



1. Call to Order & Greetings

- Land acknowledgement: We gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish peoples

2. Board Development

- Board member goals with board buddies
- Golden Season marketing
- Board Sign-ups & using google calendar

Stacey Sledge

Isabelle Kepner/Gail Ridenour

3. Consent Agenda

Any items may be pulled for further discussion at the request of any Director.

For Approval

- Minutes - Board Meeting, October 15, 2025

For Information & Oversight

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Executive Report

Gena Mikkelsen

Gail Ridenour

4. Standing Committees

- Governance Committee

Carol Comeau

5. Old Business

- Meeting updates with bylaws & committee meeting schedule

Gail Ridenour

6. New Business

- Youth symphony partnership exploration

Gail Ridenour

7. 25-26 Season Events & Concerts

- *Holiday Magic!* Classical Kids + Ticketed Dress Rehearsal 12/6/2025 @ 9:30am + 11am MBT
- Concert III *Holiday Magic!*: 12/7/2025
- Home Alone 12/13/2025 @ 1:30pm Pickford Film Center
- BSO Board & Staff Meeting & Holiday Party: 12/13/2025 @ 4:00 p.m.
- The Nutcracker w/ Opus 12/20-12/22/2025

8. Closing & Adjournment

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra - Board of Directors

- Charli Daniels, President
- Carol Comeau, Vice President
- Mark Tomko, Secretary
- Gena Mikkelsen, Treasurer

- Corey Welch, Past President

- Deborah Arthur
- Kathy Bell
- Charles Halka
- Ken Harrison



● **Bellingham Symphony Orchestra**
● Board of Directors

Meeting Agenda
11/19/2025, 5:30pm
BSO Office

-
- Garland Richmond
 - Sandra Payton
 - Toni Sandler
 - Ted Schuman
 - Lucas Senger
 - Adrienne Stewart
 - Phil Thomas, Players' Committee Chair
 - Yaniv Attar, Music Director - Ex Officio
 - Gail Ridenour, Executive Director - Ex Officio

MINUTES
BELLINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BSO)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025
BSO OFFICE

✓ Charli Daniels, <i>President</i>	✓ Deborah Arthur, <i>Director</i>	✓ Lucas Senger, <i>Director</i>
✓ Carol Comeau, <i>Vice President</i>	✓ Kathy Bell, <i>Director</i>	✓ Adrienne Stewart, <i>Director</i>
✓ Corey Welch, <i>Past President</i>	✓ Charles Halka, <i>Director</i>	✓ Philip Thomas, <i>Director</i>
✓ Gena Mikkelsen, <i>Treasurer</i>	✓ Ken Harrison, <i>Director</i>	✓ Gail Ridenour, <i>Executive Director</i>
✓ Mark Tomko, <i>Secretary</i>	✓ Sandra Payton, <i>Orchestra Representative</i>	✓ Yaniv Attar, <i>Music Director</i>
	✓ Garland Richmond, <i>Director</i>	
	✓ Toni Sandler, <i>Director</i>	
	✓ Ted Schuman, <i>Director</i>	

Guests: None

REPORTS REFERRED TO BELOW ARE POSTED TO THE SHARED DRIVE FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO MEETING.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER:	Carol Comeau called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
BOARD DEVELOPMENT	Deferred until next month
SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mark Tomko	The BSO Board reviewed the draft minutes for the September 17th, 2025 BOD meeting. ACTION: Ted Schuman moved to approve the minutes from September. Toni Sandler seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
TREASURER'S REPORT: Gena Mikkelsen	See attached reports for details. Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash flow was negative because the first concert isn't until next month • Choir risers were a significant unexpected (but welcome) expense • Bond maturing in October, plan is to hold cash for now and investing again later • Beginning of the season often coincides with purchases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First quarter ended ~20K in the black (budgeted to be in the red ~\$2750)
EXECUTIVE REPORT: Gail Ridenour	<p>See attached report for details.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSO is nominated for nonprofit of the year with the chamber of commerce Soliciting matching donors for a giving campaign Opening concert (with the chorus) and Golden Fete were a spectacular success Lots of great action on the ticketing and marketing front, concerts selling out, ticketed dress selling well
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:	<p>Governance Committee - Carol Comeau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attached report. Meeting date in the report is incorrect, the correct date is October 30th
NEW BUSINESS:	<p>IRS Form 990 - Gena Mikkelsen</p> <p>ACTION: Ted Schuman moved to approve the IRS Form 990 as presented (with noted correction to list Charli Daniels as an officer). Charli Daniels seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.</p> <p>Inclusive Stages - Gail Ridenour The League of American Orchestras has invited us to participate in their Inclusive Stages Coalition. The costs would be fairly minimal over what we do already. The league requests board support. See the attached report and fact sheet for details.</p> <p>ACTION: Kathy Bell moved to approve joining the coalition. Carol Comeau seconded the motion. In brief discussion after the motion was made, several directors expressed support for the efforts. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.</p>
CLOSING ADJOURNMENT:	<p>The meeting adjourned at 6:22 P.M.</p>
NEXT MEETINGS AND CONCERTS:	<p>Next board meeting: November 19, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planets Educational Concert: November 7th The Planets (Ticketed Dress Rehearsal): November 8th The Planets: November 9th
MINUTES APPROVAL (PENDING):	<p>Mark Tomko, BSO Board of Directors, Secretary attests and approves these minutes.</p>

