

A photograph of a string orchestra of young girls, likely at a school or community event. They are wearing blue shirts and are focused on playing their violins. The background is dark, suggesting an indoor performance space. The text is overlaid on the image.

RAVINIA[®]
IMPACT REPORT

**YOUR
IMPACT
IN ACTION**

2024

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Letter From Our President

Jeffrey P. Haydon

We are thrilled to share the profound impact of our four cornerstone nonprofit programs at Ravinia: the **Ravinia Festival**[®], **Reach Teach Play**[®], the **Steans Institute**, and the **Park**. Together, these initiatives embody our dedication to making music accessible, inspiring, and transformative for all.

The **Festival** is the heart of Ravinia, offering a diverse array of performances that span genres and cultures. It's not just a series of concerts; it's a celebration of music's universal power to bring people together. With scores of symphonies and opera as well as countless collections of songs, the festival showcases world-renowned artists and emerging talents, providing a stage for musical exploration and discovery.

Ravinia's **Reach Teach Play** ensures that music's uplifting power extends beyond our park, directly into under-resourced schools and communities. Through a comprehensive suite of programs, we provide thousands in the Chicago area with experiences that foster personal and social growth and academic achievement. From in-school residencies to immersive learning and listening in their neighborhoods and at Ravinia, we are committed to opening doors for people to access the positive impact of music.

Ravinia's **Steans Institute** offers intensive summer programs for young professional classical and jazz musicians. Here, participants receive unparalleled mentorship, perform in concert, and engage with invaluable opportunities for artistic growth, collaboration, and innovation. This program is a guiding light for exceptional musical talent, equipping the next generation of performers, leaders, and educators with essential skills for building and thriving in their careers.

Ravinia's **Park** serves as a serene oasis for concertgoers, offering lush, open space where guests can unwind, connect with nature, and enjoy picnics under the stars in the welcoming embrace of live music. It embodies the charm and beauty of Ravinia's hometown of Highland Park, creating a harmonious blend of music, community, and the outdoors.

In unison, these **four programs** form a symphony of artistic education, performance excellence, and community engagement. Together, they ensure that Ravinia is not just a place to experience great music but a beacon of enrichment opportunities for music lovers locally and globally.

We are immensely grateful for the support of our donors, guests, and community members, who make this vital work possible. **Your continued support** allows us to expand our reach, impact more lives, and transform communities through the power of music.

With heartfelt thanks,



Jeffrey P. Haydon, President & CEO



Our Mission, Vision & Values

OUR VISION

We believe in the power of shared, live-music moments to inspire ourselves and the world.

OUR MISSION

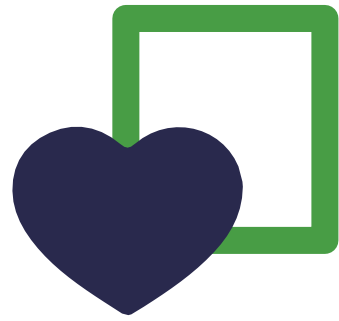
Ravinia's mission is to enrich lives through the transformative power of **music**. From exceptional performances and educational programs to professional training and community engagement, we strive to create memorable experiences that connect people, foster curiosity, and ensure that the joy of live music is accessible to all.

OUR PURPOSE

Ravinia fosters every stage of engagement with music—from early access in schools and the training of young professionals to curating concerts and presenting the world's greatest artists.

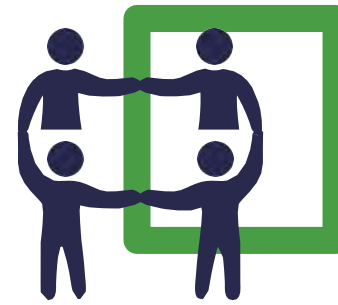
With a foundation of classical music, Ravinia is an ecosystem where music makers and music lovers connect and inspire one another through a shared creative journey.

OUR VALUES



Love

Ravinia expresses love through its passion, gratitude, empathy, and service. The Ravinia team believes in creating a genuine atmosphere of belonging on our stages and in our park, office, and classrooms.



Purpose

Ravinia is rooted in our purpose to bring people together through music. Operating as an independent nonprofit venue, Ravinia relies on the ongoing support of our neighbors, community, and guests to provide public and educational offerings.



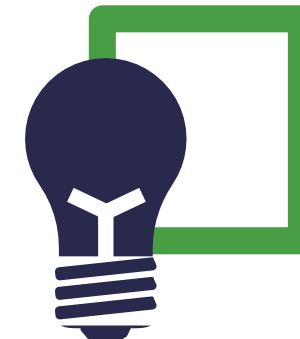
Integrity

Ravinia models integrity by approaching work with intent to excel in providing high-quality experiences, respectful interactions, and sterling hospitality.



Inspiration

Ravinia sparks inspiration through live performances, music education, artistic training, and a beautiful, inviting park setting.



Curiosity

Ravinia fosters curiosity by embracing art and community from across the evolving world, nurturing openness to new ideas through music.

A group of young women are shown in a photograph, overlaid with a semi-transparent green geometric shape. The women are wearing patterned shirts and appear to be in a social setting. One woman in the foreground is waving her hand. The text 'Ravinia's Four Nonprofit Programs' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the green overlay.

Ravinia's Four Nonprofit Programs



Ravinia Festival®

Ravinia Festival is both the longest-running (est. 1904) and most artistically diverse outdoor music festival in the country. With a foundational focus on classical music, our summer schedule also features the most talented musicians performing a range of inspiring music from jazz/blues, pop/rock, R&B, Americana, Latin, and more genres.

Reach Teach Play®

Ravinia's Reach Teach Play education and community engagement programs provide access to the positive impact of music. Serving over 50,000 people in under-resourced Chicago-area neighborhoods, Ravinia opens doors to lifelong relationships with music.

Steans Institute

Ravinia's Steans Institute is a guiding light for the next generation of classical and jazz musicians. Through intensive programs at Ravinia, emerging professional artists advance their talents to build influential careers as performers, leaders, and educators.

The Park

Ravinia's 36-acre park is a welcoming environment that enhances the music experience for all guests. The venues themselves reflect a century of artistry, and Ravinia also beautifully maintains thousands of plantings and trees, sculptures by acclaimed artists, and excellent dining opportunities.

