

2014|15

Annual Report



**PORTLAND
OVATIONS**



Dear Friends,

In our 84th year we took time to review, reflect and look ahead. Strategic Planning is a hallmark of any responsible non-profit. It's the depth of the investigation and the knowledge gained that drives successful organizations forward.

Ovations new five-year plan, Ovations 2020, informs and energizes our future as both a local treasure and a national leader in the presentation of live performance.

Through numerous conversations with stakeholders – our Members, funders, community partners and loyal ticket buyers – we heard about your dreams and expectations. Moving forward, we will provide even more experiences, both onstage and off; reach further into our community to meet members where they are; and, playing to our core strength, we will innovate.

Ovations 2020 is our promise to you, our most steadfast supporters, and to the greater community we both hold dear. We promise that excellence will always guide us as we deliver what you value most about Ovations, ensuring that even more members of our community have the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the power and delight of the performing arts. (For more on Ovations 2020, please see page 13.)

With that, we are pleased to share with you our 2014-15 Annual Report. From the 28 performances to the 78 Ovations Offstage activities and the more than 34,000 people whose lives we touched last season, we believe you will see for yourselves the depth and breadth of what can be achieved when we work together. Thank you.

Gratefully,

Aimée M. Petrin
Executive Director

Michael A. Boyson
Board Chair 2013-2015

On the cover: Savion Glover, Metropolis Ensemble, Ira Glass Members-only reception, Audience members, Community Supper prior to The Nile Project.

 Ovations Offstage



OCTOBER 1, 2014

POP! An Auction Benefit

20 Restaurants

15 Local Business Underwriters

5 Portland Performance Groups

Approximately \$40,000 raised to support Ovations Offstage



OCTOBER 3, 2014

Metropolis Ensemble: "Brownstone"

Preview concert at Oceanview at Falmouth
Masterclass with Jakub Ciupinski at USM
School of Music, Gorham

Ticketed Preview & Reception at Victoria
Mansion

Free First Friday Performances



“ It felt like we were inside the music.

— Dawn Stillings, Ovations Member, Cumberland

”

“...the musicians were a HUGE hit! Kids have been gushing about them.”

— Sarah Shmitt, Portland Public Schools on Khumariyaan



OCTOBER 15-16, 2014

Khumariyaan

“207” Interview

Dinner with Maine musicians & friends

Pakistani Music: In-School Cultural Sharing at Deering High School

“Rocking in Pakistan” Pre-Performance Q&A

Performance at Hannaford Hall

OCTOBER 22-23, 2014

Paul Dresher Ensemble: Double Duo

Masterclass with Paul Dresher
at USM School of Music, Gorham

“Rethinking Tradition” Lecture

Performance at Westbrook
Performing Arts Center



OCTOBER 29-30, 2014

Minguet Quartett with Andreas Klein

“Bach and Gould: Point Counter Point” Lecture

Performance at Hannaford Hall

Masterclass with Andreas Klein at
USM School of Music, Gorham



NOVEMBER 6, 2014

Savion Glover: "STePz"

Open tech preview for local dance students
Performance at Merrill Auditorium



OCTOBER 29, 2014

Sam Green and Yo La Tengo: "The Love Song of R. Buckminster Fuller"

Performance at State Theatre



NOVEMBER 1, 2014

Béla Fleck, Abigail Washburn & Del McCoury Band

"A Family Affair" Lecture
Performance at Merrill Auditorium



“ It was truly an unbelievable evening. Béla and Abigail were amazing. Such talented musicians and such a lovely and warm rapport. My 14-year-old daughter who is learning Chinese and is a bit of a wiz on the upright bass was particularly inspired. ”

— Suzanne Fox, Falmouth

“ As a huge fan of Ira Glass and listener of *This American Life*, it was one of the most amazing nights of my life. When I’m older, I’m very interested in having a career as a broadcast journalist; and speaking to him and listening to his program inspires me and increases my interest. Not only is his voice amazing on the air and in person, but his poise and intellect displayed when he speaks is something I aspire to develop someday. Thank you for your time and all that Portland Ovations does to bring people such as him up to Maine’s community. ”

— Allie Burns, Ovations Member, Brunswick

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass

Members-only Reception with Ira Glass
Performance at Merrill Auditorium



VISION

To inspire a curious and imaginative community where the experience of the performing arts is a vital part of every day life.

