



PORTLAND  
OVATIONS



2012 | 13  
Annual Report

# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

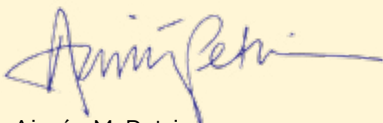
One hundred-plus years ago, the great Russian impresario Sergei Diaghilev threw down the gauntlet with the words “Astonish me.” This call to action resulted in the exalted *Rite of Spring* by Igor Stravinsky and his many remarkable collaborators. Those same words guided our work during the 2012-13 season.

It was a year of not relying on the tried and true, and a year of taking risks. Working with many talented partners, for the first time we curated a multi-event series that pointed to a singular great moment in the history of making art. We gave a contemporary dance/video piece — *Voyeur* by Bridgman|Packer Dance — its world premiere in a venue not necessarily known for the performing arts, let alone dance. Following Diaghilev’s lead, we challenged banjo master Tony Trischka to give Maine audiences something truly unique, and he did.

We expanded our work in Portland’s diverse cultural community to undertake projects that resonated deeply with our local Burundian and Afghan neighbors. We partnered on many new cultural endeavors for our community including Culture Club Portland and the inaugural Maine Acoustic Festival.

None of this — the great art, the risk-taking, the deep work in our community and schools — would have been possible without you: our Members, funders, sponsors and friends. It is because of you that we can make it our mandate to astonish, delight, provoke and of course, entertain.

As we embark on the 2013-14 season, our 83<sup>rd</sup>, we ask that you join us again (and again). Please, bring your friends, family, and co-workers. Share with them the richness of experience and expression found in dance, music and theater. Encourage them to join you as an Ovations Member or sponsor. And together, dare ourselves to be astonished by live performance.



Aimée M. Petrin  
Executive Director



J. Spencer Jones  
Board Chair



**ON THE COVER:** The Joffrey Ballet’s *Le Sacre du Printemps*; Natalie MacMaster with The Franklin County Fiddlers; Imani Winds at Hannaford Hall; Farida Mahwash with audience members; Tony Trischka: *The Banjo Project* with students from the Maine Acoustic Festival

## OCTOBER



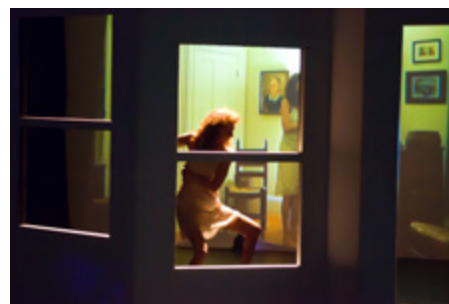
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POP! 17<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Auction Benefit

5

6

Bridgman|Packer Dance: *Voyeur*



Post-Performance  
Inter-media Panel

Video & Dance Workshop:  
MECA Sculpture Students

World Premiere Reception



# ABOUT PORTLAND OVATIONS

## 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 Ovarations 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 Ovarations...

- 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.

## STAFF

Aimée M. Petrin, *Executive Director*

Gretchen Berg, *Director of Ovarations Offstage*

Mary C. Campbell, *Director of Development*

Marlene Dye, *Bookkeeper*

Charles A. Kibort, *Director of Marketing & Audience Development*

Bethany A. Roberge, *Cross Media Marketing Associate*

Nicole Sirois, *Production Manager*

Laura A. Stauffer, *Programming & Development Administrator*

Marieke Van Der Steenhoven, *Ovarations Offstage Administrator*

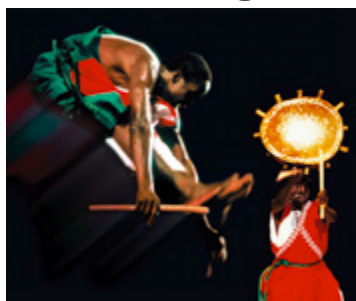
Faith York, *Usher Coordinator*

**"I'm always impressed by the quality and diversity of performances that Portland Ovarations brings to town. From the children's programs, to the Broadway shows, to the international events - it's always pure entertainment AND educational, in so many different ways. I was especially thrilled by last season's Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. What a fortunate opportunity to witness that amazing talent and contagious energy - live. It was pure joy."**

- Faith York, Usher Coordinator



16 Glen Campbell



18 Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi

School-Time Performance

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"Cultural Connections:  
Burundi & Maine"

CIEE Cultural Activity  
with Reiche School



# 2012-13 SEASON

## Bridgman|Packer Dance: "Voyeur"

October 5, 2012 • 6 pm 7:15 pm, 8:30 pm  
October 6, 2012 • 2 pm 3 pm, 7 pm  
ICA at MECA

## Glen Campbell

October 16, 2012 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi

October 18, 2012 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Treasured Stories by Eric Carle

October 20, 2012 • 11 am  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank

November 1, 2012 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## BÉLO

November 4, 2012 • 7 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## "West Side Story"

November 9, 2012 • 8 pm  
November 10, 2012 • 2 pm & 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Shaolin Warriors

November 17, 2012 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Natalie MacMaster

### "Christmas in Cape Breton"

December 4, 2012 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

January 4, 2013 • 7 pm  
January 5, 2013 • 1 pm & 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

