



# Annual Report 2014-15

Transforming lives through intensive, orchestral education



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*I want to be in BRAVO  
all day, every day!*

Michelle Chavez Acosta, age 8  
BRAVO Rosa Parks violinist

## A Message from Bonnie and Seth

Dear BRAVO Friends and Supporters,

BRAVO's second year turned out to be full of milestones. Each month, amazing new doors of opportunity opened for our orchestra. Here are some of our favorite memories of 2014-15:

- **July** - BRAVO held our first week-long **summer camp**. The students learned an entirely new program which they performed for a full house at The Old Church alongside some friends from the **Oregon Symphony**.
- **August** - We welcomed our second group of young musicians into the After-school Program, our 2nd grade Mozart violins. Our older Brahms string orchestra performed for an audience of thousands at the Symphony's annual Waterfront Concert downtown.
- **September** - Superstar violinist **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** joined us as a Guest Artist and even sat in the second violin section for our rehearsal, exclaiming, "**I love playing in this orchestra!**"
- **October** - 6 BRAVO students joined **Metropolitan Youth Symphony's** Overture String Orchestra for the entire year on a generous scholarship from MYS.
- **November** - German cello soloist **Alban Gerhardt** returned for a second BRAVO visit, this time performing alongside our young musicians in a thrilling community concert for a capacity crowd at the University of Portland.
- **December** - Baroque violinist **Monica Huggett** brought several members of the Portland Baroque Orchestra for a school concert at Rosa Parks, including performing a Vivaldi violin concerto along with our students.
- **January** - BRAVO performed for a live broadcast of the community-wide **MLK Day** celebration.
- **February** - On February 12th, the **40th anniversary** of the founding of El Sistema\* in Venezuela, the **Oregon Symphony** joined BRAVO for our first side-by-side in a community outreach concert at the Charles Jordan Center in North Portland.
- **March** - BRAVO was honored with a special award at **Celebrate North Portland** for its contributions to the community.
- **April** - Maestro **Carlos Kalmar** conducted BRAVO making our debut onstage at the **Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall** alongside the **Oregon Symphony**. We didn't dream it was possible for this to happen for our students in less than two years of music study. Following the concert, BRAVO's **Bonnie Reagan** was honored with the inaugural **Schnitzer Wonder Award** for community service through the arts, presented by **Jordan Schnitzer** himself.
- **May** - About 50 students from **YAMA**, the El Sistema-inspired program in Yakima, WA, joined BRAVO for the first-ever **Pacific Northwest Seminario** (orchestra festival). **City Club of Portland** hosted an international panel speaking about BRAVO and El Sistema (also broadcast on OPB) and the week culminated in a joint YAMA/BRAVO community concert under the direction of Maestro **Juan Felipe Molano** of the LA Philharmonic's YOLA program. In late May, BRAVO performed at **City Hall** for Mayor **Charlie Hales** and his staff, and at the **Capitol Building in Salem** with Governor **Kate Brown** in attendance and with House Speaker **Tina Kotek** as our Guest Conductor.
- **June** - We finished our fiscal year with a **balanced budget** for the second straight year. At the annual meeting, the BRAVO board was surprised to find themselves assigned to play instruments for a special rehearsal so they could appreciate fully the tremendous musical accomplishments of our students in the last two years.

No one has had higher hopes and expectations for BRAVO than we have, and still the past year has exceeded our dreams in almost every respect. We're tremendously excited for the September launch of our second school program, **BRAVO Cesar Chavez**, which will include winds and brass instruments. Thank you for the generous support and participation in our growing movement that makes all of these amazing opportunities a reality for our students and their families.

With gratitude,



Bonnie Reagan, MD  
Board President



Seth H. Truby  
Executive Director

\*Established by Jose Antonio Abreu in 1975, El Sistema is Venezuela's national system of youth orchestras serving each year more than half a million children, over 80% of whom live in poverty.

