



LOS ANGELES  
**Inception Orchestra**

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

# What's Inside

Message from the President.....	1
Our Mission.....	2
Our Work.....	3
Leadership Team.....	5
Nov 7th Event.....	6
Our Impact.....	7
Financials.....	10
Looking Ahead.....	11
Mentors & Partners.....	12
Leadership.....	13
Our Supporters.....	14
How You Can Help.....	15

## Message from the President

On March 19th, 2020, the statewide stay-at-home order was issued. On March 21st, Inception's Program III, "Engaging the Orchestra" was scheduled to start. In 2019, we had offered private composition lessons on Zoom to complement live in-studio group mentoring sessions. Thus, we had no problem moving completely to the virtual platform immediately.

Virtual learning helped us grow exponentially, with students dialing in from Austin, Minneapolis, San Diego, and Goodyear, as well as L.A., and a mentoring pool now available from across the country and around the globe.

Where will we head in 2021? We will continue to scale with new partners and cohorts, come back live in some hybrid fashion, develop our VR app, and continue to foster the growth of our amazing young composers at the highest possible level.

Thank you for all of your continued support.



**Akira Nakano**

President, CEO & Artistic Director

# COMPOSITION & MUSIC THEORY MATTER

Composition and Music Theory are a part of the California Arts Education standards, but are frequently not taught. Amazing music nonprofits in Los Angeles are graduating students to college who find themselves behind in both subjects. The Inception Orchestra's Young Composers Mentoring Program fills this gap.



**KICK OFF!**

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

**SESSION TWO**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4th

**Creativity  
Improv  
Storytelling**

**PRESTON SCALES**  
April 18, 2020

**GENEVIEVE VINCENT**  
May 2, 2020

**CLAIRE MORISON**  
May 16, 2020

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

**CLASSICAL SAXOPHONE PROJECT**  
June 6th

JAVIER OJIBEDO  
JEAN-PIERRE SCHMITT

MAJOR C  
minor a

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

**TOM HIEL**  
FILM SCORING

MAJOR C  
minor a

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

**EMER KINSELLA RETURNS**  
Kicking Off Our Journey  
Through the Orchestra

EMER KINSELLA  
VIOLIN COMPOSER

OFF THE PAGE AND OUT OF SIBELIUS SOUNDS  
CAN'T WAIT TO WORK WITH THE MAESTRI

**SESSION 6.5**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH

FINALLY! THE RETURN OF MENTOR  
TOM HIEL  
FILM SCORING

**SESSION 7.5**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

**COMPOSITION GYMNASIUM**

TOMORROW  
FILM SCORING  
STORYTELLING  
IMPROV

SAT  
July 18  
10-1

We are humbled to have  
**KAREN ELAINE**  
mentor our composers Saturday!

KAREN ELAINE  
VIOLA

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

BACK-TO-BACK WITH LA'S FINEST MUSICIANS  
WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME  
**MAKSIM VELICHKIN**

MAKSIM VELICHKIN  
CELLO COMPOSER

LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

Double Bass  
Composer

**ETHAN MOFFITT**  
Saturday, Aug 15

Piccolo  
Flute  
Oboe

**ASHLEY JARMACK**  
Saturday, August 29th

In 2020, Inception composers participated in thirty Saturday group mentoring sessions led by top industry professionals, in addition to weekly private lessons. Improvisation, creativity, and storytelling, along with music theory, were taught for the first three months.

**JONATHAN SACDALAN**  
Saturday, Sept 19th

**ASHLEY JARMACK**  
Saturday, Sept 26th

**JONATHAN STEHNEY**  
October 3, 2020

**AERALIE BRIGHTON**  
October 10, 2020

**JOSEPH VRANAS**  
October 17, 2020

**REBECCA OLASON**  
October 24, 2020

NOV 7  
EVENT PREP

**Sat Oct 31, 2020**  
Session 18.5

VIRTUAL CREATIVITY MASTER CLASSES MUSIC ASMAC COLLEGE PREP ORIGINAL MUSIC

**RIC BECKER**  
November 14, 2020

ASMAC MAREMEL INCEPTION  
Collaboration

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Find out this Saturday at the  
**(4 Part) HARMONY EXTRAVAGANZA**

Session 19.5 - Optional  
Sat. Nov 28 10 am - 1 pm  
Happy Thanksgiving!

