ARIZONA FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026



PICTURED: MIRÓ QUARTET
PHOTO BY: JEFF WILSON

The world-class chamber performances AFCM has brought to Tucson have enriched my life and that of countless other classical music lovers beyond measure.

—Boyer Rickel
AFCM SUPPORTER



PICTURED: JASPER STRING QUARTET
PHOTO BY: LISA-MARIE MAZZUCCO
PERFORMED: NOVEMBER 19, 2025

OUR MISSION

The Arizona Friends of Chamber Music (AFCM), founded more than seven decades ago, promotes classical and contemporary chamber music in Southern Arizona. AFCM's overarching goal is to help chamber music, with its special focus on delicate conversations among instruments, to thrive here. AFCM aims to develop and maintain a broad-based, sustainable audience for our concerts through creative programming, and to reach out to an ever more diverse audience through our commissioning program, our formal and informal community outreach activities, and our educational offerings.



PICTURED: JUILLIARD STRING QUARTET
PERFORMED: FEBRUARY 18, 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflecting on AFCM's 2025–26 season, our seventy-eighth, I am filled with gratitude for the community whose support sustains chamber music in Tucson. Once again the season showed why our stage is one of the world's great homes for this music.

Our season featured three Summer Series concerts, three Piano & Friends recitals, six Evening Series concerts and the Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival. The Evening Series welcomed the Jerusalem, Jasper, Amernet, Miró, Juilliard and Brentano quartets, and the Festival gathered the Goldmund String Quartet and seven guest artists for a week of music under Artistic Co-Directors Peter Rejto and Bernadette Harvey.

New music ran through the whole year. Four AFCM commissions reached the stage, by Patrick Castillo, Daniel Asia, Tamar-kali and Michi Wiancko, whose horn trio, *The World Wants Us to Love It*, was premiered at the Festival's final concert. Three of the four were world premieres, and AFCM has now commissioned and premiered 88 works since 1997, a body of music that is Tucson's gift to the chamber repertoire.

Off the stage, Music in the Schools brought free live chamber music into Tucson classrooms, the Tucson Adult Chamber Players offered fall and spring sessions of coaching for adult musicians, and a $12,000 Creative Capacity Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts recognized what AFCM brings to Southern Arizona. Your gifts to the Annual Fund, the November Soirée at the Arizona Inn, and the Festival Celebration and Silent Auction, together with strong investment returns, closed the year with a surplus and a growing endowment.

Your enthusiasm and support enable AFCM to bring the world's finest chamber music to Tucson, performances that inspire and endure. Thank you again for helping ensure that chamber music continues to flourish here and for the world.



LARRY HERRON
President

EVENING SERIES

The Evening Series, AFCM's foundational and signature program, brought six of the world's leading string quartets to the Leo Rich Theater, opening in October with the Jerusalem Quartet's program of Haydn, Janáček and Beethoven's Op. 130 with the Grosse Fuge.

Among the season's highlights were three AFCM commissions: the Arizona premiere of Patrick Castillo's String Quartet No. 2 by the Jasper String Quartet in November, the world premiere of Daniel Asia's *Pines' Last Poems*, by mezzo-soprano Rachel Calloway and the Amernet String Quartet in December, and new songs by Tamar-kali, premiered in January by soprano Karen Slack and the Miró Quartet on a program that also featured William Grant Still, Florence Price and Margaret Bonds.

With Shostakovich and Beethoven's Op. 132, the Juilliard String Quartet returned in February, and the Brentano Quartet closed the series in March with an all-Beethoven evening.

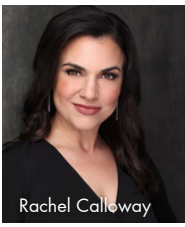
Through this remarkable lineup, AFCM reaffirmed its place among the nation's leading chamber music presenters.