## Program Accomplishments

submitted by Program Director Mark Woodward

### Student Outcomes

BRAVO has increased its students' ability to focus, expanded their leadership skills through peer-to-peer teaching, strengthened their comfort with public speaking and performing, nurtured their expressions of gratitude, and cultivated a greater sense of belonging. BRAVO is establishing a long-term evaluation partnership with the Center for Student Success at Portland State University to track longitudinal performance for students in our program. In addition, BRAVO was chosen to participate as a collaborating site in a multi-year study of El Sistema-inspired programs across the United States.

### Pedagogy and Repertoire

BRAVO Teaching Artists continue to arrange new pieces of choral and orchestral repertoire, tailoring them to the musical needs of the students. These arrangements build a step-by-step sequence in the music lessons while exposing the students to diverse cultures from around the world. These folk, classical, and popular music arrangements are often prepared with singable arrangements in English and Spanish. Additionally, students internalize new music by singing with solfège and hand signs. The repertoire expands their musical knowledge, boosts their self-confidence, and exposes the students to an ever-growing cultural landscape. Repertoire highlights from this year include:

**Mai Nozipo—Dumisani Maraire**  
**La Bella Cubana—Jose White Lafitte**  
**Waltz No. 2—Dmitri Shostakovich**  
**De Colores— Mexican folk song**

**Villagers' Chorus—Bedrich Smetana**  
**Symphony No. 25 (excerpts) - W. A. Mozart**  
**March from Die Meistersinger—Richard Wagner**  
**Keep Your Eyes on the Prize—Civil Rights anthem**

## *BRAVO Rosa Parks Student Roster 2014-15*



2nd year BRAVO students proudly display their medallions just before the Winter Concert in December at Mt Olivet Baptist Church

### **BRAHMS String Orchestra**

**VIOLIN I/II:** Aislin Gutierrez, Amanda Houston, Esmeralda Arriola, Hezekiah Moten-Littleton, Genesis Moten, Iona Truby, Jelly'sha Dunn, Lilya Bosyuk, Mariana Kauffman, Samantha Padilla

**VIOLA:** Ann Marie Thomas-Willingham, Gabriela Delgado, Iverson Brewer, Ja'Martay Bentley, Luis Chan-Hernandez, Omarion Pervish, Perla Rolon-Gonzalez

**CELLO:** Adajion Simmons, Aleana McCowan, Benedicte Niyungeko, Camelliah Arbella, Santos Coot-Hernandez

**BASS:** Brent Buckles, Symone Wesley

### **MOZART Violins**

**VIOLIN III:** Abigail Karst, Cristal Soto-Martinez, Davina Rondon, Esmerelda Martinez-Aguilar, Kevin Martinez-Hernandez, Michael Horn, Michelle Chavez Acosta

**VIOLIN IV:** Braejon Brewer, Daliah Arbella, Damone Wesley-Henry, Liliana Gonzalez-Guiterrez, Manny Dempsey, Naima Robinson, Zion Lovett

**VIOLIN V:** Amirah Richmond, Jennifer Coot-Hernandez, Lizbeth Arriola Ramirez, Nasia McCowan, Pancho Delgado, Rafael Coronado-Palafox, Sapphire Thomas, Saul Caballero Villafuerte

In addition to the students listed above, *BRAVO Rosa Parks* served approximately 130 students in kindergarten and first grade through the In-school Program, consisting of half hour group violin lessons twice a week. About 20 of these students are joining the After-school chorus and orchestra as second graders in the 2015-16 school year.

## BRAVO Guest Artist Series 2014-15

The BRAVO Guest Artist Series at Rosa Parks is an important feature of our program, bringing to Portland's poorest public school a distinguished group of both local and international-caliber professional musicians. BRAVO Guest Artists spend at least one half hour playing musical selections and interacting with our students, answering questions about their childhood musical experiences, sharing favorite pieces in the repertoire, telling stories about distant countries where they have traveled to perform, and explaining the role music plays in their lives. BRAVO Guest Artists are also invited to stay and rehearse with our students in smaller sectional groups, and some even stay for the entire two hours of our program to practice with the full orchestra. We value the ethnic diversity and wide range of musical styles represented, and we have listed below a few of the more than 30 Guest Artists who contributed their time and talent to BRAVO in our second year.



