

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by James Carter

The Front Porch

Connecting Everyone Through Music

Dear Friends,

At The Front Porch, we believe that music brings people together. We believe it can bridge differences, foster belonging, and remind us of our shared humanity.

In our music school, students of all ages gather each week to learn, play, and grow, often side by side in group classes where making music together is as important as the music itself. In our free jams, students and community members come together in a spirit of openness and creativity, forming connections through shared songs and spontaneous collaboration. That same spirit extends into our community programs, where music creates meaningful moments of connection across generations, from young children discovering rhythm and melody for the first time to older adults reconnecting with memories through song. And on our stages, both in our indoor venue and at Rivanna Roots, music brings people together, transforming audiences into community.

We are so grateful to you for making this work possible!

With gratitude,
Katen Reynolds
Executive Director



SCHOOL
fostering learning
at every age



FREE PROGRAMS
sharing the joy of
music with all



CONCERTS
creating one-of-a-kind
concert experiences

2025 by the Numbers

This year, The Front Porch reached:

650+ students and jammers, taking lessons and making music together EACH WEEK

700+ preschool and elementary school students, participating in FREE community programs EACH WEEK

33 teaching artists employed by The Front Porch, making a meaningful living

9,000+ concert attendees in our indoor venue and at Rivanna Roots

150+ seniors in end-of-life and memory care, receiving FREE private performances and participating in sing-alongs EACH MONTH

150+ artists paid nearly **\$60,000** for **33** concerts

COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

Each week, more than 600 students come through our doors to learn an instrument and play music, many of them in group classes where making music together is at the heart of the experience. These shared musical moments build not only skills, but also confidence, creativity, and community.



The Emily Robey Morrison Scholarship

Access remains central to our work. We have long offered scholarships, and this year we proudly launched the Emily Robey Morrison Scholarship, a need- and merit-based scholarship, offering a year of free weekly private lessons and group classes, plus instrument rentals. These scholarships have already made a profound difference for students and families, and we hope to expand this program significantly to meet rising needs. **Help us spread the word!**



Emily Robey Morrison,
The Front Porch founder

“
Thank you sooo much for making it possible for me to attend this class by way of scholarship and also hooking me up with a rental fiddle. I would not have been able to attend otherwise. This fiddle class is the happiest thing I have going on in my life right now, so again I thank you very much.
”

--From a former student

Community Jams

Every Thursday and Saturday, The Front Porch hosts FREE Community Jams open to musicians, students and nonstudents, of all skill levels. Participants play Old Time, Bluegrass, Americana, and Drum Circle music. These sessions help musicians develop skills, build confidence, and connect. Join us!



Student Performances and Band Nights



The Front Porch hosts two Student Showcases and two Student Band Nights every year. These have become beloved community traditions. We are always so inspired by the courage of our students, who step on stage, some for the very first time! Their willingness to be seen and heard is a powerful reminder of what music makes possible.

FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Music has the power to connect us... but only if we can access it!

Too often, structural barriers limit who gets to participate in music education and community life. We are working to change that. By expanding access to music in classrooms, on stages, and across our community, we are creating spaces where connection can take root and grow.

Free Programming for Preschool Students



Each week, Front Porch teaching artists bring free, high-quality music classes to more than 350 preschoolers, most of whom would not have access otherwise. Our curriculum is aligned with the Virginia Early Learning and Development Standards and focuses on rhythm, melody, movement, listening, creativity, and joy!

Free Programming for Elementary School Students

Front Porch teaching artists also serve more than 350 elementary students through a partnership with the YMCA afterschool program at 7 elementary schools, including all 6 public elementary schools in Charlottesville. Students play musical games, learn songs, and then perform these songs at community-building events (e.g., Charlottesville's Grand Illumination, school-wide gatherings).



Free Programming for Seniors & Hospice

At the other end of the age spectrum, our teaching artists give private performances and lead sing-alongs to more than 150 seniors in end-of-life and memory care each month, bringing moments of peace and social connection to these local seniors.

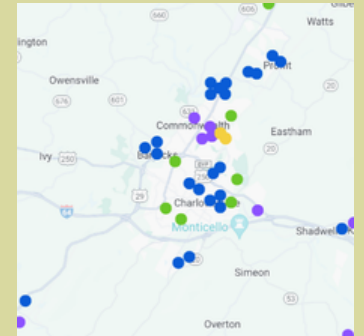


“Considering I cannot hold a tune in a bucket, it has been great for my students to have someone knowledgeable to teach them songs and movements. It helps their fine and gross motor skills in a fun and engaging way. My students LOVE music and dancing. It is a great way for them to learn and have fun.”