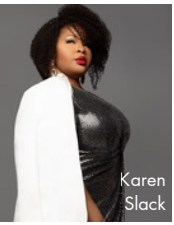
Jerusalem Quartet
Jasper String Quartet
Amernet String Quartet with mezzo-soprano Rachel Calloway
Miró Quartet with soprano Karen Slack
Juilliard String Quartet
Brentano Quartet


Jerusalem Quartet


Jasper String Quartet


Amernet String Quartet


Rachel Calloway


Karen Slack


Miró Quartet


Juilliard String Quartet


Brentano Quartet

CONCERT SERIES 2026

PIANO & FRIENDS

Piano & Friends celebrates exceptional young artists on the threshold of remarkable careers. Cellist Benett Tsai, a recent First Prize winner at the Young Concert Artists International Auditions, opened the series in November with pianist HyeJin Kim in music by Boulanger, Shostakovich, Bloch and Barber. In January, saxophonist Don-Paul Kahl stepped in after a last-minute cancellation, joined by pianist Hannah Creviston and clarinetist Jackie Glazier in Decruck, Larsen, Biedenbender and Debussy. Pianist Anran Qian closed the series in April with Florence Price, Amy Beach, Clara Schumann, Caroline Shaw, Chen Yi and Liszt.

Our 2025–2026 season featured:
Benett Tsai, *cello*
Don-Paul Kahl, *saxophone*
Anran Qian, *piano*


Benett Tsai


Don-Paul Kahl


Anran Qian

SUMMER SERIES

The Summer Series brought three Wednesday-evening concerts to Rincon Congregational United Church of Christ. Clarinetist Jackie Glazier and pianist Daniel Linder opened the series in June with Brahms, Bernstein and Poulenc.

In July, violinist Steven Moeckel and pianist Nathan Arch played Beethoven, Saint-Saëns and Jennifer Higdon's *String Poetic*, and in August harpist Ben Albertson closed the series with Fauré, Hindemith and the world premiere of Chelsea Komschlies's *Brain Storms*. Each concert was followed by a reception in the church's Fellowship Hall.

TUCSON WINTER CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 2026 Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival gathered the Goldmund String Quartet and seven guest artists for five concerts, March 8 to 15, under Artistic Co-Directors Peter Rejto and Bernadette Harvey. Programs ranged from Mozart, Brahms and Mendelssohn to Amy Beach, Dvořák and Schoenberg.
The final concert brought the world premiere of Michi Wiancko's *The World Wants Us to Love It*, an AFCM commission supported by Tippet Rise Art Center. Alongside the concerts, audiences enjoyed Open Dress Rehearsals, Pre-Concert Conversations, a Youth Concert, the Silent Auction and the Festival Celebration at the Leo Rich Theater.

Goldmund String Quartet
Florian Schötz, *violin*
Pinchas Adt, *violin*
Christoph Vandory, *viola*
Raphael Paratore, *cello*

Guest Artists
Axel Strauss, *violin*
David Fung, *piano*
Jakob Taylor, *cello*
Kristina Mascher-Turner, *horn*
Clara Neubauer, *violin*
Jeewon Park, *piano*
Paul Neubauer, *viola*


Goldmund String Quartet


Clara Neubauer


Jeewon Park


David Fung


Paul Neubauer


Axel Strauss


Jakob Taylor


Kristina Mascher-Turner

COMMISSIONS

Chamber music is a vibrant and evolving art form, and AFCM supports its growth by commissioning new works from engaging, accessible composers, each tailored to an ensemble AFCM selects. Since 1997, AFCM has commissioned and premiered 88 compositions, Tucson's lasting gifts to the musical world. This season brought the three world premieres below and the Arizona premiere of Patrick Castillo's String Quartet No. 2, "Libera me," an AFCM co-commission, by the Jasper String Quartet.



Daniel Asia
Pines' Last Poems
Amernet String Quartet
with Rachel Calloway
December 10, 2025
World Premiere



Tamar-kali
Pleasure Garden
Miró Quartet
with Karen Slack
January 28, 2026
World Premiere



Michi Wiancko
The World Wants Us to Love It
Jeewon Park, Clara Neubauer & Kristina Mascher-Turner
March 15, 2026
World Premiere

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

MUSIC IN THE SCHOOLS

In the 2025–2026 season, AFCM invested $9,775 in Music in the Schools, bringing 25 free live chamber music programs to approximately 4,000 Tucson students, with a special focus on Title I schools.

Performers included the Southwest String Quintet, the University of Arizona Graduate Wind Quintet, Lineage Percussion's Trevor Barroero, and Piano & Friends artists Anran Qian, piano, and Benett Tsai, cello, who gave two programs at Miller Elementary. AFCM paid $7,000 directly to the musicians who performed.