**HEE JIN YOON**  
December 5, 2020

EAR TRAINING & MUSIC THEORY  
From the Beginning

Saturdays 9-10 am  
Starting Dec 5, 2020  
by Zoom

**BRAD DUTZ**  
December 12, 2020

**GEORGE KO**  
December 19, 2020

From July-December, composers were introduced to every instrument of the orchestra, learning how to compose for each one. In 2021, the focus shifts to arranging, orchestration, and world music.

Since July, an all-volunteer team of staff mentors, led by Akira Nakano and Karen Elaine, and two Board members join each Saturday session to lend their expertise to our young composers.

Additionally, the team delivers a weekly private lesson to each composer.



## LOS ANGELES Inception Orchestra

Young Composers Mentorship  
LEADERSHIP Team





## Presenters

Kevork Andonian  
 Jack Aron  
 Kate Bacich  
 Shirley Gurten  
 Tom Hiel  
 Dr. Gigi Johnson  
 Amy (Aizhou) Liu  
 Melissa Maldonado  
 Claire Morison  
 Akira Nakano  
 Blythe Schulte  
 Kelsey Smith  
 Aletta Steynberg  
 Adrian Zaw

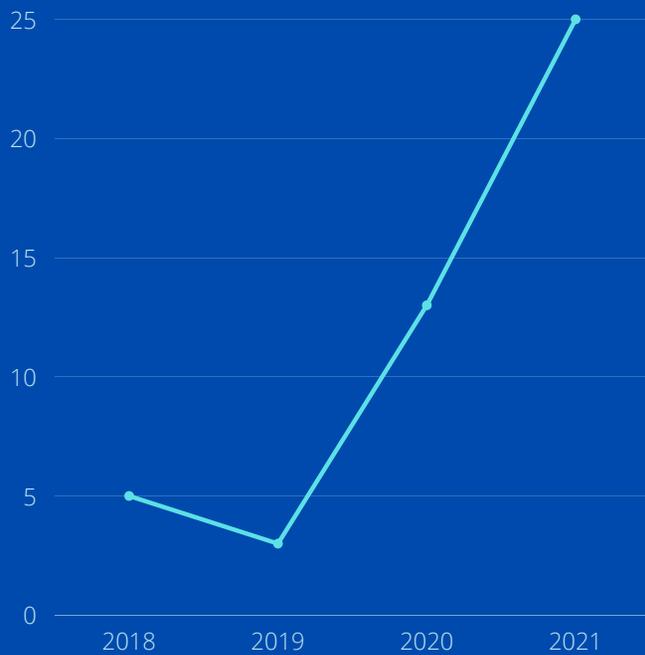
## Master Teachers

Ric Becker  
 Karen Elaine  
 Van-Anh Nguyen  
 Javier Oviedo  
 Preston Scales  
 Jean-Pierre Schmitt  
 Maksim Velichkin

## Composers

Bradley Carpiuc  
 Cadence Dam  
 Dante Dam  
 Nikko Englund  
 Chris Lee  
 Jayleen Montoya  
 Sean Pellicciarini  
 Huxley Westemeier  
 Angela Urrecheaga

On November 7th, Inception hosted an all day virtual event in lieu of a concert. Mentors from New York, Atlanta, Boston, Salt Lake City, and Australia along with our partners, ASMAC, the Classical Saxophone Project, and Young Musicians Foundation, joined our composers for master classes and panels. Thank you to all of you who joined throughout the day!



## IMPACT

**"Inception's delivery grew **333%** between 2019 and 2020 with our delivery expanding nationwide, thanks to the virtual platform.**

**We will continue to grow with new partners, scaling our delivery by at least another 300% between 2020 and 2021. With our new partners, we are beginning to expand our footprint with additional classes and cohorts.**

## Angela, 16

Angela came to us as a saxophone and clarinet player. She quickly adapted to using her singing voice to compose and has been producing one of the most intricate pieces by our composers.

Angela was awarded a scholarship for her hard work at Inception and school by Board member Miyeko Heishi which she is saving for college.

**"I didn't even know I was capable of making what I've composed so far, and I can honestly say that if it weren't for this program I probably would have never known."**



## Cadence, 11

When Cadence came to Inception, she barely was willing to improvise, her hands floating above the keyboard when asked. Today she goes immediately for the highest or lowest notes of the piano to play, a sign of immense growth.

