



1. Call to Order & Greeting

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

2. Board Development

- Board Buddy Goals
- Artistic Plan / Process

3. Consent Agenda

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

For Approval

- Minutes - Board Retreat, July 15, 2026

For Information & Oversight

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

Gena Mikkelsen

Gail Ridenour

4. Standing Committees

- Governance
- Engagement & Development

Kathy Bell

Kathy Bell

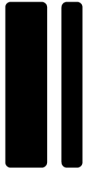
5. 25-26 Upcoming Events

- BSO Book Club: 9/23/2026 @ 6:00 - Village Books, Fairhaven
- Classical Kids I: 10/3/2026 @ 11:00 - MBT
- Concert I: 10/4/2026 @ 3:00 - MBT
- BYCP Fall Recital: 11/8/2026 @ 6:30 - WWU PAC Rm. 16
- BSO Book Club: 11/11/2026 @ 6:00 - Village Books, Fairhaven
- BSO Board Meeting: 11/18/2026 @ 5:30 - BSO Office

6. Closing & Adjournment

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra - Board of Directors

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| ○ Carol Comeau, President | ○ Charles Halka | ○ Phil Thomas, Players' Committee |
| ○ Kathy Bell, Vice President | ○ Larry Halka | Chair |
| ○ Mark Tomko, Secretary | ○ Richard Hodges | ○ Kate Manthey, Chorus Representative |
| ○ Gena Mikkelsen, Treasurer | ○ Barbara Ryan | ○ Sandra Payton, Player Representative |
| ○ Corey Welch, Past President | ○ Toni Sandler | ○ Yaniv Attar, Music Director - Ex |
| | ○ Ted Schuman | Officio |
| | ○ Lucas Senger | ○ Gail Ridenour, Executive Director - |
| | ○ Adrienne Stewart | Ex Officio |



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

Meeting Agenda
9/16/2026, 5:30pm
BSO Office



Board of Directors Buddies 2026-2027

Officers	Board Buddy
Carol Comeau <i>President</i>	Adrienne Stewart
Kathleen Bell, MD <i>Vice President</i>	Barbara Ryan
Mark Tomko <i>Secretary</i>	Richard Hodges
Gena Mikkelsen** <i>Treasurer/Finance</i>	Phil Thomas/Kate Manthey
Corey Welch* <i>Past President</i>	Larry Halka
At Large	
Charles Halka	Lucas Senger
Larry Halka	Corey Welch
Dr. Richard L. Hodges	Mark Tomko
Sandra Payton <i>Orchestra Representative</i>	Toni Sandler
Phil Thomas <i>Players Committee Chair</i>	Kate Manthey/Gena Mikkelsen
Barbara Ryan	Kathy Bell
Toni Sandler	Sandra Payton
Lucas G Senger	Charlie Halka
Adrienne Stewart	Carol Comeau
Kate Manthey <i>Chorus Representative</i>	Phil Thomas/Gena Mikkelsen

Activity: Board Buddies - Intention and Goal Setting

Purpose

Board buddies are resources for each other and a way to connect with people on the board. As we begin our journey together each season, we want to do some backwards planning for forward design with goal and intention setting. Having purpose with your work on the board is an essential part of making meaning for yourself and contributing to your full potential. Being intentional in carrying out that vision is equally important.

Questions to consider

- At the end of the season,
 - What do you hope to feel as a board member?
 - What do you hope to have accomplished on the board?
 - How do you want the community to feel?
 - How do you want the orchestra and chorus to feel?
 - How do you want our audience to feel?
 - How can you impact this?
- What can you contribute to the board? (skills, connections, knowledge, etc)
- Where would you like to be involved?
- What do you want to learn more about with the board?
- What made you decide to join the board?
- What excites you about the orchestra?
- What is your purpose as a board member?
- What do you value with the BSO?

Activity

With your board buddy, consider your role as a board member. Each one of you joined the board with purpose and hopes for the organization. Together, talk through the questions to consider. Then take 10 minutes to write down your goals and intentions for the season as a board member. Share your goals and intentions for the season and why they matter to you with your board buddy. How can you support each other with these goals?

Next Steps

Set a mid-season check-in with your board buddy. Touch base with each other on the goals and intentions. What updates are needed? How can you continue to support each other as board members?

End of Season Reflection

Celebrate with your board buddy! Reflect on the goals and intentions, what worked, and what you would do differently next year.



Board Buddies of the BSO (Existing members)

Board Buddy: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

We are hoping that this opportunity will provide the following benefits for Board members:

- o Fostering communication to enhance skills and knowledge
- o Enhancing prep for board leadership roles
- o Contributing to building orchestra/board culture and
- o Sharing institutional knowledge and expertise among members
- o Developing individual annual goals and improving goal attainment

The Board will benefit from improved retention of members and more cohesion and productive meetings. We hope it will also be an enjoyable way to bond socially, spark new ideas, and strengthen the board.

We have provided a checklist to help you and your buddy start this new relationship. New members have received their own orientation checklist which should take about six months. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Board Governance Committee. We hope you enjoy this process.

Board Buddy Suggested Activities	Dates
Meet for coffee with your Board Buddy & review Board member handbook and the BSO website.	
Take the opportunity to review the latest news and resources from our national partner, League of American Orchestras at homepage – americanorchestras.org (Tons of resources!)	

Get Connected & Explore New Horizons	Dates
Review your “Elevator Pitch” & update as needed.	
Think about establishing 1-2 goals for the coming year.	