--From a Red Hill teacher

Program Sites

- 23 Preschool Classrooms
- 7 YMCA Sites
- 8 Senior Sites
- 2 VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment



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



Programming Partners



CONCERTS AND EVENTS

Our concerts bring the community together through awe-inspiring live music. From our intimate indoor listening room to the open-air magic of Rivanna Roots, these performances create shared experiences that connect audiences and artists alike.

Rivanna Roots 2025: A Summer Tradition

In its 5th season, Rivanna Roots continues to be a beloved Charlottesville tradition, offering 13 concerts every other Saturday, May through October. At these concerts, concert-goers are invited to bring a blanket or chair, kick off their shoes, and enjoy an evening of local music and refreshment in one of Charlottesville's most beautiful settings along the Rivanna River. Anyone who has attended a Rivanna Roots concert has likely felt the magic of live music under the stars and strings of lights, with children dancing and laughter filling the air.



“

Intimate is the name of the game. Such a wonderful venue. Such great, good work. Thankful you all are in our town.

--From a concert-goer

”



Indoor Venue: An Intimate “Listening Room”

Our indoor concert series offers a different kind of experience—intimate performances in our listening room on the Downtown Mall. In 2025, we hosted 20 concerts. This series is truly unique in that the room seats only 100 people, providing an intimate listening room experience. We hear from the community that this space, where attention is wholeheartedly given by audiences and gratefully received by musicians, fills a unique niche in the Charlottesville music scene.



Open Mic Nights at Potter's



On the 3rd Thursday of each month, Front Porch teaching artist and singer-songwriter Erynn McLeod hosts an open mic at Potter's Craft Cider. Open Mic Night invites songwriters of all levels to share original music in a welcoming, supportive space. Whether stepping up to the mic or listening from the audience, these evenings celebrate the joy of creating and the power of music.

What does a day in the life of a Front Porch teaching artist look like? Think: coffee, preschool songs about bears, voice lessons, ukulele strums, adult harmony, and, by evening, a stage.

We're following one of our beloved teaching artists, Erynn McLeod, through her day. Erynn is not only a gifted teacher and community builder, but also an award-winning singer-songwriter. This year, she earned top honors at the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest for her song *Quiet*, off her debut album, *Man of the House*.

7:00 AM: Coffee first!

A quick breakfast, a strong cup of coffee, and Erynn is out the door.

8:30 AM: Preschool music at Greer Elementary

Erynn leads 3 classes with 4- and 5-year-olds, beginning with a "hello" song before students echo melodies, keep a steady beat, dance, listen, and sing. A class favorite? Bears! Children go on a "bear hunt," freeze dance in a "bear cave," and follow along while Erynn reads *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*.



11:30 AM: Lunch, a walk, and lesson prep

Back home, Erynn makes a quick lunch, takes a walk, and then responds to emails, plans lessons, and sends voice memos to her adult harmony students so they can practice their individual parts before class.



2:00 PM: Private lessons

The afternoon brings private voice students including scholarship students. Erynn teaches vocal technique, but also something deeper: songwriting, confidence, self-expression, finding one's voice. (Those of us working in the lobby marvel at her students' progress and courage.)

3:30 PM: Mini Maestros

Next up: Mini Maestros, an early childhood music class for children ages 18 months to 6 years. Caregivers and children sing, move, explore rhythm, and try out instruments together. Songs like *Hickety Pickety Bumblebee* help children say, whisper, and sing their names, building musical skills, language skills, and really sweet moments of connection.

4:15 PM: Group classes

Some afternoons, Erynn teaches a Taylor Swift ukulele and singing class for 9- to 12-year-olds, complete with strumming, singing, "name that tune," and Taylor Swift trivia. Other days, she leads adult harmony classes, creating a supportive space for adults learning to sing. Together, they work on two-part harmonies in songs like *Feed the Birds*, *The Parting Glass*, and *California Dreamin'*.



7:00 PM: The stage!

Erynn hosts The Front Porch's Open Mic Night at Potter's Craft Cider from 7 PM to 9 PM, helping create a welcoming stage where people can share original songs. And if there's time, she performs too, sometimes with fellow Front Porch teaching artist (and fiancé) Lucas Rhondeau. Somewhere in there, she eats dinner, thanks to the generous folks at Potter's, who take good care of our teaching artists.