Guest Artist Alban Gerhardt performs with BRAVO cellists at the University of Portland

<b>Keith Bunke</b>	Bassoonist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra
<b>Sergio Carreno &amp; Liz Drier</b>	Percussionist & violinist, Oregon Symphony
<b>Gabriela Lena Frank</b>	Composer, Guest Artist Oregon Symphony
<b>Alban Gerhardt</b>	Cellist, German international touring soloist
<b>Monica Huggett</b>	Baroque violinist, Portland Baroque Orchestra
<b>In Mulieribus</b>	Portland area female a cappella vocal group
<b>Rachel Kudo</b>	Pianist, Guest Artist with Portland Piano International
<b>Pacifica Quartet</b>	Guest Artists with Friends of Chamber Music
<b>Harry Rabinowitz</b>	Conductor, composer for film and television
<b>Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg</b>	Violinist, Guest Artist with the Oregon Symphony
<b>Stanford Thompson</b>	Trumpeter, President of El Sistema USA



Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg plays with the second violins

*BRAVO is teaching these children the enjoyment and pleasure of making music at an early age. That love of music is probably more important than any technique they learn.*

Monica Huggett, violinist

Artistic Director, Portland Baroque Orchestra

## Concerts and Field Trips in 2014-15

A key component of the BRAVO program is regular performance in the school, the surrounding community, and the wider Portland metro area. These are opportunities to take our students to important civic and cultural landmarks they wouldn't otherwise visit, introduce them to government and arts leaders, and help expand visibility for BRAVO. Public performance and participation in civic events is also an important way we teach our students to be contributors in their community. Below are some highlights from the past year:



Maestro Carlos Kalmar addresses the audience before BRAVO makes its debut at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall with the Oregon Symphony



Governor Kate Brown shares a moment with BRAVO musicians before House Speaker Tina Kotek conducts in the Capitol Building in Salem

<b>Aug 28</b>	<b>Waterfront Concert</b>	Performance at the all-day festival of the Oregon Symphony Waterfront Park Concert
<b>Nov 15</b>	<b>Concert with Alban Gerhardt</b>	Concert at University of Portland with the internationally renowned cellist
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>BRAVO Winter Concert Mt Olivet Baptist Church</b>	Showcase of our repertoire for BRAVO families and community friends
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Prelude Series Arlene Schnitzer Hall</b>	Performance in the lobby prior to the Oregon Symphony Gospel Christmas Concert
<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>Oregon Symphony Side-by-Side Concert</b>	Free concert in the Charles Jordan Center to celebrate El Sistema's 40th year
<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>Oregon Symphony Honors Concert—Gala 2015 Arlene Schnitzer Hall</b>	BRAVO students' first opportunity to perform onstage at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall playing alongside the Oregon Symphony under the direction of Maestro Carlos Kalmar (see photo above)
<b>Apr 26</b>	<b>BRAVO with Classical Up Close</b>	Prelude performance alongside principal players in the Oregon Symphony
<b>May 14</b>	<b>BRAVO Spring Concert Mt Olivet Baptist Church</b>	Spring showcase for BRAVO families and community friends
<b>May 22</b>	<b>BRAVO Mozart at City Hall</b>	Our second visit to City Hall, joined by Guest Conductor Mayor Charlie Hales
<b>May 27</b>	<b>BRAVO Brahms at State Capitol</b>	Performance for Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon House of Representatives

*The work you are doing is amazing. BRAVO brings the best music education to where it is needed most. In this orchestra, children are learning important social skills - to listen, to be a team, to respect each other regardless of our differences.*

Carlos Kalmar, Music Director, Oregon Symphony

## Major Supporters

The wonderful accomplishments of our first two years would not have been possible without the hundreds of individuals, foundations, and corporations who together comprise our family of BRAVO supporters and believe wholeheartedly in our mission of social change through music. Your contributions are making a transformative impact on the lives of children right here in our community.

