



# Whidbey Island Music Festival

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Artwork by Timothy Haslet



Photo by David Welton

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The first weeks of the New Year are always a welcome lull after all of the festivities of the holiday season, and a wonderful time to reflect on the year behind us. WIMF ended 2023 with a spectacular and touching "Celtic Christmas" with the Beggar Boys, complete with an intergenerational dance party at intermission. Thanks to your generous contributions and careful management, WIMF is on solid financial footing for this coming season. More than ever, I believe that music can provide the spark for us to gather together in community, experience beauty, joy, wonder and awe, and to build anew all that has been frayed during the challenges of recent years.

2024 brings more wonderful music, a rollout of our Young Artist program, (this year featuring Whidbey Island's own Riley Patching) and a fabulous summer season.

I thank you for your generous support, your friendship and for your presence at these events that touch so many hearts.

**TEKLA CUNNINGHAM**

Whidbey Island Music Festival Founder and Director



Photo by Dennis Browne

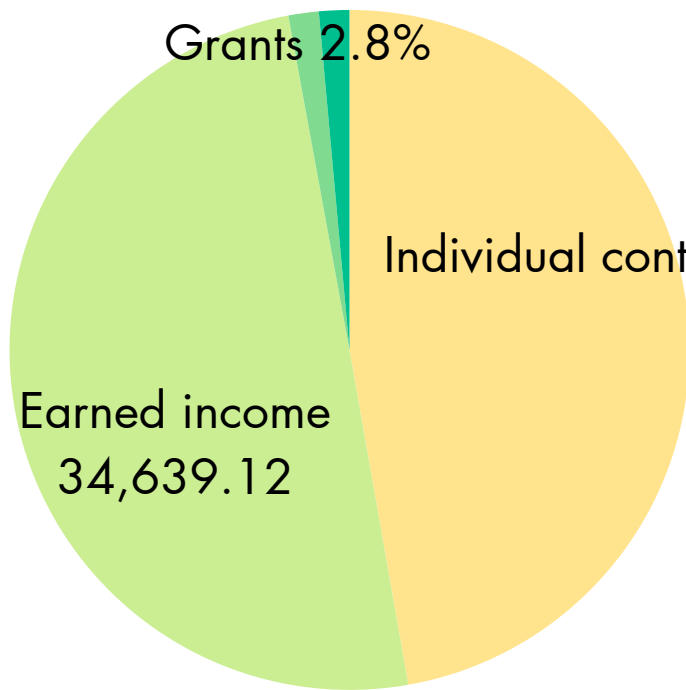
# OUR STORY    OUR MISSION

**Founded in 2006** by Tekla Cunningham, Whidbey Island Music Festival is a vibrant and vital organization that serves the Whidbey Island Community with great performances of baroque and classical chamber music. WIMF presents concerts in relaxed and intimate venues on beautiful Whidbey Island, with repertoire from Monteverdi to Florence Price. We bring music of the past four centuries to life with vivid and moving performances on period instruments.

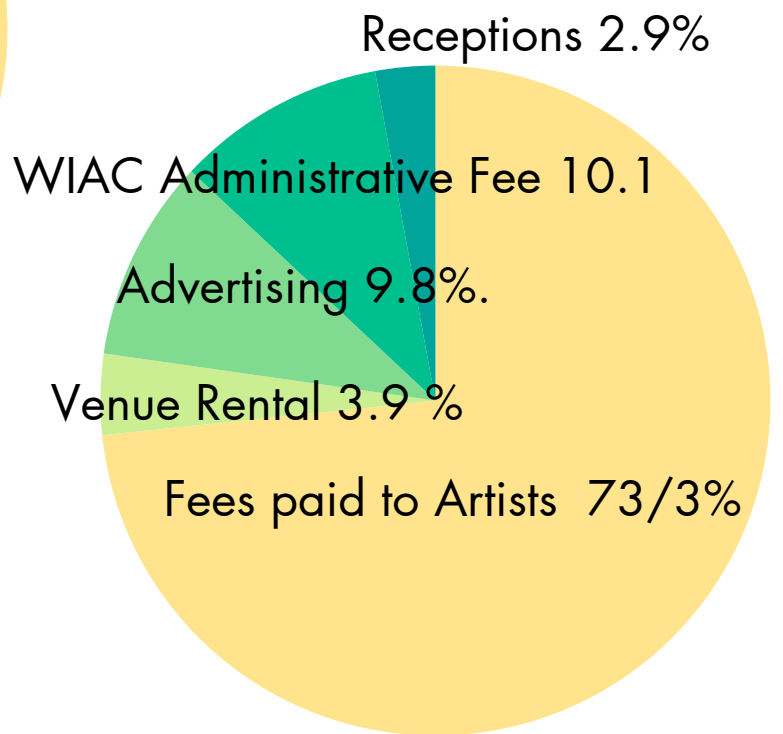
**Our mission** is to gather people together at venues on Whidbey Island; inspire with performances that move and uplift the spirits; and connect musicians and audiences in authentic community.



