

2025–2026

Levine Turns 50

Thank You



Dear Friends,

Levine turned 50 this year, an incredible accomplishment fueled by vision, hard work, and love. Amidst all the celebrations, we are most grateful for the many inspiring individuals who have brought us to this milestone through their outsized generosity and love of music.

By capturing just a few highlights from this special year in our 2025-26 Annual Report, we hope to give you a sense of how much our 4,000+ students have benefited from your support. You are the reason that Levine continues to be a haven for people of all ages and backgrounds, a place of joy, connection, and big dreams.

As we celebrate the path that led us here, let us continue to shape Levine's unfolding future together.

Yours,

Andrew Engel
Board Chair

Jeffery Tribble, Jr.
President and CEO

Music for a Lifetime

Our 50th Anniversary has been a year of tremendous growth and accomplishment fueled by the vision of our founders, Ruth Cogen, Jackie Marlin, and the late Diana Engel. They believed the nation's capital needed a welcoming place for students of all ages and backgrounds to develop a lifelong love of music.

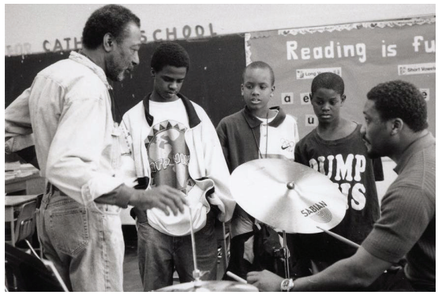












Cause for Celebration

There is amazing work being done across the institution – here are a few highlights:

- **We celebrated the grand opening of our 8,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art campus in West Falls Church, featuring the beautiful Volgenau Performance Hall, made possible by a generous gift from the Volgenau Foundation.**
- **Nearly 300 children and adults experienced music's unique power to heal and inspire through music therapy sessions at our five campuses and at partner sites, including 18+ public/private school and 9 locations serving adults and senior citizens.**
- **Last year, 70% of Levine students receiving need-based scholarships were awarded the maximum subsidy of 90%.**
- **We welcomed new partners for our adult programs: EducArte brought its Brazilian Bateria Samba Drumming Class to the Silver Spring campus, and Encore Creativity for Older Adults brought Encore Broadway & Encore Rocks choruses to the NW campus and the Silver Spring campus, respectively.**
- **Levine introduced its dynamic new brand, expressing music's vitality and creativity, and our new, user-friendly website makes navigating Levine's hundreds of classes and programs easy.**
- **Camp Levine, named #1 Summer Camp by *Washington City Paper* again last year, welcomed 558 campers at 4 locations.**







Piano!

Thirty years ago, Levine became the only all-Steinway community music school in the country. That bold vision helped attract and retain our renowned 60-member piano faculty, who have developed a nationally recognized piano curriculum and now teach over 1,000 students annually. We are proud that every student at Levine, regardless of age and skill, learns on some of the finest instruments in the world.

Of note: Seven students completed Levine's 11-level piano curriculum with the highest level of distinction and performed advanced student recitals.

Thanks to the generosity of Jane Lang and the Eugene M. Lang Foundation, we welcomed a glorious new nine-foot Steinway concert grand to Lang Recital Hall at our NW campus.



Making Music Together

At Levine, our students, families, and community members have free, year-round opportunities to learn from the world's greatest musicians.

Levine hosted almost 200 musical events across our campuses this year, including 29 guest master classes featuring renowned artists such as Emile Naoumoff, Ana Vidović, José Luiz Martins, and many others.

Under the direction of Micah Hendler, we doubled the number of free Community Sings across the region.





Merit Programs Growing

In 2022, Levine was proud to join the Kennedy Center, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the DC Youth Orchestra Program as founding partners of the Washington Musical Pathways Initiative (WMPI).

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, WMPI provides in-depth training to local students of orchestral instruments from communities historically excluded from classical music. These outstanding young musicians, grades 8–12, receive intensive, subsidized private lessons, chamber coaching, music theory instruction, and audition preparation. In 2025, after Mellon ended its funding and the Kennedy Center withdrew, Levine took the lead and added WMPI to its existing merit programs, Rising Stars and Honors.

