

**THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA**  
**KEEPING JAZZ ALIVE & VIBRANT**  
**in Northern Nevada**

---

Annual Report 2019

## **Keeping Jazz Alive and Vibrant!**

---

*On behalf of the entire Reno Jazz Orchestra and our staff, I sincerely thank you and all our fans who have donated to our organization and continue to support our local programs. It is because of this generosity that we have provided twenty-two years of service to Northern Nevada.*

***We could not be where we are today without the financial donations and in-kind services that have generously been donated to enhance all our initiatives.***

*Over the years, we have increased our performances and continue to see a nice upsurge in new 'fans' who contributed to our first 'sold out' shows. Our education programs have expanded as well, and you can read about their success in this Annual Report. Capping another successful year, we were also able to hire our first employees - all of whom are passionate about our purpose and fully dedicated to our mission and future success.*

*I am honored to have been a member of the RJO since its inception in 1997 and equally honored to present you this Annual Report. Thank you again for helping us keep jazz an integral part of Northern Nevada today and for years to come!*

*Chuck Reider, Executive/Music Director*



## History & Mission

The Reno Jazz Orchestra is a 17-piece contemporary big band based in Northern Nevada. The band was formed in 1997 by musicians who have performed with acts such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Elvis Presley, Natalie Cole, and Luciano Pavarotti and traveled the world with legendary performers.

Our mission is to build a greater appreciation of jazz in Northern Nevada by providing outstanding big band performances, promoting the artistry of Reno Jazz Orchestra musicians through a variety of ensembles, and supporting jazz education through a mentorship program in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. All combined, we contribute to the vibrancy, diversity, cultural vitality, and quality of our community's artistic life.

## Educational Programs

---

### *Jazz in the Schools*

The Reno Jazz Orchestra's annual Jazz in the Schools (JITS) event takes place each February in the Department of Music's prestigious Nightingale Concert Hall at the University of Nevada, Reno. The program is supported through grants and private contributions. Hundreds of young jazz musicians in Washoe County hear other student jazz ensembles, receive feedback from great clinicians, and hear a concert by the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

This past year, sixteen middle school and high school big bands from the area performed and received feedback from clinicians Dean Sorenson, Matt Hoorman, and Paul Lucckesi. All are nationally recognized jazz educators brought in by RJO for this event. Three small combos performed and received feedback from UNR Jazz Faculty members Andy Heglund, Peter Epstein, and Hans Halt. This year's featured performer, John Riley, held an afternoon clinic with RJO. RJO continued a three-day in-service program for WCSD Band Directors who attended workshops led by UNR Jazz Faculty and clinician Dean Sorenson who illustrated rehearsal techniques by rehearsing the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Because of the outpouring of local financial support, there is no charge to the schools, students, and Band Directors to participate in Jazz in the Schools. Over 400 students and parents were involved in Saturday's activities. The Sunday matinee featured acclaimed drummer performing artist and educator John Riley.



## **Educational Programs (cont.)**

### ***Reno Jazz Orchestra Mentor Program***

The Reno Jazz Orchestra Jazz Mentor program, in its ninth year, continued to expand with the help of the EL Cord Foundation, City of Reno, State of Nevada, and Healing HealthCare Systems funding. Participating schools this year were:

*Carson Middle School*

*Alder Creek Middle School*

*Swope Middle School*

*Depoali Middle School*

*Billinghurst Middle School*

*Damonte High School*

*McQueen High School*

*Galena High School*

*Reno High School*

*Hug High School*

*Incline High School*

*Truckee High School*

*Wooster High School*

*Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra 1*

The Mentor Program placed twelve jazz educators in the fourteen mentioned schools over the course of eight months. The mentors included Reno Jazz Orchestra members Jim Garaventa, Karl Busch, Jonathan Phillips, and John Bennum; University of Nevada Reno Jazz faculty Peter Epstein, Andy Heglund, and Josh Reed; UNR Grad Students or recent graduates Brandon Sherman, Dylan Coleman-Tunstall, Julien Knowles and David Gervais.

These twelve mentors provided 100 sessions of professional service serving over 340 students. This program has proven to be a beneficial and rewarding way to keep jazz alive in our public schools and community.



## Educational Programs (cont.)

### *Reno Jazz Orchestra Jazz Workshop*

The RJO continued our Saturday Jazz Workshops for middle and high school students focusing on jazz improvisation. Directors Bryan McAllister (spring) and Dylan Coleman-Tunstall (fall) each held eight sessions. Students learned the melody to jazz standards and the notes to improvise over the song all by ear. Included were jazz theory sessions and break-out sessions for specific instruments. As a capstone event, the students opened our May and November Hall Concerts at the Good Luck Macbeth Theater.