January 25, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## ETHEL: "Present Beauty"

January 30, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## Sing-A-Long-A "Sound of Music"

February 1, 2013 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## The Midtown Men 4 Stars from the Original Cast of "Jersey Boys"

February 14, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Marc-André Hamelin

February 16, 2013 • 3 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## The Bad Plus On Sacred Ground: Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring"

February 17, 2013 • 7 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## Voices of Afghanistan

March 16, 2013 • 8 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## The Joffrey Ballet

March 21, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Pablo Ziegler Trio for Nuevo Tango

March 28, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## "Rock of Ages"

March 30, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Tony Trischka

### "The Banjo Project"

April 6, 2013 • 8 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## Spellbound Dance Company

April 9, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Westbrook Performing Arts Center

## Jonathan Biss & Elias String Quartet

"Schumann: Under the Influence"  
April 11, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## "Hair"

April 19, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs"

April 21, 2013 • 3 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Imani Winds

May 2, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## MOMIX: "Botanica"

May 9, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## Stomp

May 15, 2013 • 7 pm  
May 16, 2013 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## OCTOBER, CONT.



20

Treasured Stories by Eric Carle

School-Time Performance

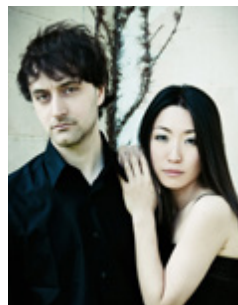
Family Puppet Making Workshop



## NOVEMBER

1

Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank



Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"Turn of the Century: Stravinsky & His Contemporaries"

Post-Performance Reception

Masterclass with Ran Dank

In-School Lec/Dem  
Levey Day School



# 2012-13 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Spencer Jones Jr., <i>President</i>	Marcia Minter
Michael Boyson, <i>Vice President</i>	James T. Morgan
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Jane C. Wellehan, <i>Secretary</i>	Eileen Phelan
Janet M. Bowne	Stephen Poulos
Kendall Harnett	Sigmund Schutz
Erin A. Hurley	June Vail
Felicia K. Knight	Sarah A. Verville
Gary Koocher	April Ylvisaker
Peter Milliken	



Pablo Ziegler with James T. Morgan & June Vail

## ADVISORY BOARD

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Bruce Brown	Linda Gouws	Richard W. Petersen
Bruce A. Buxton	Judith Halpert	Peter W. Quesada
Richard D. H. Casselman	Heidi N. Hansen	Patricia Roderick
Maria Chambers	Tracy Hawkins	Monroe B. Scharff
Catherine H. Cloudman	Elizabeth T. High	Margaret M. Shiels
Madeleine G. Corson	Daniel P. Hunter	John D. Tewhey
George W. Crockett	Robert Ludwig	Kimberly J. Twitchell
Linda Cronkhite-Johnson	Caleb Mason	Lee D. Urban
Kevin D. Desmond	Jeff McKinnon	Richard Vail
Charles W. Dibner	Elizabeth A. McLellan	Anne Valentine
Francis A. Ferland	Michael J. McSally	Margaret A. Wilkis

**"I feel lucky to have been in the audience for many of the greats Ovarions brought to its stage over the past few years, especially for the gifted young classical artists who wrestle with the intentions of the composers. They are emerging and triumphant at the same time, and to experience it live energizes the mind."**

**In the fall of 2012, two pianists, Soyeon Lee and Ran Dank, brought early 20th century Paris to Portland — and it was thrilling."**

– James T. Morgan, Board Member

4

BÉLO



In-School Workshop  
Portland High School

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"Haiti's Other Side:  
Memories and Perspectives"

9

10

WEST SIDE STORY



Members-only  
Backstage Tour

17

Shaolin Warriors





# WORLD PREMIERE: BRIDGMAN|PACKER DANCE: “VOYEUR”

Every once in a while a project comes along that makes you stand up, take notice, and do everything you can to make it possible. That was the case with Bridgman|Packer Dance’s *Voyeur*, which Ovation’s co-commissioned and gave its world premiere.

In January 2011, Laura Stauffer, Ovation’s Programming & Development Administrator, and Executive Director Aimée M. Petrin went to New York City to see performances and attend the annual conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. One night Laura came back to the hotel excited at having seen Bridgman|Packer Dance and learning of their future work inspired by the paintings of Edward Hopper. Laura immediately recognized the potential given Hopper’s connection to Maine. Having worked with the choreographers before, Aimée knew their artistry to be exquisite and their approach as artists to be one Ovation’s could fully support. Then and there a project was launched.



*Voyeur*, photo by Arthur Fink

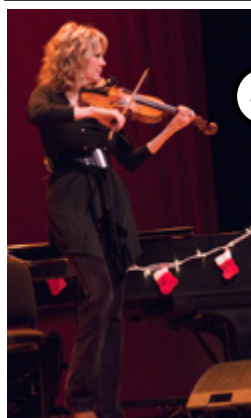


Workshop with MECA sculpture students

As a co-commissioner Portland Ovation’s lent financial support to the development of *Voyeur*; hosted choreographers Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer and filmmaker Peter Bobrow in the summer of 2011 for a creative residency during which they shot much of the source video here in Maine; commissioned a scholarly essay to include with the program, and led a collaborative grant writing effort that resulted in a multi-site tour through New England.