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra (“BSO”)
Treasurer’s Report
November 19, 2025

October FY26 Review

Cash Management:

Month	Cash Balance	Change
July	\$279,097	\$(7,306)
August	\$249,597	\$(29,500)
September	\$222,349	\$(27,248)
October	\$286,006	\$63,657
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

The organization’s total cash increased by \$63,657 from September 2025.

Current Investments Breakdown:

WAYCROSS					
Bonds	Invested	% earning	Maturity	Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 37,000	4.84%	2/15/2028	\$ 5,460	FY28
	\$ 40,000	4.00%	3/31/2026	\$ 1,600	FY26
WAYCROSS as of 2/01/25					
Money Market	Invested	% earning	Maturity	Yearly Return	FY
	\$ 94,959	4.07%	Continuous	\$3,866.00	FY26
WECU					
CDs	Invested	% earning	Maturity	Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 10,700	3.94%	3/10/2027	\$ 885.93	FY26
WAYCROSS					
Endowment - Cash Holding	Invested	% earning	Maturity	YE Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 30,143	4.00%	Continuous	\$1,205.72	FY26
WAYCROSS					
Endowment - Invested	Invested	ROI - 12 months	Maturity	YE Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 101,520	7.00%	Continuous	\$7,106.40	FY26
Total FY26 Return				\$ 14,664	ONLY FY26 Included

Finance Committee:

The October bond that matured was moved into the Money Market to have available cash to pay guest artists.

I have now included more to the investment breakdown and a summary of FY26, including what the estimated interest/gain outcome could be across all our accounts.

The Finance Committee will now receive quarterly reports from me instead of monthly.

Revenue:

Recorded net income of \$54,173

Breakdown of operating and other income of \$155,432

Category	Amount	Number of Contributors
Individual Giving	\$41,928	35
Sponsorships	\$12,700	7
Special Events	\$5,583	23
Grants	\$28,000	2
Youth Engagement	\$13,450	5
Ticketing	\$52,710	-
In-Kind Donation	\$480	4
Other earned income (CDs/Music Rental)	\$25	-
Interest Income (Market – People’s)	\$0.25	-
Waycross Money Market interest	\$554	-
WECU CD Interest	-	-
Endowment	-	-

Expenses

The organization incurred total expenses of \$(101,259)

Sources of expenses:

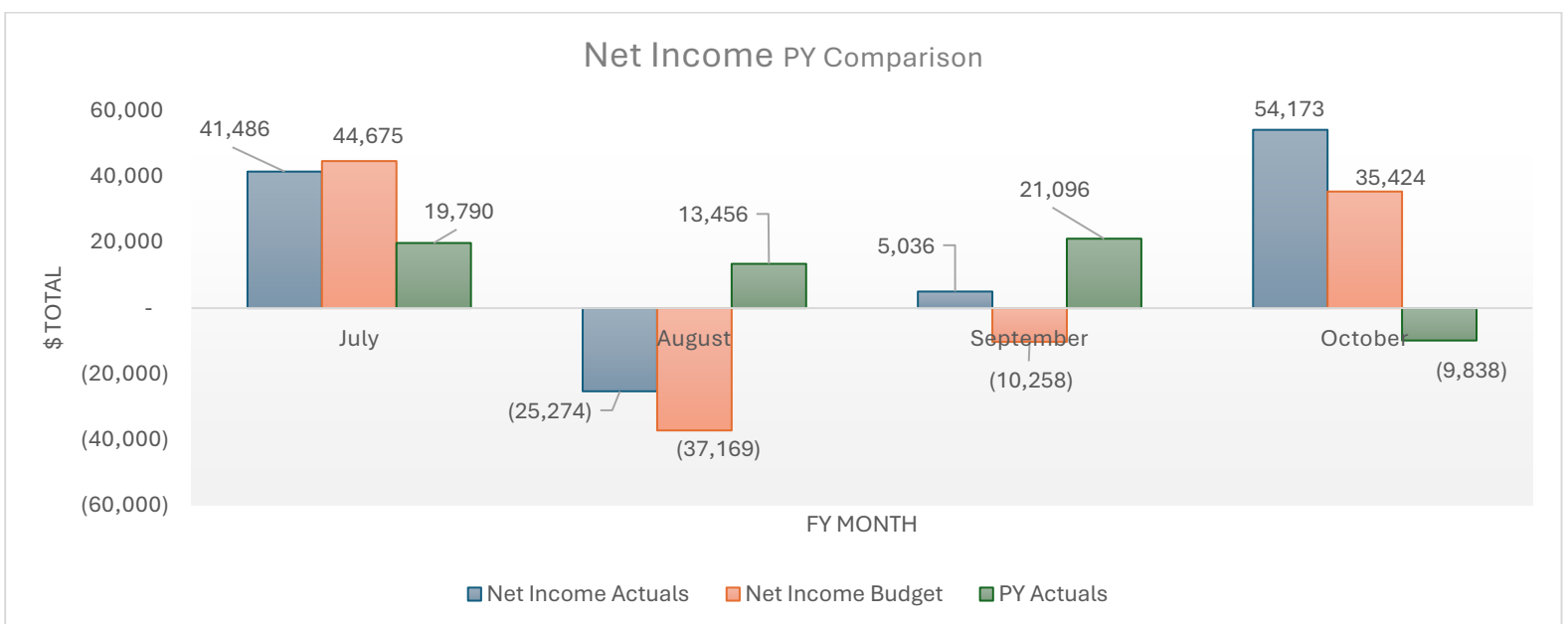
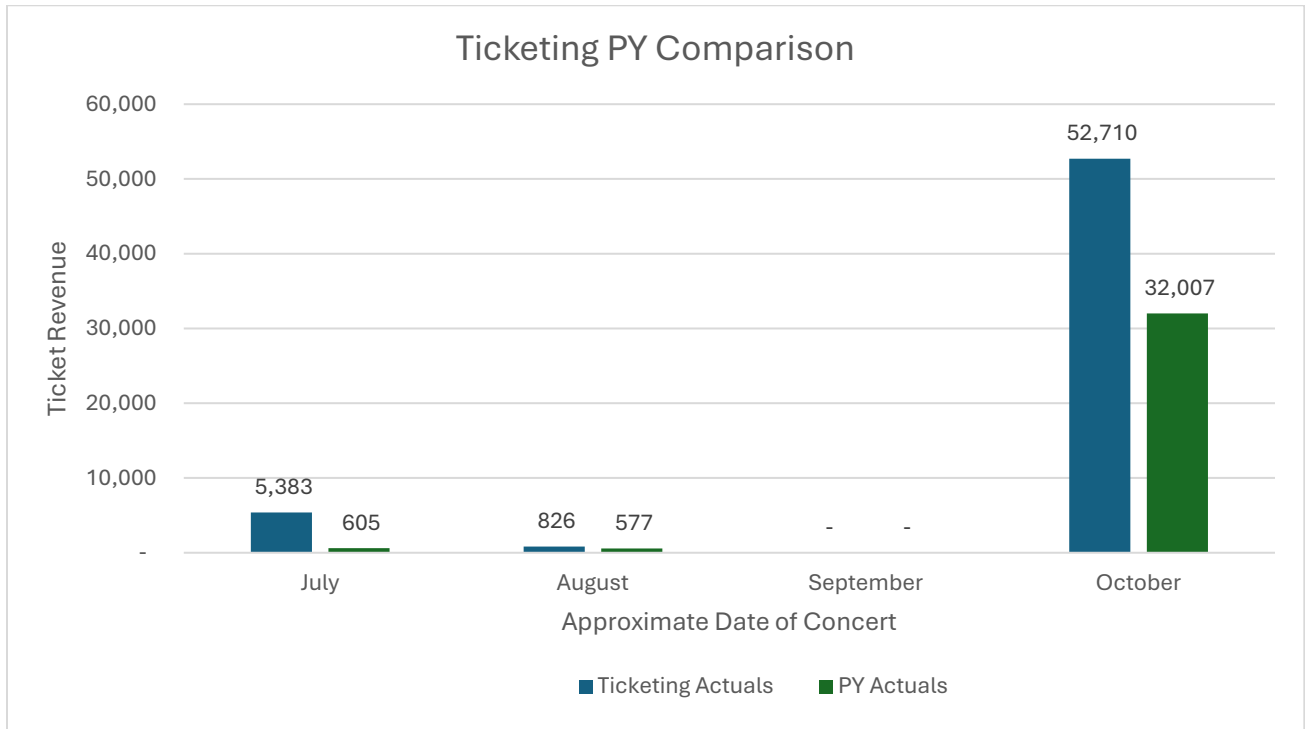
Category	Budgeted	Actuals
Payroll	\$23,945	\$27,282
Artistic Expenses	\$23,171	\$26,056
Production Exp	\$23,886	\$25,539
Youth Engagement	\$2,475	\$2,172
Marketing	\$2,840	\$6,061
Development	\$6,922	\$4,203
Other Income Costs	\$300	\$662
In-Kind	-	\$4,300
Office Operations	\$3,781	\$4,984