Keeping in Touch	Dates
Make a schedule to check in with each other (quarterly, twice a year?) – by phone, Facetime/Zoom, in person?	
While updating personally, discuss “state of the goals”.	



Board Buddies of the BSO (New members)

Board Buddy: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

We are hoping that this opportunity will provide the following benefits for Board members

- o Fostering communication to enhance skills and knowledge
- o Enhancing prep for board leadership roles
- o Contributing to building orchestra/board culture and
- o Sharing institutional knowledge and expertise among members
- o Developing individual annual goals and improving goal attainment

This program is essentially a mentorship to acquaint our new members with the workings of the Bellingham Symphony Orchestra and Board. New members benefit by having an immediate connection to the board and a confidence booster. The Board will benefit from improved retention of members and more cohesion and productive meetings. We hope it will also be an enjoyable way to bond socially, spark new ideas, and strengthen the board.

We have provided a checklist to help you and your buddy start this new relationship. If you have questions or comments, please contact the Board Governance Committee. We hope you enjoy this process.

Board Buddy Suggested Activities	Dates
Meet for coffee with your new Board Buddy & review Board member handbook and the BSO website.	
Meet our national partner, League of American Orchestras at homepage – americanorchestras.org (Tons of resources!)	

Get Connected & Explore New Horizons	Dates
Review your buddy's "Elevator Pitch" & work together to create one for you	
Think about establishing 1-2 goals for the coming year.	

Keeping in Touch	Dates
Make a schedule to check in with each other (quarterly, twice a year?) – by phone, Facetime/Zoom, in person?	
While updating personally, discuss "state of the goals".	



CONCERT #1 - OPEN SEASON 10/17/27

- [Bach/Elgar - Fantasia & Fugue in C minor BWV 537](#) 12 minutes
- Rachmaninoff - [Isle of the Dead](#) 21 minutes HfD
- Intermission
- Tchaikovsky - [Piano Concerto No. 1](#) 35-40 min
- Guest Artists = Piano Soloist

CONCERT #2 - NOV 11/21/27

- Michael Kamen - Band of Brothers [Main Theme with Chorus](#) 2 ½ min
- Brahms - [Ein deutsches Requiem](#) 75 min
- Guest Artists = Soprano, Bariton, and BSO Chorus

CONCERT #3 - HOLIDAY MAGIC 12/5/27

- Charlie Brown Christmas

NUTCRACKER 12/17-19/2027

CONCERT #4 - 2/6/2028

- Fanny Mendelssohn - [Overture in C](#) 10 min HfD
- Marie Jaëll - [Cello Concerto in F Major](#) 26 min HfD
- Intermission
- Mozart- [Symphony No. 40](#) 27 min
- Guest Artists = Cello Soloist

CONCERT #5 - 3/26/2028 From Darkness to Light

- Julia Zuzanna Sokolowska Commission 6-8 min HfD
- Charles Davidson - [I Never Saw A Butterfly](#) 40 min HfD
- Intermission
- Korngold - [Violin Concerto](#) 36 min HfD
- Guest Artists = Violin Soloist, Vocal Soloists, and BSO Chorus

CONCERT #6 SEASON FINALE 5/21/2028

- [Dr. Zhivago Lara's theme](#) 5min
- Zara Levina - [Piano Concerto No. 1](#) 37 min HfD
- Intermission
- Shostakovich - [Symphony No. 5](#) 55 min HfD
- Guest Artist = Piano Soloist

EDUCATIONAL CONCERT April 2028

- Video Game

MINUTES
BELLINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BSO)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026
GAIL RIDENOUR'S HOME

Carol Comeau, <i>President</i>	☒ Charles Halka, <i>Director</i>	Lucas Senger, <i>Director</i>
☒ Kathy Bell, <i>Vice President</i>	☒ Larry Halka, <i>Director</i>	☒ Adrienne Stewart, <i>Director</i>
Corey Welch, <i>Past President</i>	Ken Harrison, <i>Director</i>	Philip Thomas, <i>Director</i>
☒ Gena Mikkelsen, <i>Treasurer</i>	☒ Sandra Payton, <i>Orchestra Representative</i>	☒ Gail Ridenour, <i>Executive Director</i>
Mark Tomko, <i>Secretary</i>	Richard Hodges, <i>Director</i>	Yaniv Attar, <i>Music Director</i>
	Barbara Ryan, <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:	Kathy Bell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Since Quorum was not reached, no motions were received and acted upon.
TREASURER'S REPORT: Gena Mikkelsen	See attached reports for details.
EXECUTIVE REPORT: Gail Ridenour	See attached report for details. Highlights: BSO Piano Task Force Report and the Youth Symphony Task Force Report to be discussed further at the August 15th Retreat. All items listed reflect BSO being either on target or ahead of target for both the Budget and the previous Strategic Plan.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:	<i>No standing committees requested to report for the August meeting.</i>
PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Carol Comeau	While not present, Carol submitted a Letter of Welcome to new directors Larry Halka, Richard Hodges and Barbara Ryan. Carol also thanked Gail and Yaniv for their leadership and expressed her congratulations to for a successful Season and enthusiasm for BSO's 51st Season
CLOSING ADJOURNMENT:	The meeting adjourned at 6:33 P.M.
NEXT MEETINGS AND CONCERTS:	Next board meeting: August 15, 2026 (Board Retreat)
MINUTES APPROVAL (PENDING):	Toni Sandler, BSO Board of Directors attests and approves these minutes.