“*Voyeur*” has received national attention since its Portland debut. *The New Yorker* called it “witty, sexual and surreal,” while *The New York Times* said it was “magical and fascinating.”

## DECEMBER



4

Natalie MacMaster:  
“Christmas in Cape Breton”

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
“The Culture & Music of Cape Breton”

Holiday Sock Drive for  
Preble Street Resource Center



## JANUARY

4

Broadway National Tour:  
Disney’s  
“Beauty and the Beast”

5





Ovation's staff and ICA Director with the artists



Inter-media panel discussion

Many months following the residency, we were thrilled to welcome Art and Myrna back to Maine for the world premiere. While here, Art and Myrna worked with MECA sculpture students and participated in an inter-media panel discussing the relationship between dance, visual and media arts.

Since that premiere weekend, *Voyeur* has received national attention and major support. *The New Yorker* called it "witty, sexual and surreal," while *The New York Times* said it was "magical and fascinating." *Voyeur* has also been awarded prestigious funding from the National Dance Project, allowing the work to continue on across the country. Audiences near and far are seeing Maine in a whole new way.

Opening our season with the world premiere of a work we co-commissioned is exciting in and of itself; opening on a First Friday with six free performances at MECA's Institute of Contemporary Art adds even more to the exhilaration. To have that piece directly connected to Maine adds a final layer of adventure and emotion one can not ignore. How does something so thrilling and passion-driven happen? With exactly that...passion, dedication and drive, and of course amazing artists and fabulous partners. We are grateful to Art and Myrna for entrusting us with the birth of this new work and our partners at ICA and Bates Dance Festival, as well as our Production Manager Nicole Sirois, who made magic happen.

**"Thank you to Portland Ovation and the many Portland area residents and businesses who opened their doors for us to film... The creative process is a highly personal and at times mysterious phenomenon. At the same time, the support of visionary art institutions, granting organizations and community involvement helped to propel the process and make the realization of this work possible."**

– Art Bridgman & Myrna Packer

## 25 Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis



# CULTURE CLUB—PORTLAND

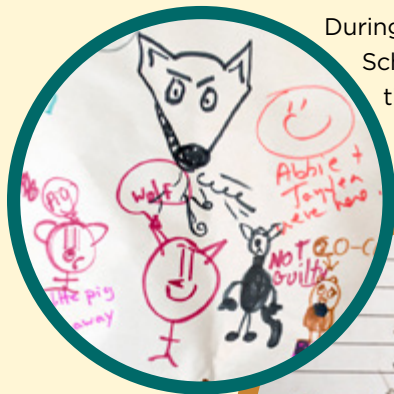
**“We think it’s essential that all students have access to the rich culture that our city provides.”**

– David Galin, Chief Academic Officer, Portland Public Schools

Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor, students in the Portland Public School District have a never-before-realized opportunity to experience the arts in our city. Ovation is proud to be part of this new initiative,

Culture Club-Portland, which provides free access for Portland Public School Students to attend and experience arts performances and exhibits at four participating organizations: Ovation, the Portland Museum of Art, Portland Stage Company and the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Through Culture Club, collaborators inspire students, provide regular access to high quality arts experiences, foster community, and integrate the arts into Portland students’ education experience.

With three years of funding committed, Culture Club-Portland is rolling out over several years with the goal of reaching 50% of Portland Public Schools in year one and 75% in year two. By 2014, we aspire to have 100% participation.



During the 2012-13 school year, 3,500 of Portland Public School students took advantage of Culture Club-Portland tickets to Ovation Offstage’s School-Time Performance Series. Overall, Portland Public School students enjoyed 13,000 unique arts experiences because of Culture Club-Portland and the munificent vision of someone in our community.



**“The arts are an essential part of a well-rounded education that prepares students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.”**

– US Department of Education



PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART



PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



## JANUARY, CONT.



**30** ETHEL: “Present Beauty”

Free Flash Concert  
SPACE Gallery

Composers Reading  
with Young Composers  
USM School of Music

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
“Reimagining Chamber Music”





# OVATIONS OFFSTAGE



## PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES\*

Royal Drummers & Dancers of Burundi  
**"Cultural Connections: Burundi & Maine"**  
 Nya McCarthy-Brown

Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank  
**"Turn of the Century:  
 Stravinsky and his Contemporaries"**  
 Bill Matthews

BéIO  
**"Haiti's Other Side:  
 Memories and Perspectives"**  
 Konbit Santé

Natalie MacMaster  
**"The Culture & Music of Cape Breton"**  
 Ed Pearlman & Laura Scott

ETHEL  
**"Reimagining Chamber Music"**  
 Daniel Sonenberg

Marc-André Hamelin  
**"Musicianship & Virtuosity"**  
 Paul Christiansen

The Bad Plus  
**"Rite of Spring" Listening Session**  
 Daniel Sonenberg

Voices of Afghanistan  
**"Issues of Gender in Muslim Culture"**  
 Reza Jalali

The Joffrey Ballet  
**"The Joffrey and the Rite of Spring "**  
 Carol Dille

Pablo Ziegler Trio for Nuevo Tango  
**"Considering Nuevo Tango"**  
 June Vail

Imani Winds  
**"New Perspectives on  
 'Le Sacre du Printemps'"**  
 Bill Matthews

## IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Bridgman|Packer Dance  
**Sculpture Class Workshop**  
 MECA, Portland

Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi  
**In-School Workshop with Annegret Baier**  
 Portland Arts & Technology High School

Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank  
**In-School Lec/Dem with Ran Dank**  
 Levey Day School, Portland

BéIO  
**Workshop with BéIO**  
 Portland High School, Portland

Voices of Afghanistan  
**In-School Musical Sharing**  
 Riverton Elementary School, Portland  
 Lyseth Elementary School, Portland  
 Bates College, Lewiston

Imani Winds  
**Lecture/Demonstration**  
 Freeport High School

Imani Winds  
**In-School Workshops**  
 Freeport High School  
 North Yarmouth Academy

## SCHOOL-TIME PERFORMANCES

Royal Drummers and Dancers of Burundi  
 October 18, 2012  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

**Treasured Stories by Eric Carle**  
 October 19, 2012  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

**"The Giver"**  
 March 7, 2013  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

**"Jazz Orpheus" and  
 "Three Whiskers of a Lion"**  
 April 10, 2013  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

**"The True Story of the Three Little Pigs"**  
 April 22, 2013  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Imani Winds  
 May 2, 2013  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Treasured Stories by Eric Carle  
**Family Puppet-Making Workshop**  
 Portland Public Library

Ran Dank & Soyeon Kate Lee  
**Piano Masterclass with Ran Dank**  
 USM School of Music, Gorham

ETHEL  
**Composers Reading  
 with Young Composers**  
 USM School of Music, Gorham

The Bad Plus  
**Jazz Clinic & Workshop**  
 North Yarmouth Academy

The Joffrey Ballet  
**Ballet Masterclass**  
 Portland School of Ballet, Portland

MOMIX  
**Modern Dance Masterclass**  
 Terpsichore Dance, Portland

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bridgman|Packer Dance  
**Inter-Media Panel**  
 ICA at MECA, Portland

Natalie MacMaster  
**Holiday Sock Drive for Preble Street**  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

ETHEL  
**Free Flash Concert**  
 SPACE Gallery, Portland

The Bad Plus  
**Open Soundcheck**  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

Voices of Afghanistan  
**Story-Time with Reza Jalali**  
 Portland Public Library

Voices of Afghanistan  
**Community Potluck**  
 Portland High School

The Joffrey Ballet  
**Post-Performance Riot by Lorem Ipsum**  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

The Joffrey Ballet  
**Movies at the Museum**  
 Portland Museum of Art

## MEET-THE-ARTIST/Q&As

Soyeon Kate Lee & Ran Dank  
 Marc-André Hamelin  
 Pablo Ziegler Trio  
 Spellbound Dance Company

*\* All Pre-Performance Lectures and  
 Meet-the-Artists/Q&A events occurred at  
 the coinciding performance venue  
 (Hannaford Hall, Merrill Auditorium, or  
 Westbrook Performing Arts Center).*



Masterclass with Ran Dank



Puppet Making Workshop



Meet-the-Artist Reception

## FEBRUARY



1 Sing-A-Long-A  
 "Sound of Music"



First Friday Flash Concert  
 by PATHS Dancers



# TONY TRISCHKA “THE BANJO PROJECT”



“The Banjo Project” onstage with students of the Maine Acoustic Festival

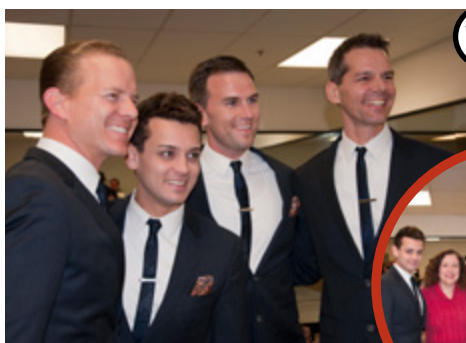


“The Banjo Project”

Two seasons ago, Portland Ovations brought a double bill featuring Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers along with Tony Trischka and Territory. That night Portland Ovations made a new friend in Tony Trischka and immediately began to think about ways to bring him back to Portland. Meanwhile, our collaborations with 317 Main Community Music Center and North Yarmouth Academy flourished. Each project grew on the next and we knew we were headed for something bigger. That moment came when 317 and NYA shared with us their vision for Maine’s first student-driven, statewide acoustic music festival. We knew this would be the perfect setting to bring back Tony. Not only is he a legendary banjo player, but he has taught all of the greats how to play, from Béla Fleck to Steve Martin.

For this return visit, we asked Tony to think outside the box and he did just that, working with filmmaker Marc Fields to create a whole new project especially for Portland Ovations. *The Banjo Project* — a multi-media event that brought to life the film *Give Me the Banjo* (narrated by Steve Martin) with live music — premiered with us on April 6, 2013 at Hannaford Hall in front of a capacity crowd. Tony was joined by musicians Darol Anger, Michael Daves and Jared Engel for this extraordinary, high-energy world premiere that included a finale with over 20 Maine Acoustic Festival students. It was a pleasure to be part of the development of the first Maine Acoustic Festival and this world premiere. The two dovetailed together so perfectly, as one followed the history of the banjo and the other was dedicated to developing the next generation of musicians.