## **Reno Jazz Orchestra 2019 Performances**

---

### **Jazz in the Schools**

*February 10th (Reno, NV)*

Approximately 375 in attendance

### **Northern Nevada Hopes Benefit**

*April 30th (Reno, NV)*

Approximately 85 in attendance

### **Tahoe Family Solutions Gala**

*May 2nd (Incline Village, NV)*

Approximately 175 in attendance

### **Hall Concert – The Music of Vince Mendoza**

*May 31st & June 1st (Reno, NV)*

Approximately 200 in attendance

### **The Queen of Soul, a Loving Tribute to Aretha Franklin**

*July 15th (Reno, NV)*

*July 21st (Reno, NV)*

*July 22nd (Sand Harbor, NV)*

Approximately 2800 in attendance

### **Jazz and Beyond**

*August 25th (Carson City, NV)*

Approximately 300 in attendance

### **An Evening with Kurt Elling & The RJO**

*September 1st (Reno, NV)*

*September 1st (Sand Harbor, NV)*

Approximately 1500 in attendance

### **Hall Concert – Stan Kenton Tribute**

*November 18th & 19th (Reno, NV)*

Approximately 200 in attendance

### **Home for the Holidays**

*December 12th & 13th (Reno, NV)*

Approximately 650 in attendance

**Platinum**

*Anonymous*

*Susan Mazer & Dallas Smith*

**Gold**

*Anonymous*

*Eleanor and Bob Preger*

**Silver**

*Sandra Cath and David Contis*

*Lilian and Steve Frank*

*George Foster*

*Dent Hand, Jr.*

*Julie and Craig Rauchle*

**Bronze**

*Edna and Bruno Benna Foundation*

*Tony Czarnik*

*Ruthie and Jim Garaventa*

*Lauren and Joe Gorman*

*Lana and Stephen Hardy*

*Alicia and James House*

*Ginnie Kersey*

*Mary Ann and James Kidder*

*Deborah and Kent Lundgren*

*Martha and Bruce MacKay*

*Charlotte and Dick McConnell*

*Jane and Jim Nichols*

**Bronze (cont.)**

*Shari Pheasant*

*Candy and Chuck Reider*

*Baiba and Ainars Rodins*

*Nancy Rose*

*Irene and Steven Self*

*Lois and Don Smaltz (in*

*memory of Leonard Neidhold)*

*Maria and Arthur Thompson*

*Linda and King Won*

*Christine Worthington*

**RJO Partner**

*Paula Knickerbocker*

*The Koch Family Trust*

*Roz Reynolds*

*Jennifer Stern*

**RJO Band Fan**

*Nancy Podewils-Baba*

*Anne Bacon*

*Diane Baranowski*

*Kathleen and John Beckman*

*Roberta and John Bell*

*Suzanne and Matthew Booher*

*Kelly and James Borelli*

*Bernard Bronov*

*Elinor and David Bugli*

**RJO Band Fan (cont.)**

*Debra E. Calleros*

*Terry and Bob Casaceli*

*Marilyn Costa*

*Kim Driggs*

*Patty Engels*

*Susan Fittinghoff*

*Cathy and Robert Gabrielli*

*Priscilla and Nate Gordon*

*Fred Green*

*Ruth Gregory*

*Deborah Hamlin*

*Donna and Joseph Harvey*

*Diane Jankiewicz*

*Susan and David Kelley*

*Janet and Monte Klein Family  
Foundation*

*Pennie and Knute Knudson*

