

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The Front Porch

Dedicated to Connecting Everyone Through Music

10 years ago, we set our sights on creating something extraordinary—a place where music energizes community, where artists grow, and where personal connections thrive. We set lofty goals, and we have worked hard for ten years keeping those dreams in mind. 2024 has been a year of reflection, and it's incredible to look back and realize we've achieved – and surpassed – those dreams.

We've been able to do so because of YOU: the community. Through your support, your belief in our mission, and your willingness to show up, we have created a vibrant community—one that connects us all through the power of music. And we're still dreaming, still growing, still rising to meet community needs—because you want more! We can't wait to see where 2025 and the next 10 years take us.



SCHOOL
fostering learning
at every age



FREE PROGRAMS
sharing the joy of
music with all



VENUE
creating one-of-a-kind
concert experiences

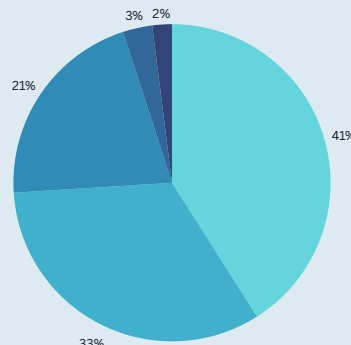
FINANCIALS

REVENUE

FY 23/24

Total: \$1,469,363

Tuition	41%
Donations & Grants	33%
Venue	21%
Instrument & Space Rentals	3%
Miscellaneous	2%

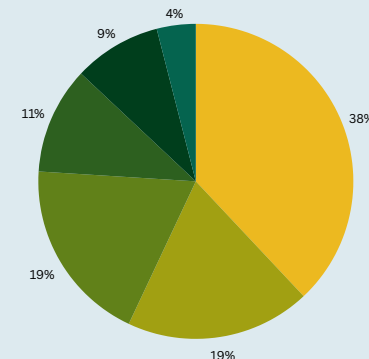


EXPENSES

FY 23/24

Total: \$1,386,829

School	38%
Free Programs	19%
Venue	19%
Facilities	11%
Fundraising/Marketing	9%
Miscellaneous	4%



2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Marc Lipson – *President*
Paddy Bowman – *Vice President*
Susan Weiner – *Treasurer*
Helen Cohoon – *Secretary*
Terri Allard

Olivia Branch
David Butler
Charlie Davis
Dhara Goradia
Steven Harris
Lester Jackson

Cathleen Phillips
Sophie Trawalter
John Whitlow
Richard Will
Abhijai Mathur – *Teacher Liaison*

Full Time Staff



From left to right:

Clare Conheady, Venue & Booking Manager
Melissa Mossinghoff, Director of Community Outreach
Jess Knicely, Music School Director
Erynn McLeod, Director of Children's Programming
Kaitlyn Brown, Enrollment Manager
Katen Reynolds, Executive Director
Eli Ratzlaff, Director of Advancement

The Front Porch is
grateful for general
operating support from
community members and
grant funders.



Roots & Wings

Music Education for Pre-K and Elementary



Hometown Choir

Each week, 225 children experience FREE music enrichment at YMCA after-school programs at all six Charlottesville City Elementary Schools. Students learn songs, write their own, and join with new friends across the city for performances at community events.

Pre-K Music Classes

Front Porch teaching artists bring joyous, high-quality music classes to 311 preschoolers in 24 classrooms every week. Music helps students build language, learn to count, process emotions, and regulate their bodies. Early childhood music is also linked to improved academic and social outcomes – and it’s fun! Most of these classrooms would not receive music classes otherwise.



West-African Dance

Every week, Lillie Williams teaches West-African drumming and dance to 25 students at the Boys & Girls Clubs.



Music for Seniors & Hospice

Music helps connect seniors to lost memories – and each other. Partnerships with Hospice of the Piedmont, JABA, and others bring music to more than a hundred of our elderly neighbors each week.



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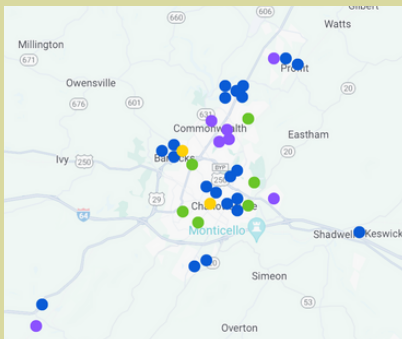
“When Ms. Debby walks into the class, it truly lights up. She helps them take deep breaths when they’re feeling overwhelmed. Using music, they learn to count, rhyme, and so much more. I can’t fully express how grateful I am to have the Front Porch come and teach our class. Without them, my students wouldn’t have music class.”