MINUTES
BELLINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (BSO)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
JILL WHITMAN'S HOME

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

Guests:

Chris Attebury, Brian Coyne, Kristi Fairbank, Desiree Kane, Isabel Kepner, Mark Lindenbaum, Odessa Rhodes, Stacey Sledge, Jill Whitman

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
CALL TO ORDER:	Kathy Bell called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
STRATEGIC PLAN Gail Ridenour	See attached report for details. ACTION: Toni Sandler moved to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan as presented to the board. Mark Tomko seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NSYS Proposal Gail Ridenour and Desiree Kane	See attached report for details. ACTION: Gena Mikkelsen moved to agree to a proposed merger with the North Sound Youth Symphony (NSYS) effective July 1, 2027 and to approve the proposed amendments to the bylaws and policies and procedures as presented today (August 15, 2026), subject to refinements mutually agreed upon by the BSO and the NSYS board, finalized by our May 2027 BSO BOD meeting. Corey Welch seconded me motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote (10-0).
Treasurer's Report Gena Mikkelsen	ACTION: Barbara Ryan moved to set up a to invest in bonds with Waycross according to the following scheme: 3 Month Bond: 3.78% - renew at 3 months - \$100k 6 Month Bond: 3.95% - renew at 6 months - \$100k Corey Welch seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. ACTION: Barbara Ryan moved to replace Patty Bean with Isabel Kepner on all accounts as Isabel takes over as the new bookkeeper; and further to update all accounts to reflect the new board leadership as necessary, with Carol Comeau as President and Kathy Bell as Vice President. Phil Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
CLOSING ADJOURNMENT:	The meeting adjourned at 3:15 P.M.
NEXT MEETINGS AND CONCERTS:	Next board meeting: October ??, 2026 • Sunset Flicks: August 28th, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. - Bay Street outside the Pickford • BSO Book Club: September 23rd, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m. Village Books, Fairhaven • Concert I - October 4, 2026 @ 3:00 p.m. - MBT
MINUTES APPROVAL (PENDING):	Mark Tomko, BSO Board of Directors attests and approves these minutes.

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Profit and Loss

August 2026

	TOTAL	
	AUG 2026	JUL 2026 (PP)
Income		
4200 Development	21,625.26	82,005.44
6800 Other Earned Income	1,091.34	599.68
Total Income	\$22,716.60	\$82,605.12
GROSS PROFIT	\$22,716.60	\$82,605.12
Expenses		
7200 Staff	21,867.53	31,472.93
7300 Artistic Expenses	328.17	3,883.28
7600 Youth & Community Engagement Programs	13,284.87	568.25
8300 Marketing/PR	4,398.44	16,557.20
8810 Other Income Costs	164.65	
9000 Office Operations	4,769.75	7,411.81
Total Expenses	\$44,813.41	\$59,893.47
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -22,096.81	\$22,711.65
NET INCOME	\$ -22,096.81	\$22,711.65

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY26/27_P&L - FY27 P&L

July - August, 2026

	JUL 2026		AUG 2026		TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income						
4200 Development	82,005.44	89,830.80	21,625.26	17,240.52	\$103,630.70	\$107,071.32
5200 Ticketing		1,250.00		1,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
6800 Other Earned Income	599.68	417.75	1,091.34	800.00	\$1,691.02	\$1,217.75
6990 In-Kind Income		0.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$82,605.12	\$91,498.55	\$22,716.60	\$19,290.52	\$105,321.72	\$110,789.07
GROSS PROFIT	\$82,605.12	\$91,498.55	\$22,716.60	\$19,290.52	\$105,321.72	\$110,789.07
Expenses						
7200 Staff	31,472.93	26,060.27	21,867.53	25,049.25	\$53,340.46	\$51,109.52
7300 Artistic Expenses	3,883.28	3,940.00	328.17	4,485.00	\$4,211.45	\$8,425.00
7400 Production Expenses		0.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7600 Youth & Community Engagement Programs	568.25	0.00	13,284.87	18,230.00	\$13,853.12	\$18,230.00
8300 Marketing/PR	16,557.20	26,852.40	4,398.44	1,700.00	\$20,955.64	\$28,552.40
8400 Development Exp.		100.00		100.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
8810 Other Income Costs		0.00	164.65	0.00	\$164.65	\$0.00
8990 In Kind Expenses		0.00		0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9000 Office Operations	7,411.81	5,327.70	4,769.75	4,977.70	\$12,181.56	\$10,305.40
Total Expenses	\$59,893.47	\$62,280.37	\$44,813.41	\$54,541.95	\$104,706.88	\$116,822.32
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$22,711.65	\$29,218.18	\$ -22,096.81	\$ -35,251.43	\$614.84	\$ -6,033.25
NET INCOME	\$22,711.65	\$29,218.18	\$ -22,096.81	\$ -35,251.43	\$614.84	\$ -6,033.25

**Bellingham Symphony Orchestra (“BSO”)
Treasurer’s Report**

July/August FY27 Review

Cash Management:

Month	Cash Balance	Change
July	\$396,100	\$(35,908)
August	\$381,665	\$(14,435)
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

2-month decrease in cash by \$(50,343) from the start of July through end of August close.

Current Investments Breakdown:

3 Month Bond: 3.78% - renew at 3 months - \$100k

6 Month Bond: 3.95% - renew at 6 months - \$100k

We need the transfer from People’s to Waycross and then we can process these two Bonds.

