

2013|14

Annual Report



PORTLAND  
OVATIONS



# LETTER FROM DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends,

This past year embodied the thrill that comes with taking creative risks and a community that rises with us to meet these exciting challenges.

The 2013-14 season demonstrated that together we have the vision, strength and heart to accomplish more than we thought possible. Even three years ago we could not imagine that we would be producing original work (let alone a contemporary American opera like *The Summer King*) or that we could bring so many varied cross-sector voices to the table for a provocative project like *Who's Hungry*.



Michael Boyson, Dan Sonenberg & Aimée M. Petrin

Major collaborations such as Culture Club Portland, our ongoing partnerships with 317 Main Community Music Center, University of Southern Maine, ICA@ MECA, SPACE Gallery and the formidable *Who's Hungry* Advisory Council allowed us to stretch even further.

We also had a lot of fun along the way. Who can forget the jovial Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, the always whip smart David Sedaris, or the unparalleled antics of the late Joan Rivers? We were awed by the astounding physicality of Cirque Alfonse and Compagnie Käfig and the pure artistry of Benjamin Grosvenor, Mandy Patinkin and Kayhan Kalhor. Then there were those exquisite moments when our spirits were lifted and our hearts soared alongside the African Children's Choir and Bobby McFerrin.

Ultimately, it is YOUR ongoing support and trust that allowed us to take these leaps of faith and land firmly on the ground. You make our work a joy. We are most grateful and look forward to an even more promising future. And please bring your friends; encourage them to join you as Ovations Members, corporate sponsors and funders. Together we can assure that the performing arts remain at the heart of what makes our community great.

Gratefully,

Handwritten signature of Michael A. Boyson in blue ink.

Michael A. Boyson  
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Aimée M. Petrin in blue ink.

Aimée M. Petrin  
Executive Director

**ON THE COVER:** Pilobolus; Käfig masterclass; audience member Tara McDonough with a member of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain; family workshop at the Portland Public Library; Gerald Talbot, Daniel Sonenberg and Sean Gibson following the performance of *The Summer King*.

## OCTOBER



● **October 1:**  
POP! 18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Auction Benefit



● **October 2-3:**  
"Potted Potter - The Ultimate Harry  
Experience - A Parody by Dan and Jeff"

**OFFSTAGE:**  
School-Time Performance  
In-School Workshop



# ABOUT PORTLAND OVATIONS

## VISION

To inspire a curious and imaginative community where the experience of the performing arts is a vital part of every day life.

## MISSION

As a not-for-profit, Portland Ovarions contributes to the cultural, social and economic well-being of our community by presenting an array of high quality performing artists from around the world and creating diverse educational experiences that bring the enjoyment, energy and enrichment of the arts to all.

## CORE VALUES

Portland Ovarions...

- believes that cultural enrichment should be accessible to all.
- provides quality live performance and educational experiences.
- engages our community with integrity and compassion.
- collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote cultural enrichment and lifelong learning.
- celebrates the power and virtuosity of the performing arts.
- sustains a staff and board who are thoughtful, committed, enthusiastic and fiscally responsible.

## STAFF

Aimée M. Petrin, *Executive Director*

Gretchen Berg, *Director of Ovarions Offstage*

Mary C. Campbell, *Director of Development*

Marlene Dye, *Bookkeeper*

Charles A. Kibort, *Director of Marketing & Audience Development*

Bethany A. Roberge, *Cross Media Marketing Associate*

Vanessa Romanoff, *Ovarions Offstage Assistant*

Nicole Sirois, *Production Manager*

Laura A. Stauffer, *Programming & Development Administrator*

Faith York, *Usher Coordinator*



**“It brings me great joy to be part of an organization that brings performance and educational opportunities to the people of our community. Watching young and the young at heart enjoy what we offer warms my heart.”**

— Mary C. Campbell

**October 11-12:**  
Blue Man Group



# 2013-14 SEASON

## **“Potted Potter – The Unauthorized Harry Experience – A Parody by Dan and Jeff”**

October 2, 2013 • 7 pm  
October 3, 2013 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Blue Man Group**

October 11, 2013 • 8 pm  
October 12, 2013 • 2 pm & 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Mandy Patinkin:**

### **Dress Casual with Paul Ford on Piano**

October 18, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **David Finckel, Wu Han and Philip Setzer**

October 26, 2013 • 3 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Julie Fowlis:**

