classical KING



# 2026 ANNUAL REPORT



# FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A privilege of mine as Board President is sharing good news. **Today, I'm proud to present our FY26 Annual Report detailing Classical KING's solid financial progress in the same year that federal budget cuts threatened to undermine our future.** I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished with your help. This report shows the power of a committed donor community. Classical KING remains home for classical music in the Pacific Northwest because you cared with such passion. Bravi!

Equally deserving of recognition is Brenda Barnes, whose leadership we must thank for shepherding us through this crisis and for her larger community vision. Brenda stepped down in March after eight years as Classical KING's CEO. Her genius was growing the station's collaborations and listener engagement.

While guiding the station into a new digital era, Brenda championed local and national audience research, helping redefine and refresh the station's engagement with new classical audiences. In her honor, we have established the Barnes Research & Innovation Fund to continue analysis and experimentation that advance Classical KING's mission. We are delighted Brenda remains close to the station and wish her much joy in her well-deserved retirement.

After a national search, the Board unanimously selected Classical KING's own Rob Wiseman as CEO. The former Chief Advancement Officer is highly respected by Board members, donors, volunteers, and staff alike. Rob is a proven leader with deep ties to the region's cultural community. After a seamless transition, he is spearheading efforts to reach broader audiences and amplifying our incredible musical partners. We are thrilled to have Rob at the helm.

We hope you find this Annual Report valuable. We share this information with respect for your partnership and, as always, with deep appreciation for your generous support.

With gratitude,

Susan Harmon
President, Board of Directors



# FROM OUR CEO

It's incredible to think how much can change in just one year. That's a testament to you, our incredible Classical KING family. **Because of you, Classical KING smoothly and seamlessly transitioned to a 100% community-supported station.** That was no small feat.

Classical KING donors rose to the challenge when the U.S. Congress defunded the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, placing immediate and intense pressure on our operating budget. Your swift action kept the music playing without interruption. Within months, we changed our business model without disruption to programming or personnel changes. We couldn't be more grateful to you for your caring generosity.

In appreciation, we are pleased to share this 2026 Annual Report, which provides an overview of our FY26 financial position. We feel positive about Classical KING's future and are confident you will too.

**The Strength of Community Support.**
Today's Classical KING relies solely on private investment from individuals, foundations, Pacific Northwest companies, and local government agencies. Individuals provide more than 90% of this funding and have deep personal relationships with the station. This breadth of community support holds the key to our future.

In FY26, we were overjoyed to welcome 1,701 new donors and celebrate more than 4,248 individuals who chose to increase their giving. Among leadership donors, we welcomed 10 new program sponsors and dozens of inspirational matching fund donors. This foundation, including growth potential of new audiences, shows a solid transition to a community-supported business model, led by individual giving.



We are confident Classical KING is in good hands with a donor community strongly committed to our future. If you have any questions after reviewing the Annual Report, please don't hesitate to contact our team. Your partnership is a top priority as we champion classical music together.

Warm regards,

Rob Wiseman, CEO



*Host Maggie Molloy interviewing baritone Joseph Lattanzi on Northwest Focus Live*

# A community that sings together

**Scott Kovacs knows what it's like to stand at the epicenter of 6,300 voices lifted in song as co-chair of the Seattle Sings Choral Festival, the largest gathering of choral singers in the nation.**

"When people sing together, something changes in the room. You can feel it. There's a sense of trust, vulnerability, and connection that reminds us we belong to one another," Kovacs said.

The annual, three-day Seattle Sings festival features more than 100 Pacific Northwest choirs performing a commissioned piece from a living composer. For years, Classical KING has proudly helped promote and support the festival as a media sponsor and partner.

"Classical KING helps carry those moments into the broader community," said Kovacs, also a founding board member of the Greater Seattle Choral Consortium, which presents Seattle Sings.

The festival brings together choruses of all types and sizes from across Puget Sound.
They range from professional ensembles to community and neighborhood groups.
Each group performs the new choral work commissioned by a local composer.
The festival performances often invite audience members to join the choir in song
which create a joyful experience of musical communion.

As a long-time media sponsor, Classical KING brings the festival to life through on-air storytelling, digital promotion, and on-site engagement. We highlight the artists, organizations, and community members who make this event special.

Partnerships like this one reflect Classical KING's commitment to an accessible, thriving classical arts scene. It's one more way we celebrate our community's artistic spirit while strengthening the cultural fabric of the Pacific Northwest.

**The Seattle Sings Choral Festival is the largest gathering of choral singers in the nation**

- **Three days**
- **100+ choirs**
- **6,300+ singers**



*Seattle Sings Choral Festival Choir with Timothy Takach, conductor, and Chris Vincent, piano*



## Did you know . . .

**30,000+**
Classical albums in our muisc library

**1,500**
New albums reviewed annually

**110**
live performances broadcast each year

**5,000**
Hours of live-hosted programming annually

**365+**
Classical KING studio tours annually

**78**
Years Classical King has served the Pacific Northwest



*Min Kwon, piano, performing on Northwest Focus Live*

# Where the music meets you

**Throughout your day and during the important times in your life, we're there as your source of joy, connection, and solace.** Listeners have told us how Classical KING helps shape their days and provides comfort during extraordinary times in their lives.

Anne of Victoria, BC summed up a universal sentiment when she said, ***"[Classical KING] is our constant companion and makes our house a home."***

For many listeners, the connection becomes deeply personal. We frequently hear how Classical KING becomes intertwined with family memories, traditions, and daily routines.

***"My dad always had Classical KING on in the car while I was growing up,"*** said Emily from Des Moines, WA. ***"It became comforting to have it on the radio now that I'm an adult driving my own car. Classical music has always been a way to connect with and to my dad."***

Pamela from Mesa, AZ is instilling a similar memory with her 11-year-old grandson. ***"[He] loves riding in my car and listening to Classical KING with me. He always talks about how calming the music is."***

We listen closely to your stories. They inform how we design the complete package of what you hear on the air, from pacing to content to conversations. All shaped by a team to create the experience we bring to you.

Washington residents Mare from Seattle and Dean from Gig Harbor have both turned to Classical KING to unwind from the stress of their days.

***"As a mental health therapist, my days can be heavy,"*** Mare said. ***"Classical KING is always there to ground or escape, whatever I need. I am immensely grateful."***

Dean says, ***"The soothing sound of this music takes me back to my days in the orchestra and comforts me on stressful days."***

We're honored to learn about these wrinkle-in-time moments when the magic we work in the studio reaches into your world. We delight in hearing how a piece of music resonates or our hosts connect through their storytelling. That's all part of the community we strive to create through carefully curated programming to appeal to all listeners.

Robert from Lake Stevens said it was a feeling of relationship that drove his donation in honor of his wife, Paula. ***"Paula is no longer here, but [Classical KING] will always remain and, thus, be a constant reminder to me of her,"*** he said.

For Francis from Huntington, IN the connection has only deepened over the decades.

> *"I've been listening to Classical KING for several decades and find that the beautiful music and engaging hosts continue to brighten my day,"* — FRANCIS, HUNTINGTON, IN

In a time when communal experiences are harder to come by, Classical KING is grateful to be part of listeners' lives, enhancing moments of connection and comfort. It's an honor for us to know we have been there for you and your families just as you have been there for us, particularly in this challenging last year.

We're grateful that you continue to invite Classical KING into your lives in meaningful ways. Your stories, like this one from Megan of Port Orchard, WA reminds us of our mission to bring classical music to all.

***"I love Classical King because it has been a treasured part of my life for all of my life,"*** Megan says, ***"My grandparents, parents and I have enjoyed the music. It is truly a gift!"***



*On-air hosts Nikhil Sarma and Dave Beck during a fund drive*

# Financial Report

**This has been an extraordinary year for Classical KING.** In budgeting for FY26, we planned for the total loss of federal funding. Unfortunately, that prediction came true in July 2025. While hopeful that donors would help us close the gap, we knew that many other non-profits were facing similar challenges, amid growing economic uncertainty. And this was not a one-time challenge: the loss would be permanent. We planned cautiously: removing federal funding from revenue projections, assuming only modest growth in listener support, and reducing expenses.

> What happened next was extraordinary. You, along with fellow donors and listeners, responded with a level of generosity that deeply moved us.

Not only did you help replace the federal funding we lost, you gave generously to help Classical KING weather the uncertainty ahead with greater strength and stability. We are profoundly grateful for your belief in the future of Classical KING and for the care you showed when it mattered most.

While revenue increased significantly this year, our expenses have been carefully managed to meet critical needs. Every dollar has been thoughtfully designated to prepare us for the future and grow the audience for classical music in our region. As a result, Classical KING's current cash and invested assets include a diverse array of funds, reserves, and investments for the future.

- **Digital Audience Engagement Initiative:** This fund will fuel the growth of our digital services to reach new and younger listeners. We anticipate using this fund over the next three years to ensure rapid progress on digital platforms.
- **Operating Reserve:** A prudent six-months of operating expenses reserved to cover unexpected financial difficulties or emergencies.
- **Capital Expenditures Fund:** Used for capital expenditures such as replacing failing equipment and upgrading HVAC to keep studios properly cooled.
- **Barnes Research and Innovation Fund:** Created to honor former CEO Brenda Barnes, this fund will be used to support future research and pilot projects.
- **Board Designated Fund:** Invested assets that will fuel long-term audience growth and financial stability for Classical KING.

**Because of you,** Classical KING is on strong financial footing and better prepared for the challenges ahead. Your generosity not only sustains this organization—it lifts and encourages our staff, our board, and everyone who believes in the importance of making classical music broadly accessible in the Pacific Northwest. Thank you for standing with us so wholeheartedly.

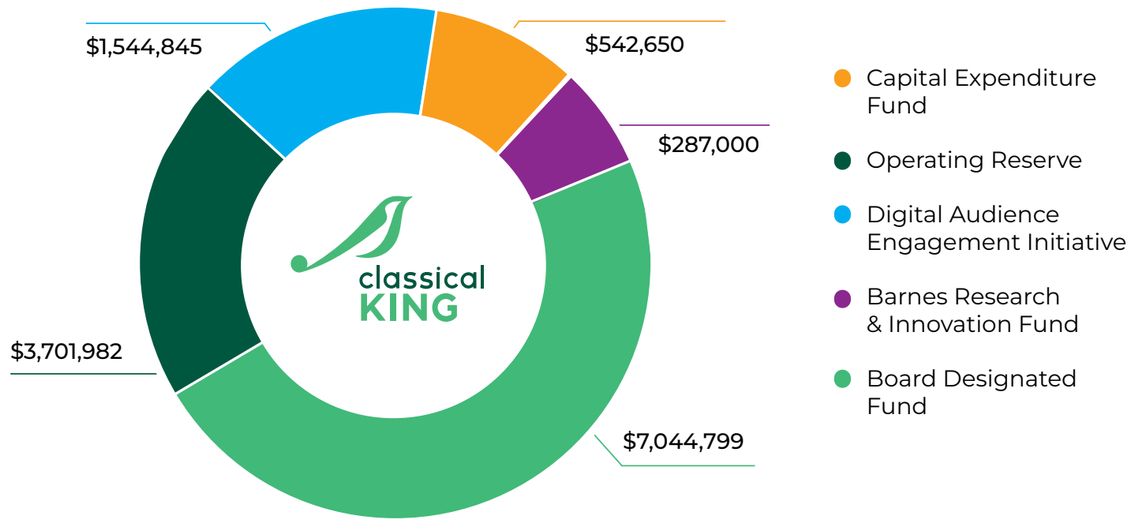
## FY26 Operating Results | July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

| REVENUE | |
|---|---|
| Individual Philanthropy | $5,816,499 |
| Foundations | $86,000 |
| Local Government | $83,646 |
| Federal Government | $0 |
| Underwriting | $250,000 |
| Other | $113,855 |
| **Revenue Total** | **$6,350,000** |

| EXPENSES | |
|---|---|
| Compensation | $3,357,858 |
| Programming | $991,478 |
| Broadcast Operations | $643,219 |
| Fundraising | $719,158 |
| Administration | $280,244 |
| **Expense Total** | **$5,992,102** |
| Balance of Revenue vs. Expense | $357,898 |
| Allocation to Reserves | ($357,898) |
| **End of Year Balance** | **$0** |

## Cash & Invested Assets | As of June 30, 2026

### $13.1M Cash & Invested Assets




*Classical KING is committed to transparency. To access our detailed financial reports and annual audits, visit classicalking.org/annual-report.*

# Donor Listing

## $100,000+

4Culture

Heidi Charleson and the late Louis Woodworth

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Mary Pigott

City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

Debbie and Rick Zajicek

## $50,000-99,999

Anonymous

Chap and Eve Alvord

Bonita and the late David Brewer

Charley Dickey and the Juniper Foundation

Susan Harmon and Richard Meyer

Joe Mendez

Yoshi and Naomi Minegishi

Nesholm Family Foundation

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Maryanne Tagney

Patricia Tall-Takacs and Gary Takacs

## $25,000+

Anonymous

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Muriel Van Housen

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Roger and Donna Wolthuis

Tom Wyckoff

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Krish Srinivasan

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Sally Anne West

Drs. William T. and Gail T. Weyerhauser

Darlene and the late Charles Whitney

Max Velichko and Maria Yazykova

## $5,000-9,999

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The Ariel Fund

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Susan Elde

Miles and Katie Ewing

Meagan Foley and Neil Gray James

Fowler and Elisabeth Beaber

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## $2,500-4,999

Anonymous (6)

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Kevin and Allison Armstrong

Allen Family Philanthropies awarded by ArtsFund

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Caroline Thienes

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Wyman Youth Trust

## $1,000-2,499

Anonymous (23)

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AMPS Giving Hope Charitable Trust

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Seth and Vicky Arlow

Nathan Bailey

Jeanne and Catharyn Baird

Kathy Baird

Peter Baird

Linda Baker

Louise Baldwin

*Listing reflects cumulative donations received July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.*



*David McDade, piano, and Colin Adkins, tenor, during a Northwest Focus Live performance*

*"I love Classical King because it has been a treasured part of my life for all of my life."*

— MEGAN, PORT ORCHARD, WA

# Donor Listing

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*Brenda Barnes, former CEO, Classical KING*




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*Tess Altiveros, soprano, and David McDade, piano performing "O Mio Babbino Caro" from Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini.*




*(Right to left) Sarah Peniston, alto saxophone, Michael Murray, alto saxophone, Sara Jolivet, tenor saxophone, and Michael Jolivet, baritone saxophone after performing the national anthem at the Mariners game on Aug 24, 2025.*



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