

Composing Change Campaign

SPRING 2026 UPDATE



CAMPAIGN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Margaret de Cuevas, Eddie & Sylvia Brown, Rheda Becker & Robert E. Meyerhoff, Barbara Bozzuto,
Walter Doggett, Lisa & Maurice Haywood, Alex Hendler, Dave Imre, Christian Johansson,
Marie Lerch, Judy Phares, and Barry Rosen

Dear Friends,

Happy spring on behalf of the *Composing Change* Campaign volunteers and the leadership of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

This report offers a glimpse into the impact of your generosity and how your investment is strengthening the BSO today while building a more secure and vibrant future.

Thanks to your belief in the Orchestra, the campaign has now raised \$91 million toward its goal. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for the extraordinary momentum you have helped to create.

Launched in 2023, the *Composing Change* Campaign was designed to accelerate recovery from the pandemic while building a stronger, more sustainable financial foundation for the BSO. Over the past three seasons, campaign gifts have powered extraordinary performances and progressive investments in our musicians, expanded OrchKids and other core music education programs, and brought the BSO into communities across Maryland. Campaign-supported investments in programming and patron experience are also making an impact. Audiences have rebounded, attendance and earned revenue are increasing, and enthusiasm for the Orchestra continues to grow.

Now at the midway point of the campaign, we have a clear path forward. Our focus is on finishing this effort with strength to ensure the BSO has the stability and security it needs to move forward with confidence and ambition.

With this in mind, we have extended the campaign through August 31, 2028, and increased the goal from \$110 million to \$130 million. This timeline aligns with important milestones, including the final year of our current collective bargaining agreement with our musicians, the 20th anniversary of OrchKids, and the 45th anniversary of the opening of the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall.

Thank you for being such an important part of this effort. We look forward to sharing many more inspiring seasons of music with you.

Onward,
Margaret de Cuevas
Composing Change Chair



Campaign Progress

Of our revised \$130 million goal, \$91 million (70%) has been secured through documented and verbal commitments. The majority of these funds are annual support from individuals and institutions that have already been put to work in the operating budget since FY2023, actively sustaining the Orchestra's performances, education programs, and community impact. At the same time, the campaign is building for the future through critical investments in endowment and facilities that will ensure lasting stability. With approximately \$40 million remaining to raise by August 31, 2028, we have a clear and achievable path to completion.



TO CLOSE THE GAP, WE WILL:

- **Expand annual fund performance year-over-year**, building on strong momentum to achieve at least 20% growth annually while leveraging the 2027-28 public phase to inspire stretch gifts at every level.
- **Leverage public investment in facility capital** to inspire and drive additional support through private philanthropy.
- **Complete key endowment priorities**, including raising the remaining \$4 million for the OrchKids Fund and launching a new \$10 million BSO at Strathmore Endowment Fund, alongside additional efforts, positioning the campaign to close with at least \$100 million in endowment principal.

Campaign progress reflects the extraordinary leadership of our top supporters: more than 70% of funds raised have come from 97 donors making gifts of \$100,000 or more. This includes over \$5 million in newly documented planned gift intentions from more than 10 legacy donors, strengthening both current momentum and long-term sustainability.

The table below reflects the breadth and depth of donor investment in the campaign, outlining commitments by giving level and total dollars documented, as of March 1, 2026.

GIFT/PLEDGE RANGE	COMMITMENTS	TOTALING	PENDING DECISIONS
\$5M - \$7.5M	3	\$17,940,585	-
\$2.5M - \$4.99M	3	\$8,257,000	3
\$1M - \$2.49M	14	\$18,463,852	2
\$500,000 - \$999,999	9	\$5,316,006	5
\$250,000 - \$499,000	21	\$6,632,270	many
\$100,000 - \$500,000	47	\$6,718,801	many



CELEBRATING Legacy Through Naming

Two recent commitments underscore the enduring impact of named spaces at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, alongside named positions and programs across the Orchestra.

THE RUTH R. MARDER BOX

A lifelong champion of the Orchestra, Ruth's legacy continues through a \$2.5 million gift from the Ruth Carol Fund, supporting endowment and capital priorities. In recognition, Grand Tier Box E Left is now named *The Ruth R. Marder Box*, honoring decades of devotion to the BSO.

THE MIRIAM A. AND SIDNEY M. FRIEDBERG BOX

Building on this tradition, Laura Burrows has made a new commitment to name Grand Tier Box G Left in honor of her parents, Miriam and Sidney Friedberg. Her gift reflects the deeply personal nature of philanthropy and the lasting meaning of dedicating a space to family and shared musical experiences.



