

UTAH SYMPHONY

THIERRY FISCHER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2022-23

# Utah Symphony Education Report



Services

93

Schools  
Served

420

Districts  
Served

26

Instructional  
Hours

93

Teachers  
Served

1,761

Students  
Served

45,797

Adults Served

905

# Symphony in the Schools

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
35	229	19	23.27	1,093	28,259	174

## IN SCHOOL SYMPHONY CONCERTS (34 Services)

Utah Symphony has a vision of connecting communities through great live music. Our “In School Symphony Concerts” bring the Utah Symphony directly into communities to perform in schools. Each year for our full and chamber orchestras we create different programs that are designed to introduce and engage students and teachers with our artform. These concerts take students through guided listening that highlights different musical aspects, for example, communicating ideas and feelings. Students who are interested in stage production are given the opportunity to learn and work alongside our professional stage crew by helping unload, set up, and operate lights and sound during the concerts. Schools can also elect to have a Utah Symphony musician hold a “Meet and Greet” and/or a “Q & A” session. Students’ lives are enriched by: observing stage presence, connecting with professional musicians, and witnessing discipline, collaboration, and communication within a group.

To help prepare students for what they will hear, we send pre-concert materials to both elementary and secondary teachers. As with our “Fifth Grade Concerts,” these materials allow students to make connections to language arts, social studies, math, and music curriculum. Again, to accommodate the wide range of student learning these materials are presented in different formats e.g., PowerPoint presentations, video clips, audio clips, pictures, and worksheets.



**“I really liked the solo of the violinist in the front by the conductor. She really inspired me and maybe I could do something like her someday.”**

**–Student Violinist**



IN SCHOOL SYMPHONY CONCERTS CONT.

This year our elementary program was 50 minutes long and was titled, "Symphonic Fairy Tales." The concert started with the well-known tune of Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" from his "Peer Gynt Suite" and followed with other fairy tale mystical excerpts from "Mother Goose Suite" by Ravel, "Sinfonia India" by Chavez, "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov, and "The Nutcracker" by Tchaikovsky. These pieces showed students how different fairy tales from around the world can sound. Our secondary program was 50 minutes long and was "Music of America." We played excerpts from "New World Symphony" by Dvorak, "Dance of the Canebrakes" by Price, "Afro-American Symphony" by Still, "Sinfonia India" by Chavez, and "Rodeo" by



Copland. Whether these composers were from the US with a different heritage background or they moved here from a different country, this program focused on the wide range of American music. This spectrum of American music is still a reflection of the multicultural range in the United States today. The chamber orchestra's program was 45 minutes long and focused on folk tunes and how composers can take one tune and repeat it in an altered form, thus explaining the musical term theme and variations. Demonstrations were taken from excerpts of "Five Folksongs in Counterpoint" by Price, "Simple Symphony for String Orchestra" by Britton, "Divertimento for String Orchestra" by Bartok, and "Suite for Strings" by Rutter.

THE ORCHESTRA AT THE THEATRE (1 Service)

"The Orchestra at the Theatre" is an online program that we offer to anyone who registers to receive access. The online program is a pre-recorded concert by the Utah Symphony conducted by our past Associate conductor, Conner Covington. This video is a mix of performing and story telling that offers insights to the listener. This video covers excerpts and discussions of "Ride of the Valkyries" by Wagner; "Orpheus in the Underworld" by Offenbach; "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Grieg; "Swan Lake" by Tchaikovsky; "Petrushka" by Stravinsky; "The Sound of Music" by Hammerstein, Rodgers, and Kostal; and ends with "Harry Potter" by Williams.

Professional Development

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers
12	15	6	6	28

"Teachers in the House" is a program that offers Utah teachers the chance to receive re-licensure credit. Many teachers use this program by attending our Masterworks concerts along with the pre-concert lecture. Only instructional time is calculated for this report; concert time for which teachers purchased tickets is not included.