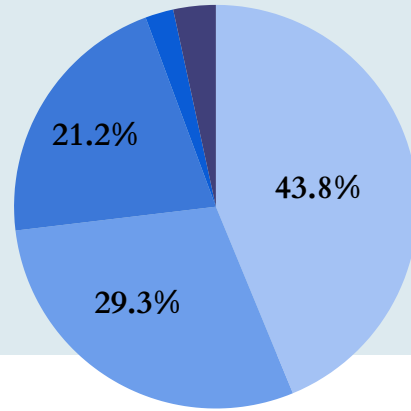


2025 FINANCIALS

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

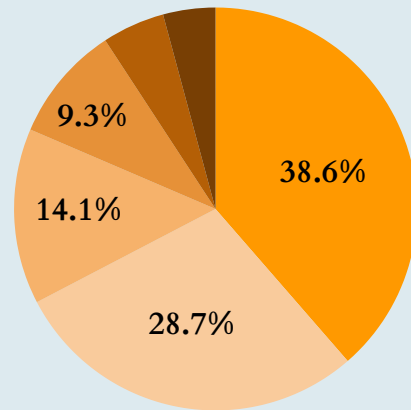
Revenue: \$1,632,608

- Tuition
- Donations & grants
- Venue
- Instrument & space rentals
- Miscellaneous

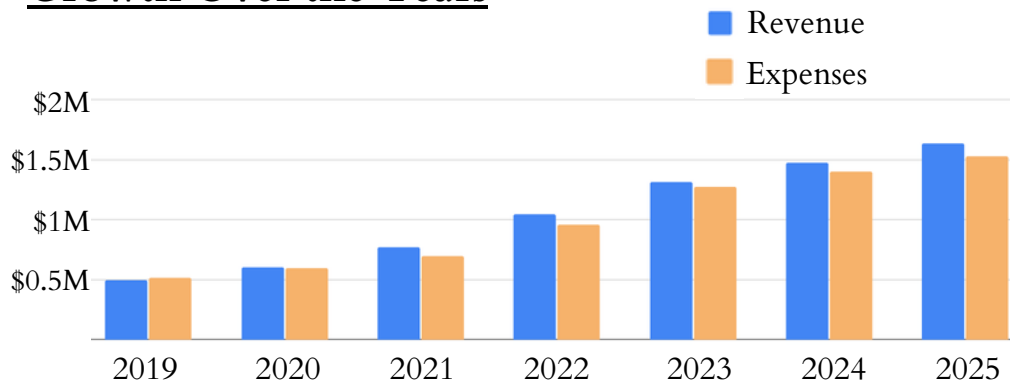


Expenses: \$1,527,894

- School
- Free programs
- Venue
- Facilities
- Marketing & fundraising
- Miscellaneous



Growth Over the Years



Susan Weiner, *President*
 John Whitlow, *Vice President*
 Patrick Knittle, *Treasurer*
 Abhijai Mathur, *Teacher Liaison*

Cathleen Phillips
 Charlie Davis
 David Butler
 Dhara Goradia
 Ethan Tate

Olivia Branch
 Richard Will
 Steven Harris
 Terri Allard

FULL-TIME STAFF

Katen Reynolds, *Executive Director*
 Jess Knicely, *Music School Director*
 Kaitlyn Brown, *Enrollment Manager*
 Melissa Mossinghoff, *Director of Community Outreach*
 Sam Cushman, *Artist Booking & Venue Manager*
 Sophie Trawalter, *Director of Advancement*

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



TEACHING ARTISTS

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Abhijai Mathur | Chris Matthews | Harold Bailey | Pete Vigour |
| Adam Terrell | Clara George | Julia Kwolyk | Rachel Austin |
| Andy Thacker | Craig Green | Kelly Chambers | Shannon O'Leary |
| Anna Weddington | Dan Sebring | Larry Kent | Sydney Boggs |
| Bernard Hankins | Debby Norton | Lillie Williams | Tanner Hansen |
| Brandon Johnson | Devon Sproule | Lucas Rhondeau | Theo Herrin |
| Carl Moyer | Erynn McLeod | Marty Collin | |
| Chris Leva | Garen Dorsey | Molly Murphy | |
| Christen Hubbard | Gray Kulow | Paul Curreri | |

The Front Porch would not exist
without your support.

Your support helps us increase scholarship opportunities, expand our indoor concert series and pay-what-you-can ticketing, and reach more students and seniors through our free community programs.

Join us!

\$2,500 supports two preschool classes for a full year
\$2,000 provides four semester-long scholarships
\$1,500 expands pay-what-you-can ticketing for indoor concerts



Every single gift – at any level – brings us closer
to making music accessible to all.

Ways to give:

Visit www.frontporchville.org

Scan this QR code



Send a check to: 221 E Water St
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Or, speak to your financial advisor