WAYCROSS					
Bonds	Invested	% earning	Maturity	Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 37,000	4.84%	2/15/2028	\$ 1,791	FY28
	\$ 40,000	4.00%	12/31/2026	\$ 1,600	FY27
	\$ 100,000	TBD	TBD	TBD	FY27
	\$ 100,000	TBD	TBD	TBD	FY27
WAYCROSS as of 9/01/2025					
Money Market	Invested	% earning	Maturity	YE Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 179,726	4.10%	Continuous	\$7,368.75	FY27
WECU					
CDs	Invested	% earning	Maturity	Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 10,700	3.94%	3/10/2027	\$ 803.52	FY27
WAYCROSS					
Endowment	Invested	FY27 YTD Return	Maturity	YE Estimated Return	FY
	\$ 136,475	-1.00%	Continuous		FY27

Finance Committee:

Finance committee will schedule a time to meet after the first quarter closes and to review the FY26 990.

Revenue:

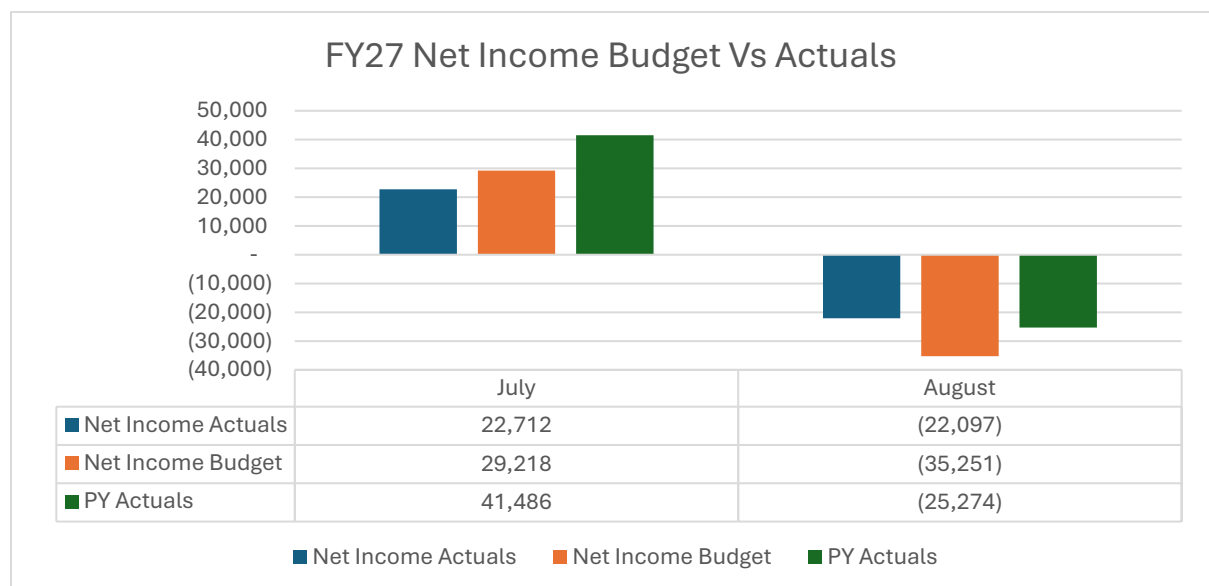
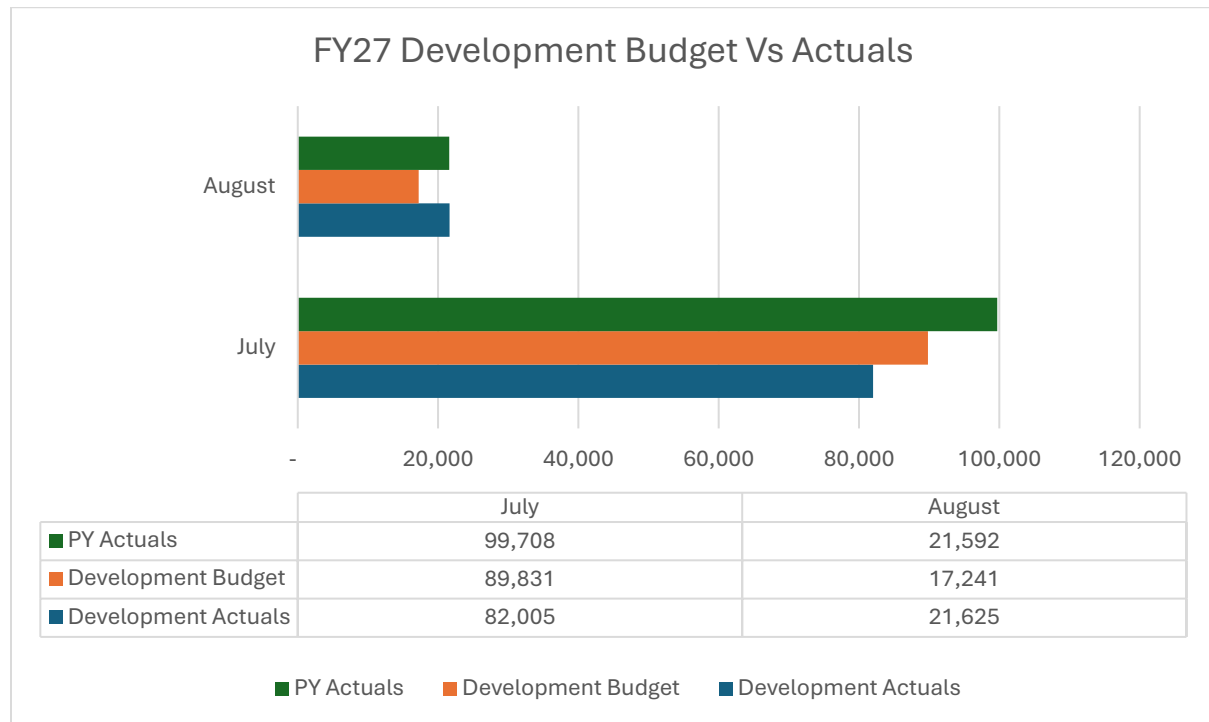
Category	July	August
Individual Giving	\$74,083	\$13,451
Sponsorships	\$5,000	-
Special Events	-	\$1,935
Grants	\$1,218	\$1,218
Youth Engagement	\$1,705	\$5,021
Ticketing	-	-
In-Kind Donation	-	-
Other earned income (CDs/Music Rental)	-	-
Interest Income (Market – People’s)	\$200	\$200
Waycross Money Market interest	\$400	\$892
WECU CD Interest	-	-
Endowment	-	-
Total Revenue	\$82,605	\$22,717
Net Income	\$22,712	\$(22,097)