Ravinia Festival

Opened in 1904, the historic Ravinia Festival® is a cherished summer tradition for live music in Chicagoland, attracting about 400,000 concertgoers each year.

Celebrated for its vibrant history of classical music and presenting the longest-running outdoor music festival in the United States, Ravinia continues to enrich lives with exceptional performances from a multitude of musical genres.







Stories from Ravinia Festival



Our love story began at the **Jackson Browne** concert on **August 23, 1977**. . . . Both Mike and I were at Ravinia with different groups of friends. It was a large party atmosphere on the Lawn. We did not even talk to each other or know each other's names until much later in the evening. . . . We **married** the following year. Ravinia will always be a special place for us and our family.

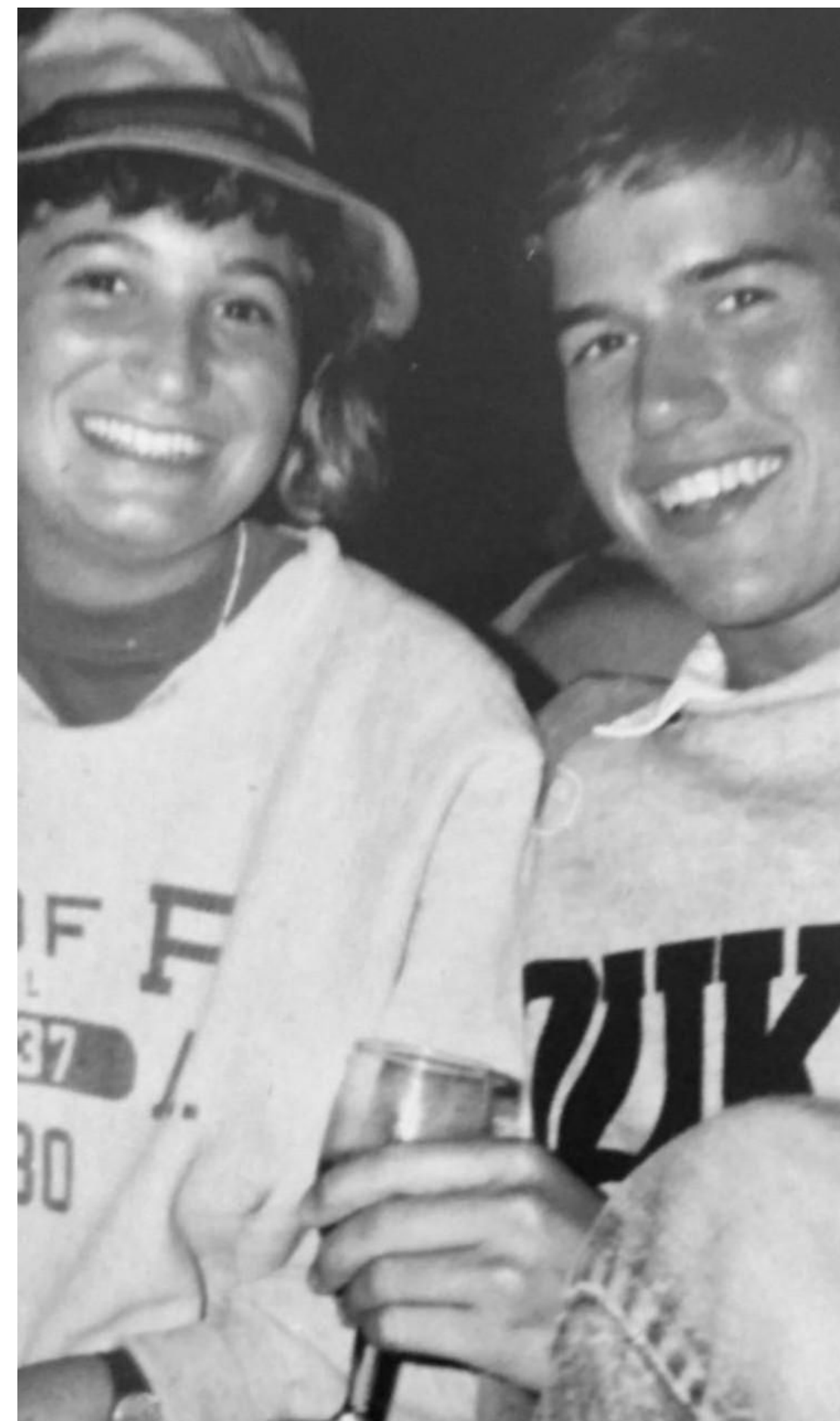
— Roberta & Mike Mitchell





I met my husband Chris **40 years ago** during the **summer of 1984**. We were high schoolers spending our summer working as ushers. . . . Our wonderful boss, Maria Gac, helped facilitate the romance by making sure to assign us both to work Gate 5 or 6! . . . We went to our high school proms together and had a long-distance romance during college, but we always made it back to Ravinia in the summertime. When we got married in the **summer of 1992**, Chris's parents hosted our rehearsal dinner at the Freehling Room. Ravinia's motto at the time was "Nothing Like it Under the Stars," so the phrase "Nothing Like it For the Spahrs" was coined as a toast at our magical rehearsal dinner. We often go back to celebrate our anniversary with a picnic dinner at Ravinia, where our romance started. We went to the Lawn as a family with our children and their grandparents when they were growing up, and when our daughter Lucy was in high school, she followed the tradition of working as an usher in the Pavilion.

— Alice and Chris Spahr





I was raised here along the North Shore and went to Ravinia regularly with my parents. As a teenager, I would ride my bike to Ravinia, lay on the grass, and listen to classical music. Entering my junior year at Yale, I was taking summer school classes at Northwestern, where my future wife went to college—we met across a biology lab table doing dissections. . . . Our first concert was sitting on the Lawn, hearing the jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain on **June 28, 1968**. This was a wonderful venue for a first date. We fell in love, and I proposed after three months. We were married exactly two years to the date later. We have taken both of our children to Ravinia and still go every summer, despite living on the East Coast.

— Alan & Wendy Robin



Our Donors' and Guests' Impact on the Ravinia Festival



400,000 Guests

Music lovers from across the Chicago area and beyond attend Ravinia summer concerts.



88 Years

The famed Chicago Symphony Orchestra is Ravinia's evergreen partner in exceptional music.



100+ Concerts

Ravinia programs the most artistically diverse summer music festival in the country.



