



2019-2020

# Annual Report

**P**owers  
Music School

[www.powersmusic.org](http://www.powersmusic.org)

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**The 2019-2020 year started off strong, then brought some challenges. Ultimately, those challenges made us stronger.**

## **New Website!**

Powers launched a brand new website in September 2019 with improved functionality and navigation and a streamlined, responsive, mobile-friendly design.

### *The new website...*

- > Allows potential students and parents to more quickly and easily find the information they need
- > Better reflects the Powers brand and mission
- > Puts our students and teachers in the spotlight

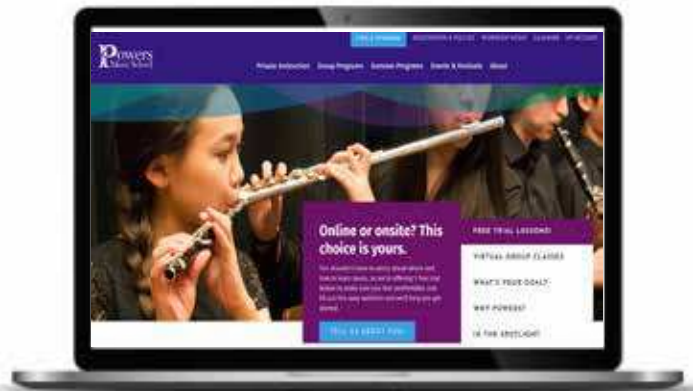
**45% increase**  
in webpage traffic for  
private lessons

**13% increase**  
in fall private lesson  
inquiries

## **Watch City Singers**

We successfully ran the Watch City Singers program for older adults in partnership with the Waltham Council on Aging. This initiative was part of the Catalyzing Creative Aging program (provided by Lifetime Arts and the National Guild for Community Arts Education). Watch City Singers is a free, 10-week choral program for older adults emphasizing vocal and physical exercises, vocal instruction, social engagement, confidence and self-esteem, with the goal of reducing anxiety and the negative health effects of social isolation and loneliness.

Powers received a grant for \$12,000 from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation to continue and expand the Watch City program. (Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this project was temporarily put on hold until it is again safe to continue in person.)



## **Transitioning Online**

When it became clear that COVID-19 would be impacting Massachusetts, Powers transitioned more than 700 private lessons and 33 group classes from the buildings at 380 and 396 Concord Avenue in Belmont to online learning platforms.

To ensure our students' and community's safety, we held the first virtual Mildred Freiberg Piano Festival in April, with 55 students participating.

We also held a successful, well-attended virtual Musical Storytelling Program event, hosted by the Belmont Public Library.

## Successful Onscreen Learning

With the global health pandemic as our catalyst, we launched the Powers HOME model for online learning across all of our programs.

### Powers HOME saw great success!

- > We launched 8-week online group classes during the spring and early summer
- > Transitioned four of five summer day programs online, allowing students to produce unique digital collaboration projects together
- > Almost tripled summer private lessons compared to the previous year



## The Powers HOME Model

HOME stands for Holistic Online Music Education. When we say “holistic,” we mean that this style of learning really digs in deep. Holistic music education doesn’t just teach you how to play, it helps shape you. Our music affects our lives, and our lives affect our music. Everything is interconnected.

We believe the key principles of Powers HOME make online learning not just a suitable back-up option during a temporary global crisis, but also a strong, valuable, and effective way of learning that opens up a new world of possibilities for community music education.

FY19 summer lessons:  
191 enrolled, 472 lesson hours

FY20 summer lessons:  
308 enrolled, 1,357 lesson hours

**187% increase in summer lesson hours**

## What are people saying about Powers HOME?

*Online teaching has been going well. I think it's really important for keeping a sense of normalcy during these times. I'm glad my students have something to channel their energy into. I've always told my students that we play music not just for achievement but because music brings people together, and heals everyone.*

*- Amy Beshara, violin instructor*

*It's fascinating to see kids in their native habitats; and they see mine, including pets. As a Suzuki teacher, it's also very good to see how young kids interact with their parents, who are now truly the home teacher. And I've been able to see myself in a new way, too...as others do onscreen.*