## FEBRUARY, CONT.



14 The Midtown Men

Backstage Meet-and-Greet



16 Marc-André Hamelin

Pre-Performance Lecture

Post-Performance Reception





# SPONSORS & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Baker Newman Noyes  
Bangor Savings Bank  
Bates Dance Festival  
Bath Savings Trust Company  
Catama Productions  
Center for Cultural Exchange  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Coffee By Design  
Culture Club Portland  
Davis Family Foundation  
Dead River Company  
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WEX

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

317 Main Community Music Center  
Bates College  
Bates Dance Festival  
City of Portland  
Council on International Educational Exchange  
Freeport High School  
ICA at MECA  
ILAP  
Konbit Santé  
Levey Day School  
Lorem Ipsum Theater Collective  
Maine College of Art

Maine Historical Society  
Merriconeag Waldorf School  
North Yarmouth Academy  
Oak Street Studios  
Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance  
Portland Arts and Technology High School  
Portland Education Foundation  
Portland Mentoring Alliance  
Portland Museum of Art  
Portland Music Foundation  
Portland Public Library  
Portland Public Schools

Portland School of Ballet  
Portland Stage Company  
Portland Symphony Orchestra  
Rotary Club of Portland Maine  
SPACE Gallery  
University of Southern Maine  
School of Music  
University of Southern Maine  
Office of Multicultural Affairs  
Wescustago Youth Chorale

## MARCH

17

The Bad Plus  
On Sacred Ground: Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring"



Open Soundcheck

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"Rite of Spring" Listening Session

18

Workshop/Clinic  
North Yarmouth Academy

7

School-Time  
Performance:  
"The Giver"





# “Rite of Spring”

## A Centennial Celebration

Inspired by the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Portland's landmark Merrill Auditorium — one of our “homes” over our 80+ year history — Portland Oventions celebrated the centennial of Igor Stravinsky's seminal work *Rite of Spring* by curating a series of events onstage and off. The series encompassed a spectrum of performing artists (re)interpreting this influential composition, plus several opportunities for our community to connect with and learn more about Stravinsky's historic work, including: a scholarly symposium conceived by University of Southern Maine; a film series hosted by the Portland Museum of Art; and the creation of new historical wall boards that provide a fresh, updated look at the history of City Hall, Merrill Auditorium, and performing arts in Portland.



Pianists **Soyeon Kate Lee and Ran Dank** kicked off our *Rite of Spring* series with an astonishing recital that culminated in the original four-hand arrangement of Stravinsky's masterpiece. Surrounding this awe-inspiring performance was a pre-performance lecture, a piano masterclass at USM's School of Music, a lecture-demonstration with students at Portland's Levey Day School, and a post-performance reception on Merrill's stage with the artists. This beautiful and moving concert was rebroadcast on MPBN's MaineStage on March 13, 2013.

**“Dual pianists Soyeon Kate Lee and Ran Dank showed what heights can be achieved with two pianos Thursday night at Merrill Auditorium, but the crowning achievement of the evening was the piano-four hands version of Stravinsky's ‘Rite of Spring.’”**

-Christopher Hyde, *Portland Press Herald*

Jazz trio **The Bad Plus** continued our celebratory series with one of the most adventurous and forward-looking performances of *Rite of Spring*. In a multi-media event that integrated video, the trio attacked the score, distilling it to its most primal essence while bringing new and original life to the piece. An open soundcheck, pre-performance “listening session” that compared and contrasted the Bad Plus' interpretation with the original arrangement, and a jazz clinic with students at North Yarmouth Academy rounded out the trio's residency with Oventions.

**“It is a considerable feat to have transcribed the work at all, but keeping its musical integrity ... while adding to the rhythmic excitement, made it a work of art.”**

-Christopher Hyde, *Portland Press Herald*



## Connections to Maine

In addition to working with our partners to create connections between our community and this exciting work of art, Oventions discovered Maine already enjoyed two significant connections to the 1913 premiere:

- Philosopher, artist, scholar, Nicholas Roerich, recognized for inspiring the concept and creating the sets and costumes for the original *Rite of Spring*, visited the Monhegan art colony in 1922, resulting in a series of paintings that includes Monhegan, Maine (pictured to the left).
- French-born conductor Pierre Monteux, who is credited for keeping the music going during the riotous Paris premiere, later emigrated to the US and established in Hancock, Maine the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors & Orchestra Musicians, which still operates today.





At the heart of our *Rite Spring* centennial celebration was our presentation of the **Joffrey Ballet**, who meticulously researched and reconstructed the 1913 Paris premiere, which has risen to mythic proportions and is considered one of the most influential moments in modern art. This restaging of an original work that changed dance and music forms — as well as the way audiences hear and see — remains one of the Joffrey Ballet's greatest singular achievements. Accompanying this historic performance at Merrill Auditorium was a pre-performance lecture, a ballet masterclass, a Member's reception with Artistic Director Ashley Wheater, and a post-performance "riot" in the Merrill lobby orchestrated by Portland's Lorem Ipsum theater company.

