



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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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.





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



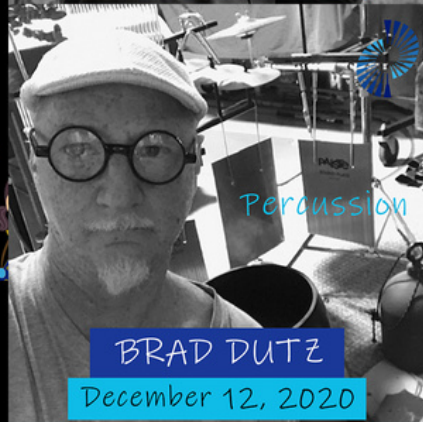
REBECCA OLASON
October 24, 2020



RIC BECKER
November 14, 2020



HEE JIN YOON
December 5, 2020



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.

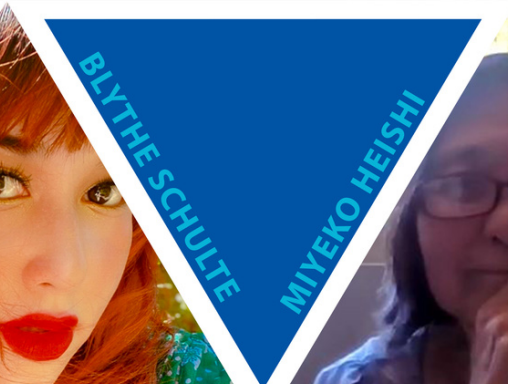
Since July, an all-volunteer team of staff mentors, led by Akira Nakano and Karen Elaine, and two Board members join each Saturday session to lend their expertise to our young composers.

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

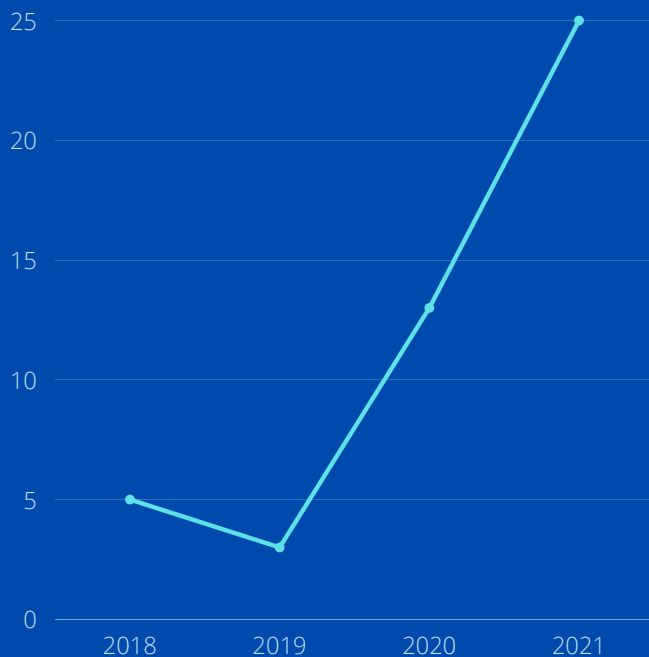
Master Teachers

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 and the Classical Saxophone Project, and guest featured organization, 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."