# Symphony at the Hall

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
26	222	12	33.97	633	16,431	703

## 5TH GRADE CONCERTS (9 Services)

For nearly 40 years, Utah Symphony has welcomed all fifth graders throughout the state to attend a concert at the iconic Abravanel Hall. Specifically tailored to this particular academic grade level, these concerts allow and show students how to connect and understand the many aspects found within music. In preparation, pre-concert materials are given to these elementary teachers weeks before the concert. These materials allow students to make connections to language arts, social studies, math, and music curriculum. To accommodate the wide range of student learning these materials are presented in different formats e.g., PowerPoint presentations, video clips, audio clips, pictures, and worksheets. Seeing a Utah Symphony concert in Abravanel Hall offers the unparalleled opportunity of experiencing one of the nation's best orchestras in a world class concert hall while imparting a valuable lesson in respectful social conduct to students and vividly demonstrates the profound impact of collaboration and discipline.

As a continued partnership with Plan-B Theatre, our 2023 production was entitled "Encore: A Celebration of Black Symphonic Music." A narrator (identified by Plan - B) expertly navigates the audience before, during, and after the concerts providing guided

**"I really enjoyed ["Starburst"] because it was explosive and you could also hear all the different instruments. It felt like I was in a movie and it was very fun to listen to."**  
**-5th Grade Student**

listening through contrasting musical styles to help develop the student's verbal and aural vocabulary of musical elements such as melody, harmony, and texture. Students learned about the historical and cultural events that impacted the lives of Black composers and how those experiences are musically emulated in their compositions. Demonstrations from the orchestra and conductor taught students different artistic expressions and how ideas and feelings are communicated without words. Interactive instruction through different tempi and meter helped the students physically grasp the mathematics in music.





## OPEN REHEARSALS

(4 Services)

Open Rehearsals allow students the opportunity to not only hear a live performance inside one of America's most acoustically sound concert halls but a chance to see how a professional orchestra works in a rehearsal. Before the rehearsal begins, the conductor welcomes the students to Abravanel Hall and introduces the pieces they will hear. Students are usually surprised that the conductor doesn't just run straight through the pieces but instead stops and starts and gives verbal and physical cues in various passages. Students see that every musician comes with their parts fully learned and how quickly the orchestra works to create a polished concert in just a couple rehearsals. Through "Open Rehearsals" students can see how professional symphony musicians display discipline, focus, respect, and collaboration.

This past year "Open Rehearsals" focused on a wide range of styles starting with a familiar symphonic melody of Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony" and then shifting to a familiar choral melody with Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana." Finishing up the season we ventured into Dvorak's "Fifth Symphony" and ended with a jazzy American flair of Gershwin's "An American in Paris." This was a well-rounded season ranging in different composition techniques from different countries, styles, and genres found within

classical music. Listening guides were provided to the students to help build their critical listening skills, understand the historical and geographic backgrounds of the different works, and help teach proper audience behavior.

## ABRAVANEL HALL TOURS

(10 Services)

Abravanel Hall Tours give the opportunity for students and teachers to explore parts of the building that are normally off limits to audience members. Tours start in the greenroom where musicians congregate before the concert to assemble their instruments and mentally prepare for the performance. Continuing the tour, groups go on stage where they have the chance to see the hall from a musician's view. This is where science meets beauty, the dramatic chandeliers are lit up and students learn about the physics of sound and how the wood paneling and concrete walls are conducive to give each audience member the purist musical sound. Tours finish in the lobby where the history of important community relationships are discussed and how those relationships created the Utah Symphony. At the very end of the tour students and teachers are allowed to ask questions and many important topics are discussed such as jobs in the arts i.e., musicians, conductors, staff positions, and the importance of volunteers to all non-profit companies.

## OSHER CLASSES

(3 services)

Utah Symphony offered three classes this year through University of Utah's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. These classes are held at Abravanel Hall, where participants first hear a presentation on the composers and background of the pieces being played, and are then invited to watch a Finishing Touches rehearsal of an upcoming Masterworks concert.