Schools receiving concerts included: Craycroft Elementary • Gridley Middle School • Highland Free School • Homer Davis Elementary • Kellond Elementary • McCorkle Academy • Miller Elementary

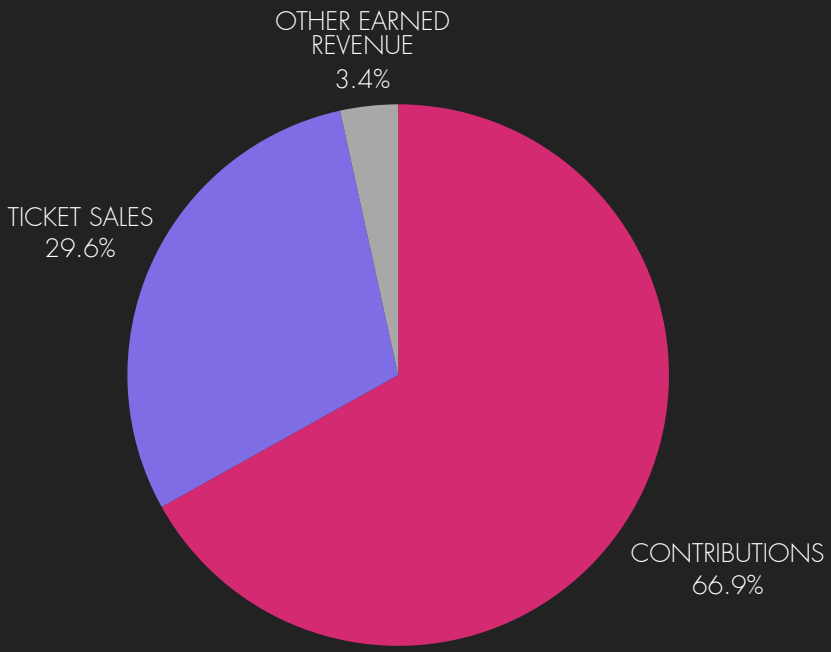
TUCSON ADULT CHAMBER PLAYERS (TACP)

Since 2017, the Tucson Adult Chamber Players (TACP) program has grown from ten musicians to about two dozen per session, largely through word of mouth, local music teachers, community orchestras, Pima Community College and AFCM's own concerts. Open to adults of all levels, TACP offers professional coaching, performance opportunities, and discounted AFCM concert tickets.

In the 2025–2026 season, ten ensembles performed in a December 13 recital and nine more on April 18, with 228 hours of coaching across the two sessions. Returning players made up most of each roster, 21 of 25 in the spring. Repertoire ranged from Handel and Haydn to Borodin, Shostakovich and Schubert's Cello Quintet.

On May 8, TACP players joined pianist Alexander Tentser, violinist Anna Gendler and flutists Emily Regis and Kaylie Bennett for a Baroque and Classical concert built around Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4. Audience donations covered the soloists and facility fees. Tuition, an annual grant from Associated Chamber Music Players, and scholarships keep TACP open to all.

FINANCIAL RESULTS



FY2026 OPERATING INCOME

TOTAL: $520,382

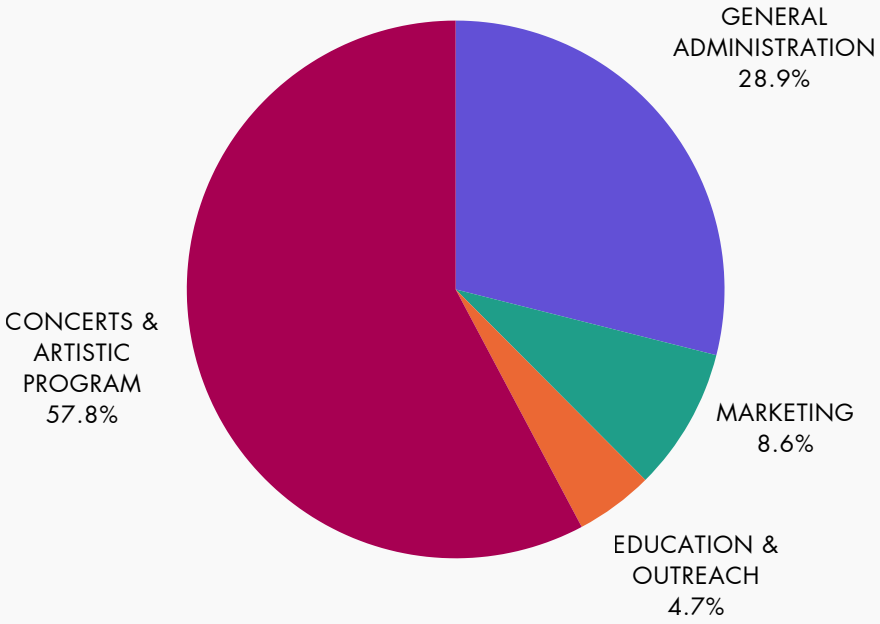
Operating income and expenses exclude investment revenue and fund management fees.