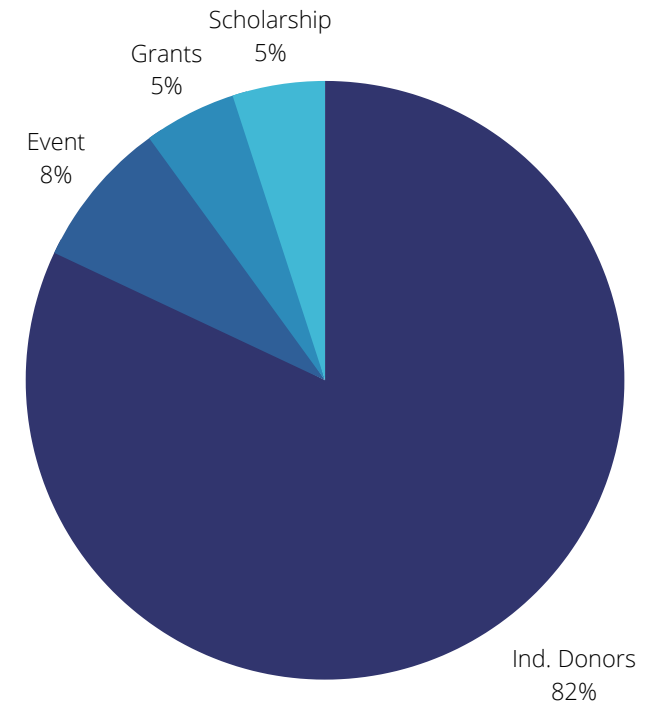
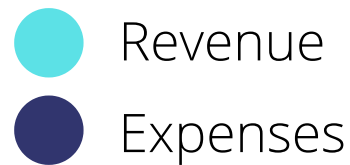
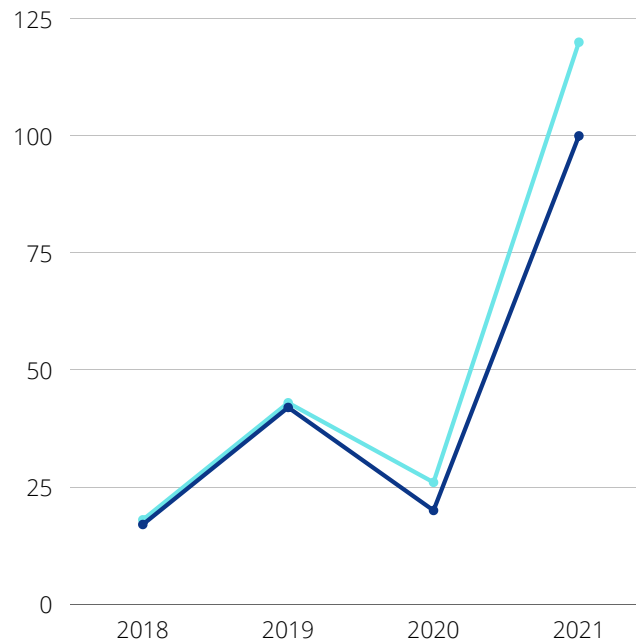
FY20 FINANCIALS

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% 4%

Admin

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 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



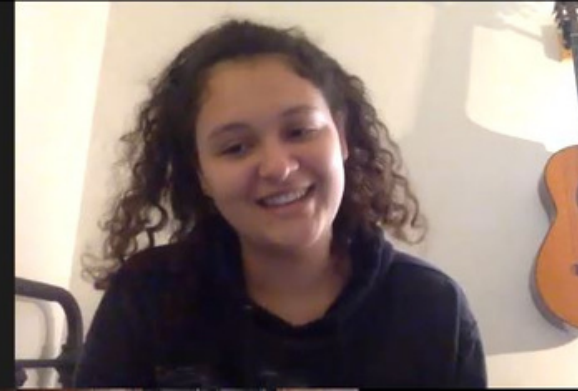
ZAW STUDIOS
SPEED QUALITY & MOBILITY

Asia America Symphony
DAVID BENOIT, Music Director



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

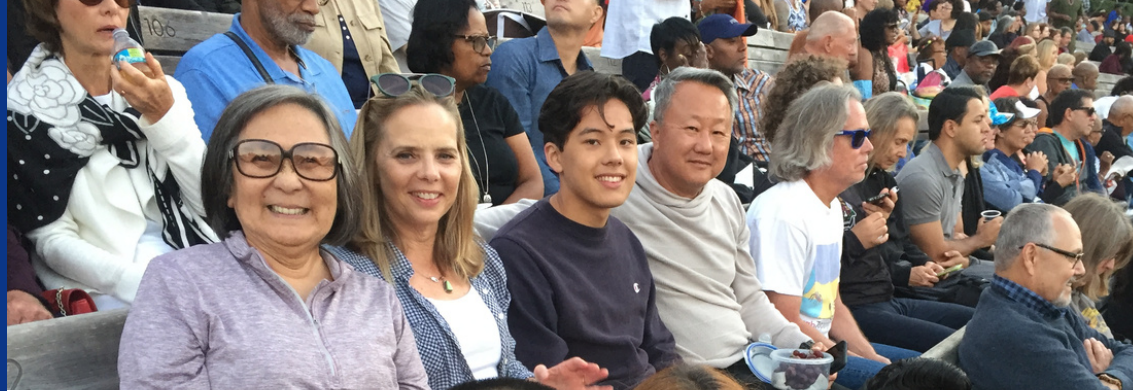
Dr. Frank Heuser, UCLA Herb Alpert
School of Music

Dr. Gigi Johnson, Maremél 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

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!