping mall filled with the unexpected magic of two grand pianos, the 2025/26 season of Dranoff 2 Piano Fusion has been a testament to what music can do when it meets people where they are.

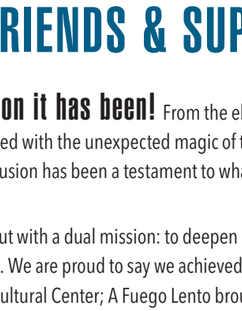
This year we set out with a dual mission: to deepen our artistic programming and broaden our community reach. We are proud to say we achieved both. Genova & Dimitrov dazzled at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center; A Fuego Lento brought the heart of Latin America to Pinecrest Gardens in a North American premiere; and Summer Dances & Two Pianos united Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami with Dranoff in a groundbreaking collaboration that pushed classical art forms into thrilling new territory.

Perhaps the most exciting development this season was the launch of Pianos in Public Places. Visualize two concert grand pianos on the ground floor of the two-story Aventura Mall, delighting hundreds of shoppers with free performances by Duo Spektra. This bold new concept reflects our belief that world-class music should not be confined to concert halls, and we are eager to expand it as we secure additional support.

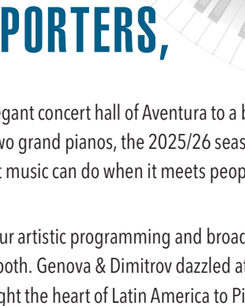
Our Piano Slam education program continued to inspire and transform young lives. This year, 729 poems poured in from students across 14 Miami-Dade County schools, and four poets won $1,000 prizes on the Knight Concert Hall stage. Stories like that of Kaleb Duarte, who grew up without running water in Cuba and wrote of his dream of a new home in America, remind us powerfully why this work matters.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity sustains our artists, our students, our staff, and the irreplaceable programming that enriches Miami's cultural fabric. As we look ahead, we do so with optimism, purpose, and deep gratitude for the community that makes Dranoff's music possible.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.



Emily Cardenas
Executive Director



Gabriele Fiorentino
Board President

2025/2026 SEASON IN REVIEW

CLASSICAL CLASSICS
The Monet of Music

On February 1, 2026, Dranoff welcomed world-renowned piano duo Genova & Dimitrov to the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center for The Monet of Music – the first stop on a North American tour marking their 30th anniversary, fresh off completing a celebrated Debussy recording trilogy.

An audience of 250 was immersed in the sensuous world of French Impressionism through works by Debussy, Reinecke, Ravel, and Borodin, while projections of Monet and Renoir masterpieces on screen created a feast of sight and sound that earned enthusiastic praise long after the final note faded.

Fanfare, a leading American magazine devoted to classical recordings, has since published a rave review of the third volume of Genova & Dimitrov's Debussy Complete Works for Piano Duo, the trilogy they completed just before bringing the tour to Miami.

LATIN 2 PIANO
A Fuego Lento

On March 28, 2026, at Pinecrest Gardens, Dranoff presented the North American premiere of A Fuego Lento, featuring Venezuelan pianists Vanessa Perez and Latin Grammy-winner Kristhyan Benítez, as part of Miami-Dade County Auditorium's Away from Home Series. Built on new two-piano arrangements by Stephen Buck, the program fused classical piano with popular and folk styles, drawing on beloved works by Violeta Parra, Hugo Blanco, Juan Gabriel, Horacio Salgán, and Arturo Márquez, among others, and took its name from Salgán's tango classic.

After relentless thunderstorms flooded Pinecrest and forced a postponement from the original March 1 date, the rescheduled evening delivered in spectacular fashion. A crowd of 300 gave multiple standing ovations to a flawlessly executed concert brimming with nostalgia and cultural pride.

SUMMER DANCES & TWO PIANOS
A Bold New Collaboration

In a landmark first-ever partnership, Dranoff joined forces with Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami (DDTM) for Summer Dances & Two Pianos at the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center on July 11, 2026. Internationally acclaimed piano duo Stephanie & Saar performed live alongside DDTM's world-class dancers in an electrifying fusion of neoclassical dance and two-piano music before an audience of more than 400.