Multigenerational

Ravinia's tranquil atmosphere and the joy of live music create a special experience that draws generations back each season.



Natural Beauty

Ravinia is deeply committed to sustaining its verdant park to be a welcoming, casual environment for all audiences.



Reducing Barriers

Live music is accessible through many affordable and free ticket offerings as well as complimentary train fare to and from the park.



Reach Teach Play

Providing 12 distinct education and community engagement programs, Ravinia's Reach Teach Play® serves over 50,000 people in the Chicago area each year with high-quality and inclusive experiences that inspire, create joy, and uplift the spirit through live music.

Reach Teach Play programs are completely free of charge to participants of all ages and abilities in under-resourced public schools and communities that have limited or no access to music programs.

Unleashing the Transformative Power of Music!

Reach

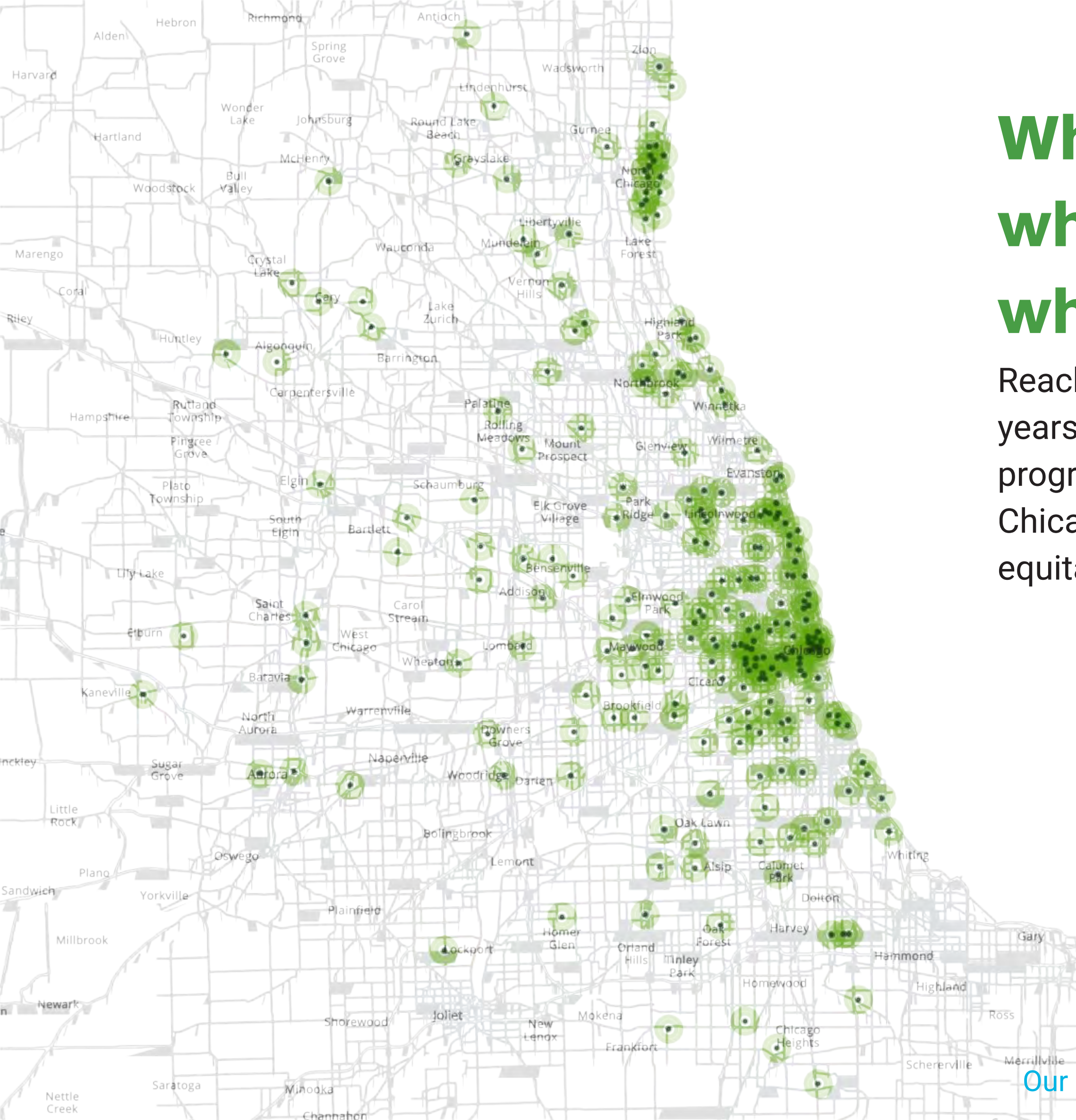
Provide under-resourced schools and communities with live music to spark exploration of varied genres and styles.

Teach

Empower classrooms to engage children in music-making to enhance their learning and skills, supported by professional artists.

Play

Provide students of any age and ability with opportunities to develop musical talents and create career pathways.



Where we Reach, where we Teach, where we Play!

Reach Teach Play goes far beyond Ravinia's park! Over the years, we've brought our education and engagement programs to 262 schools and communities across the Chicago area, ensuring that thousands of individuals have equitable access to the transformative power of music



Guest Artists in the Classroom

- 10,000 students see eminent solo artists and ensembles perform in their schools, sparking experience with classical music.

KidsLawn

- 1,700 children and their families explore music through activities before concerts.

Classical Invitations

- 15 community music schools receive free tickets to Ravinia's CSO concerts and Steans Institute concerts and master classes.



**Local
District 112
Schools**

- Hundreds of students in Ravinia's area are provided music workshops and classical concert passes.

**One Score,
One
Chicago[®]**

- The One Score[®] selection, a piece of classical music featured during the upcoming Ravinia Festival season, is woven into curriculum across Reach Teach Play programs.
- Thousands of students receive concert passes for the One Score performance at Ravinia.

**Opportunity
Lawn Pass
Program**

- 16,000 free tickets are offered to 360 social service organizations, libraries, and other community partners for their constituents.

**Summer
Day
Camps**

- 600 children in community-based day camp programs receive music classes and performance opportunities.



TEACH

Programs



Music Discovery Program

- 4,000 K–3rd grade students receive music education integrated with their classroom curriculum through Ravinia’s Teaching Artists, in partnership with 30 Chicago Public Schools.