Budget to Actuals:

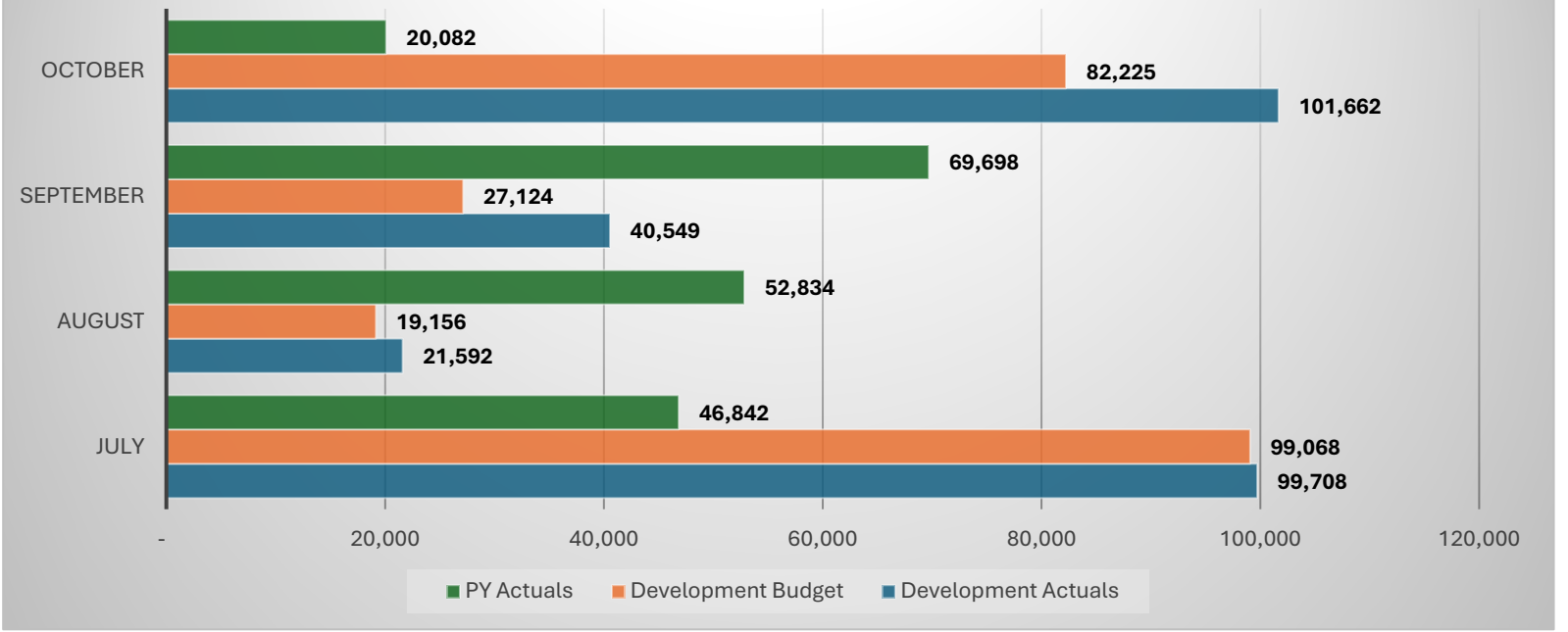
October was budgeted to come in at \$35,424, and we ended the month in the black at \$54,173 due to the timing of the grant for the choir risers.

Year-to-Date Review:

By the end of October, we were estimated to be around \$32,671 in the black. We are currently sitting \$73,138 ahead of our budget.