### **Music of the Scottish Isles**

November 2, 2013 • 8 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## **Paul Taylor Dance Company**

November 6, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain**

November 8, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Fred Garbo’s Inflatable Theater Co.**

November 16, 2013 • 1 pm  
Westbrook Performing Arts Center

## **An Evening with David Sedaris**

November 21, 2013 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Joan Rivers LIVE**

November 22, 2013 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Master of Persian Music: Kayhan Kalhor**

November 23, 2013 • 8 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## **Richard Stoltzman with David Deveau and Sarah Shafer**

December 7, 2013 • 3 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## **Cirque Alfonse: “TIMBER!”**

January 29, 2014 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Sing-a-Long-a “Grease”**

February 1, 2014 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## **Green Day’s “American Idiot”**

February 6, 2014 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Benjamin Grosvenor**

February 7, 2014 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Compagnie Käfig**

February 11, 2014 • 7:30 pm  
Westbrook Performing Arts Center

## **“The Intergalactic Nemesis”**

February 27, 2014 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **African Children’s Choir**

March 2, 2014 • 4 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **So Percussion: “Where (we) Live”**

March 13, 2014 • 7:30 pm & 9:30 pm  
ICA @ MECA, Portland

Broadway National Tour:

## **“Man of La Mancha”**

March 22, 2014 • 2 pm & 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **DePue Brothers Band**

March 29, 2014 • 8 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## **“We’re Going on a Bear Hunt”**

April 5, 2014 • 11 am  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Handel and Haydn Society**

April 5, 2014 • 3 pm  
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## **“Who’s Hungry”**

April 10, 2014 • 8 pm  
April 11, 2014 • 8 pm  
April 12, 2014 • 2 pm & 8 pm  
SPACE Gallery, Portland

## **Bobby McFerrin:**

### **“Spirit You All”**

April 13, 2014 • 7 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## **Pilobolus**

April 25, 2014 • 8 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

World Premiere:

## **“The Summer King”**

### **An Opera on the Life of Josh Gibson**

May 8, 2014 • 7:30 pm  
Merrill Auditorium, Portland

## OCTOBER, CONT.



**October 18:**  
Mandy Patinkin:  
Dress Casual with  
Paul Ford on Piano



**October 26**  
David Finckel, Wu Han and Philip Setzer

**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture  
Meet-the-Artist Reception



# 2013-14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Boyson, <i>President</i>	James T. Morgan
Felicia K. Knight, <i>Vice President</i>	Mary K. Noyes
Eileen Phelan, <i>Vice President</i>	Stephen Poulos
Thomas R. Newman, <i>Treasurer</i>	Valerie Roy
Jane C. Wellehan, <i>Secretary</i>	Sigmund D. Schutz
Janet M. Bowne	Michael F. Stillings
Kendall Harnett	Amy Taylor
J. Spencer Jones Jr.	Louise K. Thomas
Peter Milliken	June Vail
Marcia Minter	April Ylvisaker



Felicia K. Knight, Joan Rivers, Towle Tompkins

## ADVISORY BOARD

Judith W. Adam	Mary Mitchell Friedman	Jay Menario
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Patricia Berg	Phyllis Givertz	Robert A. Nielsen, Jr.
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Garrett D. Bowne	Linda Gouws	John M. R. Paterson
Bruce Brown	Judith Halpert	Richard W. Petersen
Bruce A. Buxton	Heidi N. Hansen	Peter W. Quesada
Richard D. H. Casselman	Tracy Hawkins	Patricia Roderick
Maria Chambers	Elizabeth T. High	Monroe B. Scharff
Catherine H. Cloudman	Daniel P. Hunter	Margaret M. Shiels
Madeleine G. Corson	Erin A. Hurley	John D. Tewhey
George W. Crockett	Robert Ludwig	Kimberly J. Twitchell
Linda Cronkhite-Johnson	Gary Koocher	Lee D. Urban
Kevin D. Desmond	Caleb Mason	Richard Vail
Charles W. Dibner	Jeff McKinnon	Anne Valentine
Francis A. Ferland	Elizabeth A. McLellan	Sarah A. Verville
Laura C. Foye	Michael J. McSally	Margaret A. Wilkis

**“Membership in Portland Ovation gives us all a true sense of investment in an organization that contributes every day to the quality of life in southern Maine. Board membership allows me to be part of a dedicated team working to bring the best in live performance and all the fun that comes with that to our community and our local schools. I’m so proud to be a part of Portland Ovation.”**