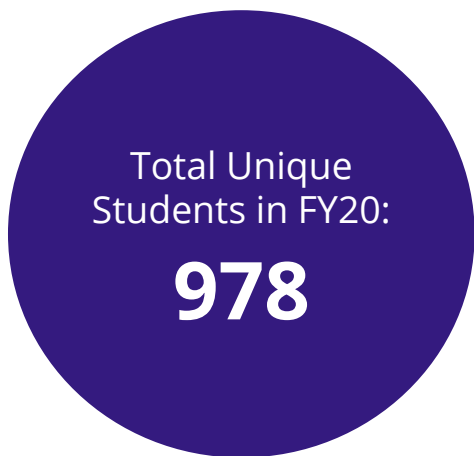
*- Jay Rosenberg, Suzuki guitar instructor*

*It's really about trying to interact with as many students as I can (either by taking their ideas or mentioning their name.) I know that as a mom dealing with my girls now having so much more screen time than normal, that I like the idea that the Pups class is much more than just watching a video.*

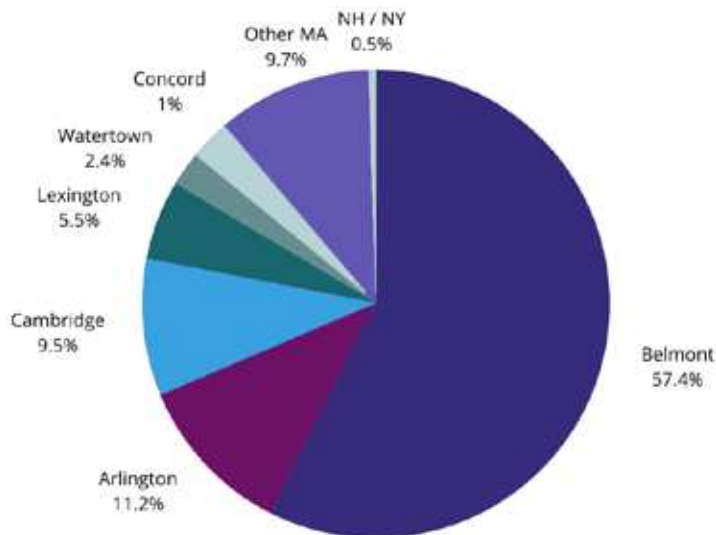
*- Jennifer Choe, Music Pups® instructor*

*Piano Pairs was AMAZING. Kathryn was a wonderful instructor. It's rare that a student gets 45 full minutes with an instructor to focus only on scales, trills, etc. It went as well as a virtual class could go, truly. We would 100% be interested in participating again, online or in-person.*

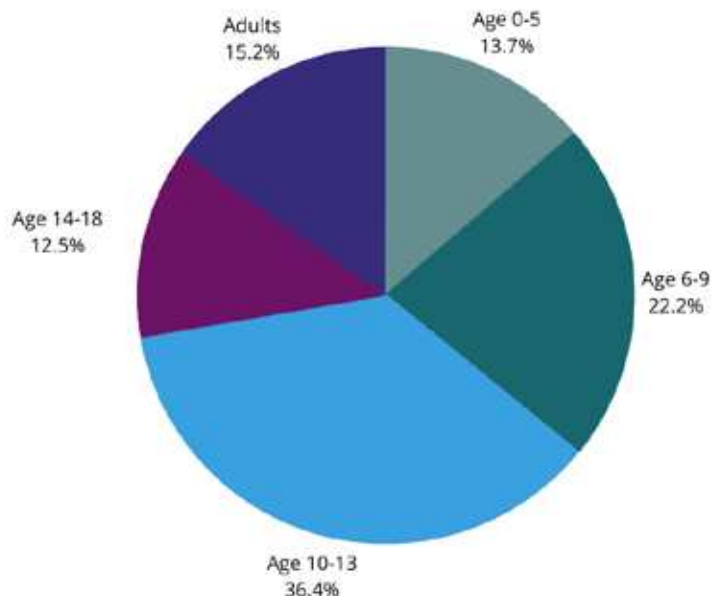
*- Elaine Dimopoulos, parent*



**FY20 Students by Town**



**FY20 Students by Age**



## Preparing for A New Year

Despite the numerous challenges of 2020, Powers ended the year on a high note with the Music Heals Campaign.

### *Campaign goals included:*

- > Raise money to provide financial aid scholarships for students whose parents have lost or significantly decreased their income due to COVID-19
- > Provide personal protective devices and building modifications so that families and teachers can feel safe in our buildings and be together again in-person
- > Significantly improve our internet capabilities so we can deliver high-quality music programs from our studios to those in need through the new Powers HOME division
- > Stay connected and support our community

## Because of our donors and supporters...

We raised more than \$25,000 during the campaign, and more than \$135,000 during the 2019-2020 year, 35% more than our FY20 goal.