### \$50,000 and above

BRAVO Board of Directors

### \$25,000 and above

Vibrant Village Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Ronni Lacroute  
Lamb Foundation  
Robert Lockwood and Janet Gibbens  
Renaissance Foundation  
Jordan Schnitzer

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous  
Argosy Foundation  
Firstenburg Foundation  
Hampton Family Foundation  
Hank and Judy Hummelt  
Templeton Foundation  
Kate Thompson and Bill Scott

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

Carole Alexander  
D'Addario Foundation  
Rosemary Hamerton-Kelly  
Jane Hartline and Mark Greenfield  
Magic Pebble Foundation  
Claudette Summerville

### \$1,000 - \$2,499

Ann Bakkensen  
Commerce Bank of Oregon  
Karen and Cliff Deveney  
Allen L. Dobbins  
Zana Dorres  
Robert and Elizabeth Dyson  
Dr. Edmund Frank  
Girls, Inc.  
Caroline and David Greger  
David Hattner  
Dr. Meg Hayes  
Dr. JoAnne Hermens  
Josh Kardon  
L'Chaim Fund of MRG Foundation  
Magic Pebble Foundation



BRAVO violinist Genesis Moten is excited about playing at the Oregon Symphony's Waterfront Concert

Mambo Media  
Lori and Shawn Martin  
Moda Health  
Tieneke Pavesic  
Janet and Larry Richards  
Michael Sherman  
Jinny Shipman and Dick Kaiser  
Joe and Francine Smith  
Barbara and Phil Silver

Juanita Struble  
Angela and Seth Truby  
Vollum Fund  
Wieden + Kennedy  
Wyss Foundation  
Herb and Nancy Zachow

**And over 300 gifts under \$1,000**

**Major In Kind Support** includes the donation of instruments, photography, and other goods and services.

A special thank you to the following companies, organizations and individuals:

David Kerr Violin Shop  
Adelsheim Vineyards  
Kennedy Violins  
John McCulloch  
Mt Olivet Baptist Church

David McLaughlin  
Henderson Graphics  
Kimberly Warner Photography  
Mia Allen  
The Old Church

## Financial Summary 2014-15 Fiscal Year

EXPENSES		REVENUES	
\$216,752	Salaries	\$207,123	Individual support
\$36,183	Other personnel costs	\$74,175	Foundation grants
<u>\$23,356</u>	<u>Instruments, supplies</u>	<u>\$15,161</u>	<u>Corporate support</u>
\$276,291	DIRECT COSTS	\$296,459	CONTRIBUTED REVENUE
\$27,047	INDIRECT COSTS	\$7,457	OTHER INCOME
\$303,338	TOTAL EXPENSES 2014-15	\$303,916	TOTAL REVENUES 2014-15
		\$578	Net Income
		<u>\$42,361</u>	<u>Strategic Reserve Fund</u>
		\$42,939	TOTAL EQUITY JUNE 30, 2015

## Three Year Timeline

In April 2014, the BRAVO board and staff completed a 2014-17 Strategic Plan under the guidance of consultant George Thorn made possible by a grant from the Cultural Leadership Program of the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Currently starting Year Two of the plan, we are happy to report growth in accordance with the timeline. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving a copy of the full plan.

