



2025 IMPACT REPORT

Building Access, Artistry, & Belonging



Through the transformative power of music education , serving young musicians across Franklin, Vance & Wake Counties.

381

STUDENTS SERVED

3

COUNTIES REACHED

100%

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE

60%+

BIPOC COMPOSERS

OUR MISSION

Rooted in Community, Artistry & Joy

WFCYO is a community-centered nonprofit dedicated to providing high-quality, tuition-free music education to students who might not otherwise have access.



Our Philosophy

Music is the vehicle, and confidence, discipline, and opportunity are the destination. Students come first, always.

ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY

- **Franklin County** — 117 students
- **Wake County** — 234 students
- **Vance County** — 30 students
- **Total** — 381 students

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- Free instruments & tuition for students with financial need
- Emphasis on social-emotional learning and belonging
- Inclusive programming for students with disabilities
- Family-centered and community-rooted partnerships



381

STUDENTS SERVED

3 counties

8

SENIORS GRADUATED

100% college-bound

60%+

DIVERSE REPERTOIRE

Composers & women

100+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Community members



ACCESS CHANGES OUTCOMES

Student Success & Alumni Spotlight



Our students continue to thrive long after graduation, proof that sustained access to high-quality music education changes lives.

100% College Acceptance

All 5 graduates of the Class of 2025 matriculated to four-year colleges and universities.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT — ALL STUDENTS

- Performed at or above grade level in core subjects
- Passed all core academic courses
- Maintained regular school attendance
- Promoted to the next grade level

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Eastern Regional All-State Orchestra

3 students selected incl. Victoria Jin (cello) & Zander Boles (cello), exceptional technical skill & growth!

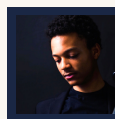
Sold-Out Performances

Every 2025 concert reached full capacity ; record-breaking community attendance

Instrument Donations

Expanded inventory through donations of wind, brass & string instruments, increasing capacity to serve more students

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



Tristen Johnson

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Completing his junior year on a full-ride cello scholarship, a testament to the long-term impact of sustained music education.



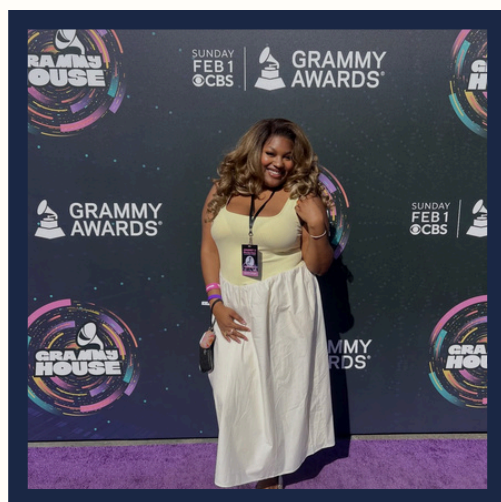
Ava Lockamy

GRAMMY U SELECTED

Selected for the Recording Academy's GRAMMY U program, gaining access to industry professionals to build a career in music.

ESSA Alignment

WFCYO advances student success in direct alignment with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); supporting academic achievement, school engagement, and student persistence through high-quality arts education. The arts are recognized by ESSA as part of a well-rounded education.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Artistic Excellence & Leadership

WFCYO's impact extends far beyond our classrooms , through national visibility, artistic milestones, and a commissioned world premiere.



Carnegie Hall, New York City

In June 2025, WFCYO was honored as a featured speaker at the PlayUSA Final Convening at Carnegie Hall , presenting on Joy Through Collaborations and affirming our position as a national thought leader in inclusive music education.

DR. LASAUNDRA BELCHER — GUEST CONDUCTOR

- Minnesota Music Educators All-State Festival
- Guilford County All-County Orchestra
- Nevada All-State Orchestra
- Georgia All-State Orchestra
- Colorado All-State Orchestra

LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Tonya Suggs, Artistic Director

Named Semi-Finalist, Country Music Award Foundation prestigious national recognition for excellence in music education

WORLD PREMIERE — COMMISSIONED WORK

One Like One Hundred

COMPOSED BY MATTHEW SAUNDERS

Commissioned to reflect WFCYO's extraordinary growth — from serving one student at founding to hundreds annually. All movements debuted in 2025.

- Supporting living composers
- Expanding culturally responsive repertoire
- Centering student identity & growth

GUEST TEACHING ARTISTS

- Nkeem Nwosu
- Greg Logan
- Caroline Jones
- Logan Strawn
- Jesse Suggs



FOUNDATIONAL TO OUR MISSION

Access & Inclusion

Access and inclusion are not add-ons at WFCYO, they are built into every dimension of our mission, structure, and artistic vision.

85%+

Guest Teaching Artists Are BIPOC

Students learn from musicians who reflect their identities, cultures, and lived experiences.