Development Budget Vs Actuals



Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2025

	TOTAL			
	AS OF OCT 31, 2025	AS OF OCT 31, 2024 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank Accounts				
1000 Petty Cash	100.08	100.08	0.00	0.00 %
1001 Merchandise Cash Box	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00 %
1100 Peoples Disbursement Checking	98,395.49	80,366.17	18,029.32	22.43 %
1113 Peoples Money Market Savings (*0628)	1,435.33	1,552.21	-116.88	-7.53 %
1120 Schwab (*5843) - Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1121 Schwab Money Market (*1550) - Working Capital Reserve	174,974.02	249,727.36	-74,753.34	-29.93 %
1200 Reserves-CD Accts	11,001.30	10,685.09	316.21	2.96 %
Total Bank Accounts	\$286,006.22	\$342,530.91	\$ - 56,524.69	-16.50 %
Accounts Receivable				
1400 Accounts Receivable	8,700.00	5,254.00	3,446.00	65.59 %
Total Accounts Receivable	\$8,700.00	\$5,254.00	\$3,446.00	65.59 %
Other Current Assets				
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	
1300 Prepaid Expenses	6,241.26	3,645.50	2,595.76	71.20 %
1460 Deposits	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00 %
Payroll Corrections	-0.04	-0.04	0.00	0.00 %
Payroll Refunds	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00 %
Total Other Current Assets	\$7,091.24	\$4,495.48	\$2,595.76	57.74 %
Total Current Assets	\$301,797.46	\$352,280.39	\$ - 50,482.93	-14.33 %
Fixed Assets				
1620 Furniture & Fixtures	12,966.42	17,260.18	-4,293.76	-24.88 %
1630 Leasehold Improvements	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00 %
1640 Musical Instruments	63,279.93	15,174.95	48,104.98	317.00 %
Total Fixed Assets	\$76,246.36	\$32,435.14	\$43,811.22	135.07 %
Other Assets				
1900 Board Directed Endowment	124,557.79	115,175.98	9,381.81	8.15 %
Total Other Assets	\$124,557.79	\$115,175.98	\$9,381.81	8.15 %
TOTAL ASSETS	\$502,601.61	\$499,891.51	\$2,710.10	0.54 %

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2025

	TOTAL			
	AS OF OCT 31, 2025	AS OF OCT 31, 2024 (PY)	CHANGE	% CHANGE
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
20000 Accounts Payable	1,951.11	2,410.45	-459.34	-19.06 %
Total Accounts Payable	\$1,951.11	\$2,410.45	\$ -459.34	-19.06 %
Other Current Liabilities				
2100 Payroll Liabilities	6,200.55	2,786.17	3,414.38	122.55 %
2500 Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	
2610 Sales Tax Collected	88.09	100.74	-12.65	-12.56 %
2700 PPP Loan	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Clearing Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$6,288.64	\$2,886.91	\$3,401.73	117.83 %
Total Current Liabilities	\$8,239.75	\$5,297.36	\$2,942.39	55.54 %
Long-Term Liabilities				
2800 BYCP Liability	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Liabilities	\$8,239.75	\$5,297.36	\$2,942.39	55.54 %
Equity				
3001 Opening Balance Equity	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3150 Temp Restricted Net Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3200 Unrestricted Net Assets	234,522.77	234,522.77	0.00	0.00 %
32000 Retained Earnings	186,700.96	194,314.85	-7,613.89	-3.92 %
Net Income	73,138.13	65,756.53	7,381.60	11.23 %
Total Equity	\$494,361.86	\$494,594.15	\$ -232.29	-0.05 %
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$502,601.61	\$499,891.51	\$2,710.10	0.54 %

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Profit and Loss

October 2025

	TOTAL
Income	
4200 Development	101,661.93
5200 Ticketing	52,710.25
6800 Other Earned Income	579.35
6990 In-Kind Income	480.00
Total Income	\$155,431.53
GROSS PROFIT	\$155,431.53
Expenses	
7200 Staff	27,282.01
7300 Artistic Expenses	26,055.54
7400 Production Expenses	25,538.70
7600 Youth & Community Engagement Programs	2,172.42
8300 Marketing/PR	6,061.22
8400 Development Exp.	4,203.13
8810 Other Income Costs	662.00
8990 In Kind Expenses	4,300.00
9000 Office Operations	4,983.68
Total Expenses	\$101,258.70
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$54,172.83
NET INCOME	\$54,172.83

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25/26_P&L - FY26 P&L

October 2025

	TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income		
4200 Development	101,661.93	82,225.00
5200 Ticketing	52,710.25	37,822.00
6800 Other Earned Income	579.35	2,700.00
6990 In-Kind Income	480.00	
Total Income	\$155,431.53	\$122,747.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$155,431.53	\$122,747.00
Expenses		
7200 Staff	27,282.01	23,945.51
7300 Artistic Expenses	26,055.54	23,171.80
7400 Production Expenses	25,538.70	23,886.00
7600 Youth & Community Engagement Programs	2,172.42	2,475.00
8300 Marketing/PR	6,061.22	2,840.00
8400 Development Exp.	4,203.13	6,922.64
8810 Other Income Costs	662.00	300.00
8990 In Kind Expenses	4,300.00	
9000 Office Operations	4,983.68	3,781.94
Total Expenses	\$101,258.70	\$87,322.89
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$54,172.83	\$35,424.11
NET INCOME	\$54,172.83	\$35,424.11

