

# OAKTOWN JAZZ WORKSHOPS



ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR 2022



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

[OAKTOWNJAZZ.ORG](http://OAKTOWNJAZZ.ORG)

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Dear Friend of Oaktown Jazz Workshops,

We are proud to share with you news from 2022 - a year of growth and expansiveness. We added two new classes to support our students' passions. Our Live Audio Reinforcement class offers students interested in the technical aspects of presenting concerts hands-on audio production experience. OJW's first ever Vocal Ensemble class focuses on singing jazz, soul, contemporary, and world music in four-part harmony!

We launched a concert series that featured OJW alumni leading their own musical groups. These remarkable performances brought together musicians and audiences from over the last 28 years of OJW's programs and events. These alumni concerts strengthen the multi-generational musical community we have built over decades and inspire current students to imagine the many paths open to them.

Through Jazz in the Schools, we made 32 visits to public schools. Our Jazz Encounters clinics brought internationally recognized touring musicians to share their experience and knowledge with young musicians. And we provided over 500 private lessons to students, meeting a new surge in demand for one-on-one instruction. In our year-round workshops - the core of our programming - dedicated faculty members welcomed young musicians into our safe and supportive space, where they improved their skills and developed their individual musical voices while collaborating with others. Thank you for supporting local young people seeking opportunities for creative expression and artistic development!

**RAVI ABCARIAN**

Executive Director



# MISSION & VISION

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**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 2022

**OUR PROGRAMS** for San Francisco Bay Area 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 sessions in spring, fall), Music Theory (10-week sessions in spring, fall), Vocal Ensemble (10-week sessions in spring, fall, winter), and Live Audio Reinforcement (3-week session in winter).
- **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 give performances and presentations in area public schools.

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

At right, OJW musicians performs at BandCamp in Downtown Oakland. Below, our young musicians play at National Night Out at the West Oakland Library.



Above, the OJW Combo performs at the fall Young Musicians Showcase. Above right, the Vocal Ensemble students make their debut.

Below, the OJW Performance Ensemble fills the air with music during the spring Young Musician Showcase on the Ferry Lawn.



# STUDENT PERFORMANCES

- 5/22/2022 Oaktown Jazz Workshops Young Musicians Showcase, Ferry Lawn, Oakland
- 6/22/2022 Meeting Professionals International Convention, Moscone Center, SF
- 7/17/2022 OJW's Performance Ensemble in Concert at Bandcamp, Oakland
- 8/2/2022 National Night Out at West Oakland Public Library, Oakland
- 11/13/2022 Oaktown Jazz Workshops Young Musicians Showcase, Oakland
- 12/1/2022 City of Oakland Employee Reception, Oakland Marriott City Center
- 12/2/2022 Holiday event at Fremont Hub, Fremont
- 12/3/2022 Jack London Square Tree Lighting, Jack London Square, Oakland
- 12/10/2022 Southern Center for Human Rights Fundraiser, SF

## CONCERTS AT OAKTOWN JAZZ

Oaktown Jazz Workshops brought out the community for a series of concerts by alumni, including the Ruthie Price Quartet, Erika Oba Trio, Jesse Levit Trio, The 3 Elements, Jordon Dabney Trio, the Jayla Hernández Quintet, and Ashanti "Cas'ti" Johnson. We also hosted concerts by The Ways & Means Committee, The Modern Sounds of Ranzel Merritt, Ron Marabuto Quartet, Andy Ostwald Trio, and MeloDious. The Michael Bacile Memorial Concert and A Musical Celebration of the Life of Muziki Roberson were also held at Oaktown Jazz Workshops.

## OAKTOWN JAZZ IN THE NEWS

Two local news stations featured Oaktown Jazz Workshops in their broadcast: KTVU Channel 2 (Fox) and KPIX Channel 5 (CBS). We were grateful for the exposure!



# JAZZ ENCOUNTERS



Oaktown Jazz Workshops gives young musicians the chance to meet world-class touring jazz musicians who graciously donate their time to work with local young musicians. 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 2022, we hosted clinics with:

Saxophonist Kazemde George (above, left)

Bassist Curtis Lundy (at left)

Saxophonist George Brooks & Guitarist Prasanna (below)



Photos above by © David De Hart 2022, photo below © Ravi Abcarian 2022

# JAZZ IN THE SCHOOLS



Oaktown Jazz Workshops presented "Women in Blues & Jazz" for 1,000 students at Rancho Medanos Middle School and Pittsburg High School. The performances by vocalist Faye Carol and trio, and OJW's young musicians, brought the joy and power of live performance, and instilled a sense of pride in students for the cultural contributions of African-American female artists. Faye Carol took the youth on a historical ride of over 100 years of women in jazz and blues.