- Dividends and Interest: $77,342
- Long-Term Capital Gains: $6,033
- Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investment: $70,904
- Management Fees: $(11,011)

Net Investment Revenue: $143,268

HOW THE YEAR ADDED UP

Contributions, tickets and other earned revenue covered 93% of operating costs. Investment returns closed the $40,396 gap and grew the endowment 9%.



FY2026 OPERATING EXPENSE
TOTAL: $560,778

Operating income	$520,382
Operating expense	(560,778)
Operating result	(40,396)
Net investment revenue	143,268
NET INCOME	**$102,872**

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	PREVIOUS 2024–25 $	CURRENT 2025–26 $
Investments	724,952	775,265
Endowment	310,130	338,306
Cash	61,800	99,565
Prepaid expenses	36,070	22,500
TOTAL ASSETS	**1,132,952**	**1,235,636**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Accounts Payable	1,155	4,010
Deferred Income	66,294	93,959
Payroll	(399)	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**67,050**	**97,969**

Retained Earnings	752,877	696,489
Endowment Funds	310,130	338,306
Net Income (loss)	2,895	102,872
TOTAL EQUITY	**1,065,902**	**1,137,667**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**1,132,952**	**1,235,636**

Fiscal year ending May 31. Condensed for space.
2025–26 retained earnings reflect a $31,106 prior-period adjustment to commissioned-composition and payroll accounts, with no effect on current-year results.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

9,000 SEATS FILLED AT CONCERTS, IN CLASSROOMS AND AT COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES.

CONCERTS	17	Concerts
	4,371	Concert attendance
	3	New works commissioned
STUDENTS	4,000	Students reached in schools
	25	School programs
	450	Festival Youth Concert students
	54	Student tickets at $12
	19	Free student tickets
TUCSON ADULT CHAMBER PLAYERS	25	Adult musicians per session
	84%	Players returning in spring
	228	Coaching hours
	3	Performances for 200 listeners
COMMUNITY	19	Volunteers and ushers
	200	Donors
	10	Free Culture Pass tickets

2025–2026 BOARD, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD

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Paul St. John
Vice-President
Piano & Friends Director

Alan Hershowitz
Treasurer
Programming Director

Wiley Cornell
Secretary

Elaine Rousseau
Summer Series Director

Randy Spalding
Festival Chair

Joseph Tolliver
Evening Series Director

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Dagmar Cushing
Bryan Daum
Rowena Matthews
Mary Peterson
Lyla Rothschild

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Michael Bylsma
Beth Daum
David Farneth
Beth Foster
Daniel Linder
Rich Marschner
Max McCauslin
Nancy Monsman
Lynn Nadel
Gwen Powell
Boyer Rickel
Jay Rosenblatt
John Schaefer
Jeannette Segel
Claire West

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Cathy Anderson
Director of Operations

Ivan Ugorich
Director of Finance & Marketing

Peter Rejto and
Bernadette Harvey
Artistic Co-Directors, Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival

VOLUNTEERS

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Kaety Byerley
Cindy Cook-Keller
Beth Daum
Beth Foster
Jackson Hover
Boyer Rickel

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Susan Austin
Jack Bybee
Connie Casebolt
Ken Clark
Susan Fifer
Kira Geddes
Lori Kindler
Marilee Mansfield
Jane Ruggill
Barbara Turton
Diana Warr

SUPPORTERS

$20,000 & ABOVE

Larry Herron & Harlow Sires
Rowena Matthews & Joe Grisillo
John Schaefer

$10,000–$19,999

Brent Benjamin
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Jim Cushing
Suzanne & Les Hayt
Max McCauslin & John Smith

$5,000–$9,999

Michael Bylsma
Alan Hershowitz
Todd Horst
Randolph & Margaret Nesse
Julia Pernet
Boyer Rickel
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Talaria Fund

$2,500–$4,999

Anonymous
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Beth Foster
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Claire B. Norton Fund
Anonymous
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Linda & Reid Schindler
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Roger & Laurel Taft
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Dagmar Cushing
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Norman Paulu
Mary Peterson & Lynn Nadel
Arnie & Hannah Rosenblatt
Herschel Rosenzweig
Elaine W. Rousseau & Don Baron
Ila Rupley
Jeannette Segel

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$1,000–$2,499 (cont.)

