



# Listen to the Future

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE TOP

.....

Based in Boston, From the Top is America's largest national platform celebrating the stories, talents, and character of classically-trained young musicians. Through live events, NPR and YouTube broadcasts, scholarships, and leadership programs, From the Top empowers these extraordinary young people to engage and inspire music lovers of all ages.

.....

Dear friends,

Welcome to our 2015–2016 annual report.

2015–2016 was a record year for From the Top; more than three million radio listeners, audience members, and online fans enjoyed the music and stories of our young musicians.

But sometimes, we get lost in the statistics, and forget that music, in the hands of From the Top kids, is vital to our souls, our society, and our future. Especially now. Especially today.

So, in the pages that follow, we'd like you to meet four of the amazing young people we worked with in 2015–2016: Oliver, Dylan, Ayana, and Lindsay. They represent more than 200 From the Top performers of diverse backgrounds from across America. We are proud and honored to share their voices and talents with audiences of all ages.

If you have listened to our show, watched our videos, or shared our messages on social media this past year, thank you for being part of a community that believes our young musicians deserve to be heard, recognized, and supported.

If you have made a financial contribution to From the Top, thank you for making dreams come true for Oliver, Dylan, Ayana, Lindsay, and hundreds of their peers. We are humbled by your support and are putting it to good use.



Jennifer Hurley-Wales and Gerald Slavet  
Co-CEOs and Executive Producers



Co-CEOs and Executive Producers  
Jennifer Hurley-Wales  
and Gerald Slavet



Music and stories that  
need to be heard...

“As a global community, it’s been a very painful past few months. At times like these, I feel like music is very relevant, and I hope as you listen to this piece, it gives you a chance to reflect on the human condition, and all the good in the world.”

**18-YEAR-OLD OLIVER HERBERT**

.....  
18-year-old cellist Oliver Herbert performed on **NPR’S FROM THE TOP WITH HOST CHRISTOPHER O’RILEY** in November 2015, just a few days after terrorist attacks rocked Paris, France.

Each week on *From the Top*, Oliver and musicians like him remind us that music has the power to heal, make us laugh, cry, connect, and revive our hope for the future.

NPR’s *From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley* is recorded before live audiences in 16 cities across America, and is heard by nearly half a million listeners each week. Being on *From the Top* is one of the most sought-after honors for aspiring young classically-trained musicians in America.  
.....



“I was buying an ice cream from the Mr. Softee truck in New York when I heard my name called out by two guys from across the street. At first I thought that they were strangers so I didn't reply – but they went on to ask if I played the cello and if I was in that music video...”

12-YEAR-OLD DYLAN WU



Watch our cover of Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" at [www.fromthetop.org/shakeitoff](http://www.fromthetop.org/shakeitoff).

.....  
12-year-old cellist Dylan Wu was seen by more than 5 million viewers in From the Top's "Shake It Off" music video collaboration with superstar trio Time for Three, released in January 2016.

**FROM THE TOP'S SEE THE MUSIC VIDEO SERIES** introduces audiences to the extraordinary talents of our young musicians through online videos. By combining popular music with classical instrumentation and virtuosity, *See the Music* breaks down classical music stigmas and provides an entry point for millions of new fans.

.....





Leadership potential  
ignited...

“Seeing how the students reacted to how we love music and how we shared it – it was so empowering to know that we can make a difference in this world with music.”

17-YEAR-OLD AYANA TERAUCHI



.....  
17-year-old Ayana Terauchi was one of four From the Top alumni who traveled to elementary, middle, and high schools in Louisville, Kentucky, after a recording of NPR's *From the Top* in February 2016. The young arts leaders conducted outreach workshops and performances for hundreds of students.

From the Top's **CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS LEADERS (CDAL)** empowers From the Top musicians to harness their own talents and abilities to make a difference with their music. CDAL offers leadership training to all of From the Top young performers, both on the national tour and in our hometown of Boston.

The Louisville residency was generously supported by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.  
.....

“Due to my parents’ financial challenges, I began to think I would never be able to visit any colleges. After I received the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award, I had the funds needed to visit top conservatories and pay professors for vocal lessons. I don’t think I would have been accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music if I hadn’t been on *From the Top*. It greatly boosted my confidence, and provided me with the funds to travel for live auditions.”

**17-YEAR-OLD LINDSAY REYNOLDS**

.....

17-year-old soprano Lindsay Reynolds was one of 20 recipients of From the Top’s **JACK KENT COOKE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD** in 2015–2016. Thanks to the generosity of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the Young Artist Award helps young musicians with financial need pay for lessons, auditions, music camps, and instruments. In 2015–2016, the median family income of our scholarship recipients was \$46,107.

.....





# 2015–2016 at a Glance



**OVER 3000  
STUDENTS & SENIORS**

SERVED THROUGH ARTS OUTREACH

**TWENTY  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS**

**500k**  
WEEKLY  
RADIO LISTENERS

**OVER 8 MILLION**  
*SEE THE MUSIC VIDEO VIEWS*



**200+**

YOUNG MUSICIANS  
PERFORMED ON RADIO  
AND VIDEO PROGRAMS

**52** CDAL BOSTON  
ARTS LEADERS

## 2015-2016 FROM THE TOP SUPPORTERS

From the Top thanks the following contributors for their generous unrestricted and programmatic support between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Please contact Shirley Barkai at 617.437.0707 x104 or sbarkai@fromthetop.org to update us on any necessary changes.

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### \$100,000-\$499,999

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Host Christopher O'Riley with young performers after a radio show recording in February 2016

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Participants in *Sounds & Stories*, From the Top's community residency in Miami, Florida, in May 2016. Generous funding was provided by the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust.