Together, these gifts reflect the enduring power of endowment support to sustain artistic excellence for generations to come. Naming opportunities bring that impact to life in a visible and deeply personal way, offering a lasting tribute to the individuals, families, and values behind each commitment. In

this way, philanthropy is not only felt, but remembered, woven into the very fabric of the Meyerhoff and the experiences it makes possible.

“While the greater Rosenberg family has contributed to the BSO and Ruth Carol [Marder] was part of those decisions, she continued to grant some of her own money to the Symphony, as the notes and experience of the BSO registered with her. We are pleased that Ruth Carol continues to support the BSO and that the BSO is honoring her ongoing giving by providing world-class music for Baltimore and Maryland.”

- FRANK ROSENBERG

Trustee of The Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Foundation, and Ruth Marder's nephew.



Expanding OrchKids

A MOMENT TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

OrchKids, founded in 2008 by Marin Alsop, is the BSO's most immersive music education program, serving 1,800 Pre-K–12 students across Baltimore City Public Schools. Through in-school and after-school programs, students receive high-quality music instruction, instruments, meals, and transportation at no cost to their families, helping fill a critical gap in access to arts education.

Today, OrchKids stands at an important inflection point. To help accelerate expansion, the BSO has secured a three-year, tiered matching challenge from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. Through FY2028, every new or increased gift will be matched dollar for dollar, creating a powerful opportunity to double support and reach more students across Baltimore.

A recent five-year, \$500,000 commitment from The Tamber Fund is not only eligible for each year of the Angell challenge, but is also strategically designed to advance OrchKids' expansion goals for the 2027–28 school year to include the addition of a third hub site and/or new program days and hours at existing sites to significantly grow enrollment.

At the same time, the Orchestra continues to build the OrchKids Endowment Fund, with \$4 million remaining to secure the programs long-term sustainability. Thanks to gifts received to-date and strong market performance, the OrchKids Fund generated a \$153,000 draw to support program this school year – the second draw in the program's history. As investments grow and new gifts are made, the annual impact of this long-term foundation will only grow.

That momentum is already visible in the lives of our students. This summer, 37 OrchKids students are traveling out of state to participate in nationally recognized summer intensives across Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, and Virginia, as well as Europe. This is a reflection of both their talent and the strength of the training they are receiving.

Closer to home, hundreds of OrchKids students will also participate in this year's Summer session, now hosted at our East Baltimore hub site to simplify transportation logistics for participants. **The program will culminate in a special free performance on the stage of the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall on July 23, 2026. Please mark your calendars and join us.**

“The Lockhart Vaughan trustees believe that all students deserve high-quality instrumental and musical instruction and we are proud to support the BSO's OrchKids program. The Paul M. Angell Foundation Match Challenge inspired us to make an increased, multi-year grant to help fund OrchKids' planned expansion and ensure that students in City Schools continue to receive equitable access to year-round instruction and programming.”

- KATE RAWSON POWELL

Lockhart Vaughan Foundation, Executive Director



INVESTING IN OUR GREATEST ASSETS:

Compensation Fund

The strength of the Orchestra begins with its musicians. Between FY2020 and FY2025, the BSO fulfilled the commitments of a historic five-year Collective Bargaining Agreement that both increased minimum annual pay and expanded the complement of full-time players from 78 to 85 musicians.

With our expanded campaign window now running through FY2028, the Compensation Fund is a wonderful way to proactively pledge and designate your continued support through second gifts.

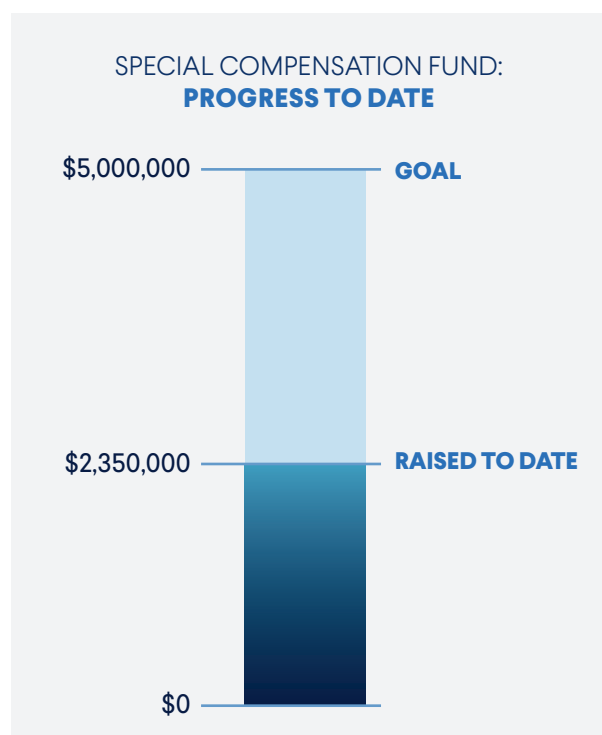
The newly ratified three-year agreement (FY2026–FY2028) builds on this progress, increasing minimum annual pay by 12% to more than \$100,000 by the end of the contract at an incremental cost of \$3 million in additional musician compensation. The new agreement also calls for the addition of another full-time musician by FY2029.

