On behalf of the entire Reno Jazz Orchestra and staff, I sincerely thank you and all our fans who have donated to our organization and continue to support our local programs.

When a small group of the finest showroom musicians in town founded our organization in 1997, we initiated a mission to provide our community with exceptional big band jazz performances. Since then, our mission has expanded to include a robust jazz education program.

We would not be where we are today without the financial support and in-kind services that have been generously donated to enhance all our initiatives over the past twenty-three years.

2020 was such a tumultuous year, and it was through your support that the RJO was able to continue its mission online and plan for the future. Last summer we decided to record the Earth, Wind, and Fire program we had intended to perform live. That project brought the singers and musicians, by section, into the Tanglewood Productions studios to record their parts. We are finishing up the project and intend to have the album available for our 2021 concerts. We thank board member Michael Eardley and his wife Catharine for making Tanglewood available to us. I want to thank our staff for diligently working, primarily online, to successfully foster our mission. They are passionate about our purpose, professionally talented, 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 and traveled the world with such legendary performers as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Elvis Presley, Natalie Cole, and Luciano Pavarotti.

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 occurs 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 Northern Nevada hear other jazz ensembles, receive feedback from nationally recognized clinicians, and hear a concert by the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

This past year, thirteen middle and high school jazz ensembles from the area performed and received feedback from clinicians Mike Steinel, Josh Murray, Josh Reed, and Tina Raymond. All are nationally recognized jazz educators brought in by the RJO for this event. A total of 17 large ensembles performed and received feedback, and for the first time, this included two jazz choirs.

Five combos also performed and received feedback from UNR Jazz Faculty members Andy Heglund, Peter Epstein, Ed Corey, Adam Benjamin, and Hans Halt. This year’s featured artists were Peter Epstein, Josh Reed, and Adam Benjamin, performing a tribute to Oliver Nelson. During the afternoon clinic, students were invited on stage to observe the RJO musicians perform up close. Between songs, students were able to ask questions about what they heard and saw. The RJO also continued its two-day in-service program for area band directors, led by Mike Steinel.

Thanks to the outpouring of local financial support, there is no charge to the schools, students, or band directors to participate in any portion of Jazz in the Schools. Over 300 students and parents were involved in Saturday’s activities.
The Reno Jazz Orchestra Mentor Program is in its tenth year of providing support to jazz education in our area schools. It continues to evolve with the help of funding from the EL Cord Foundation, City of Reno, State of Nevada, Healing HealthCare Systems, and private contributions. Participating schools this year were:

Billinghamurst Middle School  McQueen High School
Carson Middle School         Reno High School
Carson High School           Swope Middle School
Damonte Ranch High School    Truckee High School
Incline High School

Despite schools being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic for most of 2020, ten jazz mentors worked with nine school jazz ensembles to provide 33 in-person sessions and 15 online sessions serving over 200 students. This year our mentors included Karl Busch, David Gervais, Dylan Coleman, John Bennum, Hans Halt, Josh Reed, Chris Clark, Cami Thompson, Julien Knowles, and Andy Heglund.

As everything moved online in 2020, we supported our directors and schools with the creation of our Mentor Video Library. RJO Mentors recorded 12 jazz education videos that focused on improvisation, music theory, and practice techniques. Directors are able to access these to aid in their hybrid and distance teaching formats.

This program continues to be a beneficial and rewarding way to keep jazz alive and robust in our public schools and community.
Educational Programs (cont.)

**Reno Jazz Orchestra Jazz Workshop**

Our Saturday Jazz Workshops for middle and high school students continued in an online format throughout the pandemic. Students focused on jazz improvisation, ear training, and rhythm with instructor Dylan Coleman. Over the course of eight sessions, guest instructors Tim Gay (saxophone), Tyler Cravines (drums), and Chris Clark (saxophone) were able to do breakout sessions with students to give more individual instruction.

During these sessions, students worked on two jazz standards and remotely recorded their parts and improvisation. The recordings were then layered together by GPG Music and Our Virtual Ensemble to create virtual ensemble performances.