— Felicia K. Knight

## NOVEMBER



**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance  
Lecture/Workshop



**November 2:**  
Julie Fowles:  
Music of the Scottish Isles

### November 5

“The Giver” School-Time Performance

**OFFSTAGE:**  
Meet-the-Artist: Lois Lowry



# “WHO’S HUNGRY”

*Bon Appétit* magazine has bestowed the title of “America’s Foodiest Small Town” to Portland and local lore alleges that Portland boasts the most restaurants per capita in the country. Maine has also become a leader in the farm-to-table and slow food movements.

Unfortunately, where Maine also comes out on top is its #1 ranking in New England in terms of food insecurity. Over the past decade, the number of Mainers facing hunger has increased by 50%. One out of every four Maine children is considered food insecure.

With this dichotomy in mind, we were compelled to bring Dan Hurlin and Dan Froot’s provocative puppet theater piece, *Who’s Hungry*, which gives a voice and a face to hunger in America. Putting on a show, however, was not enough. We aimed to provoke a meaningful conversation about an issue facing so many Mainers. We reached out to organizations and community partners to form an Advisory Council that included members from Preble Street, SPACE Gallery, United Way, Pierce Atwood, WMPG’s BLUNT Youth Radio, Cultivating Community and Portland Public Schools Dining Services. This Advisory Council lent their invaluable knowledge, expertise and inspired us with the work they do every day to combat hunger and food insecurity in our community.

Throughout the *Who’s Hungry* residency, we gathered together and discussed hunger in Maine, asking tough questions regarding food insecurity, looking at our local practices and how they help or maybe even sometimes hinder progress. We learned from our partners, that it’s not about finding ways to shorten the line at the local soup kitchen or make sure the



“Who’s Hungry” Dress Rehearsal

“The way that Portland Ovation’s has brought stakeholders in the community together has been just so inspiring and to have audiences then be a part of that dialogue is really exciting.”

— Dan Froot, Producer, Writer and Performer  
*Who’s Hungry*

## NOVEMBER, CONT.



● **November 6:**  
Paul Taylor Dance Company  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture  
Post-Performance Q&A  
Dance Masterclass



● **November 8**  
Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain



**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture  
Post-Performance Meet-and-Greet



food pantries are well stocked — it's about changing the systems so that food insecurity is no longer possible. It is an understatement to say that this issue is daunting, but it is one that can only be solved by a community coming together. By doing so, the council members contributed to a menu that was available at each performance of *Who's Hungry*, listing means and actions people could take right away to help fight food insecurity in Maine.

*Who's Hungry* is a clear example of how the performing arts can inspire, connect and entertain audiences while communicating and raising awareness of a difficult issue facing so many.

It is our hope that by presenting *Who's Hungry* here in Maine that our audiences gained a new perspective regarding food insecurity and whom it affects. That it is not about "the other" — that faceless person on the street. It's about all of us, and in many cases it affects people closer to us than we might even realize.



Video Conference with corporate sponsor and Advisory Council member Pierce Atwood

## Food Security and ME

A menu of means and actions to fight food insecurity in Maine

### GIVE

**Cash** Emergency food providers (food pantries and soup kitchens) can purchase and acquire food at wholesale or lower prices from Good Shepherd Food Bank. Cash donations help pay the important but often overlooked overhead costs of running an agency that responds to emergency food needs such as transportation or utilities.  
[www.poblestreet.org/donate.php](http://www.poblestreet.org/donate.php)  
[www.waysidemaine.org/your-support-donating-money](http://www.waysidemaine.org/your-support-donating-money)  
[www.maine.gov/dac/ard/tefaq/bytown.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dac/ard/tefaq/bytown.shtml)

**Food** You can give a can of food or you can organize a drive. Host a healthy food drive and request food donations that are nutrient dense. Ask the pantry or kitchen what supplies they need most.

### VOLUNTEER

**Be with people who are hungry**  
 Commit to times other than major holidays. Emergency food providers need volunteers year-round. A regular presence at a pantry or kitchen dispels assumptions about people who are poor and helps build community.

**Offer your best gifts**  
 Agencies need volunteers with specialized skills like accounting or social media/web design.