-- Stone Robinson Bright Stars
Pre-K Teacher

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Program Sites

- 24 Preschool Classrooms
- 8 Senior/Hospice of the Piedmont Sites
- 6 YMCA Sites
- 2 Boys & Girls Clubs



The Front Porch’s free programs are generously supported by grants from:



Programming Partners



CONCERTS



The Front Porch aims to make high-quality, unique concert experiences available to everyone in our community. With incredible musicians and a relaxed, family-friendly community atmosphere, it's a special experience for performers and audiences alike. 2024 was our highest attendance to date.



"The Front Porch is my favorite music venue in town. Such fantastic artists in such an intimate setting. It's one of my happy places!"

2024 Concerts By the Numbers



45
Concerts



200+
Musicians



8,396
Attendees



\$60,000+
Paid to artists



It takes a village...

235 volunteers helped to put these concerts on! We also sold more than 1,200 reusable cups at this summer's Rivanna Roots shows, helping keep the space green and beautiful.

MUSIC SCHOOL

Front Porch School Values: Lifelong Learning, Safe & Supportive Environment, Connection

2024 By the Numbers:

1,176 students

488 group class students

688 private students

31 teachers

92 day campers

14 student performances

347 students taking the stage



Student Testimonials

"Pete is the quintessential embodiment of warmth and joy. The lessons are the highlight of my week. He has fundamentally changed the way I look at learning a new instrument. I no longer say I'm practicing, I am playing"

"Addison exemplifies your culture. She is warm, welcoming, encouraging, and fun! A highlight of my daughter's week is singing with Addison."

Monthly open mics, hosted by The Front Porch at Potter's Craft Cider, provide an opportunity for students and other local songwriters to perform original work.



"My children have taken private lessons from Theo for two years now, and we adore him. He lifts them up and champions all of their successes and hard work. He is warm, kind and caring. He is flexible and always willing to try what they are interested in learning."



A SPECIAL CONNECTION

Group classes always bring people together, but sometimes groups form a special bond. This class, led by Andy Thacker, has been playing together for over six years, expanding their repertoire and even booking their own gigs in the community!

2025 MARKS 10 YEARS OF THE FRONT PORCH! IT'S BEEN AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY



THE BEGINNING 2015 - 2017



- Emily Morrison founds The Front Porch in 2015.
- Classes begin in the living room of her Belmont home with three teachers and less than 20 students.
- The Front Porch moves to a building at Mountaintop Montessori in 2016 after classes began flowing out of Emily's living room into the rest of her home.



HEADED DOWNTOWN 2017 - 2019



- The Front Porch moves downtown in 2017. In 2018, community support allows for upstairs expansion to accommodate a growing student roster.
- Roots & Wings (free community programming) begins, serving 142 students each week, including "Music Mentors" in middle schools and the pilot year of Hometown Choir!
- By 2019, more than 20 teaching artists instruct approximately 300 students and The Front Porch hosts regular concerts.



SAVING THE MUSIC 2020 - 2021



- COVID brings live music and in-person classes to a halt.
- Over one weekend, The Front Porch transitions to online learning. All teachers and staff keep their positions.
- The Front Porch's Save The Music series produces 85 livestream concerts with over 240k views, 202 paid performers, and nearly \$20K raised for area nonprofits.
- Rivanna Roots Concert Series begins in 2021 - presenting family-friendly outdoor concerts at Rivanna River Co.



EMERGING & GROWING 2021 - 2022



- With new partnerships and staff, The Front Porch's Roots & Wings program explodes back in person. More than 350 students take free music classes every week.
- The Front Porch expands to Dale Avenue to make room for students who joined during the pandemic.
- Concerts resume in the indoor listening room, and Rivanna Roots grows to connect 5,000+ community members.



EXPANDING OUR MUSICAL COMMUNITY 2023-PRESENT



- The student roster reaches 550, with more students performing and collaborating than ever before.
- More than 650 children experience FREE music classes each week through Roots & Wings.
- New partnerships with Hospice of the Piedmont, Linden House, JABA, and others bring musical joy to hundreds of elderly neighbors.
- Rivanna Roots becomes a Charlottesville staple, bridging music and the beautiful outdoors.
- The Front Porch continues to creatively deepen connections within the community and begins dreaming for the next evolution of The Front Porch's home.