Guest conductor Markus Poschner takes time to talk to students during a break at the open rehearsal for Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

# Interactive Events with Musicians

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Teachers	Students	Adults (non-teachers)
11	14	5	14.73	7	214	28

## MUSICIANS IN THE CLASSROOM (8 Services)

“Musicians in the Classroom” is a program that brings the expertise of a Utah Symphony musician directly to the student, in their classroom. These students receive instruction from professional musicians in different formats e.g., coach sectionals, give performance classes, perform with students, conduct rehearsals, and teach private lessons. This program creates closer community connections and inspires students to better their craft and deepen their understanding of the musical artform. This past year “Musicians in the Classroom” reached geographically further school districts such as Washington and Juab and served a total of 63 secondary students in addition to 23 university students.



## BACKSTAGE SEMINARS (1 Service)

This behind the scenes look at the inner workings of Abravanel Hall is capped with a private Q&A with a Utah Symphony musician. With full access to our concert hall, Backstage Seminars provide the opportunity to see how a concert hall is designed and functions and all the components of a successful performance.

## MASTERCLASSES (2 Services)

Utah Symphony attracts some of the nations most sought after musicians and conductors. These masterclasses provide the public an opportunity to interact, perform for and learn from world class musicians, soloists and conductors. Offered 4 times a year, these masterclasses provide direct access to the biggest names in classical music.

**“...because we had this unusual opportunity for students to actually interact with the musical giants from the Utah Symphony, beautiful things began happening ... the beautiful musicians from the symphony immediately offered special, personal, additional support for our dear student! WOW!”**

**–Teacher**



# Students in Performance

Services	Schools	Districts	Hours	Students
9	83	15	14.83	893

## SIDE BY SIDE CONCERT

(5 Services)

The “Side-by-Side” program is an opportunity for high school students to play under the associate/ assistant conductor of the Utah Symphony and perform alongside the Utah Symphony musicians. Not only do these students have the opportunity to rehearse and work with professional musicians but they also get to perform with them in a concert held at Abravanel Hall. Through this program students increase their musical knowledge and skill, learn discipline and professional rehearsal behavior, and understand the importance and power of collaboration.

This past year the “Side-by-Side” concert was combined with our Salute to Youth Concerto Competition. Student finalists from the competition performed on the first half of the concert and the second half was the performance of our “Side-by-Side” program. This was the first year in experimenting with combining these two programs into one concert. In order to most efficiently use the time of the students and musicians, next year the “Side-by-Side” and Salute to Youth Concerto Competition will go back to being on separate concerts.

## YOUTH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

(1 Service)

Each year the USUO Youth Orchestra Festival invites youth orchestras from all over the state to perform at Maurice Abravanel hall. We welcome nearly 20 different ensembles to perform works in one of the nations most revered concert halls.



## SALUTE TO YOUTH

(3 Services)

Salute to Youth: Where Utah’s rising orchestral stars take center stage. For over 30 years this rigorous concerto competition has offered the chance to perform with the Utah Symphony. Through a multi-step audition process, students are selected via a panel of professional musicians and the winners of the competition are prominently featured during a Utah Symphony performance.



# Summer Events

Services	Hours	People
28	26.75	834

## DEER VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL (7 Services)

As part of our summer season, several Utah Symphony and Utah Opera musicians provided free community concerts throughout Summit County. Four of these concerts featured performances on “Art Pianos”: hand painted art installations that can be found in public spaces around Summit County.

During the Deer Valley Music Festival, we also partnered with Summerhays Music to bring instrument petting zoos to two concerts, giving children a unique opportunity to try out a variety of musical instruments.

## MUSIC ELEVATED TOUR (21 Services)

For a week in August our staff and musicians set out on a six city state tour that ranged from Huntsville to Teasdale with several stops along the way in Fountain Green, Spring City, Bryce Canyon and Cougar Ridge.

These stops provided an opportunity to create a deeper connection with the community and USUO through the participation in different workshops and classes. Several stops included offerings that ranged from conducting workshops, musical technique classes, Q&A’s and a fiddle vs. violin class. These classes were all open to the public and free of charge.