**Be a part of community-based solutions**  
 Support local grassroots leadership efforts in community gardens, co-ops, farmers' markets, youth empowerment programs and other food-system work.  
 Cultivating Community: 207-761-4769  
[info@cultivatingcommunity.org](mailto:info@cultivatingcommunity.org)

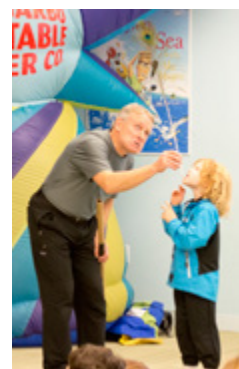
**Eat, cook, and/or organize**  
 Participate in a culinary fundraising event- buy a ticket and enjoy! Contribute to our community through one of Share Our Strength's many events.  
[info@sosme.org](mailto:info@sosme.org)

**Grow**  
 Plant a garden and serve your community or help plant a community orchard. Sponsor a fruit tree!  
 Contact Arborist Jeff Taring:  
[jst@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:jst@portlandmaine.gov)

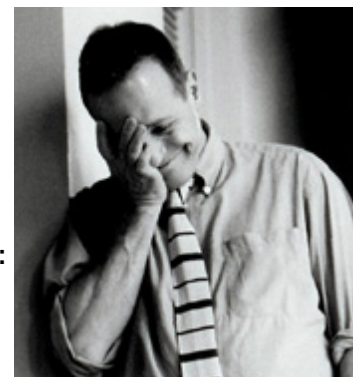
**Glean or Process**  
 Work with a team processing and preserving healthy perishable food that has been gleaned or rescued.  
 Wayside Food Programs, Carly Milkowski  
[cmilkowski@waysidemaine.org](mailto:cmilkowski@waysidemaine.org)  
 Harvest from farm fields after the grower has harvested all they can use.  
 University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
 Cumberland County, Amy Witt: [amywitt@maine.edu](mailto:amywitt@maine.edu)

● **November 16:**  
 Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Co.

**OFFSTAGE:**  
 Family Workshop



● **November 21:**  
 An Evening with David Sedaris



# OVATIONS OFFSTAGE



## PRE-PERFORMANCE LECTURES\*

David Finckel, Wu Han and Philip Setzer  
**"The Piano Trio: An Orchestra in a Box"**  
 Rob Lehmann

Julie Fowles: Music of the Scottish Isles  
**"Scottish Country Dance"**  
 Paul Sarvis

Paul Taylor Dance Company  
**"Shapes and Stories: Paul Taylor's Diverse Choreography"**  
 Todd Coulter

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain  
**"Building and Playing Ukuleles: A History"**  
 Joel Eckhaus

Kayhan Kalhor  
**"Unveiling Contemporary Persian Arts"**  
 Reza Jalali

Richard Stoltzman with David Deveau and Sarah Shafer  
**"Schubert on His Lonely Rock: Der Fruhling Will Komen"**  
 Bill Matthews

Cirque Alfonse: "TIMBER!"  
**"Circus: The Quebec/Maine Connection"**  
 Peter Nielsen

Compagnie Käfig  
**"Portland Hip-Hop Here & Now"**  
 DJ Boondocks, Mike Rich, Tim Clorius and Andrew Coffin

Handel and Haydn Society  
**"Mendelssohn's Library"**  
 Mary K. Hunter

Bobby McFerrin: "Spirit You All"  
**"Holy Songs in a Strange Land"**  
 Judith S. Casselberry

"The Summer King"  
**"Baseball as Opera"**  
 James Parakilas

## SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

"Potted Potter"  
**In-School Workshop**  
 Riverton Elementary, Portland

Black Violin  
**In-School Workshop**  
 Riverton Elementary, Portland

"The Intergalactic Nemesis"  
**In-School Residency**  
 Riverton Elementary, Portland

African Children's Choir  
**In-School Workshops**  
 South Portland Middle School  
 "We're Going on a Bear Hunt"  
**In-School Residency**  
 Riverton Elementary School, Portland

"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"  
**Professional Development Teacher Workshop**  
 Riverton Elementary, Portland

## SCHOOL-TIME PERFORMANCES

"Potted Potter — The Unauthorized Harry Experience — A Parody by Dan and Jeff"  
 October 3, 2013  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

"The Giver" by Lois Lowry  
 November 5, 2013  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

**Black Violin**  
 January 24, 2014  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

"The Intergalactic Nemesis"  
 February 27, 2014  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

