The Journey Continues

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT
About Us

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.

LISTEN to NPR's From the Top with Host Christopher O'Riley, public radio’s most popular weekly one-hour classical music program

ON NPR
 airing weekly on more than 230 stations - check local listings

PODCAST
www.fromthetop.org/podcast

STREAMING
Full radio show archive at www.fromthetop.org/archive

WATCH incredible young musicians share their talents

ATTEND A LIVE RECORDING
www.fromthetop.org/nationaltour

VIDEOS
www.youtube.com/fromthetop

SHARE our videos, news, and alumni updates

FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/fromthetopfans

TWITTER
www.twitter.com/classicalkid

INSTAGRAM
www.instagram.com/fromthetopfans

Our Mission

From the Top celebrates the power of music in the hands of extraordinary young people by
• Transforming the lives of young musicians
• Sparking interest in classical music with new audiences
• Transcending boundaries through shared musical experiences

Welcome

Dear Friends,

We are proud to present you with From the Top’s 2014–2015 Annual Report.

As we reflect on the journey of From the Top, from an idea born on a street corner in Boston more than 15 years ago to this past wonderful year, we can’t help but feel immense pride in what’s been accomplished, and excitement about what’s to come.

2014–2015 was full of milestone moments like the 300th episode of NPR’s From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley, a record-setting gala, a new commissioned concerto, and the fifth year of our incredibly inspiring Boston-based arts leadership programs.

We marked an astonishing 10-year anniversary with our dedicated scholarship partners at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and we traveled deep into the hills of Kentucky for a life-changing musical experience with our alumni.

And, we laid the seeds for a host of new initiatives designed to bring the music and stories of our young musicians to millions of new fans in the years to come.

None of this would have happened without you. Thank you for supporting our journey, and the journeys of thousands of young musicians across the country.

Gerald Slavet
Co-CEO
From the Top
Jennifer Hurley-Wales
Co-CEO
From the Top
From a historical milestone for our signature radio program to a record-breaking year in our hometown of Boston, this year was full of great moments. Here are a few of our favorites:

MARKING 15 YEARS OF RADIO SHOWS
The 15th season of NPR’s From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley took us to 16 cities around the country. We marked our 300th recording, and even premiered a new concerto composed by alum and board member Michael Thurber. Together with presenters and radio station partners, we reached nearly 10,000 people through our live recordings, and more than 550,000 listeners each week. Every recording reminded audiences of how much young musicians have to offer as we face an increasingly challenging world.

On Show 300 at NEC’s Jordan Hall in Boston, 14-year-old pianist and composer Anna Larsen opened up about how music helps her cope with tough times. “I’ve struggled through some times of anxiety and depression,” she shared, “and my music [lets] me express myself in a way that’s helpful.”

I listen almost every week. [From the Top is] one of the best shows on NPR and certainly the best on any medium. Thank you!”
HUDSON, A SELF-DESCRIBED "AVID FAN"

A new concerto, “The Three Musketeers: A Play for Instruments” premiered at a recording with the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra. An alum of Interlochen and From the Top, “Three Musketeers’ composer and double bassist Michael Thurber said of his experience, “To come back amongst these kids that are in the middle of what I had gone through... it just charges the whole thing with energy!” These days, Michael performs with Stay Human on CBS’s The Late Show with Stephen Colbert band and recently joined the From the Top Board of Directors.

Learn more about Michael Thurber’s new concerto at www.fromthetop.org/threemusketeers.

ARTS LEADERSHIP IN BOSTON
More than 45 young musicians in the Center for the Development of Arts Leaders, our largest class to date, brought music to nearly 2,000 Greater Boston audience members throughout the year. From teaching residencies to performances at a local women’s shelter, these arts leaders discovered new paths to sharing music in their communities.

Through the Center for the Development of Arts Leaders, cellist Andrew Byun (above), was a teaching artist at the musiConnects program at Chittick Elementary School in Mattapan, mentoring a young musician. “To be able to see how [he] improves, and our relationship improves, through music... it’s been a very powerful, lasting moment for me,” he says.

A RECORD-BREAKING GALA
More than 200 guests filled the MIT Media Lab in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for a rollicking party at our annual Gala, raising nearly $500,000 to support our programs.