**"I was thrilled to be in the audience. I had never thought I would see the 'Rite of Spring.' Thank you so much, Portland Ovations!"**

-Madge Baker, Audience Member

Closing our series was North America's premiere wind quintet, **Imani Winds**. With two resident composers and an approach to music that cherishes history, the forward-thinking ensemble brought our audience a commissioned arrangement that stripped Stravinsky's original 35-minute *Rite of Spring* down to an exquisite 12-minute piece for woodwind quintet. A showcase for the ensemble members' musicianship, bassoonist Monica Ellis expertly delivered one of the most famous openings in music. Inspired and inspiring music educators, Imani Winds performed a School-Time Performance for over 500 students and held workshops with another 200 music students from Freeport and Yarmouth.

**"It was awesome! Each individual member of Imani Winds sparkled with energy and a clear joy in their shared making of music."**

-Christine, Audience Member



Today, *Rite of Spring* remains a powerful work credited with ushering in the 20<sup>th</sup> century aesthetic, modernism, and redefining the role of art and artists as revolutionary. Its impact on works that followed was evident through this series and across every medium from dance, music and theater to visual arts and film. One hundred years later, *Rite of Spring* — no matter its form — still has that edgy, intense, almost out-of-control feeling that makes live art as exhilarating and liberating as ever.

Imani Winds at North Yarmouth Academy



# POP! AUCTION BENEFIT

**“The party atmosphere was alive...”** – Portland Press Herald

POP! is an exciting evening that transforms a waterfront warehouse into a street festival with pop-up performances from local artists, delicious food from some of Maine's finest dining establishments and extraordinary silent auction items from local retailers, restaurants and artists. Thanks to our local partners, POP! 2012 raised approximately \$40,000 to benefit Ovarions Offstage; without their participation and support this evening and the work we continue to do throughout our great community would not be possible.

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## PERFORMERS

Michael Odokara-Okigbo  
from NBC's *The Sing Off's* Dartmouth Aires  
317 Main Community Music Center Ensemble  
Pan Fried Steel  
P.A.T.H.S Arts Academy Dancers  
Merriconeag Waldorf Circus Artists



Michael Odokara-Okigbo



Mia & David Dodge; Bruce & Ginny Woodman



Marcia & Daniel Minter

## MARCH, CONT.





# MEMBERSHIP

Each season we offer a wealth of school and community-based arts programs that accompany our performances and engage people of all ages and backgrounds in the thrill of the performing arts. Ticket revenue does not pay for these programs; instead, we rely on support from Portland Ovations Members and other donors who believe the performing arts contribute not only to the quality of life in Maine today, but also to the development of the generations who comprise the Maine of tomorrow.

Members receive the best seats at the best prices while supporting the vital work of Portland Ovations in its activities offstage, in classrooms and gathering places across Maine. In exchange for a tax deductible contribution, Members enjoy a range of benefits but most importantly, Members get the satisfaction of knowing they help make the arts accessible to a wider audience.

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## APRIL

28 Pablo Ziegler Trio  
for Nuevo Tango



Members Salon

27

Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"Considering Nuevo Tango"



30

Broadway National Tour:  
"Rock of Ages"

Tony Trischka  
"The Banjo Project"

6



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Spellbound Dance Company

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Post-Performance Q&A



10

School-Time Performance:  
"Jazz Orpheus" & "Three  
Whiskers of a Lion"



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Jonathan Biss & Elias String Quartet  
"Schumann: Under the Influence"

11

Broadway  
National Tour:  
"Hair"

19

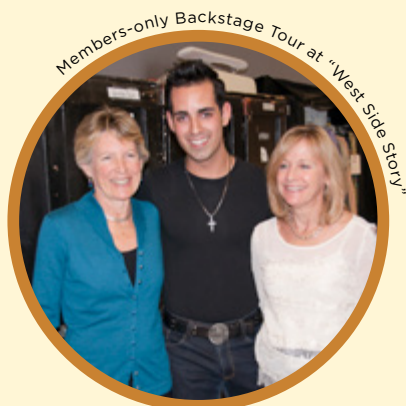




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## APRIL, CONT.

21

"The True Story of the Three Little Pigs"



22

School-Time Performance



## MAY

2

Imani Winds



Pre-Performance Lecture:  
"New Perspectives on  
Le Sacre du Printemps"

In-School  
Lecture/Demonstration

School-Time Performance

Masterclass

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Mr. Bruce Woodman  
Ms. Maxeen L. Wyatt  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Wygant  
Mr. and Mrs. William Yeo  
Mrs. Carolyn Young

## DONATIONS

Mr. Larry J. Balboni  
Mr. and Mrs. N. Warren Bartlett  
Dr. Carol F. Curran and  
Mr. Albert Curran  
Ms. Barbara D. Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Honeth  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kappelmann  
Mr. Donald J. King  
Ms. Cecile Laplante  
Ms. Alexandra Lawrence  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Manning  
Ms. Marianne P. Miller  
Ms. Nancy Pond  
Ms. Patricia Ramsay  
Ms. Christine Sloan  
Ms. Jane Snerson  
Ms. Patricia Waugh  
Ms. Stephanie Weaver



Backstage meet-and-greet with The Midtown Men



9

MOMIX: "Botanica"

Masterclass  
Terpsichore Dance

15

16

STOMP





## CULTURAL CONNECTIONS:

# ROYAL DRUMMERS & DANCERS OF BURUNDI

**“Portland Rotary is pleased to have partnered with Portland Ovations, taking its presentation of the Royal Drummers of Burundi to yet another level in developing its international programming.”**

– George Crockett, member of Portland Rotary and Ovations’ Advisory Council

When we decided to bring the Royal Drummers & Dancers of Burundi to Portland we had no idea the great level of excitement and generosity it would ignite. What we considered possible and what actually unfolded was beyond anything we could have imagined.

