

OAKTOWN JAZZ WORKSHOPS



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2023



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

OAKTOWNJAZZ.ORG

55 Washington St.
Oakland, CA 94607

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box
Oakland, CA 94609
510-649-1785

Dear Friend of Oaktown Jazz Workshops,

Thirty years ago, Oaktown Jazz Workshops got its start in the recreation centers of Oakland. Founder Khalil Shaheed was motivated to cultivate the next generation of jazz musicians and at the same time, develop engaged, disciplined, and confident young adults. Oaktown Jazz Workshops has been around long enough to see our alumni light up the music scene in Los Angeles, New York City, and the San Francisco Bay Area. They are arranging music for symphony orchestras, composing for films, and touring the world. Other alumni are applying the lessons they learned through Oaktown Jazz Workshops - like active listening and collaboration - in other meaningful fields.

The creative community that we have created is a rare and beautiful thing: safe, supportive, diverse, and multi-generational. In our cascading leadership model, our students are encouraged by seasoned professional musicians and young adult Youth Mentors. They get to meet, create music with, and be inspired by the alumni who come back to visit Oaktown Jazz. We make sure that our students feel part of a tradition and a web of artists that spans time and geography.

Performance has always been the cornerstone of our education approach, and the way that we cultivate appreciation of jazz music in the community. In 2023, we began to prioritize bringing high-quality concerts and presentations to places where people from all ages and all walks of life can enjoy them. We look forward to expanding on this idea, bringing jazz history and live music to libraries throughout the East Bay, as well as more public schools. Thank you for your enduring support of our organization and the young artists who grow within it.

RAVI ABCARIAN

Executive Director



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Cover photo ©David De Hart 2023.

MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION is to promote, preserve, and perform jazz music so that all youth – particularly under-served youth – develop a sense of ownership and pride in jazz as a uniquely American cultural tradition.

OUR VISION is a safe space for artistic expression, where thousands of young musicians from varied backgrounds connect through music, discover their own distinct voices, and develop the skills to become supportive and engaged members of their communities – skills like self-discipline, the ability to collaborate, and the courage to perform before a live audience.



Photo ©David De Hart 2023

OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs for youth, ages 10-18, include the following:

- **Combo Workshops:** Youth learn to improvise solos on their instruments while playing different types of jazz and blues tunes in a band setting.
- **Performance Ensemble Workshops:** Youth continue to improve their musicianship in a band setting and perform concerts throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.
- **Seasonal Classes:** Jazz Improvisation (10-week course in spring and fall), Music Theory (10-week course in spring and fall), and Live Audio Reinforcement (3-week winter course).
- **Jazz Encounters:** Clinics with high-profile guest musicians on tour.
- **One-on-one Private Lessons:** Individualized music lessons for OJW students, taught by a great lineup of professional musicians, including our teaching staff and alumni.
- **Jazz in the Schools:** OJW instructors lead sectionals, conduct clinics, and bring live music and presentations on jazz history and influence in area public schools.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Above, at Combo rehearsal, the Performance Ensemble at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, and Improvisation students on the Ferry Lawn. At left, OJW students and Youth Mentors perform at Piedmont MLK, Jr. Day Celebration, and at right, at the Clayton Library.



Above, the Performance Ensemble (right) and Vocal Ensemble (left) perform at the winter Young Musicians Showcase. Below, the Combo performs at the spring Young Musicians Showcase.



STUDENT PERFORMANCES

- 1/16/2023 Piedmont MLK Day Celebration
- 1/27/2023 Oakland Symphony pre-concert performance
- 3/12/2023 Oaktown Jazz Workshops Young Musicians Showcase
- 5/4/2023 Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA) Gala
- 5/6/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Hercules
- 5/21/2023 Oaktown Jazz Workshops Young Musicians Showcase
- 6/10/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Antioch
- 6/24/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Concord
- 7/2/2023 Oakland Symphony Summer Stage
- 7/8/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Moraga
- 7/15/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Ignacio Valley
- 7/21/2023 Office party for Crowe LLC
- 7/23/2023 Golden Gate Library Concert Series
- 8/4/2023 Port of Oakland Summer Intern Appreciation Luncheon
- 8/25/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, Clayton
- 9/9/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, San Pablo
- 9/23/2023 Forget Me Not, An Alzheimer's Awareness Program
- 9/30/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, San Ramon
- 11/12/2023 Oaktown Jazz Workshops Young Musicians Showcase
- 11/18/2023 Oaktown Jazz® at the Library, El Cerrito
- 12/1/2023 Holiday event at Fremont Hub
- 12/2/2023 Jack London Square Tree Lighting
- 12/6/2023 Akonadi Foundation Gala Event
- 12/7/2023 City of Oakland Employee Reception
- 12/8/2023 Southern Center for Human Rights Fundraiser



CONCERTS AT OAKTOWN JAZZ

Oaktown Jazz Workshops' family friendly weekend concerts featured alumni Ashanti "Cas'ti" Johnson, Kazemde George, Jayla Hernández, and Aidan McCarthy. Other talented acts that we hosted included Randy "Ranzel" Merritt, Heather Watkins, Mary Nguyen Fundraiser for RIP Medical Debt, Karl Evangelista's "Bukas," Adam Shulman Quartet, Jackie Ryan, Anne Sajdera Trio, Ian Dogole & Music Beyond Borders, Clarinet Thing, Tribute to Larry Young Jr. w/ Chester CT Thompson and Doug Carn, Ken Schubert Legacy Concert, and Angelo Luster.