### 2014-15

- Schools served: 1 - Rosa Parks School K-5 (RPS); After-school program expanded to 60; In-school program for approx. 130; Total students served approx. 190; added string bass section to orchestra.
- 7 Teaching Artists, 2 FT Administrators

### 2015-16

- Schools served: 2 - RPS and Cesar Chavez School K-8 (CCS); After-school program at RPS for 60 students; After-school program at CCS for 25 students; In-school programs for approx. 280 at two sites; Total students served approx. 365. Added winds and brass at new After-school program at CCS.
- 10 Teaching Artists, 3 FT Administrators, 1 PT Administrator

### 2016-17

- Schools served: 3 - RPS, CCS, George Middle School (6-8); After-school program for approx. 115 at 2 sites; In-school program for approx. 300 at three sites; Total students served approx. 415.
- 12 Teaching Artists, 3 FT Administrators, 2 PT Administrator

## Our People

BRAVO relies on the committed involvement of dozens of wonderful people in paid and volunteer roles. Here are the key people who have contributed their time, talent, and energy in the past year:

### STAFF

Karen Bailey, In-school Program Assistant  
 Stefana Berceanu, Teaching Artist, violin  
 Aurelian Boudreaux, Teaching Artist, viola  
 David Eby, Teaching Artist, cello  
 Chris Fotinakis, Teaching Artist, violin  
 Laurita Jauregui, In-school Program Manager  
 Eri Nogueira, Teaching Artist, violin  
 Iantha Rimper, Teaching Artist, violin  
 André St. James, Teaching Artist, bass  
 Mark Woodward, Program Director  
 Seth Truby, Executive Director

### BRAVO VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Williamson, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Laurie Flint, Guest Artist Coordinator  
 Ann Bakkensen, Assistant to Program Dir.  
 Inge van Waardenburg, Event Planner  
 Kimberly Warner, BRAVO Photographer

### STUDENT INTERNS

Keely McMurry, Lead Intern  
 Kristina Dill, Lewis and Clark College  
 Maria Boyer, Lewis and Clark College  
 Merlia Norris, Portland State University  
 Rachel Graves, Mountain View HS  
 Emily Wu, Westview HS

### COMMUNITY MUSICIANS

Elizabeth Blachly-Dyson  
 Sonya Brookins  
 Johnnie Duncan  
 Jan Drury  
 Kevin Jackson

### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Ginny Adelsheim  
 Greg Anderson  
 Jean Ady  
 Mia Allen  
 Barb Arzt  
 Anne Bagwell  
 Joe Cantrell  
 Bill Crane  
 Will Dixon  
 Cindy Hackett  
 Dawn Hawthorne  
 Caitlin Huang  
 Jonathan Huang  
 Justin Huang  
 Erica Liebert  
 Rosie Lovings  
 Bill Madill  
 Linda Magee  
 Lauren McCune  
 Collin McKean  
 David McLaughlin  
 Solomon Murphy

Chuck Norris  
 Debbie Olsen  
 Peter Reagan  
 Erica Rubin  
 Peter Samson  
 Bill Scott  
 Matt Shanahan  
 Rylan Suehisa  
 Kate Thompson  
 Tom Truby

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bonnie Reagan - President  
 Annelisa Smith - Secretary  
 Tracy Rimel - Treasurer  
 Nan Anderson  
 Tim Boot  
 Laurie Flint  
 Olivia Godinez  
 Irving Levin  
 Cynthia MacLeod  
 George Olsen  
 Leslie Tuomi



Super volunteer Ann Bakkensen with El Sistema USA President Stanford Thompsen, BRAVO ED Seth Truby, and Maestro Juan Felipe Molano

*BRAVO has changed my life. I am learning not only music, I am learning life skills. Never give up, don't ever give up. What I am learning from BRAVO is going to stay with me forever.*

Sapphire Thomas, Age 10  
 BRAVO Rosa Parks violinist

*A special thank you to Kimberly Warner, Bonnie Reagan, Mia Allen, and Mario Gallucci for these photographs*

## Contact BRAVO

If you would like to arrange a program visit or find out more about BRAVO, please contact us:

**BRAVO Youth Orchestras**  
**PO Box 17356**  
**Portland, OR 97217**

[www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras](http://www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras)

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