At right: Alum percussionist Marcelina Suchacka and her ensemble, Excelsis, kick off the 2015 Gala
On October 24, 2014, we recorded a special anniversary episode of NPR’s From the Top with Host Christopher O’Riley at Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC. All of the soloists featured on the recording were recipients of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Artist Award, a transformative $10,000 scholarship. Together with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, we proudly celebrated 10 years, 200 scholarship recipients, and more than $2 million in scholarships awarded. The show was preceded by a multi-day residency that reached more than 600 local students in Loudon County, Virginia.

Unlike many young musicians, pianist Clifton Williams didn’t grow up with private lessons and beautiful instruments; he struggled to find his way out of the poverty and violence of Washington, DC. He received the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award in 2009, and used the award to attend music camps at, among other places, Berklee College of Music, where he would eventually earn a dual degree in Music Education and Contemporary Writing and Production. In 2015, he returned to From the Top to accompany the Children of the Gospel Choir at our anniversary celebration recording and provide leadership at the pre-show residency. Clifton is currently living and working in Los Angeles, as both a pianist and songwriter.

When my mom told me I had received the Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Award I was so happy! I knew my mom struggled to pay for my musical training, so it was a huge relief for my family.”

8-year-old pianist Oscar Paz Guzman, one of the performers on the anniversary show recording.

Experience the joy of this anniversary celebration by listening to the show at www.fromthetop.org/jkcf10.
Sharing Powerful Musical Experiences

In April 2015, with generous funding from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, we ventured to Appalachia for our first-ever Arts Leadership Residency independent of our radio program. From the Top alumni musicians Anna DeLoi, Chad Lilley, Matt Dykeman, and Ryan Shannon, along with From the Top’s education team, traveled to the hills of Kentucky for an intensive week of collaborative music-making and outreach. With the help of partners at The Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, the Hazard Community and Technical College/Greater Hazard Area Arts Council Performing Arts Series, and the Kentucky School of Bluegrass and Traditional Music, From the Top’s arts leaders immersed themselves in the sounds and culture of Hazard, Kentucky, making music together and exploring how music can be part of a community’s journey toward reinventing itself.

In the hills of Eastern Kentucky, you hear a lot of ‘well, my grandmother said’ and to play the cards you’re dealt. But maybe [after this], they’ll say, ‘No, I can change those cards.’”

— Paulettta Smith, Band Teacher at Hazard Independent Schools

Harpist Anna DeLoi discovered that helping others express themselves can be incredibly powerful. “I’m so used to being the musician, the performer who gets to speak for her entire audience,” says Anna. “But as a leader, sometimes it’s more valuable to be the sounding board, projecting the voices of others.”

Classical Saxophonist Chad Lilley turned down a major performance opportunity to do this residency, surprising his family, friends, and especially himself. It was the right decision. “It was not so much about showcasing me or my music,” he explains, “but about using music to help others get to a new place... a passing of the torch.”

Clarinetist Matt Dykeman (at left) opened up to the students of Hazard about the self-doubt and fear he faced in his musical career, and found himself surrounded by those who understood. “I realized that knowing who we are is relatable to any age and any person,” he shares. “It is what we all want.”

Violinist Ryan Shannon feared he wouldn’t be able to connect with the students of Hazard, but left feeling more inspired than he’d ever imagined. “Anyone, in any situation, can use their voice, their passion, to change the circumstances around them,” he says. “Sometimes, they just need a reminder that they will be heard.”

See video testimonials from this residency at www.fromthetop.org/hazardky.
Looking Ahead: Reaching New Audiences

2014–2015 saw the beginnings of exciting new programs at From the Top, designed to reach younger and more diverse audiences. We began showcasing our young musicians in music videos and profiles, and expanding our live events. As a result of these new programs, we’ve nearly tripled our audience, reaching more than 2.5 million people in 2014–2015. In the years to come, you’ll see more videos, a new podcast, and a renewed focus on reaching audiences outside of the traditional concert hall and radio platforms.

ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SUPER BOWL: Alumni pianists Derek Wang and Sasha Voinov face off in a piano dual covering the CBS sports theme... and a little Chopin.

TIME FOR THREE: Classical superstars Time for Three decide to do a little busking on Boston’s Greenway, but encounter three young From the Top alums with different plans.

SEE YOU AGAIN: Rapper Lotus Taylor collaborates with From the Top musicians in a moving cover of Charlie Puth and Wiz Khalifa’s “See You Again.”