MISSION

As a not-for-profit, Portland Ovations contributes to the cultural, social and economic well-being of our community by presenting an array of high quality performing artists from around the world and creating diverse educational experiences that bring the enjoyment, energy and enrichment of the arts to all.

CORE VALUES

Portland Ovations...

- believes that cultural enrichment should be accessible to all.
- provides quality live performance and educational experiences.
- engages our community with integrity and compassion.
- collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote cultural enrichment and lifelong learning.
- celebrates the power and virtuosity of the performing arts.
- sustains a staff and board who are thoughtful, committed, enthusiastic and fiscally responsible.



NOVEMBER 20, 2014

“Jabber”

In- School Workshop with Maine teaching artist
School-Time Performances at Hannaford Hall



NOVEMBER 7-8, 2014

“Big Nate”

School-Time Performance
Family Series Performance at Merrill Auditorium
Book signing with Lincoln Peirce



“ [Merrill Auditorium] was amazing, many of our students have never been in a theater so grand. Our seats were amazing and the experience is one most will never forget. The actors and actresses were talented, emotional and humorous. They really brought the story of Harriet Tubman alive for our students in a more personal way than a movie or book. ”

— Cynthia M. Sands, 7th grade teacher, Sanford Jr. High



JANUARY 17, 2015

**Broadway National Tour:
“Sister Act”**

Performances at Merrill Auditorium



JANUARY 21, 2015

“Freedom Train”

School-Time Performance at
Merrill Auditorium

School Workshops at
Riverton Elementary



DECEMBER 2, 2014

David Gonzalez: “Cuentos”

Puppet and Mask Workshop

In-School Workshop: “Storytelling with David Gonzalez”

School-Time Performance at Hannaford Hall



JANUARY 22, 2015

Alexandre Tharaud (piano)

“Why the Piano Reigns Supreme” Lecture

Performance at Hannaford Hall





FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

School visit at Deering High School
Members-only Mardi Gras Party
Performance at Merrill Auditorium

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Ray Chen, Violin

"Schubert, Stravinsky, Debussy & Ravel" Lecture
Performance at Hannaford Hall
Masterclass at USM
School of Music, Gorham



FEBRUARY 21, 2015

Broadway National Tour: "Million Dollar Quartet"

Performances at Merrill Auditorium



“Portland Ovation is batting .1000 in its selection of solo performers this year. First it was pianist Alexandre Tharaud, in a recital that can only be called transcendental. Wednesday night it was violinist Ray Chen and his collaborator (one cannot call him an accompanist), pianist Julio Elizalde, in another performance of a Beethoven sonata that was revelatory.”

— Christopher Hyde, *Portland Press Herald*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael A. Boyson, *President*
Felicia K. Knight, *Vice President*
James T. Morgan, *Vice President*
Michael F. Stillings, *Treasurer*
Jane C. Wellehan, *Secretary*
Kendall Harnett
Carolyn Hughes
J. Spencer Jones
Peter Milliken
Marcia Minter
Mary K. Noyes
Daniel Nuzzi
Valerie Roy
Lynn Shaffer
Sigmund Schutz
Amy N. Taylor
Louise K. Thomas
June Vail
Alison Vanderhoof
April Ylvisaker

STAFF

Aimée M. Petrin, *Executive Director*
Gretchen Berg, *Director of Ovarions Offstage*
Mary C. Campbell, *Director of Development*
Charles A. Kibort, *Director of Marketing & Audience Development*
Bethany A. Roberge, *Cross Media Marketing Associate*
Vanessa Romanoff, *Ovarions Offstage Associate*
Laura A. Stauffer, *Programming & Development Administrator*

ASSOCIATES

Marlene Dye, *Bookkeeper*
Nicole Sirois, *Production Manager*
Faith York, *Usher Coordinator*

MARCH 14, 2015

Broadway National Tour: “Memphis”

Performances at Merrill Auditorium



MARCH 18, 2015

Moscow City Ballet: “Swan Lake”

“Why Swan Lake?” Lecture

Performance at Merrill Auditorium



“ What a treasure Portland Ovarions is and how lucky we are to have such a valuable resource in Maine. I became a Member, and recently increased my membership, because I felt like I wasn’t doing my part—I know ticket sales don’t cover the entire cost of bringing these wonderful performances to Maine. ”