Individual Giving: July will show the deferred giving that must be carried over into the new fiscal year, making it look very large for the month.

Category	July	August
Payroll	\$31,473	\$21,868
Artistic Expenses	\$3,883	\$328
Production Exp	-	-
Youth Engagement	\$568	\$13,285
Marketing	\$16,557	\$4,398
Development	-	-
Other Income Costs	-	\$165
In-Kind	-	-
Office Operations	\$7,412	\$4,770
Total Expenses	\$59,893	\$44,813

Budget to Actuals:

Between July and August, net income was budgeted to come to \$(6,033), and net income came in at \$615.



Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2026

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 Petty Cash	100.08
1001 Merchandise Cash Box	100.00
1100 Peoples Disbursement Checking	46,982.74
1113 Peoples Money Market Savings (*0628)	143,355.81
1120 Schwab (*5843) - Endowment	0.00
1121 Schwab Money Market (*1550) - Working Capital Reserve	179,799.65
1200 Reserves-CD Accts	11,327.07
Total Bank Accounts	\$381,665.35
Accounts Receivable	
1400 Accounts Receivable	796.70
Total Accounts Receivable	\$796.70
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
1300 Prepaid Expenses	9,268.54
1460 Deposits	850.00
Payroll Corrections	-0.04
Payroll Refunds	0.26
QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	4,420.55
Total Other Current Assets	\$14,539.31
Total Current Assets	\$397,001.36
Fixed Assets	
1620 Furniture & Fixtures	16,081.22
1630 Leasehold Improvements	0.01
1640 Musical Instruments	186,413.38
Total Fixed Assets	\$202,494.61
Other Assets	
1900 Board Directed Endowment	123,579.89
Total Other Assets	\$123,579.89
TOTAL ASSETS	\$723,075.86

Bellingham Symphony Orchestra

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2026

	TOTAL
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 Accounts Payable	0.13
Total Accounts Payable	\$0.13
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 Payroll Liabilities	4,668.52
2500 Deferred Revenue	510.94
2610 Sales Tax Collected	9.10
2700 PPP Loan	0.00
Clearing Account	-280.83
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$4,907.73
Total Current Liabilities	\$4,907.86
Long-Term Liabilities	
2800 BYCP Liability	0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$4,907.86
Equity	
3001 Opening Balance Equity	0.00
3150 Temp Restricted Net Assets	0.00
3200 Unrestricted Net Assets	234,522.77
32000 Retained Earnings	483,030.39
Net Income	614.84
Total Equity	\$718,168.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$723,075.86



Executive Director's Report

Submitted by Gail Ridenour - September 16, 2026 Board Meeting

Strategic Plan Coding for report:

As part of the ED board report, coding will be provided directly linking the information to the BSO Strategic Plan.

- **SPA** = Artistic Development – Strive for Artistic Excellence
- **SPE** = Community – Engage
- **SPIF** = Infrastructure - A. Financial- Build on our strong and sustainable financial structure.
- **SPII** = Infrastructure - B. People - Commit to a high level of administrative, board, musician, and volunteer quality and cooperation.
- **SPDC** - Development and Capacity – A respected and collaborative community partner.

Administration/General:

- [All Access Whatcom](#), which could be a game changing funding source for arts and culture in our community, is progressing. Gail is working with other community arts and culture leaders on this. Future meetings and next steps are planned. **SPIF + SPDC**
- There is a contingency of people working towards a new performing arts facility in Bellingham. As people have been meeting with commissioners, councilpeople, mayors, etc and some have started fundraising, the group met at the BSO office to come together and see where we align and how we might work together. Future meetings are planned. **SPDC**
- Office/staff:
 - Shannon Coyne is now the BSO Programs & Youth Symphony Coordinator. Shannon comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with youth, orchestras, and education. The interview committee consisting of Mark Tomko (BSO Board/NSYS parent), Desiree Kane (NSYS Board Pres), Isabelle Kepner (BSO Admin Coord & Bookkeeper), and Gail were all very impressed with Shannon as was Judy Widrig (BYCP Director), who consulted on final applicants. Shannon comes to us with glowing recommendations from multiple sources. In this role, Shannon will be working as program coordinator for the North Sound Youth Symphony (NSYS), BYCP, Classical Kids, our school programs, and more. She brings an incredible skill set to the role, is a

certified K-12 music teacher, an incredible musician, and has a vision and love for youth and music. **SPE + SPII + SPDC**