Professional Development

- 170 classroom teachers in Chicago Public Schools engage in a three-day musical training institute at Ravinia and follow-up workshops in collaboration with Teaching Artists.



PLAY
Programs



Jazz Mentor Program

- Around 25 talented high-school musicians receive training from the Ravinia Jazz Mentors and regularly perform as the Ravinia Jazz Scholars ensemble at Chicago-area venues.
- The Jazz Mentors also give performances and master classes to 1,200 Chicago Public High School students.

Sistema Ravinia

- 500 3rd–12th grade students in 14 Chicago and Lake County public schools participate in intensive, after-school orchestral music education that emphasizes social development and community building in addition to artistic skills.

Ravinia Lawndale Family Music School

- About 150 residents of all ages in Lawndale, an under-resourced community on Chicago's West Side, take group classes from professional artists at a tuition-free music school led by Ravinia in partnership with the Chicago Park District.

THANK YOU

for Making an Impact

You are helping Ravinia foster **identity**, **belonging**, and **agency** through music education and community engagement!



How We Measure Your Impact

Social- Emotional Learning

Sistema Ravinia integrates Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) into music education, helping students build emotional intelligence, social skills, and personal growth.

Validated Research

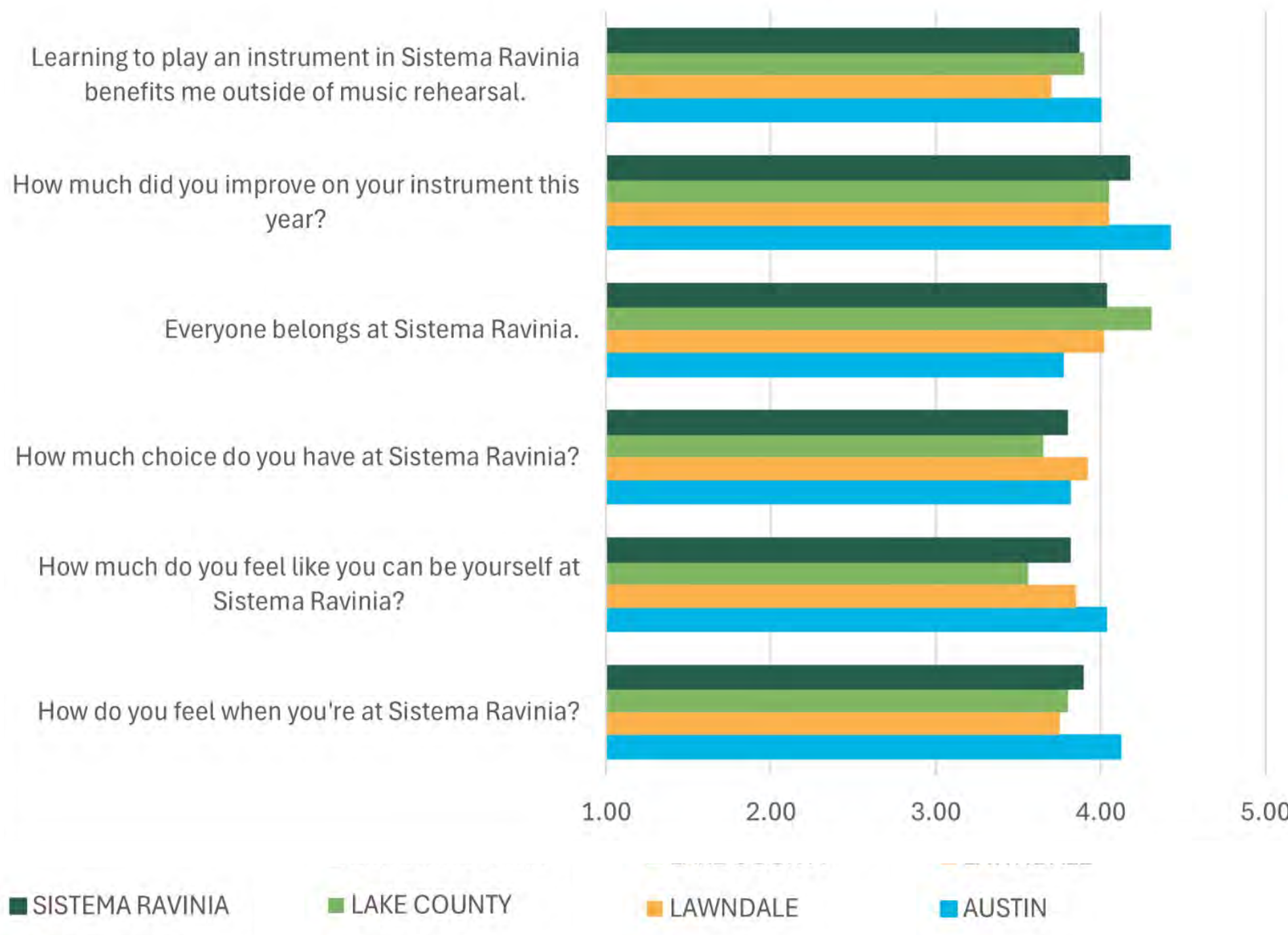
In collaboration with Johanna E. Abril, PhD, and Nicolas Ian Coffman, PhD, we produced the 2023–2024 **Social-Emotional Learning/Professional Learning Report.**



Empowering Lives Through Music: Building Confidence, Connection, and Life Skills

- Hundreds of students in Ravinia’s area are provided music workshops and classical concert passes.

2024 Sistema Ravinia & Nucleo Averages



- **Identity**

- Music education is an effective method to increase a student’s self-confidence and identity.

- **Belonging**

- Students feel a strong sense of community with peers and music teachers.

- **Agency**

- Music education is a proven way to help students improve decision-making and leadership skills.

Abril, J.E., & Coffman, N.I. (2024). *Sistema Ravinia 2023–2024 Social Emotional Learning/ Professional Learning Report*. Ravinia Festival.



This music program has helped me become confident in myself and my abilities. It has also helped me give back to my community.

