



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA
THE RENO YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Northern Nevada

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Continuing the Jazz Tradition

The Reno Jazz Orchestra (RJO) has successfully concluded its FY-2023/2024 performance season, and I am excited to present its Annual Report detailing our accomplishments and season highlights.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank all our Benefactors, Sponsors, Donors, and Fans who have supported our non-profit organization. Due to the generous donations, we have significantly increased our ability to provide exceptional guest artists, artistically creative programming, and world-class education programs to inspire the next generation.

Highlights of our past season included hiring Dr. Greg Johnson as RJO's Music Director and Nichole Heglund as our new Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra Director. I am also very grateful to our previous Executive Director, Tim Young, for his tireless and unwavering drive to propel the RJO forward fiscally and artistically. We also found a perfect new home at the Note-able Music Therapy Services building, with room for rehearsals, classes, and performances.

As the new Executive Director, I look forward to an exciting new year working with all our stakeholders, musicians, and students as we continue to provide the best to the living and breathing art form we call JAZZ. I am proud, humbled, and grateful to be a part of such a fantastic organization.

Vernon Scarbrough
Executive Director

History & Mission

The Reno Jazz Orchestra has been based in Northern Nevada for over 25 years and was formed by musicians who performed and traveled the world with acts such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Elvis Presley, Natalie Cole, Luciano Pavarotti, and other legendary performers. The tradition of jazz excellence set by the founders continues today with jazz professors, educators, and graduates from the University of Nevada, Reno's jazz studies program setting new performance standards.



Educational Programs

Year in Review

This past school year was a remarkable success for RJO's Education Programs. Students received 350 hours of instruction through various initiatives, including the Mentor Program, Saturday Jazz Workshop, Lessons Program, Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra, and the Jazz in the Schools event. Our dedicated team of 45 instructors provided music instructional support to over 900 youth.

Discover Jazz Workshop

An exciting change this spring was the move to the Note-Able Music Therapy Services building. With the addition of a dedicated RJO classroom, the spring semester of the Jazz Workshop, held on Saturdays, welcomed 15 students from 12 local schools. The students improved their ear training, jazz theory, and improvisation skills with talented instructor Dylan Coleman-Tunstall and guest instructors Nick Bentz, Vincenzo Pellegrino, and Tyler Cravines. The semester ended with a dynamic performance at Laughing Planet, where students could utilize their skills alongside professional musicians and the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra combo.



Educational Programs

Jazz in the Schools

The 25th annual Jazz in the Schools event, held at the University of Nevada, Reno, on February 10th, saw a record attendance of 425 student musicians and featured 18 school ensemble performances. The University of Nevada, Reno jazz faculty offered both beginning and advanced improvisation clinics. Students had the invaluable opportunity to work with trombonist, composer, and educator Dean Sorenson, as well as talented musicians Anisha Rush, Barb Catlin, and Gary Mayne.

Participating Schools

- Billingshurst Middle School Band
- Billingshurst Middle School Golden Strings
- Carson Middle School
- Carson High School
- Damonte Ranch High School
- Depoali Middle School
- Hug High School
- Incline Middle School
- McQueen High School Band
- McQueen High School Eclectic Orchestra
- North Valleys High School
- Reno High School
- Shaw Middle School
- Swope Middle School



Educational Programs

Lessons Program

Now in its fourth semester, RJO's Lessons Program continues to serve local Title I schools, offering students from low-income families the opportunity to receive additional instruction at no cost. This year, RJO partnered with Traner Middle School and Wooster High School, providing over 140 hours of individual and small group music lessons during the school day with the help of 11 local instructors.

Mentor Program

The Reno Jazz Orchestra Mentor Program completed its 13th year, continuing its mission to support jazz education in local schools. Professional jazz musicians and educators guided improvisation, jazz style, and instrument-specific techniques. This past school year, 14 RJO Mentors conducted 110 sessions at nine different schools, all at no cost to the schools, thanks to the support of our donors.