**"I've never been the type to practice, nor have I thought that I could ever compose, but Inception has been extremely motivating. They have taught me a host of theory and composition topics. All of the mentors have been very, very welcoming and skilled."**



## Sean, 13

**"Sean has learned so much from each of [the mentors] and has definitely grown, both as a composer and as a person. Your kindness towards him when he's struggled, and support of him when he has succeeded, definitely has helped him get better at facing challenges and built his self confidence. For us, his personal development from this program has been as valuable as the composition education itself."**

**-Ruby Pan, Parent & Board Member**



## **Chris, 17**

**"Chris started the program summer of 2019. New to composition and the composing world, he has grown incredibly from the mentoring of passionate and talented composers and musicians who have generously donated precious time out of their days. We hope you know what an impact you are having."**

**-Lori & Yong Lee, Parents**



## **Jonathan Sacdalan, Mentor**

**"I know of no other program in Los Angeles that offers young aspiring composers an opportunity to create and cultivate a unique artistic voice, and build values like teamwork and community while under the guidance of seasoned, performing [musicians and composers.]. It is truly incredible bearing witness to the musical growth of each student. I consider myself fortunate getting to work with such a wonderful and diverse group of aspiring artists ready to make their mark as the next generation of composers."**

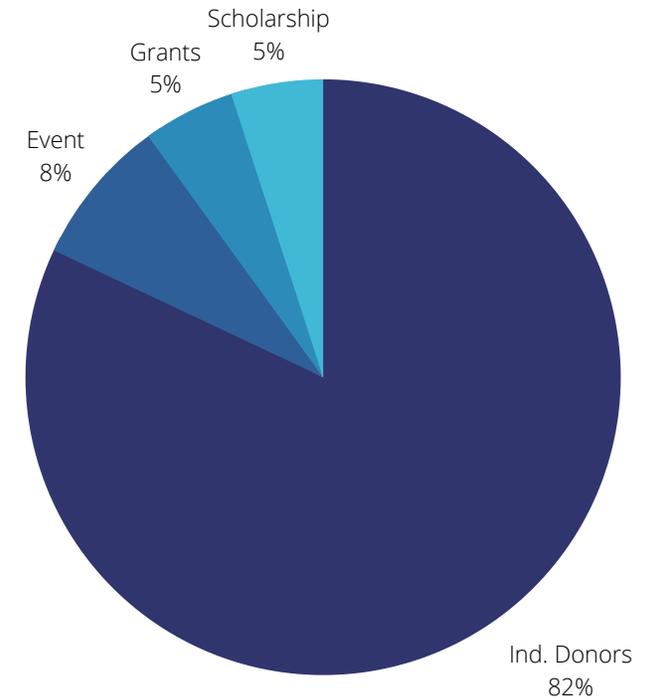
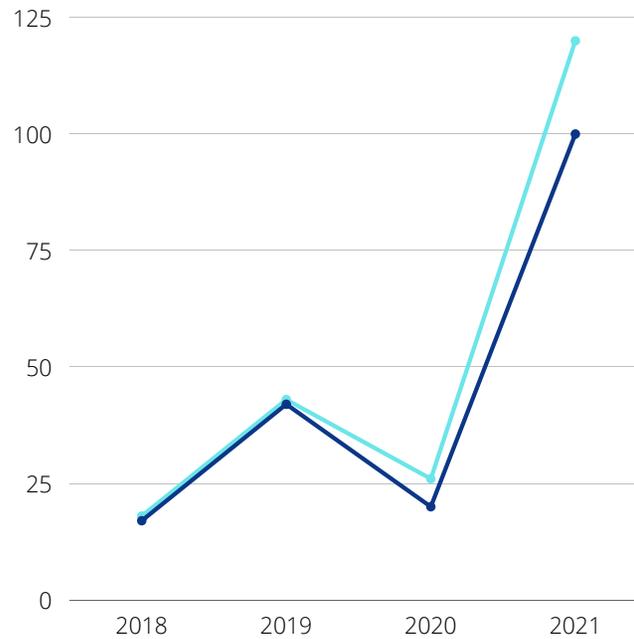
# FY20 FINANCIALS

Fundraising was down in 2020, but spending also decreased. Virtual learning eliminated the cost of studio and theater rentals, and also performance fees for live musicians for the end of season concert.

Relying heavily on volunteers, Inception did a lot with a little.