— Marie Barbieri, Ovarions Member, Brunswick

“ We learned a lot from the actors’ expertise to help us plan for our historical monologues work for the Boston Freedom Trail in the spring! Ashley and Tyler were so generous with their time, acting craft, personal stories, and skills! ”

— Antona Briley, Language Arts Teacher, Lincoln Middle School

MARCH 23–26, 2015

“Basetrack LIVE”

“207” Interview

Community Dialogue at USM

Community Social at Easy Day

School Visit to Lincoln Middle School

Performance at Westbrook Performing Arts Center

Post-Performance Panel with Cliff Trott, Tyler La Marr and community leaders



MARCH 28, 2015

Boston Camerata with Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble: “Sacred Bridge”

Artist Salon featuring
Anne Azéma

Performance at Hannaford Hall

Post-Performance Q&A



FOUNDERS’ COUNCIL

Judith W. Adam	Daniel P. Hunter
Michael Bachem	Erin A. Hurley
David Bennell	Gary Koocher
Patricia Berg	Robert Ludwig
Kim Block	Caleb Mason
Arthur J. Borduas	Jeff McKinnon
Garrett D. Bowne	Elizabeth A. McLellan
Janet M. Bowne	Michael J. McSally
Bruce Brown	Jay Menario
Bruce A. Buxton	Deborah D. Murray
Richard D. H. Casselman	Nicholas S. Nadzo
Maria Chambers	Thomas R. Newman
Catherine H. Cloudman	Robert A. Nielsen, Jr.
Madeline G. Corson	Jean K. Nishiyama
George W. Crockett	Jane A. Parker
Linda Cronkhite-Johnson	John M. R. Paterson
Kevin D. Desmond	Richard W. Petersen
Charles W. Dibner	Eileen Phelan
Francis A. Ferland	Stephen Poulos
Laura C. Foye	Peter W. Quesada
Mary Mitchell Friedman	Patricia Roderick
Deborah L. Gallant	Monroe B. Scharff
Robert H. Gardner	Margaret M. Shiels
Phyllis Givertz	John D. Tewhey
Philip H. Gleason	Kimberly J. Twitchell
Susan T. Goldberg	Lee D. Urban
Linda Gouws	Richard Vail
Judith Halpert	Anne Valentine
Heidi N. Hansen	Sarah A. Verville
Tracy Hawkins	Margaret A. Wilkis
Elizabeth T. High	

“ I thought that these guys were fantastic. Each song was its own musical adventure. I just never knew where each song was going and that is what made it so much fun to listen to. The women, the singers and drummer: if I were an alien and this was my first exposure to humanity, I would assume that it is the women who rule the world. ”

— Brett Pierce, Ovations Member, Freeport



APRIL 12, 2015 “The Nile Project”

Pen Pal Program with Nile Project,
and Dartmouth College with
Gray-New Gloucester Middle School

School-Time Performance at
Merrill Auditorium

Post-performance Q&A
with Coastal Studies for Girls

Community Supper

“Inside The Nile Project” Lecture

Performance at Merrill Auditorium



MARCH 29-30, 2015 “Skippyjon Jones”

Performance at Merrill Auditorium

School-Time Performances at
Merrill Auditorium



APRIL 25, 2015 Nordic Fiddlers Bloc

“Fiddle Dialects” Lecture Demonstration

Performance at Hannaford Hall





MAY 1-7, 2015

Lucky Plush

Workshop with local playwrights

Creation/devising Workshop with local actors and dancers

First Friday dance performance by PATHS

Pop-up dance performance at Portland Jetport

Dance "Happening" at WEX Inc.

Rehearsals with Portland Community Chorus for "Flash Mob" during performance

"Dance/Theater/Dance/Theater" Lecture

Performance at Westbrook Performing Arts Center

SPONSORS & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

AmazonSmile

Baker Newman Noyes

Bath Savings Trust Co.