*Mary and Frank Marfisi*

*Joseph S. McElhinney, M.D., J.S.*

*Kathleen and Robert Mentgen*

*Denise and Peter Menzies, Jr.*

*Anna Mkrtchyan*

*Elaine Moser*

*Linda and Steve Newberg*

*Jay Orlich*

*Doris and Richard Phelps*



**RJO Band Fan (cont.)**

*Jacqueline Pisterello*

*Danne Polk*

*Wayne Pressel*

*Tanglewood Productions*

*Lee Ragonese*

*Cathy Rossner*

*Richard Siegel TTE*

*Ann Silver*

*Larry Simcoe*

*Micheline Thompson*

*Kaye and Joe Shackford*

*Jane and Thomas Schwenk*

*Carolyn and Michael Smith*

*Lois and Robert Strejc*

*Karen and Michael Traynor*

*Christine Veach*

*Vera Weber*

*Karla Werninghaus*

*Kathleen and Andrew Woodard*

*Laura Worden*

**RJO Friends**

*Doug Battista*

*John Bonham*

*Margaret and Richard Davis*

*Theresa-Rice Dietrich*

**RJO Friends (cont.)**

*Diana Foley*

*Margaret Holman*

*Martha and Don Jessup*

*Lois Ling*

*Charlene Martin*

*Joyce Newman*

*Peg Murphy*

*David Shintani*

**CORPORATE SPONSORS**

*Absolute Music*

*A Master Mechanic*

*Chase International*

*Healing HealthCare Systems*

*Horse Power Strategies*

*Mishe Creative*

*Montreux Golf and Country Club*

*Strategic HR Partners*

*TVC Accounting, LLC*



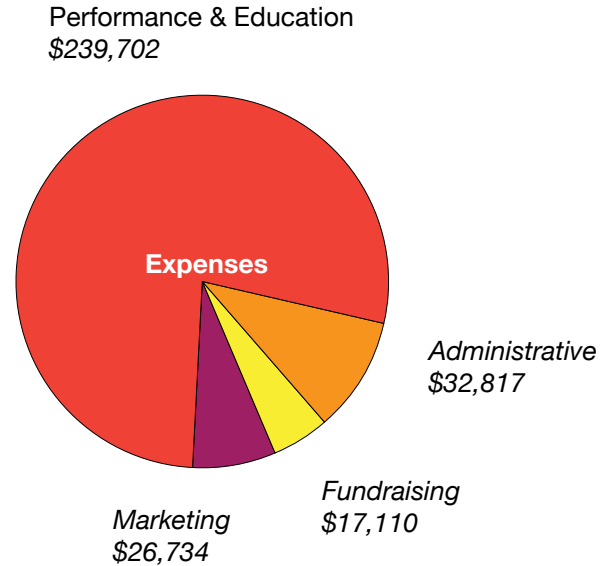
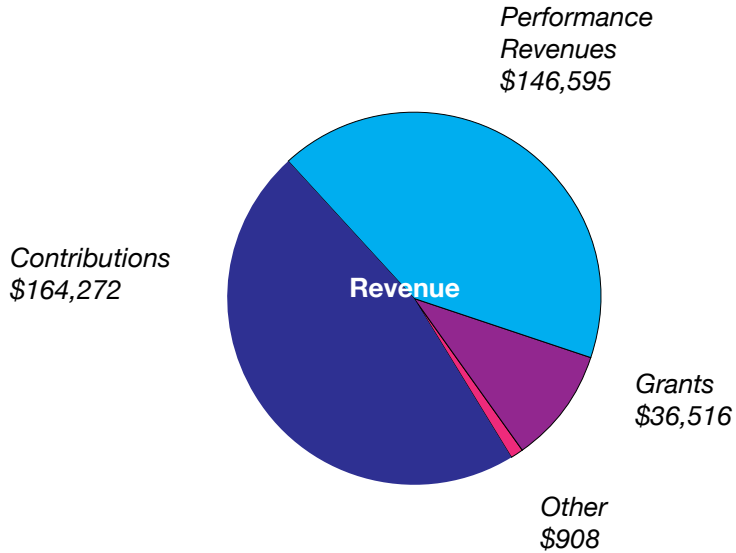
**Grantors**

<i>State of Nevada</i>	\$23,206
<i>Music Performance Trust Fund</i>	\$ 2,310
<i>City of Reno</i>	\$ 6,000
<i>E.L. Cord Foundation</i>	\$ 5,000

**Total** **\$36,516**

## 2019 Financial Highlights

---



**76% of expenses go directly toward Education and Performance**

2019 Board of Directors

Dallas Smith, President  
Chuck Reider, Executive/Music Director  
Steve Self, Vice President  
Scott Thunder, Treasurer  
Joe Gorman, Secretary  
Cindy Davis, Member  
Mike Eardley, Member  
Linda Newberg, Member  
Shari Pheasant, Member  
Andrew Woodard, Member

2019 RJO Staff & Associates

Chuck Reider, Executive / Music Director  
chuck.reider@renojazzorchestra.org  
Lee Koch, Marketing / Development Director  
lee.koch@renojazzorchestra.org  
Micheline Thompson, Special Events Director / Development  
micheline.thompson@renojazzorchestra.org  
Danne Polk, Webmaster  
danne.polk@renojazzorchestra.org  
John Bennum, Assistant Executive Director  
john.bennum@renojazzorchestra.org  
Cody Forcier, Stage / Library Manager  
cody.forcier@renojazzorchestra.org  
Nichole Heglund, Education Director  
nichole.heglund@renojazzorchestra.org

**Contact Us**

RenoJazzOrchestra.org

775.372.6160

support@renojazzorchestra.org

124 West Taylor Street  
Reno, Nevada 89509

*Like us. Follow us. Share your love of Jazz.*