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25/26_P&L - FY26 P&L

July - October, 2025

	TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income		
4200 Development	263,510.26	227,573.61
5200 Ticketing	58,919.02	44,005.77
6800 Other Earned Income	3,320.12	5,159.24
6990 In-Kind Income	480.00	
Total Income	\$326,229.40	\$276,738.62
GROSS PROFIT	\$326,229.40	\$276,738.62
Expenses		
7200 Staff	98,388.81	95,830.46
7300 Artistic Expenses	31,214.01	28,250.00
7400 Production Expenses	26,988.94	23,886.00
7600 Youth & Community Engagement Programs	19,939.40	29,345.00
8300 Marketing/PR	33,921.87	29,694.65
8400 Development Exp.	12,074.60	13,193.84
8810 Other Income Costs	2,337.70	2,000.00
8990 In Kind Expenses	4,300.00	
9000 Office Operations	23,613.77	21,867.81
Total Expenses	\$252,779.10	\$244,067.76
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$73,450.30	\$32,670.86
Other Income		
11000 Board-Controlled Endowment	-312.17	
Total Other Income	\$ -312.17	\$0.00
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -312.17	\$0.00
NET INCOME	\$73,138.13	\$32,670.86



Executive Director's Report

Submitted by Gail Ridenour - November 19, 2025 Board Meeting

Administration/General:

- Office:
 - There is a new sales tax for work on classes, websites, advertising, and graphic design. It went into effect in October. Patty and Gail are working with independent contractors and accountants to make sure we are compliant with the new laws.
 - The BSO LinkedIn account is updated. The account used to be a private account but is now a business page that staff have access to edit and maintain.
- Professional development:
 - BSO staff Stacey Sledge, Isabelle Kepner, Odessa Rhodes, and Gail Ridenour went to the Seattle Opera in October to meet with marketing and development staff regarding their BRAVO! program. This included a backstage tour of the Seattle Opera facilities, a performance of Pirates of Penzance, and a BRAVO!/donor reception. The team was able to build connections with Seattle Opera staff and bring back ideas, some of which we are implementing immediately such as updated audience cards.
 - Gail attended the League of American Orchestras Inclusive Stages fall workshop in Louisville, Kentucky November 16-18th. The League funding covered \$1,000 of trip expenses. BSO will be participating in the Organizational Culture working group this year.
 - The League session "Leadership Strategies During Periods of Unpredictability" is available to board members:

Webinar Resources

[View the recording](#)

(Password: ORCH20251151)

[Read the transcript](#) (PDF)

[View the presentation](#) (PDF)

Development:

- End of year direct mail campaign went out starting November 10th. (SEE BELOW)
- Holiday postcards will go out the Monday following the December concert. (SEE BELOW)
- BSO staff Stacey, Isabelle, and Gail attended the November Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast. Two tickets to the Holiday Magic concert were given away as part of the event.
- Seat cards were placed for first time ticket buyers for The Planets. (SEE BELOW)
- October is the month for legacy planning. BSO sent out information in an email about this and received positive responses with three people notifying us about putting BSO in their wills and asking for the related paperwork. This is a campaign that will be continuing through our 50th season with a goal of getting our Legacy Society to 50 people.
- Sponsors:
 - The Planets
 - Concert & Guest Artist = Seeking Health (Adam)
 - Planets Visuals = RMC Architects (Neil - in-kind)
 - Pre Concert Talk = Belcher Swanson (Ella, Brad, and Brittany)
 - Classical Kids = Tiger Construction (Jeninne) & Bham Pediatric Dentistry (Sawyer)
 - Instrument Petting Zoo = Wind Works (Kat)
 - Holiday Magic
 - Concert = Bruce Cox Imports (Charlie)
 - Guest Artist = Bellingham Pediatric Dentistry (Sawyer)
 - Guest Conductor = Old World Deli (Chris - in-kind)
- 25/26 season fundraising dinners and events are on sale with tickets selling. We encourage board members to attend dinners when able. Here is the schedule:
 - November 8, 2025 [Old World//New Frontiers featuring Daniel Bolshoy](#)
 - 37 people attended this dinner, which was a full house at the venue. From moon pies to the cheese appetizer with a different cheese for each planet, it was a lot of fun. Daniel played a piece for the guests.
 - February 1, 2026 [Pasta & Puccini featuring Ibidunni Ojikutu & Jay Rozendaal](#)
 - April 26, 2026 [VIP Reception](#) (at cost tickets for just the reception available to board members and musicians)
 - May 30, 2026 [At Home Dinner with Jill featuring Joshua Roman & Simone Porter](#)

Youth & Community Engagement:

- Soloists in the Schools (SITS):
 - Guitar soloist Daniel Bolshoy gave performances and masterclasses to two 1 hour and 15 minute high school guitar classes at Squilicum High School.