The program featured world premieres by choreographers DaYoung Jung, Yanis Eric Pikieris, Selah Jane Oliver, and Rafael Ruiz-del-Vizo, with music ranging from Alfonso Peduto's Aftermath to Beethoven's Pastorale. A highlight was Pikieris' creation set to Fantasia de Tres Mundos, a jazz-infused work by Dranoff Music Director Martin Bejerano. The project was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

PIANOS IN PUBLIC PLACES
Bringing the Music to You

Dranoff launched Pianos in Public Places this season – a new initiative inspired by Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places program, with the intent of bringing free two-piano performances to community spaces throughout the county.

The program debuted on December 6, 2025, at Aventura Mall, where Inesa Gegprifti and Redi Llupa of Duo Spektra performed 20-minute concerts at 2, 3, 4, and 5 p.m. to the delight of holiday shoppers. Classics by Mozart, Bach, Piazzolla, and Tchaikovsky drew crowds of hundreds who gathered, photographed, and leaned over second-floor banisters to take in the unexpected magic filling the mall.

This inaugural performance at Aventura Mall is just the beginning. As Dranoff seeks additional funding to support this initiative, we look forward to expanding Pianos in Public Places to venues throughout Miami-Dade County, making the magic of two-piano music accessible to all.

EDUCATION:
“SEARCHING FOR HOME”

IN SCHOOLS

Piano Slam is a comprehensive, STEAM-integrated arts education program woven into classrooms across Miami-Dade County, and the engine behind our annual poetry competition that culminates on stage. The 2025/26 academic year launched with a teacher professional development day featuring presidential inaugural poet Richard Blanco. A second training in October explored the ecological connection to “Searching for Home.”

This year’s cohort grew to 14 schools and approximately 68 classrooms, with 10 of the 14 schools receiving live in-school piano duo concerts and spoken word performances. In poetry writing workshops, 1,378 students explored the year’s theme and learned to work music and science terms into descriptive language, often as metaphors and similes. Students also took experiential science field trips to the Cape Florida Lighthouse, exploring marine ecosystems, local history, and environmental stewardship through nature walks and mural making with reclaimed beach refuse that helped inspire their writing.

The competition that followed drew 729 submissions, reviewed by 20 volunteer judges. Advanced finalists received two weeks of rigorous training in the spoken word tradition, taking their poetry from the page to the stage.

> “We couldn’t believe our eyes. Our daughter has grown in such a short time. Seeing her confidence on stage and how she connected with others was really special.”
>
> *–Soukaina Laasiri, Parent*

