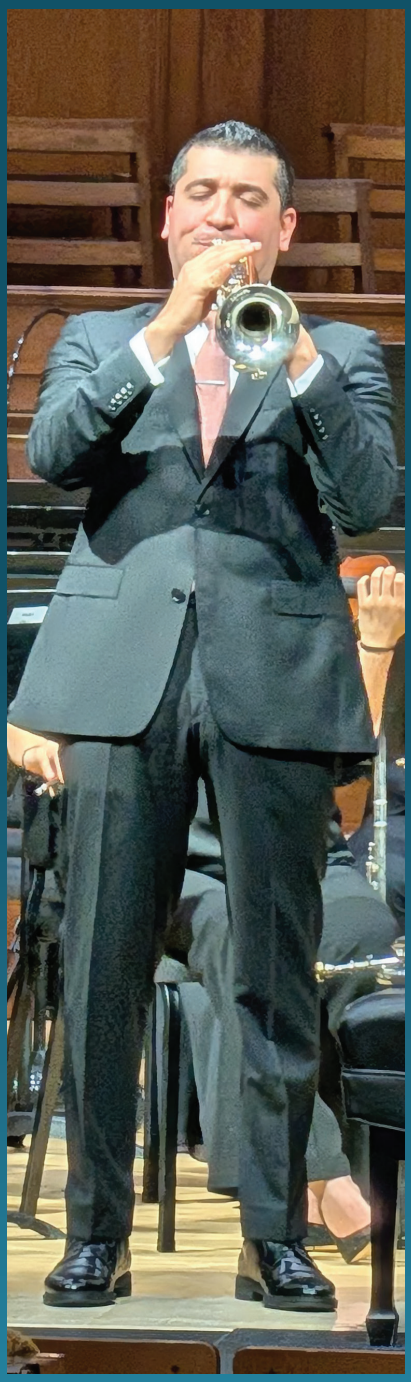

INDIAN RIVER SYMPHONIC ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

Bringing World-Class Music to Our Community. Inspiring the Next Generation.

2025–2026

A SEASON OF ACHIEVEMENT, GROWTH & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Through outstanding concerts, educational programs, student support, and donor engagement, IRSA continued to demonstrate that a symphony series can be much more than a collection of concerts – it can be a catalyst for cultural enrichment and musical education throughout our community.

OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

5	**4,133**	**3**
CONCERTS PRESENTED	CONCERT TICKETS SOLD / ATTENDED	**CONCERTS SOLD OUT**
$20,000	**$280,000**	**259**
APPROXIMATE SPONSORSHIP	APPROXIMATE CONTRIBUTIONS	INDIVIDUAL DONORS
~1,300	**$2,500**	**~$17,000**
5TH-GRADE STUDENTS IN 2 PERFORMANCES	STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	FORTE 3D INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED

THE 2026 CONCERT SERIES

IRSA presented a season of exceptional orchestras and musicians, giving audiences in Indian River County the opportunity to experience performances by nationally and internationally recognized ensembles and artists.

Concert Attendance

CONCERT	DATE	ORCHESTRA / ARTIST	TICKETS SOLD / ATTENDANCE
1	1/15/2026	Mineria Symphony Orchestra of Mexico	728
2	1/20/2026	Prague Philharmonia	851
3	3/5/2026	Orpheus Chamber Orchestra	796
4	3/16/2026	Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Joshua Bell	889
5	4/24/2026	Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra	869
		Total:	4,133

The season included three sold-out performances – **The Academy, Prague, and Buffalo** – an important milestone for IRSA and evidence of the strong community interest in exceptional live orchestral music. This year we **sold 644 season ticket packages.**

Beyond attendance, the season demonstrated the value of presenting artists and ensembles that audiences might otherwise have to travel considerable distances to experience.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

A Concert for More Than 1,300 Fifth Grade Students

Conductor Christopher Confessore leads the Brevard Symphony Orchestra in a program called, "The Great Orchestra Experiment," featuring Eliza Dopira (Mezzo Soprano), and Cameron Matthews (mad scientist/narrator) during the children's concert on February 5, 2026.

One of IRSA's most significant educational initiatives this year was our annual concert for **students from throughout Indian River County.** Over the past 25 years, we have reached more than 25,000 students with this initiative.

For many students, this was an opportunity to experience a full symphony orchestra in a live performance setting – perhaps for the first time.

IRSA worked to make the experience more meaningful than simply attending a concert. **Curriculum materials were provided to teachers in advance,** giving students an opportunity to learn about the orchestra, instruments, composers, and music they would hear before arriving at the performance.

This approach helps transform a concert into an educational experience, allowing students to arrive with context and curiosity and to make connections between classroom learning and live musical performance.

Why It Matters

Music education can open doors to creativity, critical thinking, discipline, collaboration, and cultural understanding. By bringing young people into direct contact with professional musicians and live orchestral music, IRSA is helping introduce the next generation to the power and beauty of symphonic music.

Sean Stork (baritone) performs "I Am a Pirate King" from Pirates of Penzance during the February 5 BSO concert.

SUPPORTING STUDENT MUSICIANS

IRSA's commitment to education extends beyond introducing young people to orchestral music. We also seek to help promising student musicians develop their talents and continue their musical education with practical support including music lessons, performance opportunities, and competitions.

During the 2025 – 2026 season, IRSA provided scholarships and awards for student musicians to pursue their musical development, **totaling $2,500.** We proudly presented our 2026 Concerto Competition on May 11, featuring outstanding young musicians from across the region in Elementary, Middle School, and High School divisions. The competition showcased performances in violin, clarinet, and cello and awarded recipients for their remarkable achievements and contributions to the musical life of our community.

Caroline Perlee, Violinist and first-place winner in the high school division, performs during the IRSA 2026 Concerto Competition held on May 11.

PUTTING INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF YOUNG MUSICIANS

Forte 3D Instruments

IRSA began an innovative partnership with Forte 3D to provide high-quality, durable instruments to student musicians.

The instruments are made using 3D-printed carbon-fiber technology, making them particularly well suited to Florida's challenging climate. Unlike traditional wooden instruments, these instruments are exceptionally durable and resistant to many of the environmental conditions that can affect conventional instruments.

Instruments Provided

INSTRUMENT	NUMBER PROVIDED	VALUE
Forte 3D Violins	5	$ 9,575
Forte 3D Cello	2	7,200
		Total: $16,775

Each instrument represents more than an equipment donation. It represents an opportunity for a young musician to practice, perform, compete, and continue developing a lifelong relationship with music.

The program is designed with sustainability in mind as well: as students graduate and move forward, instruments can be passed on to other deserving students.

Donations to IRSA allowed for the purchase of five violins and two cellos from Forte3D. These instruments will be assigned to local music students in the fall of 2027.

CELEBRATING OUR DONORS

A Special Recital for Those Who Make Our Work Possible

IRSA recognizes that none of these accomplishments would be possible without the generosity of our donors.

During the season, IRSA hosted a **private recital as a benefit for approximately 50 donors,** providing an intimate opportunity to thank our dedicated donors while showcasing the talented musicians we are able to bring to Vero Beach. We offer special thanks to our host Richard and Monica Segal for sharing their lovely home.

The recital also gave donors a tangible connection to the impact of their generosity. Rather than simply supporting an organization, they were able to see and hear the results of that support firsthand.

Pacho Flores (trumpet) and Héctor Molina (cuatro player) of Sinfónica de Minería, perform with pianist and IRSA Board Member, Jacob Craig, during a private recital for donors.

DEEPENING THE CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Pre-Concert Talks

IRSA continued to expand the educational and cultural experience surrounding its concerts by offering **4 pre-concert talks this season,** delivered by conductors, musicians, and soloists.

As a donor benefit, these presentations give patrons an opportunity to learn more about the music, composers, performers, and historical or cultural context before the concert begins. They also help audiences listen more deeply and discover new ways to understand and appreciate orchestral music.

IRSA Board Member, Dr. Anthony Barron, leads the pre-concert discussion with Buffalo Philharmonic Conductor, JoAnn Falleta, providing an insightful and unique introduction to the evening's performance.

OUR DONORS AND SPONSORS

The success of IRSA depends on a broad community of individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations who believe that exceptional music and meaningful arts education are important to the quality of life in our community.

2025 – 2026 Giving

$278,263	$21,705	$299,968
INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

Our Supporters

During the 2025 – 2026 season, 259 individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations provided financial support to IRSA.

Their generosity allows IRSA to:

- Present world-class orchestras and musicians
- Keep exceptional live music available in our community
- Provide educational opportunities for young people
- Support student musicians through scholarships
- Place high-quality instruments in the hands of students
- Present educational talks and special programs
- Introduce students to live orchestral music

Every contribution helps make these opportunities possible.

IRSA President Lois Conrad welcomes donors and sponsors at a private recital, one of the exclusive experiences offered in appreciation of their support.

A SEASON OF GROWTH AND SUCCESS

Building on momentum. Strengthening the organization.

The 2025 – 2026 season was one of IRSA's most successful seasons to date. Three concerts sold out, including **The Academy of St Martin in the Field, Prague Philharmonia, and the Buffalo Philharmonic,** demonstrating the continued enthusiasm for the quality of performances IRSA brings to Indian River County.

Fundraising also exceeded expectations, with contributions surpassing the season's goal by nearly **$80,000.** This financial strength provides IRSA with an important foundation for continuing to present exceptional orchestras while expanding educational and community programs.

Very importantly, we have expanded and strengthened our staffing. After more than seven years as Managing Director, Staci Rosbury transitioned into a new role as our Marketing Consultant. This transition has already brought significant benefits to IRSA, including engaging social media content, regular emails featuring timely and useful information, and increased visibility through interviews with local media.

In May, Teresa Cannady joined IRSA as our new Managing Director. A former international development specialist and attorney, Teresa brings more than 30 years of professional experience and a lifelong love of music. She has supported IRSA for many years, including as a volunteer usher, and brings both a deep familiarity with the organization and a strong commitment to its mission. We also added Becky Silliman, a former teacher and flutist, as our part-time assistant director who provides excellent support and local community knowledge for the team.

We are also deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteer ushers, whose service is essential to the success of every concert. We especially thank our lead usher, Norma Mellor, for her outstanding leadership and commitment.

Behind every exceptional concert is a dedicated team. Staci Rosbury, Teresa Cannady, and Becky Silliman work year-round to ensure extraordinary concerts for our community and to support the next generation of musicians.

IRSA not only serves up great concerts, but gallons and gallons of fresh-squeezed orange juice from Schacht Groves for our concert attendees during intermission.

LOOKING AHEAD

IRSA enters the coming year with a strong foundation and an ambitious vision.

Our goals remain simple:

- Bring exceptional music to our community.
- Inspire young musicians.
- Educate new audiences.
- Support the arts in Indian River County.
- Build a lasting musical legacy.

The work of IRSA is made possible by the combined commitment of our audiences, donors, sponsors, volunteers, educators, musicians, and community partners. We are grateful to everyone who attended a concert, purchased a ticket, contributed, sponsored a program, supported a student, or helped introduce a young person to the world of orchestral music.

Next year promises to be another exciting season with amazing orchestras from around the world. Get your tickets now. Use the QR code, visit our website, or give us a call.

Thank you for helping us make music matter.

INDIAN RIVER SYMPHONIC ASSOCIATION

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Lois Conrad, *President*
Michèle Witt, *Vice President*
Marilyn Bosland, *Secretary*
Raymond Mitchell, *Treasurer*

Anthony Baron
Jacob Craig
Jane Kendall
Louise Kennedy
Carol Mettam
John Murphy
Susan Sussman

Founded in 1993, IRSA is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization serving Indian River County through exceptional symphonic music, education, and community engagement.

2025–2026: A Year of Music, Education & Impact