We made modifications to our buildings and teaching studios to make Powers safe again onsite, including...

- > Socially distanced studios
- > An improved HVAC system and air purifiers
- > Plans for traffic flow, daily health check forms, and personal protection equipment

Additionally, we have put plans in place to significantly improve internet capabilities onsite, allowing for teachers to easily hold online lessons from their Powers studio.



## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Spurred by growing global concerns for social and racial justice, we began conversing with staff, faculty, and outside community about Powers' role in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

DEI initiatives will remain a priority for the upcoming school year as we work to understand our role and how we can play a part in moving conversations and action forward.

## FY20 Key Financials

(unaudited)

### OPERATING INCOME

Tuition and Fees	\$1,478,885
Annual Campaign and Grants	\$134,314
Community Activities and Services	\$5,036
Other Income	\$2,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,620,335</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$1,125,565
Management & General Administrative	\$425,766
Financial Aid & Merit Awards	\$90,639
Fundraising	\$33,642
Community Activities & Services	\$3,677
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,679,289</b>

**NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT** (\$58,954)

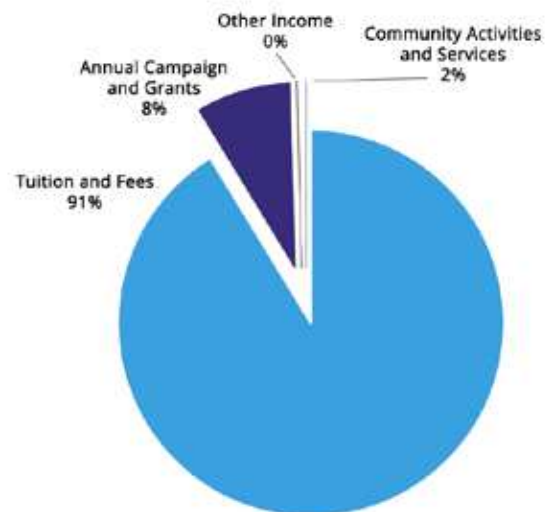
### ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY

Beginning Balance (9/1/19)	\$1,466,158
Return on Investments	\$163,161
Board Appropriation of Temporarily Restricted Assets	(\$139,490)
Ending Balance (8/31/20)	\$1,489,829

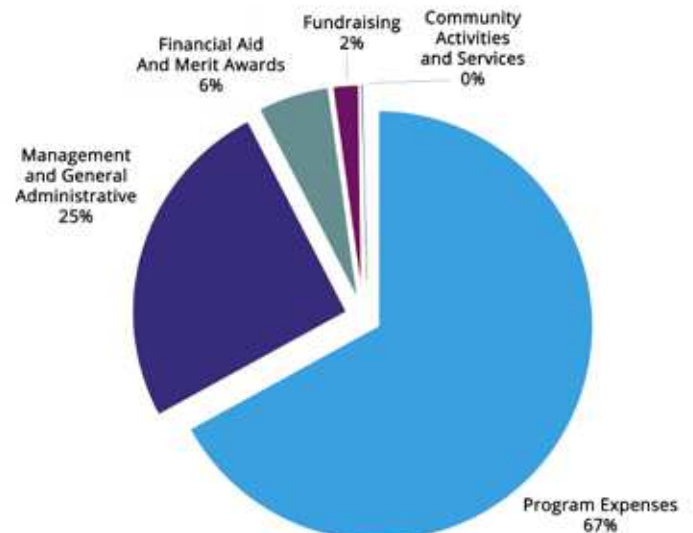
This year had its challenges, but those challenges became opportunities for us to learn, to grow, and improve for the future.

With a solid online learning model, improved technology, flexibility in program offerings, frequency, and formats, stronger relationships, and a willingness to learn and adapt, Powers is ready and eager to dive into 2021 and beyond.