PIANO SLAM™

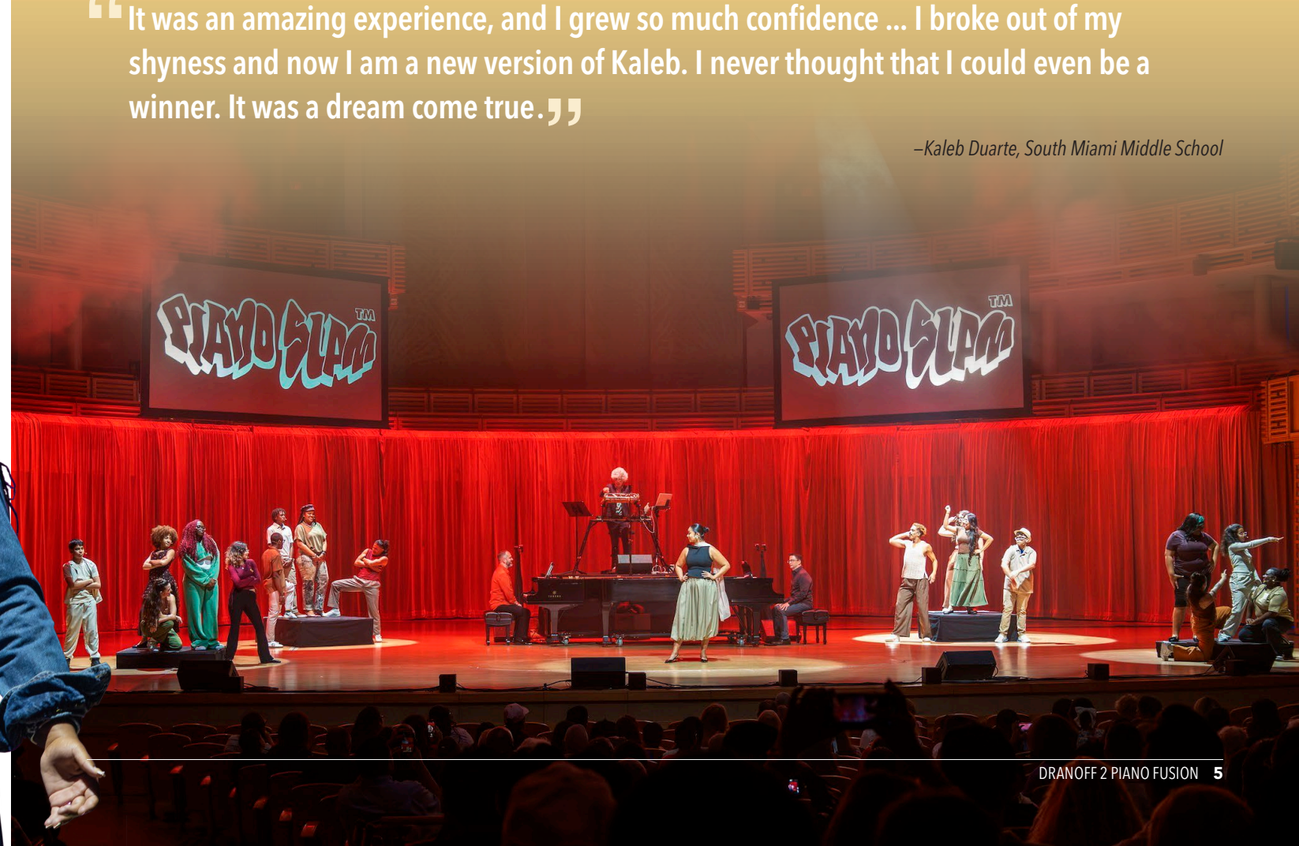
ON STAGE

The Knight Concert Hall of the Adrienne Arsht Center came alive on April 18, 2026, with the annual Piano Slam showcase – a mashup of spoken word, classical music, and performance art co-presented by Dranoff and the Adrienne Arsht Center. Directed by the award-winning Teo Castellanos, the evening’s theme was “Searching for Home,” inspired by the creative writing journey of presidential inaugural poet Richard Blanco.

Student finalists performed original poems alongside pianists Martin Bejerano and Daniel Strange, DJ synth player Anthony “Smurfio” Laurencio, and spoken word poet Mecca Grimo Marcelin, with a blockbuster finale by Florida Grand Opera Studio Artist Catherin Meza performing “Home” from The Wiz, arranged for two pianos by Bejerano.

Four grand prize winners each received $1,000, selected by judges Richard Blanco, Miami-Dade County poet laureate Caridad Moro-Gronlier, Lolita Stewart-White, and Mary Block. Winners included Kimora Alcime and Clint John from Miami Norland Senior High School, Dwens Jean-Pierre from William H. Turner Technical Arts High School, and Kaleb Duarte from South Miami Middle School. Duarte’s poem about growing up without running water in Cuba and dreaming of a new life in America brought the house down. His story was subsequently featured in *Artburst Miami* and reprinted in *The Miami Herald*.

> “It was an amazing experience, and I grew so much confidence … I broke out of my shyness and now I am a new version of Kaleb. I never thought that I could even be a winner. It was a dream come true.”
>
> *–Kaleb Duarte, South Miami Middle School*