BDN Maine

Center for Cultural Exchange
Foundation

Coffee By Design

Culture Club Portland

Dead River Company

Diversified Communications

Elmina B. Sewall Foundation The
Forecaster

Gorham Savings Bank

Greenhut Galleries

Headlight Audio Visual

Horizon Foundation

IDEXX

J. B. Brown & Sons

J. S. McCarthy Printers

Libra Foundation

L.L. Bean

Maine Arts Commision

Maine Media Collective

Moonlighting Production Services

MPBN

Morgan Stanley

National Endowment for the
Arts

National Performance Network

New England Foundation for
the Arts

OceanView at Falmouth

Onion Foundation

The Portland Daily Sun

Portland Magazine

Portland Phoenix

Puelle Design

Rines/Thompson Fund

Roy A. Hunt Foundation

Sam L. Cohen Fund

Southern Maine Audiology

TD Bank

Transformit

Travelers

UBS Financial Services, Inc.

WEX Inc.

WGME

“WEX is committed to engaging with organizations, like Oventions, that foster innovation and creativity.

We're looking for fun, collaborative ways to fuse both concepts into our work environment locally and globally. So, collaborating with Oventions is a most excellent start!

”

— Melissa Dudley, Arts and Innovation Coordinator, WEX, Inc.



MAY 13-14, 2015

**Broadway National Tour:
"Mamma Mia"**

Performances at Merrill Auditorium
"207" Interview



MAY 18, 2015

"Junie B. Jones"

School-Time Performance at Merrill Auditorium



“ Another great performance. Portland Ovation never lets us down! I think we’ve been attending events for five years now! ”

— Wendy Betts and Kristin Betts-Greenlaw, Homeschoolers from Casco

2014-15 BY THE NUMBERS

22,047

Attendees

28

Mainstage
Performances

305

Performing Artists

5

Venues



12,192

people served by O2

78

O2 Activities

9

School-Time
Performances

16

Free Lectures



34,606

people served by Portland Ovations
made possible through...



592

Members

15

Sponsors

15

Foundations



OVATIONS 2020

In May 2015, Portland Oventions' Board of Directors adopted an ambitious new five-year strategic plan.

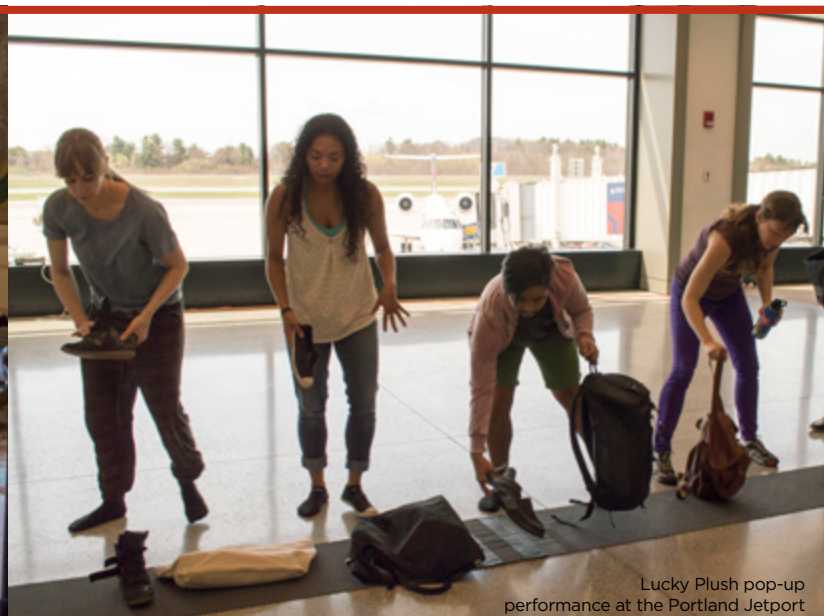
This exhaustive process was the result of more than 471 hours of time, 46 focus groups and community interviews, 2,169 patron survey responses and countless planning sessions with Board, staff and major stakeholders. The result is a plan that propels Oventions and this vibrant cultural community well into the future.

Over the next five years, Portland Oventions will deliver **250,000 arts experiences** through **650 activities**, animating as many as **40 different sites** per season, while generating **\$14m of revenue** through the local economy.

Portland Oventions is poised to raise Portland's prominence as one of the great cultural cities in the U.S. by connecting even more members of our community with the power of the performing arts. Together we can ignite the thrill, inspire a connection and celebrate the vitality of Portland and the arts.

