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
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 orchestral!"
- **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       Seth H. Truby  
Board President        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

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

BRAHMS String Orchestra

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


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-Guiiterrez, 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.
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.

Keith Bunke  
Bassoonist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Sergio Carreno & Liz Drier  
Percussionist & violinist, Oregon Symphony

Gabriela Lena Frank  
Composer, Guest Artist Oregon Symphony

Alban Gerhardt  
Cellist, German international touring soloist

Monica Huggett  
Baroque violinist, Portland Baroque Orchestra

In Mulieribus  
Portland area female a cappella vocal group

Rachel Kudo  
Pianist, Guest Artist with Portland Piano International

Pacifica Quartet  
Guest Artists with Friends of Chamber Music

Harry Rabinowitz  
Conductor, composer for film and television

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg  
Violinist, Guest Artist with the Oregon Symphony

Stanford Thompson  
Trumpeter, President of El Sistema USA

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

*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

Aug 28 Waterfront Concert
Performance at the all-day festival of the Oregon Symphony Waterfront Park Concert

Nov 15 Concert with Alban Gerhardt
Concert at University of Portland with the internationally renowned cellist

Dec 10 BRAVO Winter Concert
Mt Olivet Baptist Church
Showcase of our repertoire for BRAVO families and community friends

Dec 14 Prelude Series
Arlene Schnitzer Hall
Performance in the lobby prior to the Oregon Symphony Gospel Christmas Concert

Feb 12 Oregon Symphony
Side-by-Side Concert
Free concert in the Charles Jordan Center to celebrate El Sistema’s 40th year

Apr 16 Oregon Symphony
Honors Concert—Gala 2015
Arlene Schnitzer Hall
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)

Apr 26 BRAVO with Classical Up Close
Prelude performance alongside principal players in the Oregon Symphony

May 14 BRAVO Spring Concert
Mt Olivet Baptist Church
Spring showcase for BRAVO families and community friends

May 22 BRAVO Mozart at City Hall
Our second visit to City Hall, joined by Guest Conductor Mayor Charlie Hales

May 27 BRAVO Brahms at State Capitol
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
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

Mambo Media
Lori and Shawn Martin
Moda Health
Tieneke Pavesic
Janet and Larry Richards
Michael Sherman
Jimmy 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

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

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

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<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>REVENUES</th>
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<tr>
<td>$216,752 Salaries</td>
<td>$207,123 Individual support</td>
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<td>$36,183 Other personnel costs</td>
<td>$74,175 Foundation grants</td>
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<td>$23,356 Instruments, supplies</td>
<td>$15,161 Corporate support</td>
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<td>$276,291 DIRECT COSTS</td>
<td>$296,459 CONTRIBUTED REVENUE</td>
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<td>$27,047 INDIRECT COSTS</td>
<td>$7,457 OTHER INCOME</td>
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<td>$303,338 TOTAL EXPENSES 2014-15</td>
<td>$303,916 TOTAL REVENUES 2014-15</td>
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| $303,916 TOTAL REVENUES 2014-15| Net Income $578 |
| $42,361 Strategic Reserve Fund |
| $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
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, viola
André St.James, Teaching Artist, bass
Mark Woodward, Program Director
Seth Truby, Executive Director

**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

**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

**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
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Peter Olsen
Erica Rubin
Peter Samson
Bill Scott
Matt Shanahan
Rylan Suehsisa
Kate Thompson
Tom Truby

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

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

**BRAVO Youth Orchestras**
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503.916.5314

www.facebook.com/BRAVOYouthOrchestras