Delivering on this commitment requires ongoing investment. Musician compensation increases by \$400k in Year 1, \$900k in Year 2, and \$1.5M in Year 3 and becomes part of the permanent cost base, compounding annually.

To meet this need, the BSO established the Compensation Fund to support musician compensation growth and ensure competitive pay across artistic, production, and administrative teams.

GOAL: \$5 million over three years

SECURED: \$2.35 million in gifts and pledges, with additional commitments in progress





Modernizing The Meyerhoff

Designed by Italian architect Pietro Belluschi and opened in 1982 at a cost of \$23 million, the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall was built specifically for orchestral performances.

Recent investments have strengthened critical artist and backstage spaces, improving the experience for musicians, guest artists, and staff. Renovations to the Zamoiski Room and other shared areas have created more welcoming, flexible spaces that better connect front- and back-of-house.

Looking ahead, Phase III plans include a full renovation of the basement recital hall alongside new practice rooms for musicians, a dedicated education suite, and refreshed administrative offices, as well as new wellness and connectivity spaces for artists and staff. A newly named percussion suite, made possible through the generosity of the Hecht-Levi Foundation, will provide dedicated space for storage, practice, and instrument care.



These investments will transform the Meyerhoff into a more dynamic, flexible, and accessible home for music. At the same time, critical infrastructure upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems, as well as accessibility features, are being guided by recent comprehensive assessments to ensure the Hall's long-term safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

"The renovation of the spaces we use on a daily basis has, so far, been truly transformative... The musicians now come to work into brightly lit and modern locker rooms... [and] the Musicians' Lounge has been transformed into an engaging and welcoming space... We are truly grateful to many who have made this necessary effort possible."

– IVAN STEFANOVIĆ

Associate Principal, Second Violin,
Sylvia de Cuevas Chair,
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

With more than \$10 million remaining toward the \$20 million Facility Capital goal, this next chapter is an opportunity to build on early successes and complete a transformation that will serve Baltimore for decades to come. Several meaningful naming opportunities remain available, giving donors a visible and lasting role in shaping the Meyerhoff's future.

We welcome interested supporters to connect with us for a behind-the-scenes tour of these spaces and to learn more about the vision for the Hall's next chapter.

THANK YOU

We are grateful for every generous donor who has made an impactful, comprehensive gift to the *Composing Change* Campaign as of March 30, 2026.

Anonymous (2)	Beverly Penn and Lowell Glazer	The Dr. M. Lee Pearce Foundation
Charles Alston and Susan Dentzer	Joanne M. Gold and Andrew A. Stern	Scott Phares and Judy Witt Phares
Donna and Paul Amico	Gordon Feinblatt LLC	PNC Bank
Paul M. Angell Family Foundation	Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Griswold IV The	Arnold and Alison Richman The Richman
Mary Ellen Barbera and Gary Bair	Fancy Hill Foundation	Family Foundation
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Emile Bendit and Diane Abeloff	Foundation	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
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Bloomberg Philanthropies	Jonathon Heyward	Laitman
Barbara and Tom Bozzuto	Gwynne Horwits	Ruth Carol Fund
Brown Advisory	Freeman A. Hrabowski III and Jacqueline	Steven and Dania Schuh, and the Schuh
Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown	Hrabowski	Family
Bunting Family Foundation	Joseph and Sally Jennings	Stephen and Gail Shawe The Earle And
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The Estate of Ron Dencker	Cathy and Mac McClelland	The Hearst Foundation, Inc.
Ellen and Andrew Fish	Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family	Barry and Linda Williams
Michael and Miriam Forster	Charitable Funds	Sylvia and Peter Winik
France-Merrick Foundation	Robert E. Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker	Chaitanya Yaramada
Sandra Levi Gerstung The Hecht-Levi	Middendorf Foundation	Jonathan and Carol Zenilman
Foundation	Ricka Neuman and Ted Niederman	

**Deceased*

Visit www.BSOmusic.org/Overture to view the recently released *Overture* and a complete Donor Honor Roll, with all Annual Fund contributions counting towards this special effort.



For more information about the *Composing Change* Campaign or to learn about other ways to support the BSO, please contact:

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Chief Advancement and Communications Officer
ablivingstone@BSOmusic.org | 410-783-8034.