Music for a Great Space

Annual Report 25-26

Created by Rebecca J Willie, Executive Director

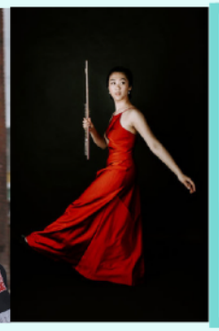
2025-26 Season

Storytelling Around the World












The 2025-26 Storytelling Around the World Season featured artists chosen to represent cultures and folklore from across the globe in addition to their incredible musical talent.

The Storytelling Around the World season was possible thanks to the support of sponsors, individual donors, granting organizations and the audience members that make up our MGS community.

The mission of Music for a Great Space is to annually present a culturally diverse series of inspiring small ensemble and solo concerts.









25-26 Impact:
MGS presented 8 Friday night concerts returning to venues Green Hill Center for NC Art, Well Spring Theatre, the Van Dyke Performance Space, Christ United Methodist, Well Spring Theater. This season MGS added The Depot and Marshall Muse Gallery as partnering venues.

Two concerts were offered to the community at no charge including a First Friday event at the Cultural Center. Each concert presented music from a variety of demographic backgrounds. MGS increased overall audiences with 12% BIPOC audience members. MGS also surpassed ticket sales goals for this season!

MGS Education & Outreach Programming



MGS presented 18 outreach events in 3 series: Musings on Music, Masterclasses with MGS, and the MGS in-school curriculum in partnership with Guilford County Schools. In addition, MGS partnered with senior living organizations including Friends Homes and Whitestone.



25-26 Impact:
MGS reached 614 total attendees for 25-26 outreach events with 42% BIPOC attendees, a 6% increase.







The 2026 Chamber Ensemble Residency was awarded to CR Quartet, a jazz quartet comprised of guitar, saxophone, bass, & drums. Their mentor ensemble, New-Orleans based Grayson Brockamp Quartet members, worked with them through both virtual and in-person mentor learning sessions. The Resident Ensemble had weekly visits with students at Hairston Middle School over the course of 3 months, ending with a side by side performance on Hairston's spring concert. CR Quartet also performed 3 community performances at community venues Pennybyrn, Grapes & Grains Tavern, and The African American Atelier. They also opened on the March 2026 MGS concert and played alongside MGS artist Shana Tucker.











CHAMBER ENSEMBLE RESIDENCY

25-26 Community Impact:
Chamber Ensemble Residency audiences totaling 290 attendees with 53% BIPOC attendees.





MGS introduced the Musical Storytelling series in Fall of 2025, a partnership with Greensboro Public Libraries. The MGS Resident Ensembles serve as the musicians for these storytime and live music events, presented at no charge to the community and shared in libraries around the city. These events reached 309 attendees, 39% of whom were BIPOC.

In addition to in-person outreach programming, MGS continues to offer educational content housed online with a focus on deepening the interaction with MGS artists while eliminating barriers for residents of Greensboro and beyond. MGS has four virtual programming series which include the Fun Facts series inspired by the concept of program notes, the Behind the Melodies artist interview series, an educational presentation series that targets classroom and at-home learning, and an archive of performances housed on our YouTube Channel. These programs work to cultivate a wider audience as well.

MGS online content continues to prove extremely effective with viewers, having almost 14,000 views for the 25-26 season alone.







MGS impacted over 15,000 people this season through concert and education programming.

Quotes from this season's programming:

"Just thrilled to see and hear the quality of music from these young musicians."

"[I enjoyed] hearing young artists play their own compositions"

"I love the mixture of all the instruments, also how it fluctuates! The Rhythm was good too. Bandoneon! German!"

"I loved hearing her play! I love her passion."

"[I enjoyed] her performance and learning about her experience"

"I loved how openly she played and how encouraging she was for younger players."

"Thx so much for visiting our class I enjoy y'all coming in our class and I love how all of y'all play the instrument and I love how Angel played the saxophone because I just love it and thx so much for visiting our class!!"

Staff Updates





Kenley Ahedo continues her position as Outreach Coordinator. She is responsible for the extensive and creative programming presented in the 25-26 season as well as the education and outreach performances by the Resident Ensemble.

Matt Wilson continues to serve as Social Media & Education Content Creator. He is responsible for the content on our social media pages as well as the Fun Facts and Education Presentations housed on our website.