- We are researching options for direct deposit for musician stipends for this season. **SPIF**
- Patty and Isabelle finished preparing the 25-26 fiscal year end for our 990 CPA, Dan. Isabelle submitted it to Dan. **SPIF**
- 2026-2027 financials will be digital with digital back-ups. Gail, Isabelle, and Patty did the annual back-office and financial review/sort where the BSO Policies & Procedures on retention and shredding were followed. **SPIF**
- Professional development (part of Strategic Plan:
 - Stacey, Isabelle, and Gail attended the League of American Orchestras' Welcoming Your Audience through Technology League Webinar. **SPE + SPII**
 - BSO continues to be part of the Inclusive Stages with the League of American Orchestras Inclusive Stages. BSO is part of the working group focussing on organizational culture and the onboarding process for musicians. This involves sessions each month with the working group on organizational culture. Part of this includes the BSO having a goal as a participating organization. **SPII + SPDC**

Development:

- Impact Report - The BSO released an impact report for our Golden Season - <https://www.bellinghamsymphony.org/about/impact>. The goal is to make this an annual report. **SPE + SPDC**
- Sponsors:
 - 26-27 sponsorships are in the works and being finalized. **SPE + SPIF**
- Legacy Society: We are up to sixteen in our Legacy Society, doubling this past season for our 50th. Let me know if you have anyone you think I should talk to about joining this. **SPE + SPIF + SPDC**
- At Home & Restaurant Dinners are a great way to explore the music beyond the stage, build community, and raise funds for the BSO. Here are the offerings this year - <https://www.bellinghamsymphony.org/event-category/dinners-special-events> **SPE + SPIF**
 - Saturday 10/3 [Mystère de Cirque](#) at Old World Deli featuring Dawn Posey on violin, Yaniv Attar on guitar, and the Shoestring Circus
 - Friday 11/20 [Meet the Piano](#) on the MBT stage featuring Angel Stanislav Wang on piano and catering from Chef Cassidy
 - Saturday 2/6 [Twin Flames](#) at The Lighthouse Bar & Grill featuring Gil Shaham & Adele Anthony on violin
 - Friday 3/19 [Petit Pleasures At Home Dinner with Gail](#) featuring Amit Peled on cello
 - Saturday 5/22 [At Home Dinner with Jill](#) featuring our trio of soloists: soprano Katie Van Kooten, tenor Martin Bakari, and baritone José Rubio

Youth & Community Engagement:

- Youth Engagement (**SPE + SPDC**)

- Meet A Musician at the Whatcom Museum's Family Interactive Gallery (FIG) is continuing this year (MOU with WM). Windworks is a part of this and doing mini instrument petting zoos at each of these monthly events as part of the Free First Fridays at 4pm in downtown Bham.
 - Here is the lineup for the season with corresponding [Classical Kids](#) Meet A Musicians:
 - Friday 9/4/26 Trumpet w/Kevin Woods
 - 50+ kids with over 25 kids trying the trumpet!
 - Friday 10/2/26 + CK Sat 10/3/26 @11am Harp w/Jill Whitman
 - Friday 11/6/26 + CK Fri 11/20/26 @6pm Viola w/Morgan Schwab
 - Friday 12/4/26 + CK Sat 12/12/26 @9:35am Flute/picc w/Gena Mikkelsen
 - NO January - Holiday
 - Friday 2/5/27 + CK Sat 2/6/27 @9:35am Horn w/Kristi Kilgore
 - Friday 3/5/27 + CK Sat 3/20/27 @9:35am Cello w/Samantha Sinai
 - NO April - Spring Break
 - Friday 5/7/27 + CK Sat 5/22/27 @9:35am Bassoon w/Jackson Stewart-DeBelly
 - Miss Ally from the Bellingham Public Library will be pairing books with Classical Kids again this year.
- Information about youth programs was sent to the SJMEA (San Juan Music Educators Association) member list, which includes all music teachers in San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties. This includes the educational concert, Soloists in the Schools, Trailblazers, BYCP, NSYS, Instrument Loan Program, Classical Kids, Student Rush, Student Subscription, and Young Artist Competition.
- BSO Youth Chamber Players (BYCP)
 - Website and student/family portal is updated for the season.
 - Emails went out to past participants and area teachers about BYCP (included info about NSYS and partnership).
 - Registration closes September 18 and fall session starts September 27.
 - BYCP mini is back and updated! We are excited to have Lenelle Morse assisting as the BYCP mini Coordinator. BYCP mini students will have coaches and repertoire designed for elementary students who study their instrument with a private teacher and play at a level where they are ready to make music within an ensemble. BYCP mini students have started as young as 2nd grade as long as they meet requirements to ensure a great experience.
 - BYCP Director Judy Widrig is lining up this year's coaches.
 - BYCP students will get three masterclasses with BSO soloists this year.
 - BYCP has a performance at The Willows in March.
 - BYCP will be at WWU again this year.