Participating Schools

- Billingshurst Middle School
- Carson High School
- Depoali Middle School
- Hug High School
- McQueen High School Band
- McQueen High School Eclectic Orchestra
- North Valleys High School
- Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra
- Shaw Middle School
- Swope Middle School

Educational Programs

Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra

The Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra (RYJO) is a platform for big band performances by young musicians. The 18th season commenced in November after a successful audition period in October 2023, which saw an increased number of students. RYJO performed 13 times this year, including at prominent events like the J Resort Pool Party, The Theatre, Folsom Jazz Festival, and the Nevada Museum of Art.



Educational Programs

2023/2024 Education Programs & Performances

- **July 12:** RYJO Performance at McKinley Arts Center
- **July 29:** RYJO Performance at J Resort
- **August - November:** Fall Mentor Program, Lessons Program, Fall Jazz Workshop
- **November - July:** Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra Season
- **December 3:** RYJO Opens for RJO Holiday Concert
- **January - April:** Spring Mentor Program, Jazz Workshops, Lessons Program
- **January 27:** RYJO Performance at Folsom Jazz Festival
- **February 10:** Jazz in the Schools
- **March 9:** RYJO Performance at Bartley Ranch Interpretive Center
- **April 13:** RYJO Performance at Nevada Museum of Art
- **June 2:** Workshop & RYJO Combo Performance at Laughing Planet
- **June 6:** RYJO Performance at Promenade on the River
- **June 30:** RYJO Performance at J Resort Pool Party

Educational Programs

Thank you for your continued support in fostering the next generation of jazz musicians. Your contributions make these programs possible and help us reach more students annually.