### FY20 Income



### FY20 Expenses



# Those who made it possible in 2019-2020...

## Board of Directors

### **President**

Ernest Sabine

### **Vice President**

Laura Vail Wooster

### **Treasurer**

Wenjie Hu

### **Secretary**

Susan Polit

### **Members**

Steve Cohen

Sarah Freiberg Ellison

Karen Gut

Robert Halstead

Shanlee Liu

Julie Holland Mortimer

Heather Quay

Bruce Rosenblum

Christopher Wright

## Staff

### **Executive Director**

Gavin Farrell

### **Director of Education & Community Programs**

Dr. Daniel Acsadi

### **Director of Marketing & Communications**

Kelly Webber

### **Registrar**

Killian Kerrigan

### **Operations Manager**

Tristan Bouchard

### **Performance Coordinator**

Taka Nakamura

### **Accountant**

George Peddle

## Faculty Leadership

### **Chair, Piano Dept.**

Kathryn Rosenbach

### **Chair, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion Dept.**

Mary Cicconetti

### **Co-Chair, String Dept.**

Sarah Freiberg

### **Director, Suzuki Program & Co-Chair, String Dept.**

Sarah Bacon

### **Director, Chamber Music**

Ryan Noe

### **Director, Powers Youth Orchestra**

Steven Lipsitt

## Faculty

### **Banjo, Ukulele**

Christopher Hersch

Tev Stevig

Dylan Mowry

### **Brass**

Spencer Aston

Ryan Noe

Andrew Sorg

Sarah Sutherland

Michael Tybursky

### **Dulcimer, Harp, Penny Whistle, Recorder**

Lucy Joan Sollogub

### **Early Childhood**

Jennifer Choe

Linda Emmanuel

Susanna Fiore

Yas Ishibashi

### **Guitar**

Daniel Acsadi

James Doran

Christopher Hersch

Dylan Mowry

Lucy Joan Sollogub

Tev Stevig

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Michael Shea

### **Music Theory**

Rebecca Sacks

### **Music Therapy**

Krystal Bloom

Xingyu Yao

### **Orchestra**

Steven Lipsitt

Noah Dresser

### **Percussion**

Nurudafina Abena

Gary Spellissey

Michael Weinfeld-Zell

### **Piano / Keyboard**

Elizabeth Chladil

Susanna Fiore

Yas Ishibashi

Svetlana Krasnova

Lisle Kulbach

Tamara Medoyeva

Peter Morelli

Natacha Rist

Kathryn Rosenbach

Jei-Yern Ryu

Michael Shea

Lyubov Shlain

Anna Soukiassian

### **Collaborative Piano**

Levon Hovsepian

Leah Kosch

Alix Pollack

Kathryn Rosenbach

### **Rock Band**

Dylan Mowry

### **Strings**

Robin Alfieri

Sarah Bacon

Amy Beshara

Madalyne Cross

Noah Dresser

Sarah Freiberg

Jim Guttmann

### **Strings (continued)**

Hwakyung (Kay) Jang

Erica Klein

Ellery Klein

Guan-Ting Ku

Hyun-Min Lee

Ming-Hui Lin

Olga Patramanska-Bell

Morgan Scagliotti

Jenny Shallenberger

Colleen McGary Smith

### **Suzuki Program**

Sarah Bacon

Robin Alfieri

Madalyne Cross

Erica Klein

Guan-Ting Ku

Jay Rosenberg

### **Voice**

Greta Feeney

Emily Romney

### **Viola Da Gamba**

Jane Hershey

James Peretta

### **Woodwinds**

Judith Bedford

Mary Cicconetti

Mary Cunningham

Carol Hunt Epple

Ben Fox

Faith Hutchison-Williard

Meghan Jacoby

David Stevens

## Saturday Morning Music School

Amy Beshara

Mary Cicconetti

Mary Cunningham

Allison Dobbs

Ethan Fallis

Nalani Fujiwara

Jim Guttmann

Haley Leach

Ryan Noe

Michael Weinfeld-Zell

# Donors & Supporters

September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

## Composer Circle

**\$10,000-\$25,000**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Massachusetts Foundation  
Frances and Thomas Knight  
The Estate of Pamela J. Price

## Maestro Circle

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

Belmont Savings Bank  
The Edmund and Betsy Cabot  
Charitable Foundation  
HPH Family Foundation  
Robert and Louise Halstead  
Anne and Neil Harper

## Soloist Circle

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

ACMP Foundation  
Agnes M. Lindsay Trust  
Anonymous  
Association of Chamber Music  
Players  
Bain Capital Children's Charity, Ltd.  
Cambridge Savings Bank  
East Boston Savings Bank Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Ron and Karen Gut  
Johnson String Instrument, Inc.  
Laura Perlo Meyer and  
Klemens Meyer  
Julie and Richard Mortimer  
Arthur and Connie Page  
Susan and Stephen Polit  
Tracy Powers  
Ernest Sabine  
Robert and Angie Simonds  
Susan Galli and Mark Thurber  
Watertown Savings Bank  
Chris and Jessica Wright