- WWU Masterclass: Daniel Bolshoy gave a 2 hour masterclass for WWU's guitar class as part of BSO's SITS program.
- Educational concert: The two educational concerts went well with the first one at capacity and the second with over 1,000 people attending.
 - Scholarship tickets = \$15,840.00 (still waiting for bussing invoices from schools)
 - Artist fee from MBT = \$4,500
 - Musician stipends = \$4,285

We have received a lot of positive feedback. Here is a letter from one of the schools that attended:

Dear Mount Baker Theatre and Bellingham Symphony Orchestra,

On behalf of Oak Harbor Elementary School, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for awarding us the grant to attend the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra's performance of The Planets. Our students had a truly unforgettable experience!

In music class, we have been learning about the instrument families, musical elements such as high and low, fast and slow, loud and quiet, and how different musical styles can create moods and images. Seeing and hearing these concepts come to life through the orchestra's performance was an amazing opportunity for our students. They were excited to recognize the instruments they had learned about and to make real-world connections to their classroom learning.

For many of our students, this was their first time seeing a live production—and for some, even their first trip off Whidbey Island. The experience opened their eyes to the power of live music and inspired a new appreciation for the arts.

Thank you again for making this experience possible. Your generosity and commitment to arts education made a lasting impact on our students, and we are deeply grateful. Student reflections and thank you letters are in the mail and will be arriving in Bellingham soon.

Holly

--

Holly Brown, NBCT
Music Teacher, Oak Harbor Elementary
WMEA Elementary West Curriculum Officer

- **BSO Youth Chamber Players (BYCP)**
 - **Fall recital is Sunday, November 23rd at 6:30pm at WWU PAC room 16.**
- The Pre-Concert Talks from the main stage continue to be well attended with a very positive response in the move from the Walton.
- Classical Kids had a very successful second session at The Planets dress rehearsal. The new format is working well with record levels of attendance. The students got to meet the harp at The Planets with Jill Whitman. In December, Gena will show them the piccolo and flute.
 - Classical Kids = 441 kids (258 families)

- CK at Planets = 428 people
- Musicians for Meet A Musician for Classical Kids and the FIG are lined up for the 25-26 season.
- The library's book club event on November 15th went well. BSO had a table providing information about our book club as well as Classical Kids and principal cellist Samantha Sinai provided music before and after the event. Village Books was at the event. Both Village Books and the libraries are very excited about the book club and partnering with BSO.

Ticketing/Marketing:

- Articles:
 - Whatcom Talk
 - Planets and educational concert - <https://www.whatcomtalk.com/2025/10/27/bellingham-symphony-orchestra-reaches-f-or-the-stars-with-the-planets/>
 - Nutcracker
 - Cascadia
 - Whatcom Arts Award in the Arts Advocate category for Gail
 - Seattle Times feature about collaboration with Whatcom Museum for photo archive exhibit
- The ticketed dress rehearsal for Holiday Magic went on sale a couple of weeks prior to when we anticipated as the concert sold out faster than expected.
- 25/26 Ticketing as of 11.16.25 at 8am:
 - Planets concert SOLD OUT
 - Ticketed dress =
 - 560 (158 comp)
 - 66 BOGO tickets
 - Orchestra for All = 13
 - \$5,109.81
 - Concert =
 - \$45,832.36 (budget \$37,910)
 - 1,517 (280 comp)
 - Orchestra for All = 47
 - Musician Upgrades = 2
 - Student Subscripition = 3
 - TOTAL BOTH =
 - \$51,437.17 (budget = \$37,910)
 - 2,506 tickets (428 comps)
 - Beethoven was 2,026 (426 comps)
 - Sponsorships = \$6,100 (not including season or orchestra for all)
 - Expenses = \$51,821.87
 - Total MBT Charges = \$25,960.48

- Venue Rental = \$8,570.00
- Administrative Fee = \$400.00
- CC Processing = \$1,799.394
- Building Restoration Fee = \$7,428.00 (\$3 per ticket excluding 20 comps)
- Stage Labor = \$3,865.83
- House Labor/Security = \$3,896.71
- Artistic (Musicians & Guest Artist) = \$25,861.39
 - Musicians (includes new stipends for principals/assistant principals) = \$16,925.00 (budget \$16,800.00)
 - Player Travel = \$1,280.00 (budget \$1,080.00 - to regular musicians in BSO)
 - Guest Artist fees (plus transportation) = \$7,056.39
 - Lecture/Program Notes = \$600.00
- Note - expenses do not include music purchase/rental fees, chorus, guest artist hotel, music director, chorus director, staff, archival recording
- **Net = \$5,715.30**
- February and May concerts all have limited availability.

Operations:

- The BSO is looking for a celesta (instrument) to be donated to our orchestra. It is used in The Nutcracker, annually in the Holiday Magic concert, and typically in at least one other concert each season. While WWU has allowed BSO to use it in the past, they are updating how they allow their equipment to be used off-campus.
- Music for Smitten (concert 4) is being bowed and will be ready for distribution at the Holiday Magic dress rehearsal.
- Music for Holiday Magic and The Nutcracker is out to musicians. Rehearsals for these start in December.
- The Bellingham Youth Choir (Nutcracker) and Happy Valley Elementary Choir (Holiday Magic) have their parts.