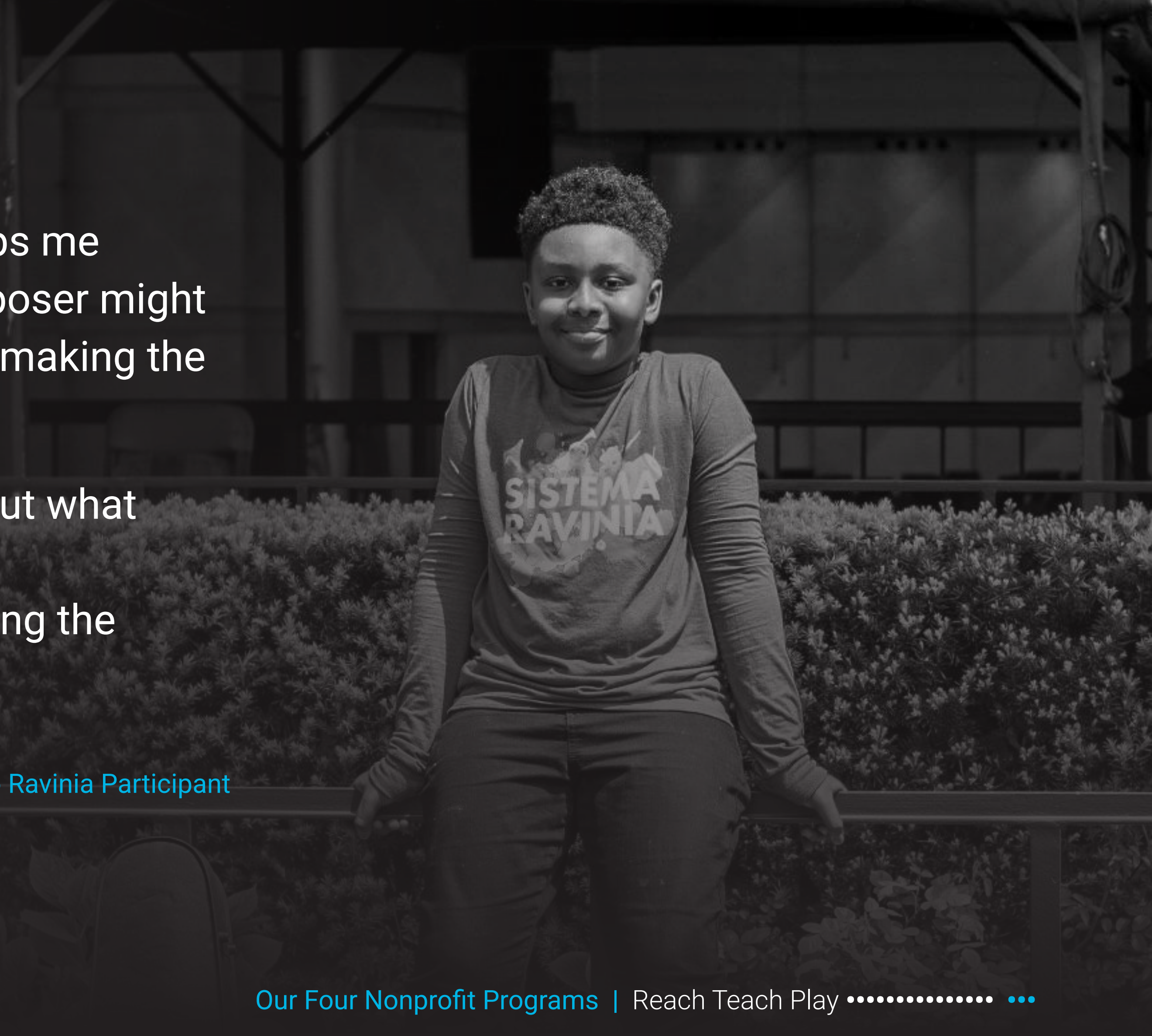
— 2024 National Seminario Ravinia Participant



The music that I get to play helps me imagine the story that the composer might have been thinking about while making the piece.

It lets my imagination think about what the composer could have been imagining when they were making the piece of music.

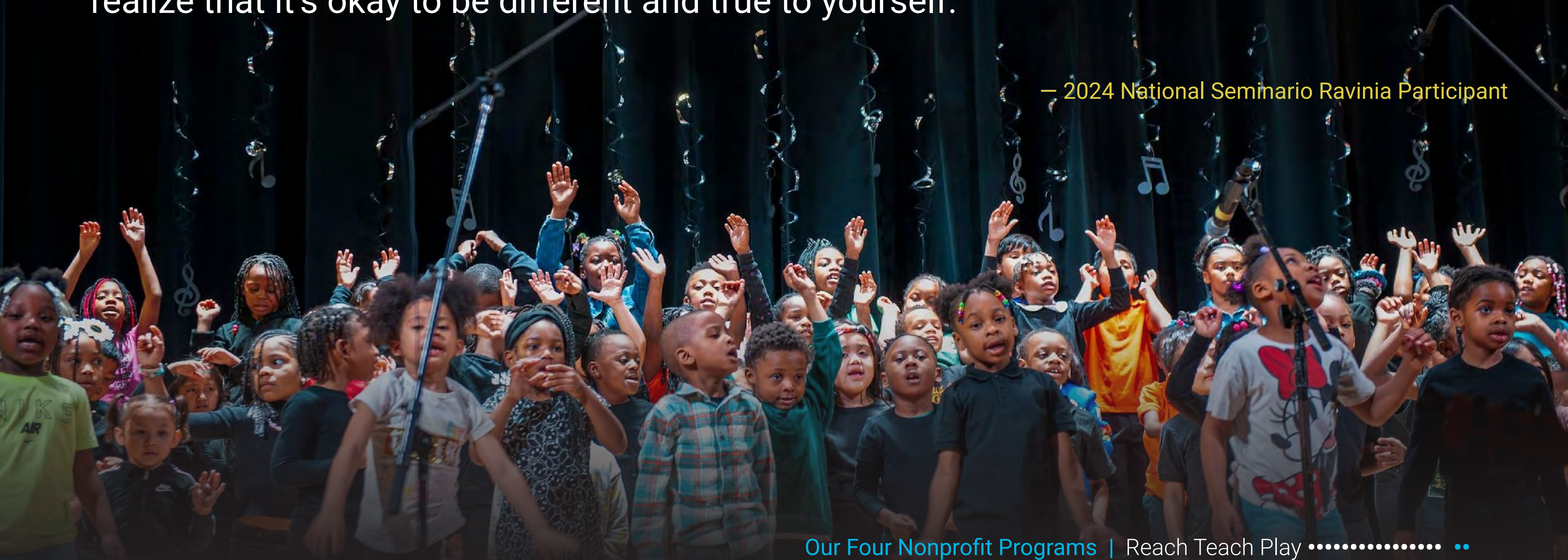
— 2024 National Seminario Ravinia Participant