- *Music* This last year we were able to add over 20 chamber music works to our BYCP chamber music library by women composers thanks to support from Catherine Rae Sheldon.
- North Sound Youth Symphony (NSYS): Gail is working with Shannon, Desiree, and NSYS to coordinate the fall quarter of NSYS.
 - Updates have been made to the registration/tuition/scholarship process and website with a new student portal.
 - Shannon is scheduling auditions and getting preparations underway for the first rehearsal. She will be coordinating with Desiree.
 - NSYS tuition will be run through their system. Shannon will track payments/scholarships and coordinate with the NSYS treasurer.
 - NSYS families received an email from Desiree about updates to the program and the partnership/collaboration with BSO. Gail and Desiree coordinated on this.
 - The MOU for this partnership is being drafted and will be in place prior to the start of NSYS.
- August/September tabling and community events **SPE + SPDC**: Summer tabling and events provides BSO with opportunities to connect with new audiences in the area through positive interactions, music, games, information sharing, and giveaways.
 - Back-2-School with Bellingham School District on Saturday August 22 where BSO provides bookmarks, pencils, folders, and information about our youth programs (Classical Kids, BYCP, YAC, Instrument Loan Program) to over 500 students.
 - Classical on Tap at Stemma West - last Wednesday of each month in the summer where BSO has chamber music, trivia, and giveaways. It is a family-friendly outdoor performance in a covered area with food, drinks, and scarves for dancing.
 - August 26 Harp with Jill Whitman
 - Sunset Flicks - BSO is partnered with Pickford and the City of Bellingham to bring silent films with live music to Bay Street on Friday, August 28. It featured a small chamber orchestra conducted by Ryan Dudenbostel. Music included piano with Andrea Rackl and 3 films with original scores by Kevin Woods and Julia Zuzanna Sokolowska.
www.bellinghamsymphony.org/event/sunset-flicks-2026
 - Fall Info Fair at WWU on Tuesday, September 22 where BSO provides information about our programs and giveaways. (BSO also providing 2,000+ info sheets for incoming freshman welcome bags).
- BSO Book Club is set for the 26-27 season. You can check out the selections and dates for the book clubs meeting at Village books on our website here -
www.bellinghamsymphony.org/event-category/bsobookclub. Seifert & Jones Wine Merchants thoughtfully selects two wines for you to purchase for your own book club — and for us to enjoy at our BSO Book Club gatherings. Purchase online and use the discount code BOOKCLUB10 to receive a 10% BSO Book Club member discount. Mention the book group and receive 15% off recommended

reads at Village Books. The books are available for free through the public libraries in print and online.

SPE

- Meet Us At The Movies with Pickford is set for the 26-27 season. We will have films for our November, December, February, March, and May concert (not October because of October programming). **SPE**

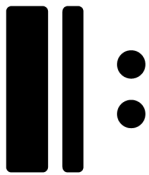
Ticketing/Marketing:

- 51st season **SPA + SPE + SPDC**
 - Instead of the typical season postcard mailing in August, BSO did a targeted mailing postcard campaign aimed at the packages [Legends](#) & [Sonnets](#) with the tag of Choose Your Own Adventure. Since season subscription numbers were doing well, we were able to prioritize other marketing campaigns designed to bring in people who might not be interested in a full season of concerts. Through naming the season and capitalizing on that to create two different packages, the goal is to retain people from last season who did not renew for a full season in a smaller capacity and to step people up from single ticket purchases to package holders. This mailing went out to people who did not renew plus 6,000 targeted households meeting key demographics.
 - Emails leading up to the season started in July and continued into September with a focus on storytelling, summer activities, and community involvement. Content, timing, etc were determined based on email response rates, click rates, and research into best practices.
 - The BSO website has been updated to reflect the new season and program updates. Some areas were restructured for better efficiency and ease of access for users.
 - Stacey is working with Whatcom Talk and other local publications on stories for our 51st season.
 - Visit Bellingham did an article on our new musicians - <https://www.bellingham.org/pressreleases/bellingham-symphony-orchestra-announces-new-musicians-for-2026-2027-season>.
- 26/27 Ticketing - As of September 11 BSO has 891 (\$181,298, budget = \$160,000) season subscribers!
 - Golden Season = 968 (50 of which were complimentary for the 50th season raffle)
 - 49th Season = 396
 - 2019-2020 Season = 501 (pre-pandemic)

Operations:

- **SAVE THE DATE! Board and musician luncheon is on Saturday, October 3 at 11am at the Walton Room at MBT. This is when board and musicians get to celebrate the start of the season together at the first dress rehearsal. SPII**
- Musician contracts were sent out using Ensemble Manager. **SPA + SPIF + SPII + SPDC**
- Concert 1 rehearsals started 9/1 with a woodwind sectional and the first full rehearsal on 9/8. Ryan Dudenbostel will be guest conducting rehearsal on 9/15 when Yaniv is in Rockford. **SPA**

- Truss rentals are in place for the Shoestring Circus aerials for Concert 1. **SPA + SPE**
- Principal strings are bowing music for Concert 2. **SPA**
- Blind auditions for the principal clarinet final round were held on August 14th. Fabian Nieto won the position. **SPA + SPDC**
- As part of Inclusive Stages, BSO is piloting a Musician Buddy program for the Organizational Culture working group (Cincinnati Symphony is as well). Kay Reilly, Kristy Fairbanks, Sandra Payton, and Gail are working on this. Each new musician is paired with a current BSO musician with activities and tasks to build connections within the orchestras and help new musicians to feel welcome and part of the community. **SPII + SPDC**
- Nutcracker with Opus is progressing with musicians secured. **SPA + SPE + SPDC**
- The agenda for Mannheim Steamroller reached out to BSO about hiring some of our musicians to play in the holiday show at MBT on Friday, December 11. They will contract with BSO for the musicians, provide the music, etc. This is part of MBT's Centennial Season. BSO musicians participating will still play in the Holiday Magic! Concert. **SPA + SPE + SPDC**