# 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



2023 Income: 68,435.23



2023 Expenses: 51,435.06

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Through your generosity and careful stewardship of funds, WIMF ended 2023 with a robust bank balance of 52,462.09, giving us the confidence to plan a full spectrum of musical delights for the 2024 season.

# 2023 Partnerships





# 2024 FESTIVAL

## What's next for WIMF?

For many years, WIMF has been an affiliate of the Whidbey Island Arts Council, which has provided fiscal sponsorship, organizational and administrative support. In 2024, WIMF will establish its own board of directors and an independent 501(c)3 to expand the circle of support and better serve the Whidbey Island Community.

WIMF has begun working with a grantwriter to identify and apply for grants for the festival, an area where we have significant potential for growth.

2024 brings a vibrant and varied line up of spring and summer programs, a return of last fall's wildly popular Bach Festival, more Music and Movement events, a rollout of our Young Artist program, this year featuring Whidbey Island's own Riley Patching, and more!

# 2023 Donors

Anonymous  
Jay Adams  
Terry Lee Anderson  
Jean Ascher  
Bob and Allison Bergstrom  
Judy Bierman  
Meade Brown and Laura Valente  
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Christian Burks  
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Roger and Ilsa Coleman  
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Charles Cressman  
John and Gerda Cunningham  
Gabrielle Dickman  
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John Dolmar and Barb Faville  
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Jo Hansen  
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Anthony Martin  
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Conrad and Jelcy Romberg  
Frank Rose  
Denise and Roger Sawyer  
Pamela Schell  
Frank Shirbroun  
Margaret Storer  
Georgia Thompson  
Sara Usher

The Whidbey Island Music Festival is an affiliate of the Island Arts Council, a 501(c)3 organization. The IAC's Tax ID number is 91-1147736.





# Whidbey Island Music Festival

## A look back at 2023

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### SPRING

In January, March and May WIMF presented the complete cycle of Biber's epic Mystery Sonatas, a soulful journey into the heart of the baroque. Also known as the Rosary Sonatas, these three sets of 5 sonatas for violin and continuo (plus a concluding Passacaglia for solo violin) were completed around 1676. Dedicated to the Archbishop Gandolph in Salzburg, these sonatas are as compelling, affecting and moving as they were when they were written almost 350 years ago.



**"What a splendid concert! I have enjoyed this series so much. Your last piece was so beautiful I just wanted to sit there and weep. Thank you for the pleasure" - Jody Heiken**

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### JUNE

We kicked off the summer season with a performance called "The Influencers" that placed Bach's music in the context of some of his most important musical influences. Bach's great genius was in synthesizing so many different styles, from composers in his native land like Böhm, Telemann and Pisendel to French masters like Couperin.



### JULY

This summer was the beginning of new traditions as well as concerts in our favorite places. "Yoga in the Barn" brought the exquisite sound of Maxine Eilander's baroque harp to a historic barn in the heart of Ebey's Landing. A wonderful group of yoga students flowed through Beck Diamond's sequence to the sound of baroque harp music. Sublime!



**"Yoga and music in the barn was the highlight of my trip this summer. The space and the instructor were amazing. The music added a layer that deepened the experience."**  
-Meryl

Festival favorites Pacific MusicWorks in a program called "Spanish Nights" with star soprano Sherezade Panthaki. With music by Spanish composers Boccherini, Iribaren, the Pla brothers and Soler as well as music inspired by Spain (arias from Handel's great opera Almira). This music has an unmistakable Spanish flair full of rhythmic vitality and emotional intensity.



**"Fabulous concert! Great setting! Wonderful artists! Thank you for an afternoon awash in musical magic!"**  
-Sara Grey

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### JULY

Ensemble Artifice returned to Whidbey Island with with one of our favorite sopranos, Danielle Reutter-Harrah. In baroque music, there is no piece no more well-known than Pachelbel's famous "Canon". It's a piece that every musician has played countless times. Strangely, very few other works of Pachelbel are in regular rotation, and this program took a closer look at this gifted composer and his Garden of Musical Delights.



Ensemble Artifice took the show on the road to the Coupeville Wharf and shared hits from Vivaldi, Corelli and more with an appreciative audience! Thank you to the Coupeville Waterfront Association for setting up these Wharf concerts.



Lutenist John Lenti presented a solo lute recital called "I pick, you knit, but let's not nit-pick" at Clinton's unique yarnshop by day - speakeasy by night Skein and Tipple. A great time was had by all enjoying intimacy of this gorgeous program of Renaissance lute music.



### AUG

WIMF's first ever solo organ recital brought crowds to St. Augustine's! Johann Sebastian Bach's organ works remain some of the most beautiful, virtuosic, and powerful music ever written for the instrument. Organist Henry Lebedinsky performed a selection of Bach's masterworks alongside compositions by some of the people who influenced him the most - including Pachelbel, Böhm, Buxtehude, and Marchand - on the 1997 Martin Pasi tracker organ at St. Augustine's in-the-woods Episcopal Church in Freeland.



**"A Bach centric (organ) concert was extremely satisfying and I could close my eyes and just let the music carry me. Church organs have been important for over 500 years and magnify a cultural/religious experience allowing the congregates to more fully participate. Thank you! I expect nothing less than the exceptional from WIMF and you deliver."**

-John Dolmar



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### AUG

Tekla Cunningham and Kati Kyme played two FREE pop-up concerts, "The Fencer, the Orphan and the Genius" with music by Joseph Bologne, Maddalena Sirmen and Mozart at the Coupeville Wharf and Whidbey Farm and Market. WIMF partnered with Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Island County to bring children to the Farm event, with scoops of free ice cream to go along with the music!



It is a rare and precious experience to hear the complete Bach cello suites live in concert. What a wondrous event it was to hear William Skeen play all 6 suites in one concert! Coinciding with the Pleiades meteor shower, it was cosmic and unforgettable weekend.

**"Loved it! Your series continues to enhance life on Whidbey. The cello concert was a wonderful finale. "**

**-Elaine Meaker**



### NOV

WIMF kicked off the fall season with a Bach Festival, featuring three of J.S. Bach's most enduring works - the Orchestral Suite in B minor featuring Anthony Allen on baroque flute (which includes the "badinerie"), the beloved A minor violin concerto, and the joyful fireworks of the 5th Brandenburg Concerto. A good time was had by all at the post-concert reception at Penn Cove Brewery. The crowd spilled into the hallway to experience Bachfest 2023!



**"This is a must hear! Absolutely fabulous. Henry plays that harpsichord like the finest Electric Guitar riff - powerfully! Anthony and Tekla blend flute and violin exquisitely. Shelby, Ross and Stephen lend body and depth to the concert (and personality.) Adiaha played with her entire being and joined the whole together superbly! Bach won the day to an enthusiastic audience. Kudos to all!"**

**-Sara Grey**

Last but not least the year concluded with a festive Celtic Christmas concert. Warm up your holiday season as The Beggar Boys bring traditional Christmas music from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales to the Pacific Northwest. The ethereal voice of Abigail Lennox blends with fiddles, whistle, and guitar to create the Beggar Boys' signature blend of traditional songs and tunes and powerful originals.. This festive program featured Larry Young's dramatic storytelling and live Irish step dancing with dancers from the Tara Academy of Irish Dance - a perfect family holiday treat.



### DEC