50

BSO CELEBRATES **50 YEARS**



50

BSO CELEBRATES **50 YEARS**

Welcome to the concert!

Let us be your guide for this fantastical afternoon as you experience a performance designed to have you seeing stars!

Of Note

Holst's The Planets has a GIANT instrumentation with 107 orchestra musicians including some rarities like the bass oboe and alto flute. Plus there is an offstage treble choir.

Manuel Ponce learned his musical notes before learning the letters of the alphabet. He had an early interest in composition, and he wrote La Marcha del Sarampion (March of the Measles) at age 9 when he got sick with the disease.

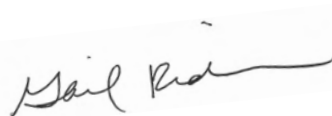
Ponce was the first Mexican composer to project popular music onto the world stage: Estrellita, for example, has been part of the repertoire of the main orchestras of the world and countless singers.

We are so glad you decided to come experience the Symphony. As a special thank you, use the code WELCOME for 25% off your next visit to the BSO.

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WELCOME

Expires 11/16/2025



Welcome to the concert!

Let us be your guide for this fantastical afternoon as you experience a performance designed to have you seeing stars!

Of Note

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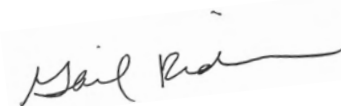
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BSO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Dear <<Informal Household Name>>,

As another year comes to a close, I offer you my heartfelt gratitude for choosing to spend your time with us at the symphony — as well as your ongoing support. Our 50th season is in full swing, having kicked off in October with an unforgettable performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony alongside our new BSO Chorus. There's so much more to look forward to, including Yo-Yo Ma joining us next April at the beautiful Mount Baker Theatre!

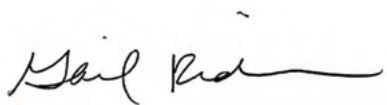
As you know, we're a volunteer-driven community orchestra. More than half of our annual budget—which funds our performances and our youth and community engagement programs—comes from the generosity of **donors like you**. Your support helps make all of our educational events possible, such as the annual Educational Concert at Mount Baker Theatre, Soloists in the Schools visits, and performances by the Trailblazers String Quartet.

Individual gifts from people like you are the most critical to our success!

Your one-time or recurring donation of any size supports classical music performance and education in Whatcom County — not just for today, but for years to come. Thank you for all that you give: whether financial donations, gifts of your time, or applause from the audience. We're so grateful to have you as part of our symphony family!

Please take this opportunity to help us look to the future and ensure classical music in our community for years to come.

From all of us at the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra, we're wishing you joy and warmth this holiday season!



Gail Ridenour
BSO Executive Director



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To: BSO Board of Directors

From: Carol Comeau, VP/Governance Committee Chair

Present: All members; Gail Ridenour, ED

The following items were discussed:

1. Policy Updates: Corey and Charlie H

- The Board approved policy on Player Dismissal for Serious Behavior has been submitted to the Players' Committee for feedback.
- The committee has submitted the Harassment Policy to the Players' Committee for Feedback before action is taken by the Governance Committee, the Executive Committee, and the full Board.

WE REQUEST FEEDBACK FROM THE PLAYERS' COMMITTEE BY OUR DEC.11 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.

- We will review a proposed weapons, safety, and violence prevention policy at our next Governance Committee meeting.

2. Advisory Committee: Corey and Adrienne

- We had initial discussions to bring some of the draft language to be in more alignment with the current BSO language
- We will discuss the vision for this new Advisory Committee. We are all clear that this is NOT a development committee or a separate legal entity.

3. Retreat Debrief: Corey, Adrienne, Gail

- Agenda was comprehensive but included too much
- Good energy
- Brief introductions and name tags would have helped
- Goal setting and Board development should be a focus
- Set one date for retreat in August or September; develop a process to provide materials and follow up for members who couldn't attend.
- Glad to have Players, Staff, and Board together
- Great location!
- Develop post retreat survey:
 - What worked well

- Any changes? What and how?
- other ideas

4. Board development: Toni and Kathy

- A comprehensive Board Development program will be developed
- Each Board meeting will have an activity
- We also discussed having the Players' Committee come to a summer meeting to share how the Board can support the players (A day in the life....)
- Board Buddies is going to be an integral part of each Board meeting; prompts

5. Schedule for the year set: Second Thursday at 8:30 a.m. except April due to taxes and Spring Break

- December 11
- February 12
- April 16
- June 11