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Richard Steen & Jefferson Bailey
Walter Swap
Joe & Connie Theobald
Wendy Weiss
Jan Wezelman & David Bartlett

$500–$999

Bob Albrecht & Jan Kubek
Dan & Carolee Asia
Katherine Bermingham
Joyce Broan
Bob Capetta
Nancy Cook
Janice Crebbs
Anonymous
Lidia DelPiccolo-Morris
Mark Dickinson & Letizia Stanghellini
Nancy Fahringer
Lionel & Karen Faitelson
Nova Foster
Mary Graham
Steve & Janet Harnden
Sandy Heiman
Charles Hoffman & Marcia Reed
Sara Hunsaker
Arthur & Judy Kidder
Julie & Mike Kirk
Thomas & Susan Lowry
Susan Markovich
Nancy Monsman
Harry Nungesser
Steve Reitz & Elizabeth Evans
Carla Scanlan
Soli Deo Gloria
Barbara Straub
Sally Sumner
George F. Timson
Joseph Tolliver
Barbara Turton
Anne Wright & Rick Wallat

$250–$499

Sydney Arkowitz
Peter Bleasby
Joyce Bolinger
John Burcher
Gail D. Burd & John G. Hildebrand
John & Mary Enemark
Dorothy Fitch & John Munier
James & Ruth Friedman
Robert & Ursula Garrett
Thomas & Nancy Gates
Marvin & Carol Goldberg
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Ben Hufford & Holly Lachowicz
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Michael Tabor
Donna Tang
Ellen Trevors
Dimitri Voulgaropoulos & Tyna Callahan
John Wahl & Mary Lou Forier
Douglas Weiner
Daryl Willmarth

$100–$249

Susan Aiken
Cathy Anderson
Ruth Bartman
Michael Bel Welborne
James & Marilyn Black
Donna Bliss
Michael Boxer
Judith Brown
Lincoln Brown
Jeff Buchella
Melvin Cohen
Thomas & Debra Collazo
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Brian Edney
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Alexander Tentser & Anna Gendler
Thom Thompson
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Allan & Diane Tractenberg
Marianne Vivirito & Ross Iwamoto
Diana Warr
Peter Waser
Patricia Wendel
Sheila Wilson
Gretchen Wissner & James Miller

THE MIRACLE OF GIVING

In our 78th season, AFCM presented 17 concerts to a combined audience of 4,371. Six of the world's leading string quartets came to the Leo Rich Theater, the Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival gathered the Goldmund String Quartet and seven guest artists, and three AFCM commissions received their world premieres, continuing a tradition that has brought 88 new works to life since 1997.

The music reached well beyond the concert hall. Music in the Schools brought free live performances into Tucson classrooms, and the Tucson Adult Chamber Players gave about two dozen adult musicians each session professional coaching and three public performances. None of it happens without you. The nearly 200 supporters listed in these pages, together with our loyal audience, are the miracle that keeps AFCM thriving as we begin our 79th season.

This year brings exciting news for our Annual Fund: matching pledges of up to $60,000, $10,000 more than last year's match. Every gift made by December 31 will be matched dollar for dollar, so your support goes twice as far. Please help us meet the full match and **send your gift by December 31, 2026.**

Your generosity keeps world-class chamber music in Tucson, brings live music to young students, and gives adult players a place to grow. Thank you for helping this music endure for the next generation of listeners.

With deep gratitude,

Your Arizona Friends of Chamber Music



KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING

Gifts to the Annual Fund made by December 31, 2026, will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $60,000, so your support goes twice as far.

Scan the code or give online at arizonachambermusic.org/support
Mail: PO Box 40845, Tucson, AZ 85717
Phone: 520-577-3769

ARIZONA FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC



Amernet String Quartet



Jerusalem Quartet



Don-Paul Kahl

We invite your input, ideas, and suggestions. Please email us, info@arizonachambermusic.org, or request a comment card from the Box Office at any of our concerts.

Post Office Box 40845
Tucson, Arizona 85717
Telephone: 520-577-3769
arizonachambermusic.org

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