MOM’S TIPS: In this series of video shorts, music moms and dads are offered survival tips.

Watch all of the above videos along with many more at From the Top’s YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/fromthetop, and subscribe to get email updates.
To update us on any necessary changes.
June 30, 2015. Please contact Marissa Finer at 617.437.0707 x119

2014–2015 FROM THE TOP SUPPORTERS

Anonymous
The Volgenau Foundation
Burton and Gloria Rose
Lia and William Poorvu
Charitable Trust
Mortimer Charitable Lead Trust
The Llewellyn Foundation
The Curme Family
WilmerHale*
Barr Foundation
$25,000–$49,999
New England Conservatory*
The Janey Fund
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation
Helen and Peter Bing

$50,000–$99,999
Charitable Trust
The William R. Kenan, Jr.
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
Wallace Special Projects Fund
Jordan Kretchmer
Guy and Pam Forman
Susan and Eric Dunn
Inanna Donnelley and
Community Connections
Jane Chen and Dahong Qian
at The Boston Foundation
Matching Gift Program

$10,000–$24,999
Anonymous
Robert and Linda Williams
Janet and Dean Whitla
Stephen Shapiro and Amy Attas
Wendy Shattuck and Sam Plimpton
Marie Louise and David Scudder
Bernard and Barbro Osher
Marie and Parker Llewellyn
The LIZ Peace Fund
Karen S. Levy

$25,000–$49,999
Barr Foundation
Open Fields Fund of the
Foundation Community Serving
Richmond and Central Virginia
John and Janet Pattillo
WilmerHula*

$50,000–$99,999
Matching Gift Program

2014–2015 EVENT HOSTS
Special thanks to those who generously hosted events on behalf of us:
Scott Klapman
Lia and William Poorvu
Goddard House Assisted Living
in Brookline
Jacqueline and Alan Goldberg
Yvette Hochberg
Louise Holliday
Marilyn Ivy and John Pemberton
David Jick
Elizabeth and Daniel Jick
Craig Keyes and Jeffrey Oren
Michael Kridak
Karl Kutz
Mr. John Lee
Soo Youn and Peter Lee
Jane and Hugo Leidnik
Kristin and Lewis Sherman
Lea Slowe and Patricia Daly-Lipe
Jan and Elizabeth Lobel
Barbara Mancherian
Richard D. and Claire W. Morse
Foundation
Susan and Bill Nash
Ruth Nemzoff and Harris Berman
Susan Nembhard
Margaret Ann and Donald Harris
Dr. John B. Nolin
David Jackson
Mary Jane-Steinmetz
Michael Klarmann
Deborah and Michael Klein
Michael Klein and Joan Failey
Kathryn Kucharski
Dan Leach
Margery Lieber and
Patrick Szynski
Silverman.
Luisa Hunnewell
Larry Newman
Jennifer Hurley
and Edward Hurley-Wales
BM Matching Grants Program
Dodge Jones Foundation
Teresa Kang
William and Gretchen Kimbal Fund
Dr. and Mrs. Dinko Koch

Lori Laitman and Bruce Rosenblum
Elaine and Robert Leibuhn
Stacy, Joan, and Sophia Lee
Patricia Ann and Michael C. Lipper
Ann and Hal Logan
Jose and Ina Lopez
Heather MacDonald
Duncan and Kathie McTyer
Claire Muhm and Rory O'Connor

Frank Marinelli
Nicky and Noel Delk
Robert Tae Family Association
Susan and Kenneth Richardson
Merliss Sarnoff
Elizabeth Sirokovsky
Hadasah Wagner
Patricia and Howard Wilson
Sandra and Wayne Doak
Eve, Lester Wu and Carolyn Shih
Valerie Yee
Mr. Benjamin Zander