“ I believe Portland Oventions is one of the best cultural assets in Portland and in the State of Maine. ”

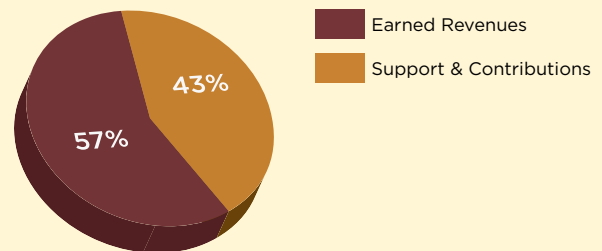
— Strategic Plan Survey Participant



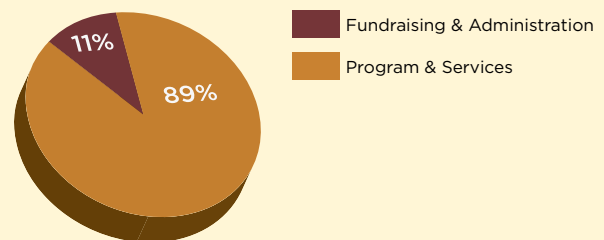
FINANCIALS

Revenues	2014-15
Support and Contributions ¹	732,669
Earned Revenues	983,364
Total Support and Earned Revenues	1,716,033
Expenses	
Programs and Services	1,577,400
Fundraising and Administration	189,145
Total Expenses	1,766,545
Assets	
Current Assets	463,949
Property and Equipment	5,482
Investments and Other Assets	1,359,746
Total Assets	1,829,177
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	382,793
Total Liabilities	382,793
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,122,714
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets ²	59,512
Permanently Restricted Net Assets ³	264,158
Total Net Assets	1,446,384
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,829,177

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Program expenses include artist fees and accommodations, venue rentals, marketing, local labor and production, etc., which help fuel the Maine creative economy.

1. Support and contributions includes endowment distributions of \$29,066 from Portland Ovarions and \$10,000 from CCEF fund.
2. Represents value of CCEF fund greater than corpus.
3. Represents the corpus of the CCEF fund.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

“ Ever since the decline of vinyl and the disappearance of blockbuster recording companies, who kept their stars in the public eye, it has been harder to attract large crowds to solo performances.....I mention this because Hannaford Hall had far too many empty seats for a concert that should have been standing room only. The weather may have had something to do with it, but so did the lack of the large publicity budgets that once benefited such stars....Tickets to Ray Chen were \$42, with special discounts for people over 65 and to members of Portland Ovarions. Children and students paid \$10. Nothing remotely similar is available at these prices. ”

— Christopher Hyde, *Portland Press Herald*

Signature Events during the 2015–16 Season



“The Kite Runner”

Tuesday, February 9, 2016 • 10 am • Hannaford Hall, USM Campus, Portland

This one-person theatrical adaptation of the bestselling novel, *The Kite Runner* (2003), portrays the relationship between a privileged Pashtun boy and a young Hazara servant during the conflict in 1970s Afghanistan. Original Afghani music enhances the experience while audience members meet upwards of eight characters, each fully realized by this celebrated performer.



Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 • 7:30 pm • Merrill Auditorium

In *Play and Play: An Evening of Movement and Music*, Maine dancers and musicians join the revered company in a rare live music and dance program that marries Tony Award-winning Bill T. Jones' inventive choreography with some of the world's best-loved and most seminal works of classical music. Featuring pieces by Mendelssohn, Mozart and Beethoven, *Play and Play* showcases the joy of dancers and musicians working together and includes the exuberant tour-de-force, *D-Man in the Waters*.



Wu Man with Shanghai Quartet: “A Night in Ancient and New China”

Thursday, March 31, 2016 • 7:30 pm • Hannaford Hall, USM Campus, Portland

Heralded “a force of nature” by *Gramophone*, pipa virtuoso Wu Man inspires composers from Tan Dun to Terry Riley and is a founding member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project. The Shanghai Quartet is one of the world's leading chamber music ensembles, known for their passionate musicality and dazzling technique. Their brilliant program features a suite of traditional Chinese folk songs arranged by violinist Yi-Wen Jiang, solo pipa works, one of the great string quartets of the 18th century, and a world premiere by one of China's most renowned composers, Zhao Jiping, best known for the films, *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Farewell, My Concubine*.

Each offered with Ovation's Offstage events connecting our community to the artists and performances.

Check portlandovations.org often for updates and information, like Portland Ovation's on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @portlandovations @ovationoffstage.