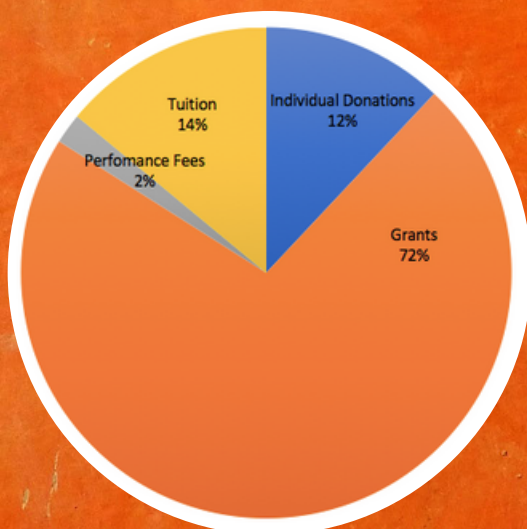
# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Oaktown Jazz Workshops' programming is supported by income from tuition, performance fees, benefit concerts, individual donations, and foundation and government grants.

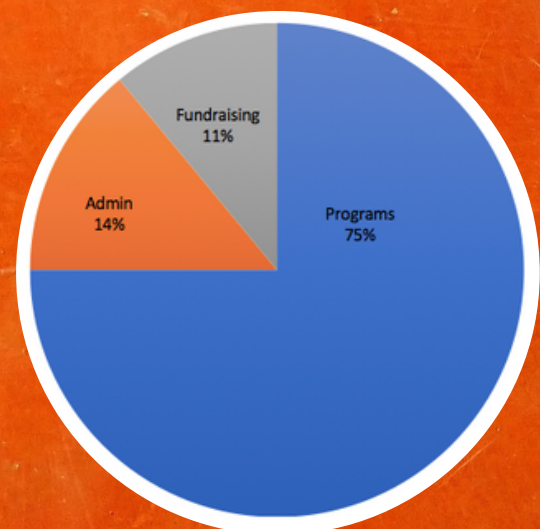
Oaktown Jazz Workshops' 2022 consisted of a full year of in-person programming. After the pandemic lull, community events began to be rescheduled, and requests for OJW to provide live music started coming in. As a result, income from OJW performance fees started to rebound. Thankfully, government and foundation funders continued to offer COVID relief grants, which helped OJW compensate for the shortfall.

Oaktown Jazz Workshops has seen a considerable uptick in the demand for one-on-one lessons; in 2022 alone, our music instructors and Youth Mentors provided 500 individual lessons. At the same time, we began to add new classes, attracting new students, and hosting more weekend concerts at our Jack London Square concert space, including a concert series featuring Oaktown Jazz Alumni.

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



# THANK YOU

53% 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  
Clarence E. Heller Foundation  
Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation  
Find Your Light Foundation  
Pablo Ramirez Foundation  
Port of Oakland Community Investment  
SunJams Foundation  
Walter & Elise Haas Foundation  
Zellerbach Family Foundation

## Major Donors

Sonja Bjork and Tanja Schlosser  
Abayomi Brame  
Timothy Boudreau  
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LC Loggins  
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Tricia & Miles Perkins  
Jorge & Elizabeth Rivera  
Juanita Rosette & Scott Robinson  
Charles Spaulding III  
Darrell Sprewell  
Gregory Stern  
Constance Thomason  
Evelyn Wesley

## Board of Directors

**Laura Ellis:** Choreographer, Dancer, Educator  
**Jesse "Chuy" Varela:** Music Director, KCSM Jazz Radio  
**Juanita Rosette:** Writer/Editor  
**Gary Bean, MD:** Pediatrician, Glenview Pediatrics  
**David De Hart:** Teacher, Albany High School  
**John Santos:** Musician, Educator, Cultural Activist  
**Umi Vaughan:** Scholar and Artist

Oaktown Jazz Workshops is excited to welcome two new board members, John Santos and Umi Vaughan!