JAZZ ENCOUNTERS



Oaktown Jazz Workshops gives young musicians the chance to meet world-class touring jazz musicians who graciously donate their time. Our Jazz Encounter clinics have historically been produced in collaboration with Yoshi's Jazz House. The format changes from artist to artist, ranging from lecture/demonstrations to hands-on jam sessions. In 2023, we hosted clinics with Ulysses Owens Jr. (at left), and Roy "Future Man" Wooten and Victor Wooten (below).



OAKTOWN JAZZ IN LIBRARIES & SCHOOLS



Oaktown Jazz® at Edna Brewer Middle School, Oakland

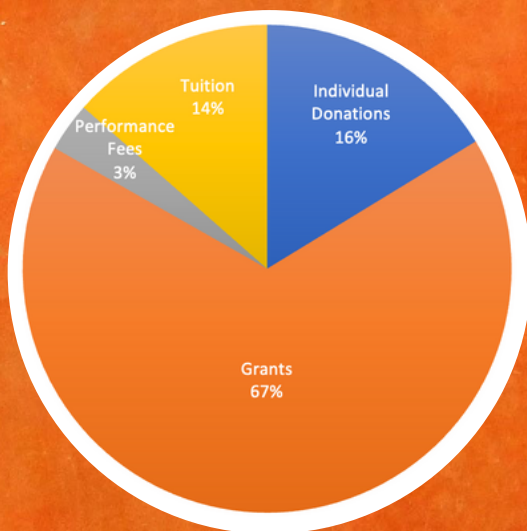
Oaktown Jazz Workshops aims to cultivate the next generation of jazz musicians as well as appreciation for jazz music in the community at large. To that end, we bring live music and presentations on jazz history and influence to schools and libraries. In 2023, we performed at 10 East Bay libraries and made 56 visits to East Bay Schools.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

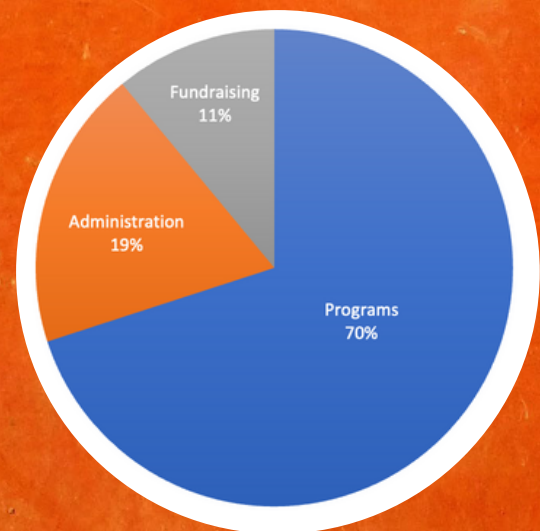
Oaktown Jazz Workshops' programming is supported by income from tuition, performance fees, benefit concerts, individual donations, and grants from foundations and government entities. In 2023, Oaktown Jazz Workshops identified the following trends affecting our financial outlook:

- During the pandemic, our organization persevered through online programming and COVID relief funding for arts organizations. By 2023, those grants were expended. We emerged on the other side of those difficult years as a strong, viable performing arts organization able to expand our programming.
- Oaktown Jazz Workshops' revenue from private lessons and performance fees increased. In the last two years, demand for private lessons ramped up and remained high, and our students returned to a robust schedule of concerts in the community.
- We have expanded our programming to include special performance series, such as our concerts in East Bay public libraries. To support this expansion, we have pursued grants for those series that reach new venues and audiences.

INCOME



EXPENSES



THANK YOU!

The majority of our students qualify for scholarships. Our donors and grantors lift our students up, giving them the opportunities they deserve to develop as artists and engaged community members.

Grantors

Alameda County Arts Commission
Bill Graham Memorial Foundation
California Arts Council
City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program
Clarence E. Heller Foundation
Dean and Margaret Leshar Foundation
Find Your Light Foundation
Pablo Ramirez Foundation
Port of Oakland Community Investment
Macpherson East Bay Performing Arts Fund at
the East Bay Community Foundation
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Major Donors

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Board of Directors

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