



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are you doing differently?

The San Antonio Philharmonic largely is being rebuilt and managed by musicians. We are focused in our first year on making connections with new and previous partners to help move the entire community forward. While this is a different approach, what isn't different is the orchestra – the community already knows us musically and, often, as individuals.

### Who is supporting you?

Patrons who attended our concerts last spring were incredibly enthusiastic and generous, and many continued donating over the summer. Preparing for the launch of the San Antonio Philharmonic, we have been meeting with our family of donors who have supported the Symphony over time. For now, these mostly are individual donors.

### How are you going to raise more funds?

We are working to get on the normal grant cycle with foundations, and we also look forward to showing ourselves worthy of even greater corporate support, including industries not formerly invited to participate. And as the City of San Antonio and Bexar County have long made cornerstone funding available to the Symphony, we will work to make sure this part of their budgets continues. It is worth noting that in our outreach, musicians will take part in calls to prospective donors as they have long wished to do.

How many players left during the pandemic and strike?

Musicians are always on the move, so holding auditions for vacancies is critical to maintaining a full orchestra. In a normal environment, we would hold six or seven a year. However, we have not been able to hold auditions since January of 2020. Currently a dozen or so players have taken temporary work in other cities, and about 10 others have retired or taken permanent jobs in other orchestras. The opportunity and challenge is retaining players and attracting new talent. We hope to resume normal salary levels and auditions to fill vacancies. We are committed to building a full-sized orchestra.

Will you be able to continue the Young People's concerts?

Education and transformation are at the heart of our mission, so roughly 40 percent of our concerts this year will be for schools and families. Projected attendance will be more than 30,000 students annually, and concerts are offered free of charge. These programs open doors to area youth and expose them to art forms, connections and careers they may never have known existed.

Are you going to be able to buy the assets in bankruptcy, i.e. the music library, music stands, and chairs, etc.?

We are actively seeking help with purchasing assets we feel should stay in San Antonio. This involves both direct support for bidding on items or coordinating efforts from friends to bid on them and contribute the assets to us.

What staff do you have?

Currently most of the work is being done by volunteer board members with the help of contracted education, development and PR staff.

Are you going to play in the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts?

We have no plans to play at the Tobin Center but remain open to a partnership.

Why does it matter whether or not there's a professional orchestra in the city?

Symphony orchestras tend to be at the center of a thriving arts scene – and San Antonio has been no exception. While not all residents frequent the concert hall, world-class concerts are deeply moving and relevant to many, adding meaning to everyday life. Also, almost all Philharmonic musicians are also educators, many of whom have touched thousands of lives over their time in our city. Without this group of highly-skilled professionals, the quality of musical training for middle, high school and college students would be severely stunted. Finally, a symphony orchestra in any community is a strong economic driver. A study published in the Dec. 2015 Economic Development Quarterly and reported on by [Bloomberg News](#) found that the former San Antonio Symphony “helped to generate \$222 million in annual employment income” between 2000 and 2010, “as well as nearly a third of a billion dollars in annual economic impact.” These amounts, greater in 2022 dollars, are considerable when compared to the fractional cost of maintaining such an institution year to year.