## Revenue - 2020



## Expenses - 2020



**86%**  
Programs

**10%** Admin  
**4%** Scholarships

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

2021 is a year of growth for Inception. We are excited to return to live classes in a hybrid format and expand our reach. This year, we launch into our mission of innovating music education by introducing students across America to the symphony orchestra through Virtual Reality featuring our composers' original music.

And... our end-of-season live concert will return somewhere, somehow!

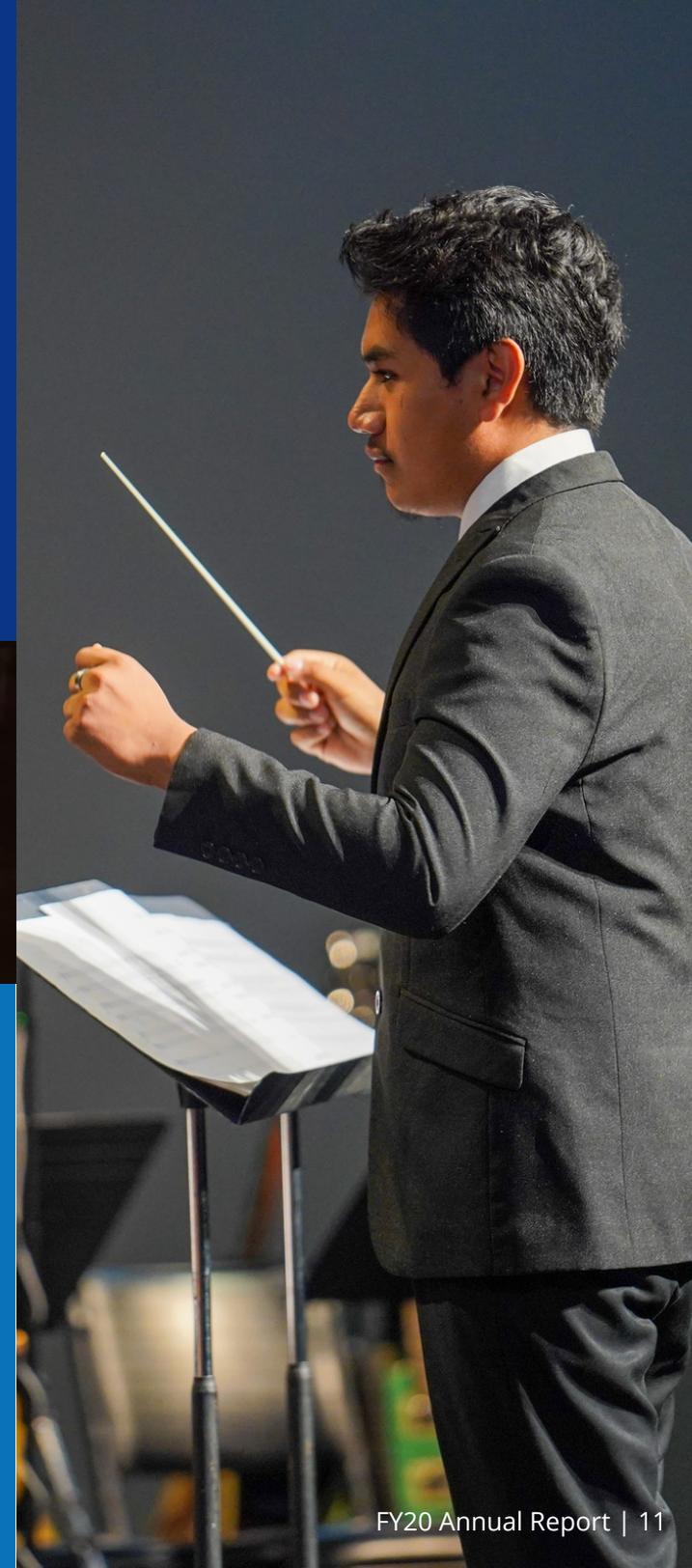
## New Classes. New Partners. New Cohort

In responding to the needs of some of our younger students, we formed an "Ear Training/Music Theory from the Beginning" class. In order to serve more students, we partnered with the Young Musicians Foundation and Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts and will be forming our next composition cohort with them in the Spring.



## Inception VR App

Partnering with Virtuo Studios & Zaw Studios, we will create an app accessible by phone and google cardboard and will refer inspired students to free music programs in their city.



# MENTORS & PARTNERS

The Inception Young Composers Mentoring Program would not have been a success without all of your time, talent & expertise!