The culminating event was our Education Program’s first virtual ensemble videos.
### Reno Jazz Orchestra 2019 Performances

**Jazz in the Schools**  
*February 8th (Reno, NV)*  
Nightingale Concert Hall  
Approximately 350 in attendance

**Carson Valley Arts Council Concert Series**  
*March 13th (Minden, NV)*  
Carson Valley Improvement Club Hall  
Approximately 250 in attendance

**Private Trio Concerts**  
*August 8 & 9, 2020 (Reno/Lake Tahoe)*  
Approximately 20 in attendance at each event

**RJO Trombone Quartet at Reno Empty Event**  
*September 26, 2020 (Reno, NV; Virtual)*  
Live-stream from Pioneer Center Plaza

**Earth Wind & Fire Recording Project**  
*September – February, 2021 (Reno, NV)*  
Tanglewood Productions  
Recordings for future CD

**Student Jazz Workshops, Virtual Ensemble Videos released**  
*September, 2020 (Virtual)*  
Public release of student ensemble performances

**Student Jazz Workshops, Spring Semester**  
*March 14 – May 23, 2020 (Virtual)*  
Nightingale Concert Hall  
Remote instruction  
Twelve students served

**Mentor Program Masterclasses**  
*May 7, 14, & 21, 2020 (Virtual)*  
Featuring Julien Knowles, David Gervais, and Hans Halt  
Approximately 175 in attendance

**Earth Wind & Fire Virtual Ensemble Videos released**  
*June – July, 2020 (Virtual)*  
Remote big band recordings of arrangements  
for future CD  
Over 11,000 views to date

**Student Jazz Workshops, Fall Semester**  
*October 3 – December 5, 2020 (Virtual)*  
Remote instruction  
Eight students served

**Holiday Concerts**  
*Two small-group concerts live-streamed from the Good Luck Macbeth Theater*  
*Over 1,000 views to date*
Bronze (cont.)
Gloria and Dean Smith
Linda and King Won

RJO Partner
Sara LaFrance
Diana and Jeffrey DeMatei
Patty Engels and Dick Medland
Ginnie Kersey
Karen Traynor

RJO Band Fan
Theresa Angermann
Theodore Arbuckle
Anne Bacon
Bernard Bronov
Elinor and David Bugli
James Cavanaugh
Valerie Chappel
Kim and Dion Clancy
Amanda Colbert
Lynn and Richard Cusac
Elisia Drake
Kim Driggs
Mike Eardley
Steve Falcone
Susan Fittinghoff
Rona Foster
Rose Fox
John Fullerton
Priscilla and Nate Gordon
Ruth Gregory
Brian Hadar

RJO Band Fan (cont.)
Deborah Hamlin
Francis Hawbolt
Diane Jankiewicz
Patti and John Jansen
Sandi and Ken Joyce
The Koch Family Trust
Joan and Hal Kraft
Mary and Frank Marfisi
Elaine Moser
Peter Neumann
Linda and Steve Newberg
Lee Ragonese
Joanne Ray
Richard Ray
Roz Reynolds
Julia and Steve Rubin
Vern Scarbrough
-In memory of Buell Ford
Jane Schwenk
Kaye Shackford
-In memory of Joe Shackford
Chris Shea
Ann Silver
Larry Simcoe
Geraldine Taylor
Scott Thunder
CJ Walters
-In memory of Larry A. Walters
Kathleen and Andrew Woodard
RJO Friends
John Bennum
Patricia Bertz
Lynn and Gary Buchell
Michelle Cotton
Lois Crocker
Elisia Drake
Maryann Dresner
Mary Holman
Scot Marshall
Erika Paul
Melanie Rudnick
David Shintani
Janet Staub

Collaborative Partners
City of Reno
E.L. Cord Foundation
For the Love of Jazz
Good Luck Macbeth Theatre
KUNR
Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra
Nevada State Parks
Nevada Arts Council
National Endowment for the Arts
This Is Reno / Local News & Events

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TVC Accounting, LLC
2020 Financial Highlights

Contributions $111,317

Performance Revenues $12,825

Grants $44,127

Revenue

Performance & Education $99,752

Fundraising $30,613

Marketing $24,504

Administrative $29,304

54% of expenses went directly toward Education and Performance

Please note: statistics reflect the unprecedented year of the COVID pandemic