

VOICES

From the Top's 2018-19 Year in Review

CONNECTION

DIVERSITY



FROM THE TOP



"Today's musicians have a longing to serve and find outlets for their artistry beyond the stage. This past year has deepened our commitment to putting young artists first and nurturing their whole being."

GRETCHEN NIELSEN

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

Thank you all for joining us on our 2018–19 From the Top journey.

My first full season at From the Top was marked by three themes: voices, connection, and diversity. These three themes anchored the work that you, our vital partners, supported.

From the Top broke new ground this year in a variety of ways – by inviting diverse new perspectives onto our NPR radio broadcast through a cadre of guest hosts, expanding our reach to young musicians with financial need through our partnership with the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and celebrating the power of storytelling led by youth at our annual fundraising gala in Boston.

I am very proud of the achievements of our incredible young musicians, team, and production staff that are outlined in the pages that follow. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Nielsen". The script is fluid and cursive.

Gretchen Nielsen
Executive Director
From the Top

2018-19 NATIONAL TOUR AND GUEST HOSTS

New Voices & New Perspectives

The 2018-19 season of NPR's *From the Top* welcomed guest hosts from across the media landscape, from renowned musicians and Hollywood actors to illustrious *From the Top* alumni.

Violinist and guest host Leila Josefowicz poses with young musicians and co-host/pianist Michelle Cann after recording an episode of NPR's *From the Top* in Boston, MA.





Where Music Lives, a four-part online video series, has garnered nearly half-a-million views since its launch in April 2019. Hosted by Kevin Olusola – From the Top alum, Board member, and beatboxer from the superstar group Pentatonix – the series uncovers our country’s most phenomenal young artists and celebrates their diverse lives and drive for artistic excellence.

(Above) Episode 1 profiles 16-year-old cellist Ifetayo Ali-Landing.

(Right) In Episode 4, 18-year-old bassoonist and Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist Taylor Akin brings Kevin Olusola on a joyride in his family’s hot rod before heading to his high school for a high energy jam session!



WHERE MUSIC LIVES ONLINE VIDEO SERIES

A Video Road Trip Celebrating Diversity and Culture

To watch *Where Music Lives*, visit www.fromthetop.org/wheremusiclives

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES LIKE NONE OTHER

Building Connections through Community Engagement

From the Top creates leadership and community engagement experiences that transform the lives of our young artists. By carving out time to reflect on personal strengths and how those intersect with what the world needs, these experiences become powerful tools for understanding the power of artistry as a catalyst for change.

Violinist and guest host Vijay Gupta has fun with a group of young artists before collaborating on an interactive community performance in La Jolla, CA.



CREDIT: KEN JACQUES

Thank you for investing in the next generation.

From the Top thanks the following contributors for their generous unrestricted and programmatic support between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Please contact Cullen Bouvier at 617.437.0707 x127 or cbouvier@fromthetop.org to update us on any changes.

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“I will never forget the way I felt after our community engagement performance at the Breman Home. I can’t overstate how fulfilling it was to see the residents experience the power of music. That day, I realized that I have the ability to influence the world. Any contribution to a larger goal, no matter how big or small, is important.”

17-YEAR-OLD PIANIST HELEN BRYANT

2018-19 GALA CONTRIBUTORS

From the Top thanks the following contributors for their generous gifts and pledges made to our 2019 Boston and New York galas. For more information about From the Top's 2019-20 gala events, please contact Cullen Bouvier at 617.437.0707 x127 or cbouvier@fromthetop.org.

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* In kind donations
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(Above) From the Top's Boston Gala celebrated the powerful voices and performances of young artists. Hosted by pianist and From the Top alum/guest host Peter Dugan, the gala also featured New York Times bestselling author Gregory Maguire.



(Left) From the Top at Joe's Pub in New York City was a cabaret-style evening of innovative musical performances hosted and curated by From the Top alum, Board member, and composer/bassist Michael Thurber.

In 2017, From the Top embarked on an evolutionary journey around its artistic vision, executive leadership, and program model, for the purpose of becoming a more sustainable and vibrant force for emerging artistic leaders in our rapidly changing world. To achieve this, the Board of Directors launched the FTT2020 Campaign, a funding initiative designed to capitalize the organization as we embrace new and exciting artistic initiatives. Inspired by the new executive director and her vision for the organization's future, an anonymous donor made a \$500,000 challenge grant in December 2018, infusing the Campaign with a renewed momentum. To support this challenge grant or request more information on the FTT2020 Campaign, please contact Cullen Bouvier at 617.437.0707 x127 or cbouvier@fromthetop.org.

From the Top thanks the following donors for their leadership support towards the FTT2020 Campaign (as of October 31, 2019).

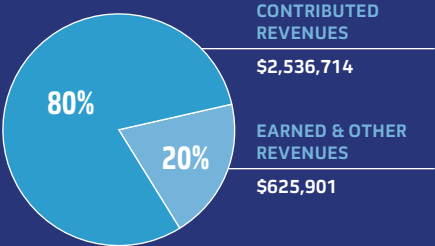
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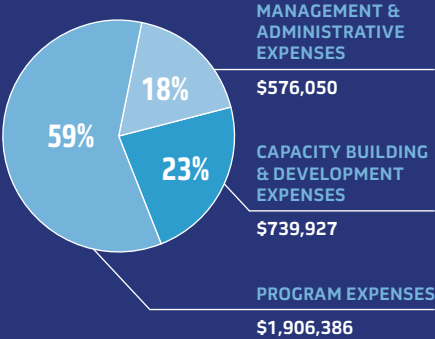
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FY19 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUE: \$3,162,614*



EXPENSES: \$3,222,363



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 by calling 617.437.0707.

* includes future-year revenues

THE JACK KENT COOKE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

Since 2005, From the Top and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation have awarded approximately 20 young musicians each season with an award of up to \$10,000 to advance their pursuit of musical excellence. In 2018–19, From the Top reached the momentous milestone of awarding more than \$3 million in scholarships to hundreds of incredible young musicians with financial need.

2018–19 AWARD RECIPIENTS

TWENTY-TWO

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

27% MIDWEST
32% NORTHEAST
9% SOUTH
9% SOUTHWEST
23% WEST

RACE/ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

5% AFRICAN AMERICAN
18% ASIAN
9% HISPANIC OR LATINX
18% MULTI-RACIAL
41% WHITE
9% UNREPORTED



“Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to purchase a beautiful new alto flute, fund my private lessons for the remainder of this year, and participate in a summer camp! The Award has been a huge help in allowing me to continue to have the musical education and experiences that are so critical to my future as a musician.”

18-YEAR-OLD JACK KENT COOKE YOUNG ARTIST PHOEBE RAWN

*“You know what has the power to unite us?
Music.”*

KEVIN OLUSOLA
HOST OF WHERE MUSIC LIVES



FROM THE TOP

From the Top is America's largest platform dedicated to amplifying the artistic voices and talents of extraordinary classically trained young musicians and supporting them in their development as leaders.

From its NPR show heard by nearly 500,000 people on more than 200 stations to its music videos enjoyed by millions, From the Top has produced inspiring original content that shines a spotlight on remarkable young people for close to 20 years.

From the Top also provides emerging artists the tools and experiences needed to lead a fulfilling career in the arts through performance opportunities in premier concert venues, leadership and community engagement workshops, and scholarships totaling more than \$3 million since 2005.

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