## Concertmaster Circle

**\$500-\$999**

John Carey  
Cityside Subaru  
Gavin Farrell  
Susanna Fiore  
Sarah Freiberg Ellison  
Robert and Bethe Hagopian  
Wenjie Hu and Xiaopeng Gong  
Renée Landers and  
Thomas Barrette Jr.  
M. Steinert and Sons, Inc.  
Middlesex Savings Bank  
Nadia Sophie Seiler Memorial Fund  
Stuart Schaffner  
T. Walley Williams  
Laura Vail Wooster

## Principal Circle

**\$100-\$499**

Marla Abodeely  
Jeffrey Alpert  
Lilian Armstrong  
Dorothy Bowe  
Paul and Catherine Buttenwieser  
Melanie Calzetti-Spahr  
Qing Cao and Yinghui Zhou  
John Carey  
Michael Cervantes  
Joan and Ronald Curhan  
Bruce and Martha Davidson  
Mark and Nancy Davis  
Carl Dettman  
Elaine Dimopoulos  
Michael M. Dore  
Dorothea Endicott Foundation  
Jane Dougan  
Susanna Fiore  
First Armenian Church  
Betsy Foote and Howell Jackson  
Ron and Gisela Geiger  
Helen Golding and Michael Schwartz  
Jacqueline Whitney Halas  
Artie and Sigurder Helgason  
Julia and George Hibben  
Eric Jones and Holly Chen  
Alexandra Houck and  
Kevin Amaratunga

## Principal Circle (continued)

Edward and Lillian Keefe  
Hong Liu  
Shan-Lee Liu and Po-Shang Chen  
Vicki Livermore  
Daniel Loss  
Hilary Luderer  
James Martin  
Hardin Matthews and Jane Dougan  
Roslyn Mazer  
Elmer L. Neal Sr.  
Jean Park and Jacob Taylor  
Barbara Payne and Roger Tobin  
Matthew D. Phaneuf  
Jim and Meghan Pickette  
Alix Pollack  
Bjorn Poonen  
James Propp and Alexandra Gubin  
Heather Quay  
Elizabeth Reed and Ulrich Klingbeil  
Emily Romney and George Hein  
Bruce Rosenblum  
Sandra Rosenblum  
Janet Sand and Peter Lawner  
Margaret Stein Skemer  
Lindsay and Ann Waters  
Christine Webber-Onges  
Westwood Graphics  
Louise Wolfe and Stefan Ahlblad  
Christoph and Barbara Wolff  
Hongli Yu and Lizeng Qin

## Member Circle

**Up to \$99**

Xiaoyi An  
Rachel Berger  
Louis A. Burg  
Katey Burke  
Lenore Cowen  
Timothy Dore  
Elva Farrell  
Linda Fidnick  
Marcy Franck  
Jennifer Gottschling

*(continued on back page)*

# Donors & Supporters

September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

## Member Circle (continued) Up to \$99

Lisa Guimond and Chris Brookins  
Annie Helgason and Mike Jones  
Leslie M. Holmes  
Svetlana Krasnova  
Anne Marie Lambert and Arydas Mackevicius  
Glen Legere  
Yuanyuan Li  
Pamela Lowry  
Natalia Magistretti  
Kathleen Marshall  
Denise Marshall  
Patricia McLaughlin  
Carolyn Mehaffey  
Theresa Morrow  
Cristian Predescu  
Maria Samson and S. Caine  
Yamini Saravanan

Morgan Scagliotti Driban  
Elizabeth Sharawara and  
John Dieckmann  
Melanie Sheffield  
Elizabeth Smith  
Joan Soble  
Susan Staves  
Chitra and Rangamani Sundar  
Rebecca Tharaud  
Mary Theilken  
Kelly and Greg Webber  
Westwood Graphics  
Blair and John Wylie  
Shunyuan Zhang

## Government Grants

Massachusetts Cultural Council,  
a state agency



[powersmusic.org](http://powersmusic.org)

*Stay in touch with Powers on  
Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!*

## Annual Report Design:

*Kelly Webber*

## Photos:

*Kulbako Photo,  
Powers Staff*



*Thank you for  
supporting community  
music education!*

### Donate by mail:

Send your check to Powers Music School, P.O. Box 398,  
Belmont, MA 02478

### Donate by phone:

Give us a call at 617-484-4696 to learn about your  
options for making a gift to Powers.

### Donate online:

Now you can donate by credit card with a click of a  
button at [powersmusic.org/support-powers/](http://powersmusic.org/support-powers/)

Ask us about **matching gifts, stock, planned giving,**  
and other ways to make your gift!