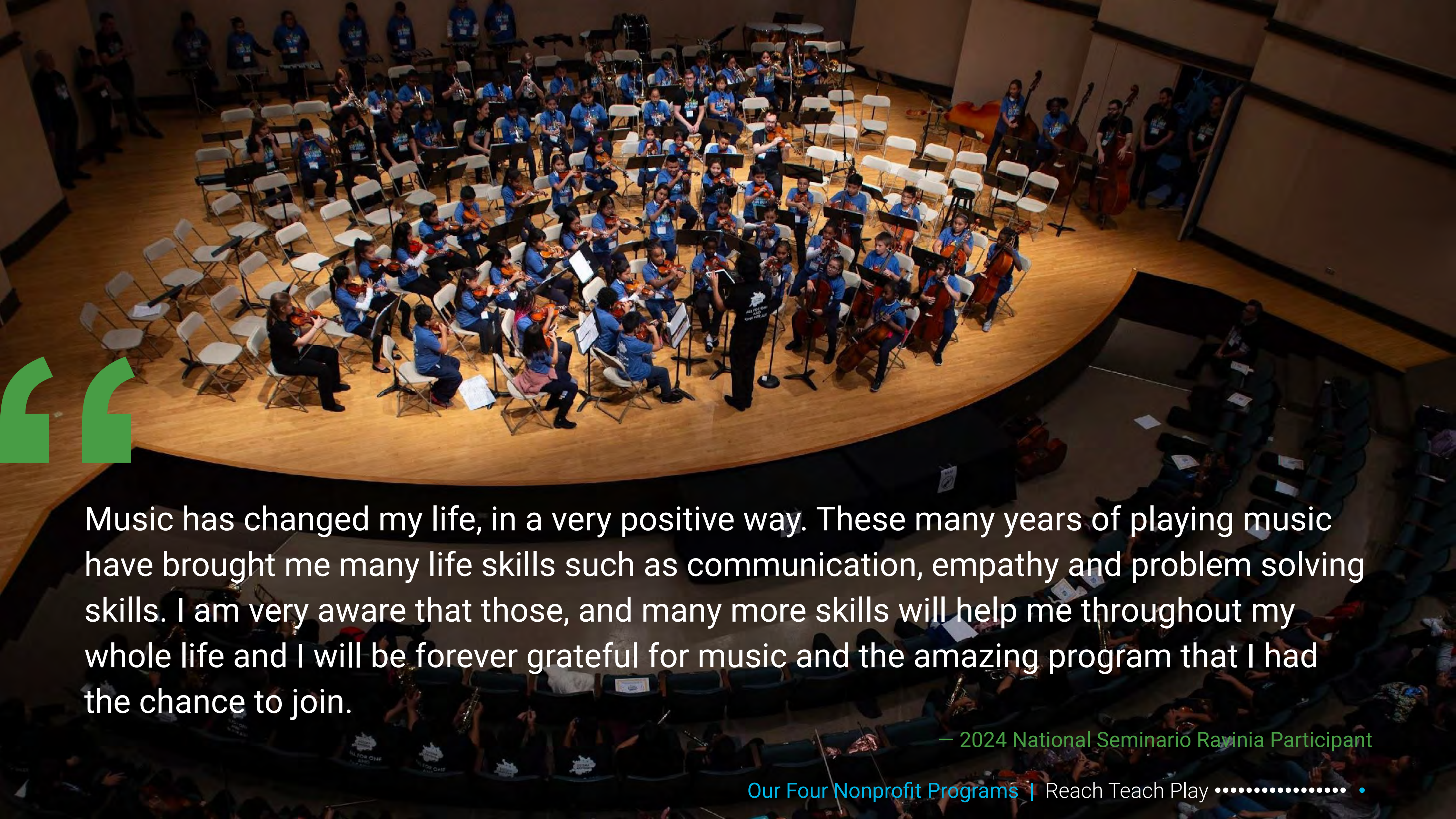




Being in this program has made me a more confident outgoing person because of all the people I've met and different experiences I've had through the program. It's also made me realize that it's okay to be different and true to yourself.

— 2024 National Seminario Ravinia Participant





Music has changed my life, in a very positive way. These many years of playing music have brought me many life skills such as communication, empathy and problem solving skills. I am very aware that those, and many more skills will help me throughout my whole life and I will be forever grateful for music and the amazing program that I had the chance to join.

— 2024 National Seminario Ravinia Participant



Steans Institute

Ravinia's Steans Institute is a world-renowned for exceptional musical talent.

Every summer, 60 emerging classical and jazz artists immerse themselves in intensive programs of personalized coaching, master classes, and performances with renowned musicians and experts to gain essential skills for thriving in their careers.



**Cultivating and Empowering
Emerging Professional
classical pianists, string
players, jazz musicians, and
classical singers.**



**Your Donations Are
Shaping the Future
of Classical and
Jazz Music.**

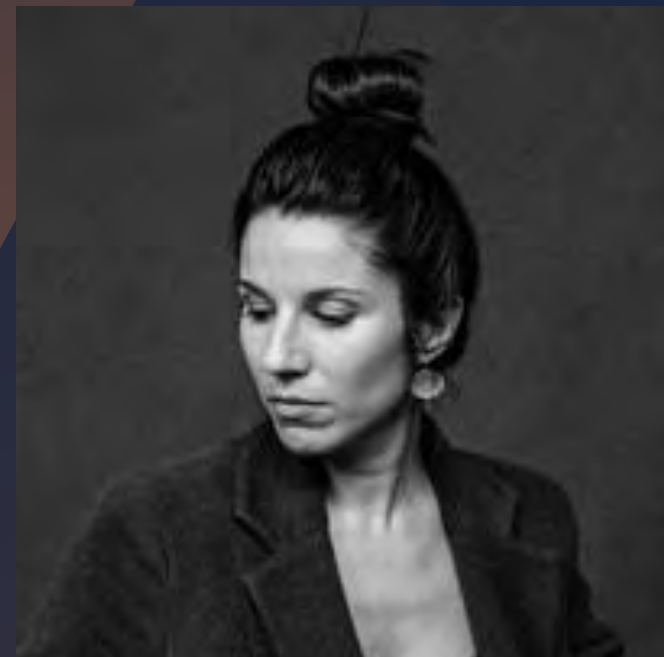
Steans alumni shine bright! 2025 Grammy nominations include:



Marquis Hill, Trumpet
Steans 2010
Best Jazz Vocal Album
Journey In Black (Christie Dashiell)



Allyn Johnson, Piano
Steans 2001
Best Jazz Vocal Album
Journey In Black (Christie Dashiell)



Andrea Casarrubios,
composer and cellist
Steans 2012
Best Contemporary Classical
Composition
Seven for Solo Cello (Odradek)



Edward Parks, Baritone
Steans 2009
Best Opera Recording
Moravec: The Shining



Karen Slack, Soprano
Steans 2008
Best Classical Solo Vocal Album
*Beyond the Years: Unpublished
Songs of Florence Price*



16 Steans alumni are featured on 2025 Grammy-nominated albums:

- Best Jazz Vocal Album (2)
- Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album (4)
- Best Jazz Instrumental Album (1)
- Best Classical Solo Vocal Album (3)
- Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance (1)
- Best Opera Recording (5)

67TH GRAMMY AWARDS | FEB 2, 2025



Steans supporters are the foundation for creating success

- **Alumni network of 1,700+ musicians** who continue to engage with Ravinia, the Steans Institute, and each other
- **More than 600 free or affordable performances** at Ravinia and in community venues since **1988**
- **19 works commissioned from major composers**, including Jake Heggie, Ned Rorem, Lita Grier, and James Lee III, and premiered by Steans musicians during their fellowships.
- **16 emerging composers awarded** the Steans Institute's David Baker Prize, including the premieres of their Bridges Competition-winning music

Stories from the Steans Institute



Steans has changed my life for the better. It galvanized me at a time when I felt aimless. Especially as a musician far from any large cities with robust jazz scenes, it was powerful to be connected with people closer to the heart of the music.

— 2022 Steans Alum






I have gained many valuable insights and had the most incredible musical immersive experience, both of which I will take forward with me into my career.

It was absolutely wonderful to be able to work with such a talented faculty one-on-one. This is a unique program. I am so grateful to have been invited to come and meet and collaborate with some of the best teachers in the world.

— 2015 Steans Alum



I just wanted to say that the two summers I spent at Ravinia were not only two of the best summers of my life, but completely changed my perspective, vision, and approach towards music as an instrumentalist, chamber musician, and musician in general.

The amount of support and advice that I received from the faculty was something I had never experienced in another festival. It was absolutely wonderful that **as a fellow, we had more than everything that we needed,** and were able to just focus on learning, enjoying the experience, concentrating on music, and working on developing as better musicians.

— 2016 Steans Alum

OUR DONORS' IMPACT AT THE STEANS INSTITUTE



Thriving Careers

Many of Steans's alumni have built influential careers as performers, leaders, and educators in the music world.



Highly Regarded

Steans is world-renowned as a leading artistic training program focused on classical piano, strings, and voice as well as jazz.



Acclaimed Faculty

The renowned musicians and experts on faculty at Steans are sought for their personalized coaching and master classes.



Global Reach

Live streams and recordings of Steans performances and master classes have tallied over 600,000 views on YouTube.