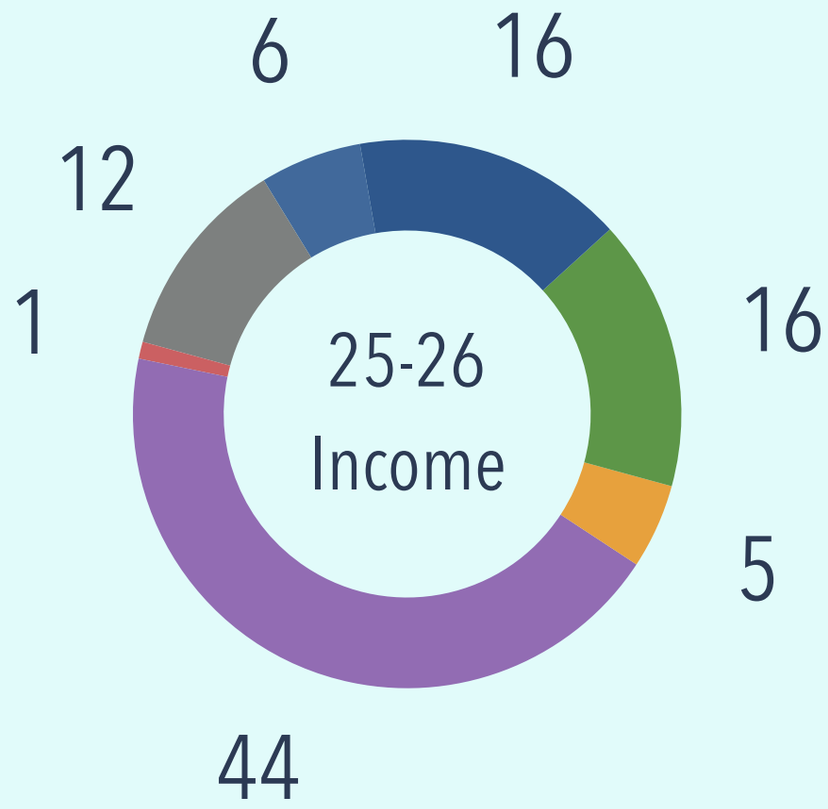
Rebecca Willie continues to serves as Executive Director, celebrating 10 years with MGS in March 2016.

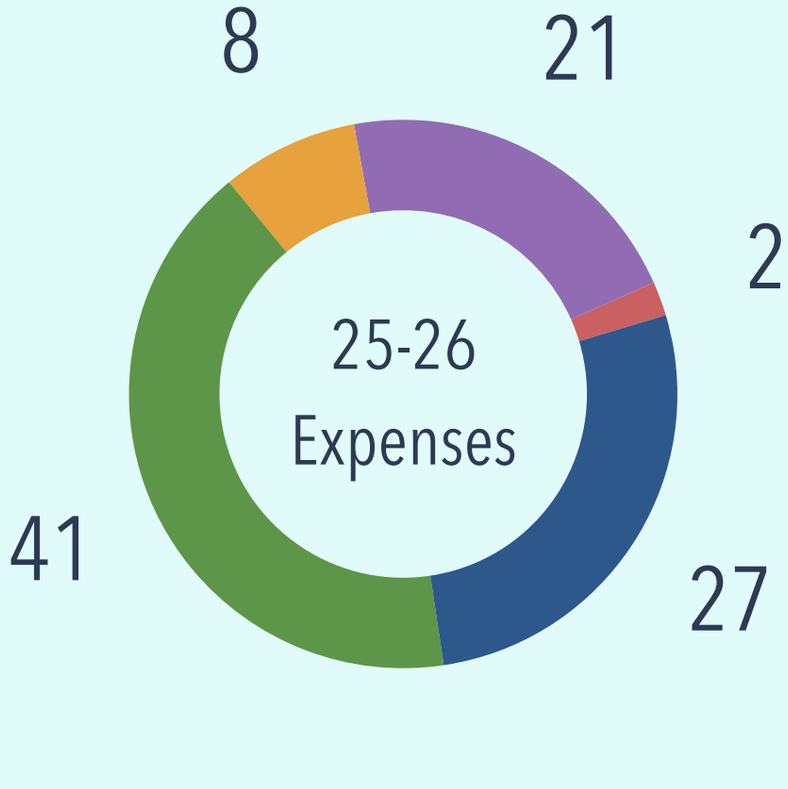
In addition, MGS hires local videographers, audio engineers, photographers, IT experts, and other local talent to provide education and outreach materials. Providing local employment opportunities is another one of the ways MGS invests in our community.

Operating Fund (Tutti)
Beginning balance $53,682
Ending balance $30,567

Ingram Memorial Fund
Beginning balance $176,119
Ending balance $184,731

Kelleher Memorial Education Fund
Beginning balance $51,920
Ending balance $55,666





MGS Board of Directors 25-26

Drew Hays- President
Milo Isikhuemhen - Secretary
Rebecca Willie - Executive Director
Jennifer Hance - Executive Committee
Miriam Fields
Van-Anthoney Hall
Meg Harrison
Tahi Hunter
Paul Leslie
Jenna Rohaly
Yubi Sandoval

The MGS Board of Directors oversees the strategic direction of the organization while also participating in event operations, fundraising, and other staff support.
A huge thank you to all our fantastic board members for their work in the 25-26 season!