60%

Repertoire by BIPOC Composers & Women

Intentionally amplifying voices historically underrepresented in classical music.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

- Black History Month performances
- Hispanic Heritage Month concerts
- Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations
- Youth Music Day with the Mexican Consulate



ACCESS FOR RURAL & TITLE I STUDENTS

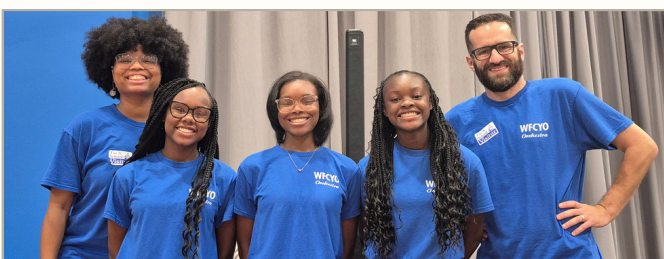
WFCYO provides free instruments, tuition, and music supplies to ensure geography, income, or circumstance does not determine a student's access.

PARTNER SCHOOL SITES

- East Wake Charter Academy
- L.B. Yancey Elementary School
- Pinkston Street Elementary School
- Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School
- Franklin County Schools

WHOLE-CHILD OUTCOMES

- Increased student confidence & sense of belonging
- Strengthened peer relationships & teamwork
- Expanded creative voice & self-expression
- Inclusive pathways for students with diverse learning needs
- SEL skills: focus, perseverance, collaboration, self-regulation



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Community Impact & Student Stories

From student voices to family testimonials — the real measure of our impact lives in the lives we touch each day.

STUDENT & FAMILY VOICES

"Learning in WFCYO has given me a new community to be open around. Being in the building gives me a sense of peace knowing that I can learn the best from the best teachers ever. The option to receive tuition helps me have a chance to understand music a lot more without having to worry about costs."

— Sarah Ndion, Student

"I've been part of the orchestra since I was seven years old. Through the orchestra I've made so many friends and found positive role models. Being involved has helped improve my schoolwork and taught me the importance of teamwork, discipline, and consistent practice."

— Ayden Shelton, Student

"Wake Forest schools do not offer an orchestra program, and in that situation WFCYO made it possible for our children to continue participating in orchestra. WFCYO has been an excellent program that has helped nurture our children's talents. We are truly grateful."

— Jin Family

2025 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Wake Forest Library — Black History Month Performance

Town of Wake Forest — Meet in the Street

Wake County Smart Start Block Party

Youth Music Day with the Mexican Consulate

PlayUSA Convening — Carnegie Hall, NYC

1,700+ Pre-K Students

Reached through the Wake County Smart Start Block Party, bringing live music to the youngest learners and their families.



TRANSPARENCY & SUPPORT

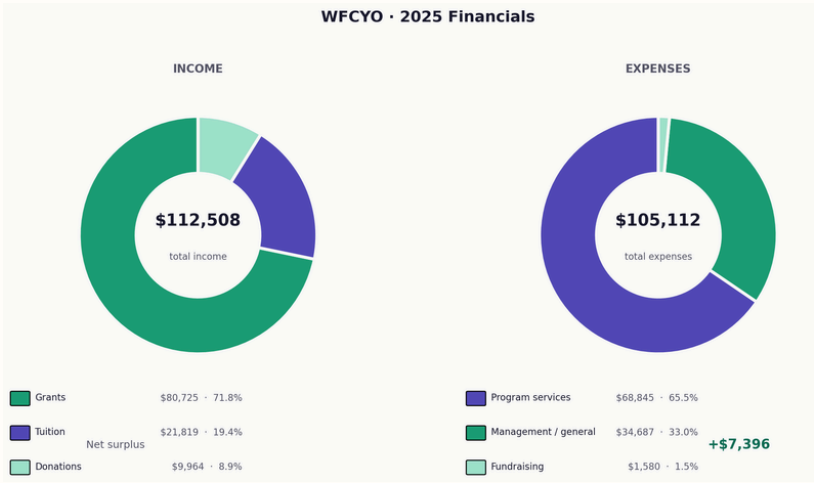
Financials & Our Funders

With the generous support of our funders and community partners, WFCYO continues to grow its reach and deepen its impact.

2025 FINANCIALS

INCOME	
Donations	\$9,964.21
Grants	\$80,724.72
Tuition	\$21,818.71
Total Income	\$112,507.64

EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$68,845.04
Management / General	\$34,686.63
Fundraising	\$1,580
Total Expenses	\$105,111.67



OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS

NC Arts Council

United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County

Wake Forest Baptist Church

Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School

Franklin County Schools

East Wake Charter Academy

Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

Triangle Community Foundation

The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

National Endowment for the Arts

PlayUSA

WCPE Education Fund

Executive Corps Services of the Triangle

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Record-Breaking Attendance

Every 2025 concert reached full capacity , strongest community demand in WFCYO history

Instrument Donations

New wind, brass & string instruments added , expanding capacity to serve more students

100+ Volunteer Hours

Community members contributed over 100 hours supporting rehearsals, performances & outreach

Looking Ahead — 2026

WFCYO remains committed to expanding access, deepening artistic rigor, and building pathways where every student is seen, supported, and celebrated.



WAKE FOREST COMMUNITY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

When students are given access,
they rise.

And the whole community rises with them.

WEBSITE

www.wfcyo.org

EMAIL

admin@wfcyo.org

YEAR

2025 Impact Report