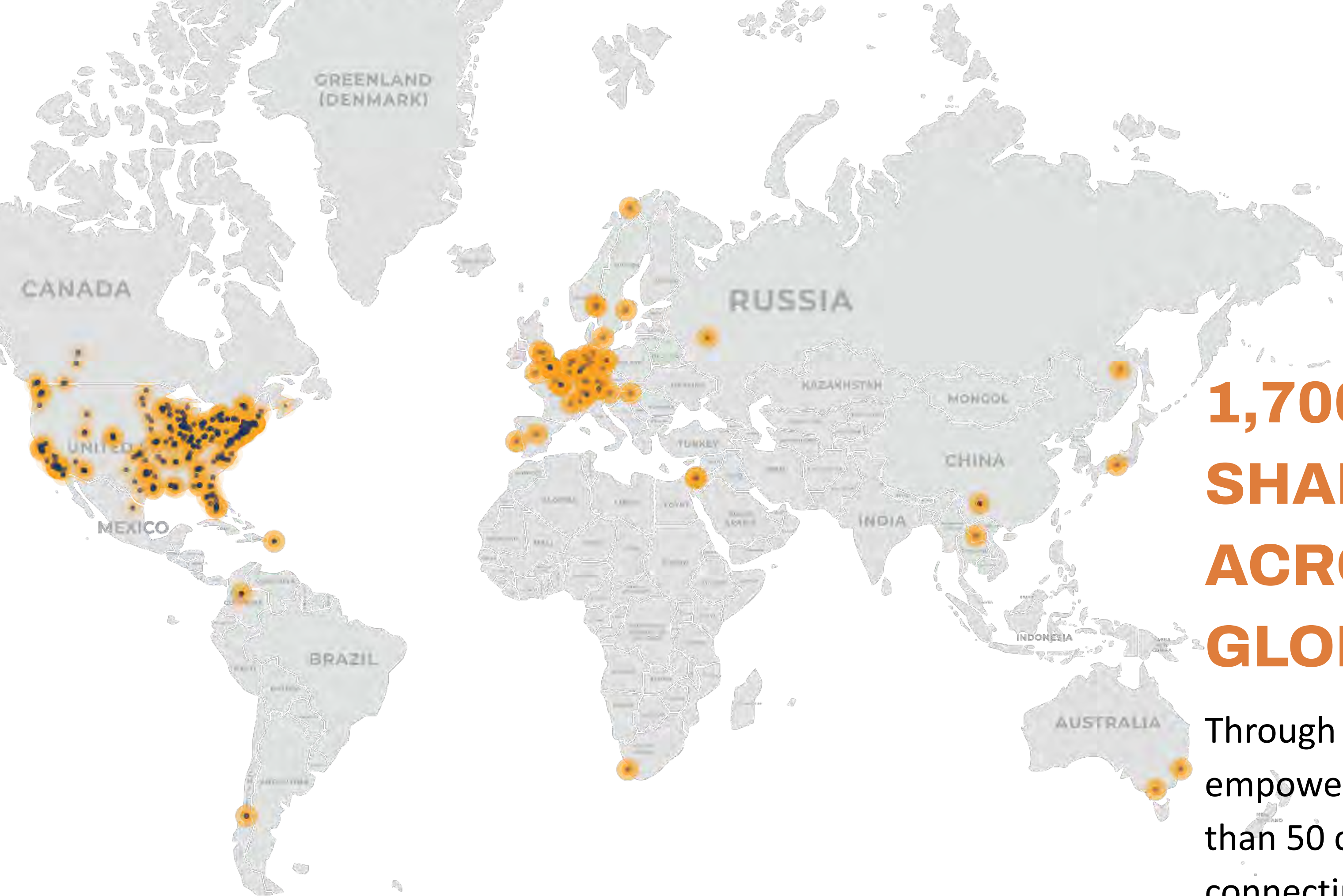
Alumni Network

Steans fosters a supportive community of musicians, driving collaboration, opportunity, and commitment to excellence.



Unmatched Talent

Steans attracts applicants from more than 70 countries, maintaining a global reputation for exceptional artistry.



1,700+ ALUMNI SHAPING MUSIC ACROSS THE GLOBE

Through the Steans Institute, we empower over 1,700+ alumni in more than 50 countries, fostering artistry and connecting the world through the universal language of music.

The Park

Ravinia embraces environmental responsibility by preserving its stunning park, maintaining 1,000 trees and hundreds of annual and perennial plantings, recycling and composting food waste, and reducing carbon emissions from guests through train partnership with Metra.

An aerial photograph of a park. In the foreground, a large, dense crowd of people is gathered on a green lawn, many sitting on blankets. To the left, a large, circular, white-roofed building is visible, surrounded by trees. The background is a vast expanse of green trees, with a city skyline visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Harmony with Nature

Ravinia's 36-acre park is home to over 100 plant varieties, including 50,000 individual plantings, and 50 tree species, totaling about 1,000 trees. A 3-ton boulder, estimated to be 1 billion years old, sits between the South Lawn and Pavilion. These natural features contribute to the park's beauty and tranquility, making it a unique sanctuary for both plants and visitors.

We Are Dedicated To:



Sustainability

Ravinia has extensive recycling and composting programs to minimize its environmental footprint and reducing waste, and encourages sustainable practices from our attendees and vendors.



Education

Ravinia steadfastly provides high-quality music education and training to empower the next generation of music lovers and music makers.

Accessibility

Through inclusive concert and experience programming, as well as a partnership to provide free public mass transit to and from our park, Ravinia prioritizes our accessibility to all guests.



Partnership

Ravinia meticulously chooses corporate partners who share our objectives and collaborate in community development and social impact.



Your Impact at Ravinia





Everyday Heroes

Ravinia donors and corporate sponsors significantly enrich the community, music industry, and emerging artists by supporting education and training programs and accessible, exceptional performances.

Your generosity nurtures talent and creates memorable experiences.



We regard Ravinia as one of Chicago’s great “jewels” and frequently entertain visitors from out of town, as well as a cadre of “regular” friends throughout each Ravinia season. We typically enjoy 25–30 performances over the course of the summer! We consider ourselves “professional picnickers”! In fact, we regard Ravinia as our “summer vacation.” Why would anyone go away when Ravinia is in full swing!?!

— Christina & Scott Bates



Michelle and I love Ravinia and are so happy to support. Nothing makes us happier than attending Pavilion and Lawn concerts during the summer with family and friends.

— Michelle & Mark Grossman



Ravinia is the best! My husband Bill and I are a part of the Steans team and love supporting their efforts.

— Kitty & Bill Moeller



I’m the fourth generation of my family to enjoy Ravinia, and I even have programs from 100 years ago that were in my great-grandmother’s scrapbook. Ravinia is such a treasure!

— Amy Hanssen

Why Donors Love Ravinia

Ravinia donors are the true heroes behind our efforts, making a tangible difference in the communities we serve.

The Ravinia team extends our deepest gratitude for your generosity, which turns our collective impact goals into reality.



We have been going to Ravinia for about 40 years with the same couple we have been friends with for 45 years. We have shared Ravinia with our children and friends. We live in the southwest suburbs and travel about an hour to Ravinia. We love it so much and have many wonderful memories of the concerts and the time with our friends. We are so happy [to] plan on many more years of enjoyment!

— Karen & Timothy Fara



How We Thank Our Donors

Without our generous donors, we would not be able to present the renowned Ravinia Festival, provide prestigious Steans Institute artistic training, or make world-class music accessible in under-resourced communities through Reach Teach Play.

One way we thank our donors is through exclusive donor benefits, including:

- Access to a donors-only ticket presale
- Free season parking and Lawn passes
- Early entry into the park for concerts
- Advance dining reservations
- and much more

Why Companies Partner With Ravinia



Increased Brand Awareness

Promote your brand to 400,000 summer concert attendees.



Shaping the Future of Music

Invest in emerging professional musicians through the Steans Institute.



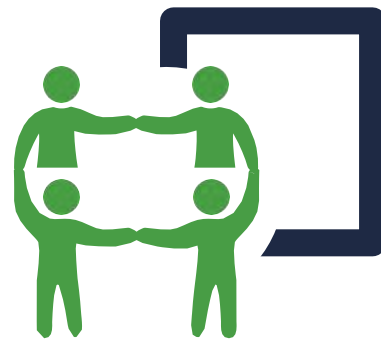
Corporate Social Responsibility

Impact over 50,000 community members across Chicagoland.



Dedication to Inclusivity

Ensure that the breadth of music artists and Chicago-area residents are represented onstage, in audiences, and in music learning.




Alignment with a Chicago Landmark

The longest-running outdoor music festival in the US, Ravinia is a trusted beacon in our community.



Employee Engagement

Boost employee morale by leveraging your donor benefits for your team.



Our Corporate Sponsors

2024 Corporate Sponsors Making an Impact Through Ravinia



Donor & Corporate Sponsor Relations

If you would like to learn more about becoming a donor or corporate sponsor, please contact:

Donor Relations

Erika Cutlip

📞 (847) 266-5039

✉️ ecutlip@ravinia.org

Corporate Sponsor Relations

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