FEATURED ARTISTS

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

Saar Ahuvia

Martin Bejerano

Kristhyan Benítez

Teo Castellanos

Liuben Dimitrov

Inesa Gegprifti

Aglika Genova

Stephanie Ho

Anthony "Smurfio" Laurencio

Redi Llupa

Mecca Grimo Marcelin

Catherin Meza

Vanessa Perez

Daniel Strange

Saar Ahuvia, Pianist
Martin Bejerano, Pianist and Dranoff Music Director
Kristhyan Benítez, Pianist
Stephen Buck, Arranger
Teo Castellanos, Director
Liuben Dimitrov, Pianist
Inesa Gegprifti, Pianist
Aglika Genova, Pianist
Stephanie Ho, Pianist
Da Jin Kim, Pianist
Kevin Knowles, Pianist
Anthony "Smurfio" Laurencio, Synth Player
Redi Llupa, Pianist
Mecca Grimo Marcelin, Poet
Catherin Meza, FGO Soprano
Vanessa Perez, Pianist
Daniel Strange, Pianist
Shih-man Weng, Pianist

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. The joy on the faces of the people who appreciate what Dranoff has to offer is the ultimate validation of our mission.

5
PERFORMANCES PRESENTED

2,000
IN-PERSON ATTENDEES

18
ARTISTS FEATURED

1,378
STUDENTS SERVED IN SCHOOLS

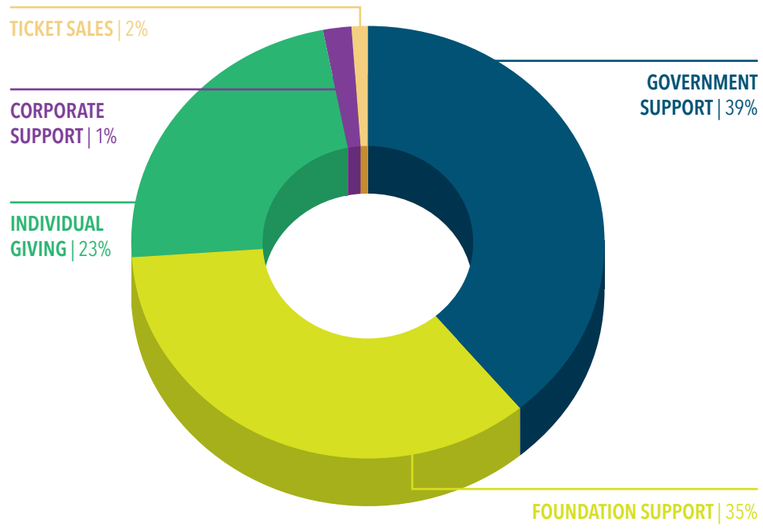
729
POEMS SUBMITTED TO PIANO SLAM COMPETITION

647,749
TOTAL SEASON REACH VIA ONLINE MEDIA

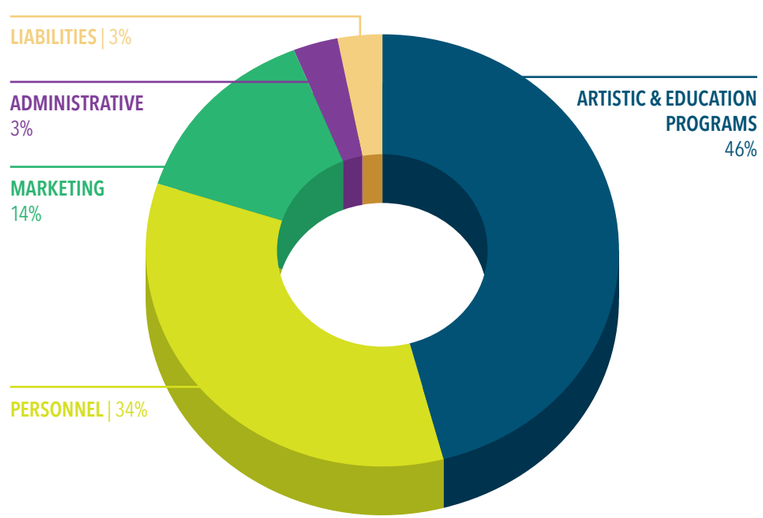
26%
WEBSITE TRAFFIC INCREASE

2025-2026 FINANCIALS

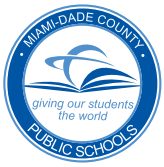
INCOME **$533,771**



EXPENSES **$501,792**



SUPPORTERS



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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: