



ROCKY
RIDGE
MUSIC



2022 Annual Report



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was a landmark year for Rocky Ridge Music as it marked the beginning of our ninth decade of making music and a return to normal operations post-pandemic.

It is clear that the conviction underlying all our work since Rocky Ridge's founding in 1942—that music has a unique ability to elevate the best human qualities—is more important than ever. We are proud to share with you the progress we've made in our effort to help every person live a fuller life through music.

In the following pages, you will find an overview of our achievements and impact and hints of exciting plans for the future. Our brilliant faculty, dedicated staff, and partners new and old have worked tirelessly to bring about positive change in the lives of music students of all backgrounds from across Colorado and the nation. We are grateful for their efforts, and, as always, for the continued support of our community, who cherish our roots and remain committed to our vision for the future.

Melvina Carrick
Board President

SoYoung Lee
Executive & Artistic Director

Student Experience



The 2022 Summer Festival drew students and faculty members from near and far to our mountain site at the foot of Longs Peak for three months of camps and performances. This included both our signature programs—designed for talented school-age classical and jazz students, college-age musicians with their sights set on professional careers, and adult amateurs taking their playing to a new level for the pure joy of it—and ventures into new areas such as string player boot camp and Mariachi fundamentals. Participants in every program dove into RRM’s beloved blend of music study at the highest level combined with immersion in the breathtaking beauty of the Rocky Mountains, and emerged not only with better skills but a heightened sense of the elemental quality of their art.

In Colorado’s Front Range communities, RRM continued the work of rebuilding our programming after the pandemic shutdown. From master classes offering evaluated performance in piano, flute, and horn to high school jazz band coaching, our programs focused on providing experiences not available elsewhere.

At the same time, we continued to increase access for students of all backgrounds, offering scholarships for summer study, marshaling resources to fund individual instruction during the school year, and providing school-based services at no cost to participants.

230

**student
participants**

887

**performance
audience members**
(in-person and virtual)

43%

of students were from Colorado

53%

were from other parts of the U.S.

\$87,371

**scholarships and
work-study awards**

Impact





MUSIC ENHANCES WELL-BEING

RRM's work is based on a theory of change that links participation in the arts to an array of individual-level benefits. While research has provided a wealth of evidence of the connection between music education and adjacent outcomes such as improved academic achievement and educational persistence, we focus on the effects of our programs on immediate personal well-being and increases in musical skill. Indicators of this impact include self-efficacy, self-confidence, persistence, and self-identification as a creative, all part of the psychological foundation for success in any endeavor.



87%

Increased Confidence

87%

Greater Sense of Self-Efficacy

82%

Improved Self-Satisfaction

82%

Increased Overall Self-Satisfaction

84%

Improved Confidence

93%

Increased Motivation

89%

Greater Creativity

Artistic Highlights





MEENA KARIMI,
Afghan Student, JAI, 2022

Meena Karimi, a 16-year-old cellist and composer from Kabul, Afghanistan came to the attention of Mary Beth Tyndall, our RRM Junior Artist Immersion (JAI) cello teacher, about three years ago. Meena was a student at the Afghanistan National Institute of Music in Kabul (ANIM). The ANIM orchestra toured outside of the country and made some beautiful videos. Many people helped arrange for Meena to come to the U.S. to further her education, but things became urgent when the Taliban took control shortly before she was to depart. Meena is incredibly determined, positive, and brave, and she made it to the U.S. where she is a student at a music and art boarding school. Meena needed a supportive, stimulating place to spend part of last summer, and Rocky Ridge was the perfect fit. Meena was a model camper, hardworking, articulate, and fun! She wrote a beautiful piece of music for the cello, piano, and triangle, which will be performed at the 2023 JAI summer faculty concert. She also spoke movingly to the entire camp about her experience as a musician and young woman in Afghanistan. We were honored to have her at camp.

“Being in the beautiful mountains at Rocky Ridge reminded me of my country Afghanistan and inspired me to write music. Through my compositions, I can tell my story. Being at this amazing summer camp not only taught me more about music and being a musician, but it also taught me how we can use our art to connect to people and raise our voices to speak up for justice.”

--Meena Karimi



**CLAUDIA
ANDERSON**

GLASS
CEILINGS PROJECT

Dr. Claudia Anderson, RRM Wind Chair and College Intensive flute faculty member leads a multifaceted career as a teacher, performer, and composer. Her composition Glass Ceilings was the 2023 winner of the National Flute Association's Newly Published Music competition. Here, she discusses the inspiration behind the piece.

"Glass Ceilings began as a commissioning project in late 2019. Based on the phrase that was coined over 40 years ago by a female management consultant who experienced continual discrimination in the workplace, I asked several prominent female composers to write me solo works with electronic soundtracks that represented their take on glass ceilings. With the advent of Covid-19 in early 2020, the five of us met virtually and our group discussion of inequality evolved: from primarily women's struggles to a larger conversation that brought in racial tensions and the people in our society who became the most exposed to harm and illness during that traumatic year. Including myself in the mix, I wrote my first solo work with a soundtrack. In early 2022 I was finally able to tour with the program, and it is incredibly rewarding to feel relevant as a performing artist as the program is met with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a myriad of reactions from listeners to the theme.

From my perspective as a faculty member at Rocky Ridge, Glass Ceilings relates to my philosophy of pushing boundaries wherever possible. Each summer we take in young musicians who emerge several weeks later often transformed, having gone far beyond what they had perceived as their limits. Isabella Bird—writer, explorer, naturalist, the first woman elected to the Royal Geographical Society—accepted no limits from her British Victorian society. She traveled the world, and this included Colorado precisely where Rocky Ridge and its environs stand now. Since reading her travel memoir about traversing these mountain paths alone and in often unforgiving conditions, my own connection to Colorado deepened from experiencing Bird's sharp observations and mighty independent spirit - revealed in her unsparing description."

"Grandeur and sublimity, not softness, are the features of Estes Park. The glades which began so softly are soon lost in the dark primeval forests, with their peaks of rosy granite and their stretches of granite blocks piled and poised by nature in some mood of fury."

A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains by Isabella Bird published in 1879

Partnership





RRM worked with a range of partners to develop innovative programming and to increase access to music education for disadvantaged communities. These efforts included collaborating with Denver-based Upbeat Colorado to provide tuition-free lessons and camp experiences for low-income children in the Denver and Boulder areas, working in the Globeville community with Birdseed Collective to provide ukulele and sing-along instruction for older adults, and offering lessons and summer camps focused on Latin music in partnership with Latino Cultural Arts Center. In addition, we partnered with Estes Park High School and Boulder High School to provide jazz band and orchestra coaching by RRM teaching artists.

A photograph of a person's hands holding an open book, reading it outdoors. The background is a lush green forest. A teal-colored rectangular overlay is in the top right corner, featuring the title 'Who We Are' in white serif font. The book's pages show text from a story, with a page number '259' visible at the bottom. The person is wearing a red and white striped shirt and a green beaded necklace. The book is held open by a wooden stand. The text on the page is partially obscured by the person's hands and the book's binding. The title 'Who We Are' is prominently displayed in the teal box. The overall scene suggests a peaceful moment of reading in nature.

[illegible][illegible]



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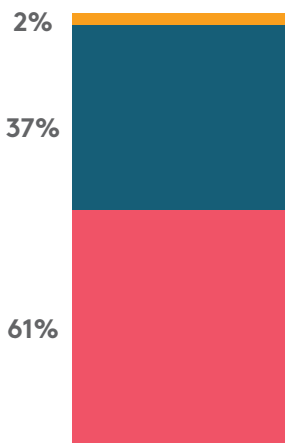
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\$908,479

TOTAL REVENUE

In-kind: \$19,601

Earned income: \$337,277

Donated income: \$551,601

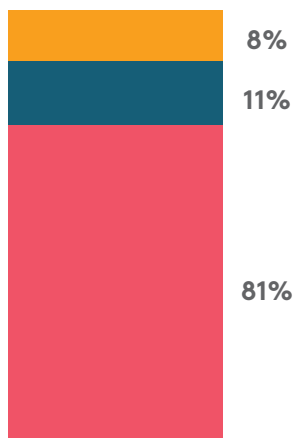
\$611,913

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Administrative: \$47,660

Fundraising: \$69,242

Program: \$495,011



Locations

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465 Longs Peak Rd.
Estes Park, CO 80517
970-586-4031

YEAR-ROUND

1128 Pine St.
Boulder, CO 80302
303-449-1106



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