Dr. Jamila Tekalli Hanner now manages all three programs, and these young musicians continue to accomplish great things. WMPI has 21 graduates so far; they have been accepted into top conservatories and university music programs and have received over $1.3 million in scholarship offers.



> Opportunity is a core value, and making music study accessible through financial aid is critical to our mission. The need is great, and the majority of our awards go to families qualifying at the highest level of need.

New Leaders

At Levine, department chairs make each program area sing, and we filled two critically important chair positions with outstanding professionals.



Dr. Nakia Verner Thompson

Our new Voice Chair, Dr. Nakia Verner Thompson, holds an MM in Voice Performance from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, a Diploma in Voice Performance from Peabody Conservatory, and a DMA in Voice Performance from The Catholic University of America. She has participated in the Rome Festival, the Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre Institute, the Renata Scotto Opera Institute, and the Berlin Opera Academy, and performs in the US and abroad. Under her leadership, enrollment in voice grew 42% last year.



Dr. Glenda Bates

Our new First Music Chair, Dr. Glenda Bates, has her MM in Oboe Performance from the University of Maryland and her DMA in Oboe Performance from Stony Brook University. She is a jazz vocalist and folk singer, and is a multidisciplinary artist blending genres, styles, and art forms. She plays modern and baroque oboes, English horn, and ukulele. Under her leadership, enrollment in First Music grew 36%.

Our Faculty

Levine's greatest asset is our extraordinary faculty of 185 professional musician-educators who teach over 22 instruments, voice, music theory, composition, history, ensembles, and group classes across our five campuses.







Gala

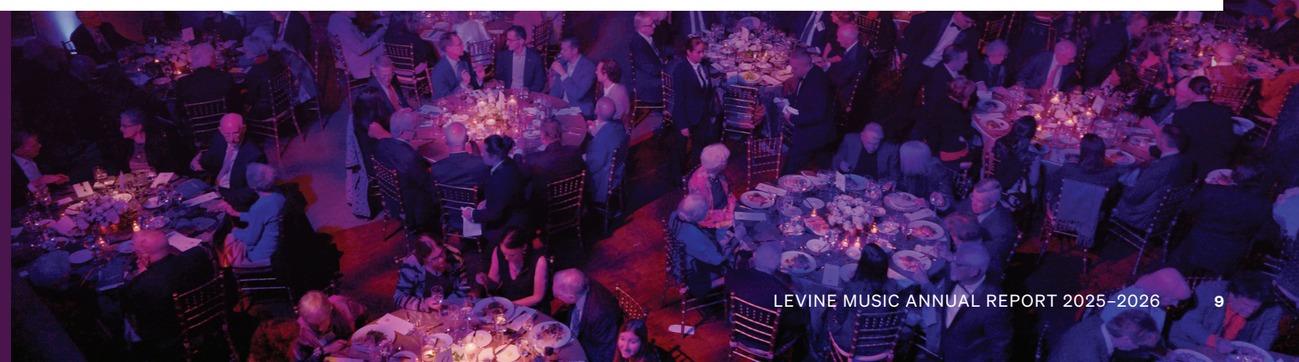
Levine's biggest annual fundraiser secures essential funding for tuition assistance and operations. This year was a spectacular success, with the highest revenue and attendance ever.

We honored Levine founders Ruth Cogen and Jackie Marlin, and the late Diana Engel, represented by her three sons, and presented journalist and civic leader Knight Kiplinger with the inaugural Selma Levine Award for 50 years of extraordinary service.

Levine alum and Broadway star Brandon Victor Dixon electrified the crowd with his performances and personal reflections on Levine's impact on his life and career.