Reno Jazz Orchestra

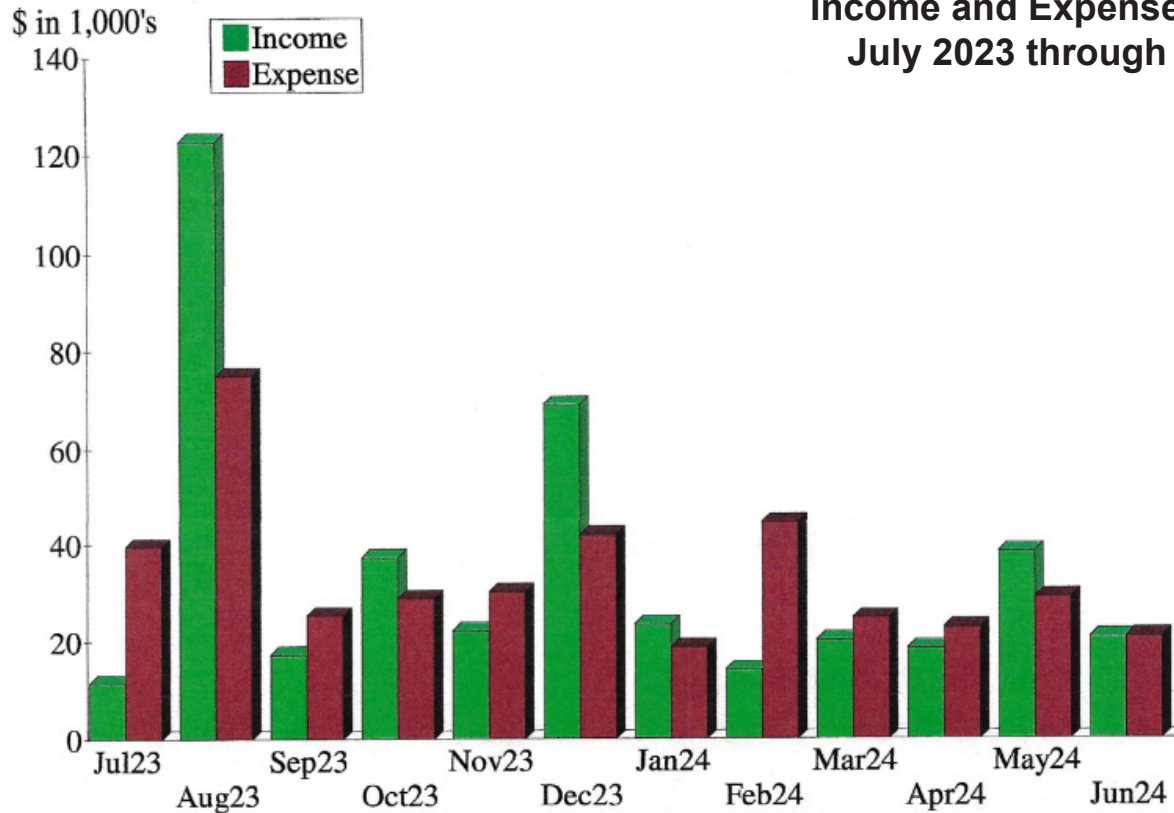
2023/2024 RJO Calendar Highlights

- **July 2023:** Hot House – “One Night at the Savoy” (two shows)
- **August 2023:** “Tom Scott with the RJO” - (two shows)
- **August 2023:** Carson City Jazz and Beyond Festival
- **September 2023:** May Arboretum Society’s ‘Picnic in the Park’ Music Series
- **October 2023:** “Creative Directions in Jazz”
- **November 2023:** “Such Sweet Thunder” with the RJO & Saturday Workshop Students (two shows)
- **December 2023:** “Holiday Jazz: Music of the Season”
- **February 2024:** “Trombone Extravaganza”
- **March 2024:** “Jazz Around the World”



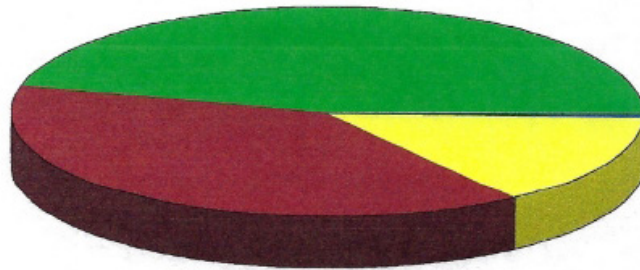
Financial Highlights

Income and Expense by Month July 2023 through June 2024



Financial Highlights

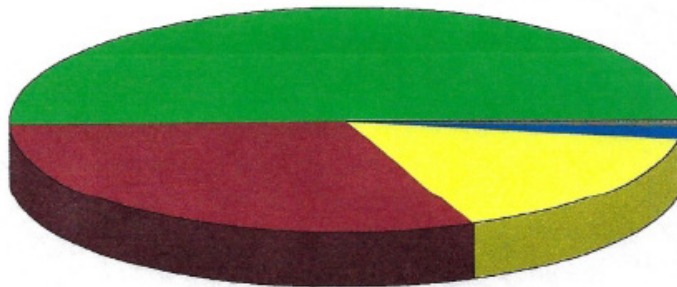
Expense Summary July 2023 through June 2024



PERFORMANCE EXPENSES	46.08%
PAYROLL EXPENSES	39.22
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	14.46
UNCATEGORIZED EXPENSES	0.24
Total	\$402,944.61

Financial Highlights

Income Summary July 2023 through June 2024



CONTRIBUTIONS	50.35%
PERFORMANCE REVENUES	30.89
GRANTS	16.13
MEMBERSHIP FEES	2.03
REVENUES	0.24
OTHER INCOME	0.19
UNCATEGORIZED INCOME	0.17
INTEREST INCOME	0.01
Total	\$416,604.99

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Chuck and Candy Reider

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Anonymous
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Our Gracious Donors

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Our Gracious Donors

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RJO Friends (\$25+)

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Our Gracious Donors

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Inspiring Our Youth, Making Music Together

Due to the generous support of our donors and community, the performances of the Reno Jazz Orchestra and Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra continue to enrich our community's cultural landscape, inspire excellence and collaboration, and transform lives through education.

Let us all celebrate how music connects us all for all the right reasons.

Thank you for your support.



Contact Us

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