The interest in the School-Time Performance was immediate. Reservations started pouring in and thanks to Culture Club-Portland many students were able to attend for free. Other generous funders to Portland Ovations made it possible to also offer highly subsidized tickets. The local non-profit, non-governmental educational organization CIEE contacted us to get involved. As a result, they underwrote tickets so that Reiche Elementary School students could attend the School-Time Performance, followed by a pizza party and an afternoon of cultural games.

Shortly after announcing the new season, an Ovations Advisory Council member shared his vision for ensuring that Africans living locally would have access to this performance. His drive and spirit rallied the support of Portland Rotary and the WIN Network, making

it possible for more than 300 new Mainers to attend the concert. The presence of the local Burundi community in the audience infused new energy into the crowd. Many members of the ensemble came out to the lobby afterwards and spoke to their fellow countrymen and women, creating large smiles and much laughter. The ensemble remarked it was the most welcome they felt on tour.

Portland High School organized its own fieldtrip of young Burundians — many of them drummers themselves — to attend this evening performance and meet the artists. Finally, Ovations’ Members, the foundational support of all we do, came out in droves as part of their annual Members’ ticket benefit.

The engagement with the Royal Drummers & Dancers of Burundi was a true community event because of the effort and commitment of these schools, service organizations, local businesses, church groups, individuals, our Members and funders. So often we talk about “outreach,” but with this project we didn’t have to reach too far. It was all about people coming *together* to experience — and to make sure others could experience — the wonder of live performance.

**“Back in Africa, I went to parties where people played the drums. It’s fun to share our culture.”**

– Dan Ntwari, student at Ocean Avenue Elementary School



Cultural afternoon at CIEE



Buses arrive for the School-Time Performance



Cultural afternoon at CIEE

# VOICES OF AFGHANISTAN

As our world becomes ever smaller, it's more important than ever that our worldview becomes larger. One of the easiest, most enjoyable ways to accomplish this is through live performance. We have multiple opportunities throughout the year, right here, thanks to Portland Ovations. One such opportunity moved me to write about it: their presentation of the remarkable ensemble Voices of Afghanistan.

In my position as Consul General, I attend many cultural events. But as I travel around New England, rarely have I witnessed anything quite as compelling as the interaction between the audience and artists during Portland Ovations presentation. The reverence the audience held for the artists was clear, as was the great affection that flowed back from the stage. The audience was incredibly diverse, representing several ethnic backgrounds and ages (from babes in arms to those of us with silver in our hair) — but the response was universal: joyous enthusiasm.

Having the opportunity to experience another culture or experience one's own when far from home is incredibly powerful. It brings people together; it expands perceptions; it breaks down barriers. It can even build respect and tolerance. As one member of the local Afghan community was overhead remarking: "The Afghan community has never been as together as it was last night," referring to the community potluck.

A read of the program notes by Executive Director Aimée Petrin shared that the inspiration for this presentation came from her regular visits to a local farmers' market where she often bought stuffed bread from an Afghan baker. After one such visit — during which she introduced the baker to a friend who recently returned from Afghanistan after serving with the National Guard — she realized how limited her knowledge was of this country and its people. And furthermore, what she did know was shaped by media's war coverage. She imagined she was not alone and I believe she was probably correct in this assumption.

This desire to learn more about another culture through projects such as the Voices of Afghanistan is the hallmark of cultural diplomacy. It is not easy work, but it is more important than ever. Navigating global exchange is wrought with obstacles from visa challenges to the great expense to the sheer effort of working with and in new cultural groups. As Aimée said to me when I asked her how Portland Ovations approaches such projects, she said: "We work from our heart and we trust our gut."

Portland Ovations' commitment to deep community engagement and to bringing people together to celebrate the spirit of humanity that only comes from experiencing another's cultural traditions is commendable. I applaud Portland Ovations for taking such an interest in promoting and embracing the artistic traditions of other countries and by doing so advancing cultural diplomacy. We are a stronger, more vibrant community because of their efforts.