$50,000–$999,999
Batchellette Matching Gift Program
Molly and John Beard
Bryan Rafael
Fredericka and Howard Stevenson
Ruth Weinerberger
Olivia and Barry Wish
Anonymous (2)
$1,000–$2,499
Marcha Allan
Patricia Anderson
The ASAP Foundation
The Paul and Edith Balson
Foundation
José Borres
and Jack Bratmayer
Shelagh and Matt Burnham
Albert and Brenda Butzal
Carroll and John Cabot
Anastasia and David Christianson
Ed, Laura, and John Henry Crawford
Joan and Domenic Favero
Tracey and Dr. Frankel
Elise and Henry Hilman
John and Pamela Humphrey
Susanah Hummell
Luisa Hunnewell
Larry Newman
Louise Hurley
and Edward Hurley-Wales
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Valerie Yee
Mr. Benjamin Zander
Anonymous (2)
$5,000–$9,999
Elizabeth K. Smith
Tom and Lisa Blumen
David Fiedgenbaum and
MacMeyer
Fish & Richardson P.C.
Guy and Pam Forman
Connie and Michael Fullenwider
Patricia Deegan
Sheila and Irene Heller
John and Pamela Humphrey
Elizabeth Sirokovsky
Advised Fund of the Combined
Foundation, Inc.

$5,000–$9,999
Kent and Marie-José Bau
Kate Bernstein
Fred and Marjorie Harlow
The Lost & Foundry, Inc. / the
carmine Family
and Edward Hurley-Wales
Lesley and Ben Inker

Marie and Parker Llewellyn
Frank and Stephen Rosenberg
Diane and James Gallo
Dore Pell
Janet and Dean Whitla
Linda Senecal
Anne and Rodney Pearlman
Ruth Nemzoff and Harris Berman
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Valerie Yee
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Anonymous (2)
Statement of Financial Position
Year ended June 30, 2015 (with comparative totals for FY14)

**ASSETS**

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<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Restricted temporarily</th>
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**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

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<tr>
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Management is responsible for the preparation of From the Top’s financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. From the Top’s financial statements have been audited by Cohn Reznick, LLP. A complete audited financial statement can be viewed at www.fromthetop.org/auditedfinancials, or requested by mail at From the Top, 295 Huntington Avenue, Suite 201, Boston, MA 02115.

*Includes future-year revenues

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**FY15 Financial Summary**

- **REVENUES:** $4,232,315*
  - Contributed Revenues: $3,585,627 (85%)
  - Earned Revenues: $646,688 (15%)
- **EXPENSES:** $3,758,583
  - Management & Administrative Expenses: $465,279 (12%)
  - Capacity Building & Development Expenses: $630,565 (17%)
  - Program Expenses: $2,662,739 (71%)
FROM THE TOP STAFF

Co-CEO/Executive Producer..................................................Jennifer Hurley-Wales
Co-CEO/Executive Producer..................................................Gerald Slavet
Executive Assistant............................................................Cullen E. Bouvier

Senior Radio Producer............................................................Tom Voegeli
Director of Content & Production............................................Tim Banker
Production Manager...............................................................Elizabeth DeVore
Associate Music Producer.....................................................Erin Nolan
Associate Producer for Radio & Video.....................................Mark Williams

Director of Admissions & Alumni Relations............................Tim Lienhard
Scholarship Manager..............................................................Claire Shepro
Admissions & Alumni Relations Assistant..............................Matt Dykeman
Recruitment & Alumni Relations Assistant............................Janet Fagan

Director of Education & Community Partnerships..................Linda Gerstle
Program Manager, National Tour............................................Michael Dahlberg
Program Manager, Greater Boston.........................................Shea Mavros
Program Assistant...............................................................Mindy Cimini

Director of Development.......................................................Lynne Rutkin
Associate Director of Development.......................................Nicole Wittlin
Major Gifts & Events Manager...............................................Kara O’Keefe
Manager of Institutional Giving............................................Nicole Leonard
Senior Development Associate.............................................Marissa Finer
Development Assistant........................................................Shirley Barkai

Director of Marketing & Communications............................Jodi Beznoska
Tour Producer.................................................................David Balsom
Associate Director of Marketing & Communications...............Robin Allen LaPlante
Marketing & Communications Manager.................................Elizabeth Erenberg
Senior Graphic Designer & Radio Announcer..........................Joanne Robinson
Associate Video Producer...................................................Noah Craigwell

Director of Finance & Administration....................................Dianne Collazo
Finance & Administration Associate.....................................Dorothy Zarren
Information Technology Manager........................................Jeremy Loudon
Human Resources & Administration Assistant.......................Brianna Mackey

Technical Director..............................................................R. Berred Ouellette
Sound Engineer.................................................................John Servies
Sound Engineer.................................................................Chris Rando