On behalf of the entire Reno Jazz Orchestra and our staff, I sincerely thank you and all our fans who have donated to our organization and continue to support our local programs. It is because of this generosity that we have provided twenty-two years of service to Northern Nevada.

We could not be where we are today without the financial donations and in-kind services that have generously been donated to enhance all our initiatives.

Over the years, we have increased our performances and continue to see a nice upsurge in new ‘fans’ who contributed to our first ‘sold out’ shows. Our education programs have expanded as well, and you can read about their success in this Annual Report. Capping another successful year, we were also able to hire our first employees - all of whom are passionate about our purpose and fully dedicated to our mission and future success.

I am honored to have been a member of the RJO since its inception in 1997 and equally honored to present you this Annual Report. Thank you again for helping us keep jazz an integral part of Northern Nevada today and for years to come!

Chuck Reider, Executive/Music Director
The Reno Jazz Orchestra is a 17-piece contemporary big band based in Northern Nevada. The band was formed in 1997 by musicians who have performed with acts such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Elvis Presley, Natalie Cole, and Luciano Pavarotti and traveled the world with legendary performers.

Our mission is to build a greater appreciation of jazz in Northern Nevada by providing outstanding big band performances, promoting the artistry of Reno Jazz Orchestra musicians through a variety of ensembles, and supporting jazz education through a mentorship program in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. All combined, we contribute to the vibrancy, diversity, cultural vitality, and quality of our community’s artistic life.
Educational Programs

Jazz in the Schools

The Reno Jazz Orchestra’s annual Jazz in the Schools (JITS) event takes place each February in the Department of Music’s prestigious Nightingale Concert Hall at the University of Nevada, Reno. The program is supported through grants and private contributions. Hundreds of young jazz musicians in Washoe County hear other student jazz ensembles, receive feedback from great clinicians, and hear a concert by the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

This past year, sixteen middle school and high school big bands from the area performed and received feedback from clinicians Dean Sorenson, Matt Hoorman, and Paul Lucckesi. All are nationally recognized jazz educators brought in by RJO for this event. Three small combos performed and received feedback from UNR Jazz Faculty members Andy Heglund, Peter Epstein, and Hans Halt. This year’s featured performer, John Riley, held an afternoon clinic with RJO. RJO continued a three-day in-service program for WCSD Band Directors who attended workshops led by UNR Jazz Faculty and clinician Dean Sorenson who illustrated rehearsal techniques by rehearsing the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Because of the outpouring of local financial support, there is no charge to the schools, students, and Band Directors to participate in Jazz in the Schools. Over 400 students and parents were involved in Saturday’s activities. The Sunday matinee featured acclaimed drummer performing artist and educator John Riley.
Reno Jazz Orchestra Mentor Program

The Reno Jazz Orchestra Jazz Mentor program, in its ninth year, continued to expand with the help of the EL Cord Foundation, City of Reno, State of Nevada, and Healing HealthCare Systems funding. Participating schools this year were:

- Carson Middle School
- Alder Creek Middle School
- Swope Middle School
- Depoali Middle School
- Billinghurst Middle School
- Damonte High School
- McQueen High School
- Galena High School
- Reno High School
- Hug High School
- Incline High School
- Truckee High School
- Wooster High School
- Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra 1

The Mentor Program placed twelve jazz educators in the fourteen mentioned schools over the course of eight months. The mentors included Reno Jazz Orchestra members Jim Garaventa, Karl Busch, Jonathan Phillips, and John Bennum; University of Nevada Reno Jazz faculty Peter Epstein, Andy Heglund, and Josh Reed; UNR Grad Students or recent graduates Brandon Sherman, Dylan Coleman-Tunstall, Julien Knowles and David Gervais.