"The program was terrific. It really captured the essence of Levine as a serious music school while also being a very special community of caring people that enhances people's musical experiences and has a profound, often lifelong influence on students." **–Marian Osterweis**

"Over my 50 years of serving Levine, I feel strongly it is a true music center for Washington. A place where people come together to learn, to perform, and to share the love of music." **–Knight Kiplinger**



A Legacy of Love

Our legacy donors help fund Levine's mission by including Levine in their estate plans. For example, thanks to a $1 million estate gift from an anonymous donor that created the Pianos Love Tuning Fund, we are able to cover some of the high costs of maintaining our fleet of 152 pianos.

This year, we were saddened to lose two beloved members of the Crescendo Society, Craig Mathews and Rona Eisner. Both were longtime supporters of Levine, generously contributing their time and talents to the school over decades.

What are your hopes and dreams for Levine? Are there opportunities, scholarships, or programs you believe Levine students should always have access to? A legacy gift can make that dream a reality. Let us know if you've made an estate gift for Levine, and you'll join others in The Crescendo Society committed to ensuring Music for All!

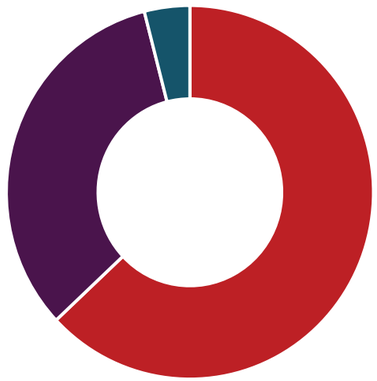
"After recovering from a life-threatening illness, I wanted to create something with lasting value. I brought Levine and Washington Performing Arts together to develop a chamber music competition to encourage young people to share their passion for making music. My legacy gift ensures that this project continues in perpetuity."

–Dr. Bob Misbin, Crescendo Society member

Anonymous (2)
Toni Allen and Robert Clark
Susan Angell
George Avery
Dorothy Berlin
Don and Carol Borut
Josh and Moira Carin
Dr. James Cilecek
Ruth and Ed Cogen
Violeta Contreras Hilty
Drs. Gilbert and Rona Eisner
Anne B. Evans and William F. Wallace
David Falk
Stephen Geoffray
Rochelle Granat and Rhoda Schulzinger
Tamzin "Tawney" Harding
Amanda and Larry Hobart
Joel and Katherine Hoffman
Peter and Judy Jablow
Marina Johnson
Linda and Beau Kaplan
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Kiplinger Family Foundation
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Jackie and David Marlin
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Arnold Polinger
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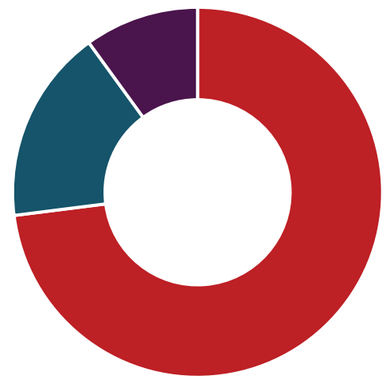
Your generous gifts to the Annual Fund, Gala, and Endowment made our 50th Anniversary a great success. Thank you!

Revenue Total: **$12,986,811**



- **63%** Tuition
- **33%** Contributions
- **4%** Endowment Release

Expenses* Total: **$13,445,011**



- **73%** Program Services
- **17%** Management and General
- **10%** Development

*Total expenses include $822,064 in non-cash depreciation and amortization expense.

These are a few of the many things your gifts support:

TUITION ASSISTANCE
PERFORMANCES
FACULTY SALARIES & BENEFITS
PIANOS & MAINTENANCE
TECHNOLOGY
FACILITIES

LEVINE MUSIC

DC Campus: NW
DC Campus: THEARC
MD Campus: Silver Spring
MD Campus: Strathmore
VA Campus: West Falls
Virtual Campus

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Gail Laster, Vice Chair
Steve Messner, Secretary/Treasurer
Jeffery Tribble Jr., President and CEO, ex-officio

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Craig A. Benson
Donald Borut
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Cindy Chormann Hann
Pete Hanna
Jill Herscot
Andrew Howard
Paul Innella
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Kimberly Levine
Ram Mahidhara
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