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The audience applauds for pianist and alum George Li and NEC's Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at a radio show recording in October 2015

# 2016 FROM THE TOP GALA SUPPORTERS

From the Top thanks the following contributors for their generous gifts and pledges made to the 2016 From the Top Gala between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. For more information about the 2017 From the Top Gala, please contact Rebecca Reiner at 617.437.0707 x120 or rreiner@fromthetop.org.

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Violinist Aubree Oliverson and host Christopher O'Riley perform at From the Top's 2016 Gala

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Shirley Barkai  
Anne Beresford and  
Timothy Banker  
Jodi and Sadie Beznoska  
Yvonne Brooks & Njioma Grevious  
Michael Burak  
Dillon Buss  
Martin and Bonnie Chanzit  
Douglas Chene  
Katie and Charlie Cimet  
Dianne Collazo  
Vivien Cord and Ed McClure  
Michael Dahlberg  
Maria Denslow  
Rosalind Ewalt  
Jimmy and Leslie Gallant  
Howard Goldstein  
Andrea and Christopher Green  
Emma M. Greene  
Matthew Griffing  
Katherine Hall Page and Alan Hein  
Andrew Heyward  
Anne Hildreth  
Eun-Mee and William Hong

Su and Myong Joun  
Christopher J. Karpinsky  
Nancy Krieger  
Emily Laird  
Sandra Leacock  
Nicole Leonard and  
Tomás McElwain  
Annie and Andrew Lippman  
Georgia Lyman  
Julie Mallatt  
Tania Malven  
Nancy Mastroianni  
D'ondria and Joseph Maxwell  
Lee Miller  
Parul Patel  
Harry Philip  
Colette Phillips  
Victor Pouw  
Pauline Procopy  
Tami and David Rich  
Lynne Rutkin  
Melissa Saalfield  
Mary and Edward Sholkovitz  
John and Melinda Shumway  
Jonathan Stanley  
Jill Strominger  
Anthony Tjan and  
Laura Murray-Tjan  
Claudia and Andy Veitch  
Andrea Weiss  
Pamela and Philip Weitzel  
Jo Wellins  
Nicole Wittlin  
Sarah Ziegler  
Anonymous (7)

\* in-kind gifts and services

# 2015-2016 EVENT HOSTS

Special thanks to those who  
generously hosted events on  
behalf of From the Top

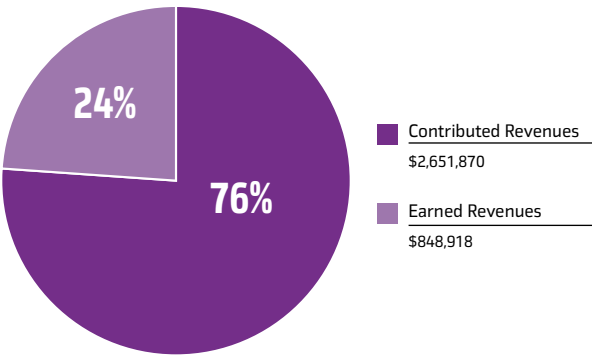
.....  
Leslie and Harmar Brereton  
Carolyn Bucksbaum  
Cynthia and Oliver Curme  
Marcia and Don Flaks  
Cornelia Funke  
Alex Furlotti  
Pamela and John Humphrey  
Kathleen and Duncan McIntyre  
Inmaculada Silos-Santiago and  
Thomas Deuel  
Tarasio Fine Instruments & Bows  
Susannah and Antonio Weiss



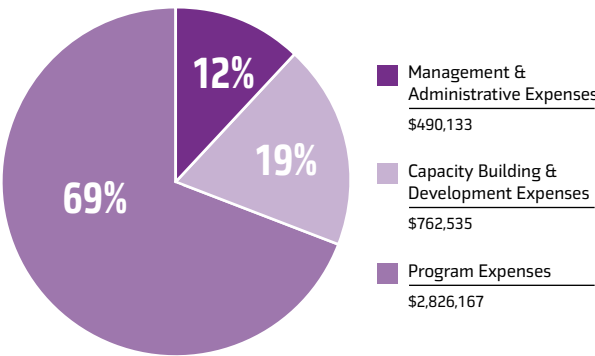
# FY16 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2015–2016, From the Top’s budget held steady at approximately \$4,000,000 in operating expenses, with \$578,047 of those expenses covered by grants received in previous years.

## REVENUES: \$3,500,788



## EXPENSES: \$4,078,835\*



\* includes program expenses funded by prior-year grants

Management is responsible for the preparation of From the Top’s financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A complete audited financial statement can be viewed at [www.fromthetop.org/auditedfinancials](http://www.fromthetop.org/auditedfinancials), or requested by mail at From the Top, 295 Huntington Avenue, Suite 201, Boston, MA 02115.

## LISTEN

**NPR’S FROM THE TOP ON THE AIR**  
Check listings at [www.fromthetop.org](http://www.fromthetop.org)

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**NPR’S FROM THE TOP STREAMING**  
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## WATCH

**SEE THE MUSIC VIDEO SERIES**  
[www.youtube.com/fromthetop](http://www.youtube.com/fromthetop)

**NPR’S FROM THE TOP NATIONAL TOUR**  
[www.fromthetop.org/nationaltour](http://www.fromthetop.org/nationaltour)

## APPLY

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**CDAL BOSTON**  
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**TWITTER**  
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**BLOG**  
[www.fromthetop.org/blog](http://www.fromthetop.org/blog)

## SUPPORT

From the Top is an independent non-profit organization.

**MAKE A GIFT**  
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Sue Schardt

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Dawn Upshaw  
Benjamin Zander

\* denotes board members whose service concluded in the 2015–2016 season



# FROM THE TOP

295 Huntington Avenue, Suite 201  
Boston, MA 02115



Great Kids. Great Music.