To BSO Board of Directors
From: Kathy Bell, Governance Chair (BSO VP)

Present: Kathy Bell, Charlie Halka, Barbara Ryan, Toni Sandler, Adrienne Stewart, Corey Welch (ED Gail Ridenour)

Absent: Carol Comeau

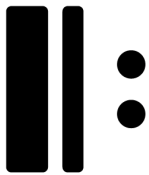
1. This committee will meet on the 3rd Monday of the alternate month from the Board Meeting at 12PM. However, the October meeting will be rescheduled for October 12.
2. Board Development Topics have been tentatively set for each full Board Meeting as follows:
 - a. Every meeting will start with a 3 minute excerpt from an upcoming musical piece (either recorded or musician) – why is it a favorite? We hope this short period of musical focus will set the tone for our support of music and the BSO. Charlie Halka in charge.
 - b. September
 - i. Yaniv will share the artistic plan and give a short presentation on the process for developing this plan (20 minutes)
 - ii. Board Buddies will share goals for the year (10 minutes)
 - c. November
 - i. Review the 990 filing
 - ii. Begin background review for task force on performing arts facility.
 1. The prior review will be sent out to everyone prior to the meeting for review.
 2. Christina Littlejohn (Little Rock, Arkansas) and/or Brenda Stonecipher (McIntyre Hall) will be invited to share their experiences
 - d. January
 - i. Focus on Youth Engagement (NSYS Task Force)
 - ii. Board buddies elevator speech reviews – Kathy
 - e. March
 - i. Budget review
 - ii. Initial report from Health and Wellness task force – Kathy
 - f. May



Bellingham Symphony Orchestra
BSO Governance Committee Report

Board of Directors
September 16, 2026

- i. Inclusive Stages report – Musicians to share experiences (Kay/Kristy/Christian)
 - g. July
 - i. Nuts and Bolts
 - ii. LAO session presentations from 2026 meeting in some form
- 3. Current vacant board seats
 - a. This year Toni and Barbara to work on paradigm for board recruitments and codifying search qualities for prospective board members
 - b. Gail and Carol discussing one potential board member, Ken Harrison to leave Board
- 4. League of American Orchestras
 - a. Get copy of board governance book published by LAO for each person on board
 - b. Make sure everyone on Board has access to Board website
 - c. SAVE THE DATE for LAO 2027 Conference in Atlanta June 2-4
- 5. Overview of comprehensive governing document review and updates for the season
 - a. Corey leading review – will review over the next several committee meetings in chunks (Oct, Dec, Feb). Embedded links will be in documents.
- 6. Additional goals for this committee
 - a. Advisory Council – Corey and Adrienne (December Committee meeting)
 - b. Board self-evaluations – Toni, Kathy, and Barbara (December Committee meeting)



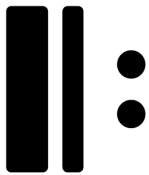
To BSO Board of Directors

From: Kathy Bell, BSO VP

Present: Kathy Bell, Toni Sandler, Mark Tomko, Corey Welch

Absent: Carol Comeau, Marty Haines, Richard Hodges, Lucas Senger

1. 26-27 meetings will be on 3rd Monday on months alternating with Board Meeting. We will change the October Engagement/Development meeting to October 12.
2. The committee formulated goals for the coming season as follows:
 - a. Setting criteria for how and with whom we engage (arts, philanthropic, education organizations). The elements will include
 - i. Selection process
 - ii. Assessment process
 - iii. Alignment with BSO mission, values, strategic planning, etc.
 - iv. Sustainability (financial, staff burden, risk...)
 - v. Potential impact
 - vi. Audacity (moon shot)
 - vii. One time or ongoing engagements
 - viii. Meaningfulness and mutually beneficial to both organizations
 - b. Standing up and recommendations – Community Arts Center Task Force recommendation
 - i. Initial deliverable Charter for task force
 - c. Capital Campaigns
 - i. Endowments – Chair support for 10-15 years available
 - ii. Legacy Circle
 - iii. Support for the Education Concerts to augment current generous donor
 1. Back 2 School Campaign
 - a. Support a child, a class, a grade level, a band/orchestra
 - b. In addition to raising funds for this purpose, this will also serve as a pilot project to gauge response for “smaller” asks from current donors



- iv. Purchase of Celesta (2 years away for 53rd season) – keep in mind, everyone has heard and loves the celesta but few know exactly what it is. Ideas for fund-raising might include
 - 1. A piece in every concert (Harry Potter, Nutcracker, Holiday – Home Alone, Shostavich 5th, Bartok concerto, Das Lied von Der Erde, Mahler 6)
 - 2. Lullaby project
 - a. Connect with Roots of Empathy (Roots of Empathy is an international, evidence-based classroom program designed to help children ages 5–13 develop empathy, emotional literacy, and prosocial behavior through guided observation of a baby and their parent)
 - b. Opportunity to record a lullaby on new celesta for fundraiser
 - c. Pop Culture tie-ins – e.g., Ain’t No Mountain High Enough (Marvin Gaye and Tami Terrell), Close Encounters of the 3rd Kind
- d. Health and Wellness Program
 - i. Kathy will lead over next 6 months to develop some ideas and levels of application with small sub-group
 - 1. Gai to connect with Sam Sinai and Ming (Shu-Shin’s husband)
 - 2. Mark T (also to check in with Behavioral Neuroscience at WWU)
 - 3. Gail to connect with Brad and John T
 - 4. Kathy to check out UW possibilities for connections