## 2020 Mentors

Kevork Andonian (2019) Milton Nelson\*  
Jack Aron Van-Anh Nguyen  
Kate Bacich Javier Oviedo\*\*  
Ric Becker Kim Richmond (2021)\*  
Brad Dutz Jonathan Sacdalan (2019)  
Karen Elaine Preston Scales  
Charles Fernandez\* Jean-Pierre Schmitt\*\*  
Tom Hiel (2019) Blythe Schulte  
Ashley Jarmack Jonathan Stehney  
Dr. Gigi Johnson Maksim Velichkin  
Emer Kinsella (2019) Genevieve Vincent  
George Ko Joseph Vranas  
Gayle Levant\* Nathan Wang (2021)\*  
Amy (Aizhou) Liu Hee Jin Yoon (2019)  
Dana Lyn (2019 & 2021)  
Ethan Moffitt  
Claire Morison  
Akira Nakano

\*ASMAC  
\*\*Classical Sax Project

## 2020 Partners



ZAW STUDIOS  
SPEED QUALITY & MOBILITY



# LEADERSHIP

Our 2020-2021 Board of Directors and Leadership Team



## Board of Directors

---

Michael Sushel, Board Chair, Founding Director

Akira Nakano, President, CEO & Artistic Director, Founder

Miyeko Heishi, Secretary/Treasurer  
Founding Director

Dr. Melvin Armstrong

Chris Lee, Composer Representative

Megan Lubaszka

Javier Oviedo, Mentor Representative

Ruby Pan, Parent Representative

Jean-Pierre Schmitt, Mentor Representative

## Board Advisors

---

Dr. Heewon Kwon, Founding Director

Phoebe Oelheim, Development Advisor

Rumi Shimasaki, Board Advisor

Adrian Zaw, Board Advisor

## Leadership Team

---

Akira Nakano

Karen Elaine, Executive Vice President

Amy (Aizhou) Liu, Vice President

Jack Aron, Vice President

Music Education & Music Technology

Lucas Brooker, Vice President

Jazz Studies & Student Engagement

Kate Bacich, Outgoing Vice President

Music Education & College Prep

Blythe Schulte, Past Vice President

Strategic Innovation

## Special Advisors

---

Dr. Frank Heuser, UCLA Herb Alpert  
School of Music

Dr. Gigi Johnson, Maremel Institute

Milton Nelson, ASMAC

# OUR SUPPORTERS

You are the ones who made Inception thrive.  
We could not have done it without your support!



## 2020 Donors

---

Susan Chan & Oscar Varela  
Don Francisco Coffee  
In Support of Angela  
Urrechaga

Oberlina & Sergio Escamilla  
In Memory of Dirk Yoshida

Miyeko Heishi

Lori & Yong Lee

Akira Nakano

Reiko & Hiroshi Nakano

Ruby Pan & David Pellicciarini

Vanguard Charitable

for the Fox Beauregard Family  
Charitable Fund

Amy Choi & Jason Dam

Debora Wong & Polo Ornelas

Arleen & Lewis Forsheit

Midori Nakano & Justin Galovich

Karen Elaine

Mark & Corrina Englund

Sam & Janie Ito

Marc & Mae Abraham

Marna Hart

Los Angeles Central City  
Optimist Club

Andrea Cerulli

James Choi

Carolynne & Steve Effron

Pat Hayashi

Megan Lubaszka

Xueni Luo

Mary Pinizzotto

Susanne Shapiro

Michael Sushel

Wendy Cheung & Eric Tu

Janet Viaropulos

Angelica Vilorio &

Rene Urrecheaga

Nancy Yap

Courtney Alexander

Liz Anderson

Mike Beegle

Kim Carpiuc

Julie Chuong

Gary Christensen

Edna Delgollado

Jenny & George Deisler

Lee Ann Englund

Barbara Friend

Pat Hayashi

Andrew Hwang

Nobu Ito

Barbara Chu Kerr

Cora Lanzisero

Joyce Ip Leus

Edward Lin

Leo Marcus

Irwin Miller

Reg Prentice

Anna Savvas

Seth Schalet

Siddarth Sen

Jennifer & Kipp Shiotani

Holly Sidell

Suma Spina

Carolyn Sy

Elliot Washor

Sherry Yang

Deborah Yoon

Dennis Yoon

Pauline Yung



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us turn our 2021 vision into reality. Here are ways you can lend a hand:

### Donate

Make a financial contribution either one-time or recurring at [inceptionorchestra.org/donors](https://inceptionorchestra.org/donors)

Those individuals over 70 1/2, please consult your financial advisor about Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Ask if your company does a corporate match

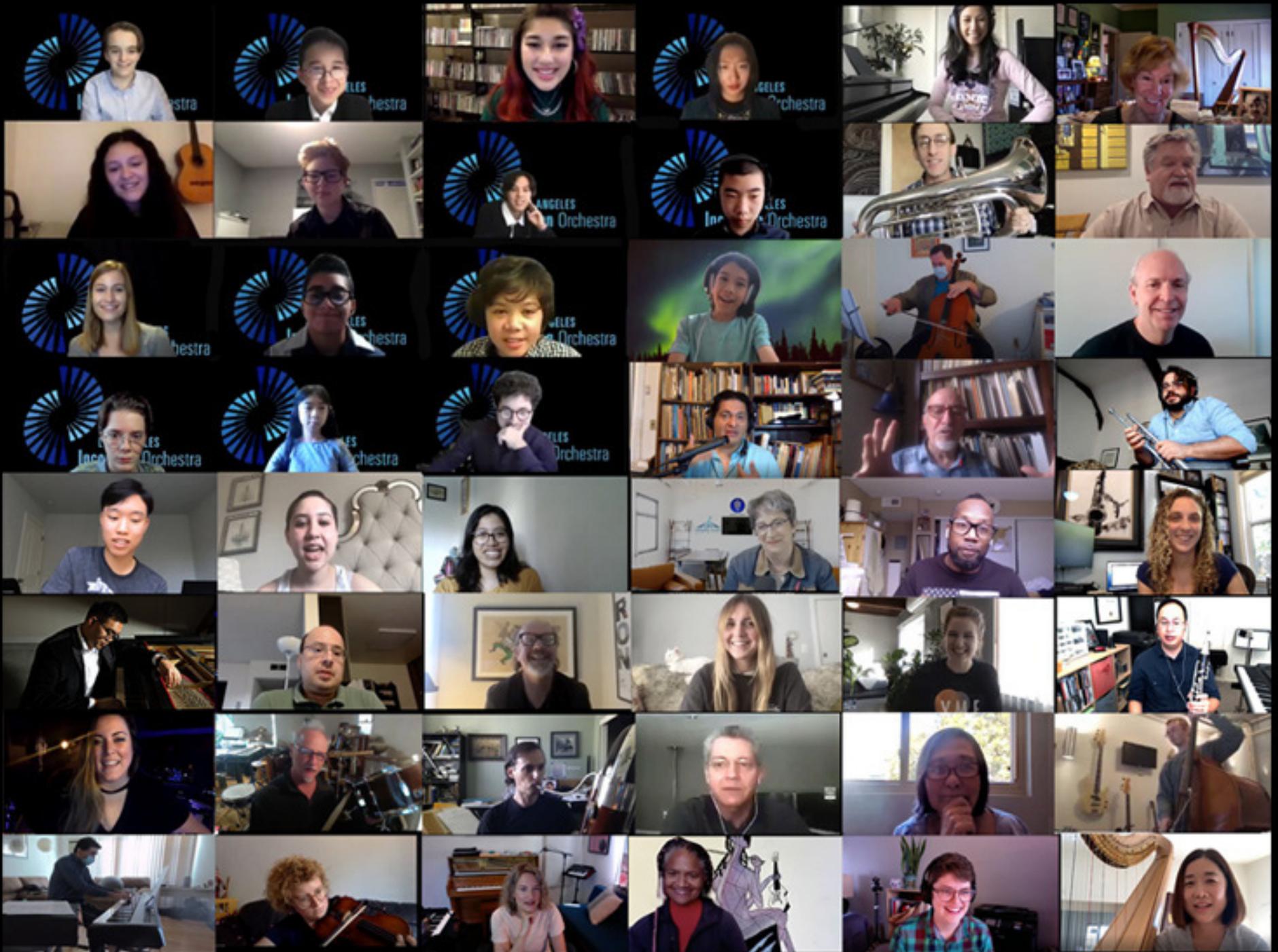
Choose us as your charity at Amazon Smile

### Sponsor

Sponsor a young composer or a mentoring session, our VR app, or our concert

### Volunteer

Volunteer to help us find grants, host a fundraiser, publicize a concert, assist with administration, or mentor our students



**THANK YOU!**