*Barry D. Hoffman*

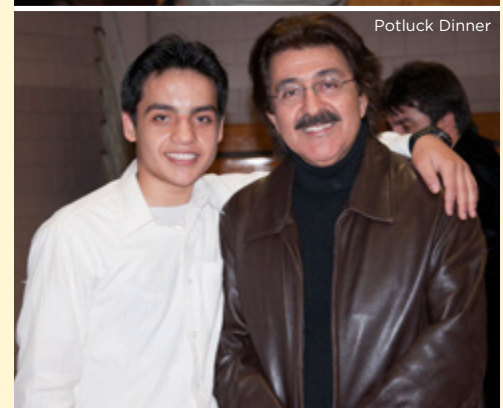
Consul General of Pakistan for New England



Lyseth School



Rubab



Potluck Dinner



Potluck Dinner



# 2012-13 BY THE NUMBERS

30,014

Attendees



34  
Mainstage  
Performances



335  
Performing Artists

From  
8  
Countries

7

Staff Members



163  
Usher  
Volunteers



4  
Venues

10,999

people served by Ovation's Offstage

98  
Offstage  
Activities



6  
School-Time Performances

attended by 67 Schools

25  
Free Lectures



10  
Masterclasses & Workshops

41,013

people served by Portland Ovation  
made possible through...

634  
Members

17  
Sponsors

17  
Foundations

# FINANCIALS

Revenues	2012-13
Support and Contributions <sup>1</sup>	652,975
Earned Revenues	1,386,269
Total Support and Earned Revenues	2,039,244

Expenses	
Programs and Services	1,844,089
Fundraising and Administration	188,325
Total Expenses	2,032,414

Assets	
Current Assets	471,636
Property and Equipment	9,898
Investments and Other Assets	1,260,233
Total Assets	1,741,767

Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	391,421
Total Liabilities	391,421

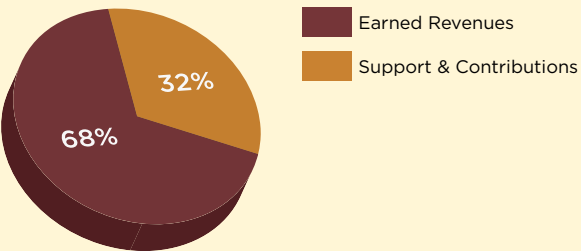
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,054,850
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets <sup>2</sup>	31,338
Permanently Restricted Net Assets <sup>3</sup>	264,158
Total Net Assets	1,350,346

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,741,767
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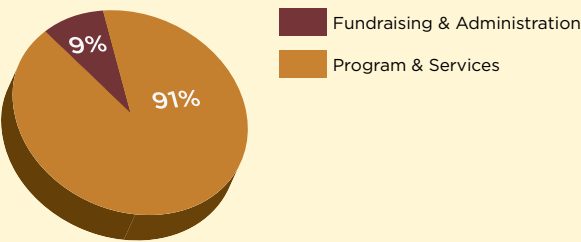
- 1. Support and contributions includes endowment distributions of \$24,834 from Portland Ovations and \$10,000 from CCEF fund.
- 2. Represents value of CCEF fund greater than corpus.
- 3. Represents the corpus of the CCEF fund.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## REVENUES



## EXPENSES



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

## Creative Economy Impact

**\$1,273,941** was paid out locally by Ovations to realize our programs and an additional **\$847,895\*** was spent by our patrons when attending one of our presentations, generating more than **\$2M** in revenue towards Maine's Creative Economy.

\*based on Americans for the Arts: Arts & Economic Prosperity IV Report — arts attendees spend an average of \$28.25 per person per event in addition to the ticket price.

The Joffrey Ballet onstage at Merrill





# Signature Events during the 2013-14 Season

Each offered with Ovations Offstage events connecting our community to the artists and performances. Check [portlandovations.org](http://portlandovations.org) often for updates and information.



## Sō Percussion: “Where (we) Live”

Thursday, March 13, 2014 • 7:30 pm, ICA @ MECA  
*presented in collaboration with ICA @ MECA*

Part experimental music gig, part multimedia rock show, part happening, *Where (we) Live* is a freeform investigation of the places and spaces we call home. Portland photographer Bryan Graf, who shares an affinity for chance and spontaneity, will join Sō Percussion and the *Where (we) Live* collaborators to create an evening that is one-of-a-kind.

## “Who’s Hungry”

Thursday-Saturday, April 10-12, 2014 • 8 pm/ 8 pm/ 2 pm & 8 pm, SPACE Gallery  
*presented in collaboration with SPACE Gallery*

Poignant and provocative, *Who’s Hungry* is an evening of experimental tabletop puppet theater that gives a voice and face to hunger in America. A series of plays written by Dan Froot, designed and directed by Dan Hurlin, with music by Amy Denio, *Who’s Hungry* tells the stories of those of us who, on a daily basis, must choose between life’s basic necessities — food or rent, food or medicine, food or bus fare. Community collaborators include: SPACE Gallery, United Way, Preble Street and more.

## “The Summer King” — A concert opera

**World Premiere & Commission**

Thursday, May 8, 2014 • 7:30 pm, Merrill Auditorium  
*presented in collaboration with the USM School of Music and American Opera Projects*

A Portland Ovations’ commission and world premiere, *The Summer King* is a new American opera by Maine-based composer Daniel Sonenberg, who co-wrote the libretto with poet Daniel Nester. *The Summer King* considers the legacy of Negro League baseball player Josh Gibson, whose talent with a bat earned him the moniker “the black Babe Ruth” and made him only the second Negro League ballplayer ever inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Presented in concert form, the opera portrays the injustice Gibson suffered at the hands of baseball’s “Gentlemen’s Agreement.”