



Wake Forest Community  
*Youth Orchestra*

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**2023**

[www.wfcyo.org](http://www.wfcyo.org) 919-948-0244

# INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on 2023, the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra (WFCYO) proudly highlights a year filled with remarkable achievements and growth. Our organization has continued to make significant strides in fostering musical excellence and educational opportunities for youth across our community. This year, we served 187 students from Franklin County Schools and 217 students from Wake County, achieving a 100% graduation rate among our high school seniors, with one student earning a scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill.

Our dedication to excellence has been recognized through several prestigious awards and grants, including those from the Triangle Community Foundation, Anthem Award, United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, North Carolina Arts Council, Executive Corps Services of the Triangle ARPA grant, and PlayUSA grant. Collaborative efforts with esteemed organizations such as the Triangle Music Education Consortium, Right Moves Dance Company, TheGifted Arts, Wake Forest Library, Wake Forest iSTEM Elementary, East Wake Charter Academy, Franklin County Schools, Wake Forest Baptist Church, and Rolesville Baptist Church have been pivotal in enriching our programs.

We were **honored** to host several distinguished guest teaching artists, including Logan Straw from the Indiana University String Quartet, Christian Howes from Creative Strings Academy, Caroline Jones from Greensboro Symphony, Michelle Di Russo from the North Carolina Symphony, composer David Robinson, and Dr. Matthew Saunders, Chair of Lakeland Community College. **A special highlight** was NFL Hall of Famer Drew Pearson giving a birthday shout-out to our retired Sergeant First Class Dwight Belcher, adding a touch of excitement and inspiration to our community.

Our students have showcased their talents on prominent platforms, participating in the NC Junior All-State Orchestra, NC Senior All-State Orchestra, and Durham All-County Orchestra. Our dedicated board and faculty have also achieved noteworthy milestones. Jesse Suggs, Tonya Suggs, and Terry Pruden received professional development training in NYC via PlayUSA's partnership network. Tonya Suggs was recognized as a national teacher leader with the National Association for Music Education's Connected Arts Networks. Dr. Booth served as conductor for the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles National Festival's Chamber Orchestra and as Orchestra Headliner for NAFME's Pacific Northwest Conference.

Our **financial health** remains robust, enabling us to sustain and grow our programs. With total revenue of \$129,896.69 and expenses amounting to \$109,560.84—comprising \$59,501.17 for program services, \$46,918.88 for management and general expenses, and \$3,140.79 for fundraising—we are well-positioned for future success.

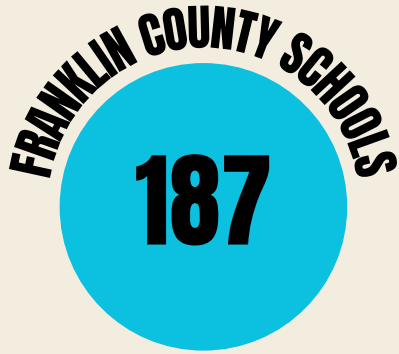
As we look ahead, the WFCYO is committed to continuing its mission of providing exceptional musical education and opportunities to the youth in our community. **We are grateful for the unwavering support** from our partners, donors, and community members who make our work possible. Together, we will continue to inspire, educate, and nurture the next generation of musicians. **Thank you for being a part of our journey.**

**"MUSIC ENHANCES THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN BY HELPING THEM TO MAKE CONNECTIONS AND BROADENING THE DEPTH WITH WHICH THEY THINK AND FEEL."  
-YO-YO MA**



## STUDENTS SERVED

Month and year



Annual Impact Report

## GRADUATION RATE

**100%**

*SCHOLARSHIP TO UNC-CHAPEL HILL*

919-948-0244 www.wfcyo.org

# AWARDS



**PLAYUSA GRANT**  
**ANTHEM AWARD WINNER**  
**NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL**  
**TRIANGLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
**UNITED ARTS COUNCIL OF RALEIGH AND WAKE COUNTY**  
**EXECUTIVE CORPS SERVICES OF THE TRIANGLE ARPA GRANT**

"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD: INDEED, IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS."

— MARGARET MEAD

# PARTNERSHIPS



- TRIANGLE MUSIC EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
- RIGHT MOVES DANCE COMPANY
- THEGIFTED ARTS
- WAKE FOREST LIBRARY
- WAKE FOREST ISTEM ELEMENTARY
- EAST WAKE CHARTER ACADEMY
- FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS
- WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH
- ROLESVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

# GUEST TEACHING ARTIST

- LOGAN STRAWN, INDIANA UNIVERSITY STRING QUARTET
- CHRISTIAN HOWES, CREATIVE STRINGS ACADEMY
- CAROLINE JONES, GREENSBORO SYMPHONY
- MICHELLE DI RUSSO, NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY (CONDUCTOR)
- DAVID ROBINSON, COMPOSER
- DR. MATTHEW SAUNDERS, CHAIR, LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Board and Faculty Accomplishments

- *Jesse Suggs, Tonya Suggs, Terry Pruden received onsite professional development training in NYC via PlayUSA's partnership network*
- *Tonya Suggs recognized as a national teacher leader with the National Association for Music Education's Connected Arts Networks*
- *Dr. Booth served as conductor for the Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles National Festival's Chamber Orchestra*
- *Dr. Booth served as Orchestra Headliner for NAFME's Pacific Northwest Conference*

## SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

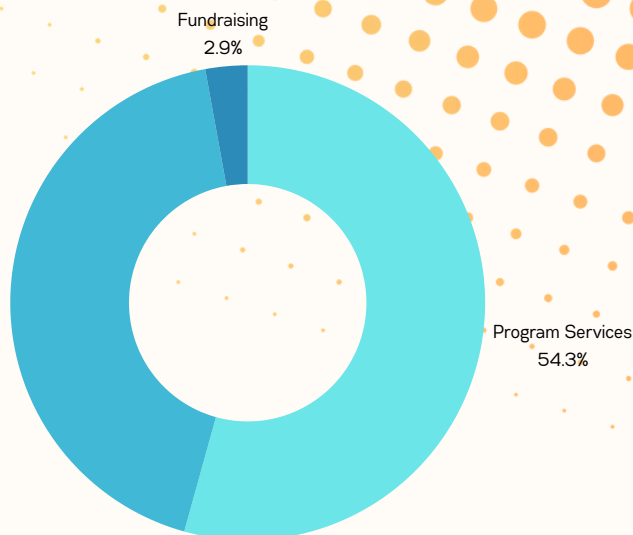
*NFL Hall of Famer Drew Pearson gave a birthday shout-out to our retired Sergeant First Class Dwight Belcher*

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*NC Junior All-state Orchestra  
NC Senior All-state Orchestra  
Durham All-County Orchestra*

## FINANCIALS

Total Revenue: \$129,896.69  
Expenses: \$109,560.84  
Program Services: \$59,501.17  
Management & General: \$46,918.80  
Fundraising: \$3,140.79





Wake Forest Community

Youth Orchestra

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

**2023**

[www.wfcyo.org](http://www.wfcyo.org) 919-948-0244