These twelve mentors provided 100 sessions of professional service serving over 340 students. This program has proven to be a beneficial and rewarding way to keep jazz alive in our public schools and community.
Reno Jazz Orchestra Jazz Workshop

The RJO continued our Saturday Jazz Workshops for middle and high school students focusing on jazz improvisation. Directors Bryan McAllister (spring) and Dylan Coleman-Tunstall (fall) each held eight sessions. Students learned the melody to jazz standards and the notes to improvise over the song all by ear. Included were jazz theory sessions and break-out sessions for specific instruments. As a capstone event, the students opened our May and November Hall Concerts at the Good Luck Macbeth Theater.
Reno Jazz Orchestra 2019 Performances

Jazz in the Schools
February 10th (Reno, NV)
Approximately 375 in attendance

Northern Nevada Hopes Benefit
April 30th (Reno, NV)
Approximately 85 in attendance

Tahoe Family Solutions Gala
May 2nd (Incline Village, NV)
Approximately 175 in attendance

Hall Concert – The Music of Vince Mendoza
May 31st & June 1st (Reno, NV)
Approximately 200 in attendance

The Queen of Soul, a Loving Tribute to Aretha Franklin
July 15th (Reno, NV)
July 21st (Reno, NV)
July 22nd (Sand Harbor, NV)
Approximately 2800 in attendance

Jazz and Beyond
August 25th (Carson City, NV)
Approximately 300 in attendance

An Evening with Kurt Elling & The RJO
September 1st (Reno, NV)
September 1st (Sand Harbor, NV)
Approximately 1500 in attendance

Hall Concert – Stan Kenton Tribute
November 18th & 19th (Reno, NV)
Approximately 200 in attendance

Home for the Holidays
December 12th & 13th (Reno, NV)
Approximately 650 in attendance
Platinum
Anonymous
Susan Mazer & Dallas Smith

Gold
Anonymous
Eleanor and Bob Preger

Silver
Sandra Cath and David Contis
Lilian and Steve Frank
George Foster
Dent Hand, Jr.
Julie and Craig Rauchle

Bronze (cont.)
Shari Pheasant
Candy and Chuck Reider
Baiba and Ainars Rodins
Nancy Rose
Irene and Steven Self
Lois and Don Smaltz (in memory of Leonard Neidhold)
Maria and Arthur Thompson
Linda and King Won
Christine Worthington

RJO Partner
Paula Knickerbocker
The Koch Family Trust
Roz Reynolds
Jennifer Stern

RJO Band Fan
Nancy Podewils-Baba
Anne Bacon
Diane Baranowski
Kathleen and John Beckman
Robert and John Bell
Suzanne and Matthew Booher
Kelly and James Borelli
Bernard Bronov
Elinor and David Bugli

RJO Band Fan (cont.)
Debra E. Calleros
Terry and Bob Casaceli
Marilyn Costa
Kim Driggs
Patty Engels
Susan Fittinghoff
Cathy and Robert Gabrielli
Priscilla and Nate Gordon
Fred Green
Ruth Gregory
Deborah Hamlin
Donna and Joseph Harvey
Diane Jankiewicz
Susan and David Kelley
Janet and Monte Klein Family Foundation
Pennie and Knute Knudson
Mary and Frank Marfisi
Joseph S. McElhinney, M.D., J.S.
Kathleen and Robert Mentgen
Denise and Peter Menzies, Jr.
Anna Mkrtchyan
Elaine Moser
Linda and Steve Newberg
Jay Orlich
Doris and Richard Phelps
RJO Band Fan (cont.)
Jacqueline Pisterello
Danne Polk
Wayne Pressel
Tanglewood Productions
Lee Ragonese
Cathy Rossner
Richard Siegel TTE
Ann Silver
Larry Simcoe
Micheline Thompson
Kaye and Joe Shackford
Jane and Thomas Schwenk
Carolyn and Michael Smith
Lois and Robert Strejc
Karen and Michael Traynor
Christine Veach
Vera Weber
Karla Werninghaus
Kathleen and Andrew Woodard
Laura Worden

RJO Friends (cont.)
Diana Foley
Margaret Holman
Martha and Don Jessup
Lois Ling
Charlene Martin
Joyce Newman
Peg Murphy
David Shintani

CORPORATE SPONSORS
Absolute Music
A Master Mechanic
Chase International
Healing HealthCare Systems
Horse Power Strategies
Mishe Creative
Montreux Golf and Country Club
Strategic HR Partners
TVC Accounting, LLC

Grantors
State of Nevada $23,206
Music Performance Trust Fund $2,310
City of Reno $6,000
E.L. Cord Foundation $5,000
Total $36,516
2019 Financial Highlights

**Performance & Education**
- Contributions: $164,272
- Grants: $36,516
- Other: $908
- Fundraising: $17,110
- Marketing: $26,734
- Administrative: $32,817

76% of expenses go directly toward Education and Performance