**African Children's Choir**  
 March 3, 2014  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"  
 April 4, 2014  
 Merrill Auditorium, Portland

"Nearly Lear"  
 April 15, 2014  
 Hannaford Hall, USM Portland

## WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Paul Taylor Dance Company  
**Modern Dance Masterclass**  
 Portland Ballet

Compagnie Käfig  
**Hip Hop Masterclass**  
 Portland Arts and Technology High School

So Percussion  
**Percussion Masterclass**  
 USM School of Music, Gorham

DePue Brothers Band  
**Guest Clinicians at Maine Acoustic Festival**  
 North Yarmouth Academy

Pilobolus  
**Dance Masterclass**  
 Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio, Portland

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater Co.  
**Inflatable Theater Family Workshop**  
 Portland Public Library, Children's Room

Cirque Alfonse: "TIMBER!"  
**Film Series**  
 Maine Historical Society

African Children's choir  
**Community Supper**  
 Williston-Immanuel Church, Portland

So Percussion  
**Art Exhibit: Bryan Graf**  
 ICA @ MECA, Portland

So Percussion  
**Panel Discussion**  
 ICA @ MECA

"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"  
**Family Workshop**  
 Portland Public Library, Children's Room

"Who's Hungry"  
**Advance Visit with Dan Froot**

"Who's Hungry"  
**Film Series**  
 SPACE Gallery, Portland

"The Summer King"  
**Arts Happening**  
 SPACE Gallery, Portland

## MEET-THE-ARTIST/Q&As

David Finckel, Wu Han and Philip Setzer  
 "The Giver" by Lois Lowry  
 Paul Taylor Dance Company

Kayhan Kalhor  
 Cirque Alfonse: "TIMBER!"

"Who's Hungry"  
 Pilobolus

\* All Pre-Performance Lectures occurred at the coinciding performance venue.



School Workshop



Masterclass



School-Time Performance

## NOVEMBER, CONT.



**November 22:**  
 Joan Rivers (1933-2014)





# “THE GIVER”

Lois Lowry’s young adult novel *The Giver* has sold over 10 million copies and won the Newbery Medal in 1994, awarded to the author of “the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.” Ovation’s first presented American Place Theater’s stage version of *The Giver* to sold-out crowds during our 2012-13 School-Time Performance Series. This powerful one-actor production received such high acclaim from teachers and students that we brought it back for an encore presentation during our 2013-14 season. Again, the performances sold out.

Meanwhile, internationally renowned children’s author Lois Lowry became our neighbor. She returned to Maine and took up residence in Falmouth. To celebrate Ms. Lowry’s arrival and the American Place Theater production, we collaborated with OceanView, a long-time corporate sponsor of Portland Ovation’s, to host a reception. The reception celebrated her work as well as the writing of young Maine students. Lincoln Middle School and Kennebunk students shared their writing — ranging from personal memoirs to science fiction to an essay on *The Giver* — with Ms. Lowry and about 40 others, including Ovation’s Members; OceanView residents and staff; teachers and the American Place Theater performer and arts educator. Ms. Lowry in return shared stories about her recent trip to South Africa, visiting the set of *The Giver* movie production and answered questions about her books and the film. She personally signed copies of *The Giver* for each awestruck young writer.



Lois Lowry signs books for Maine Students at OceanView, a long-time corporate sponsor

The next day, Ms. Lowry and several OceanView residents attended *The Giver* at Hannaford Hall. At the end of the performance, we were pleased to introduce her to the already enthusiastic and applauding crowd, which erupted when they saw Ms. Lowry stand. This was one of those special moments that defines what Portland Ovation’s does every season — connecting, inspiring and entertaining our community, from its children to its adults.

**“In a word, meeting Lois Lowry was *amazing*. Lois’s quartet of *Giver* books are outstanding and seem to answer all of my wacky ‘What if?’ questions. These books mean the world to me and Lois Lowry has captivated me and shown me beautiful things. I don’t think I could ever fully express what *The Giver* quartet meant but the least I can say is: they mean the world to me.”**

— Elona Bodwell, 12 (seventh grade), who shared her writing at OceanView

## DECEMBER



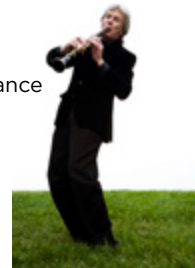
**November 23:**  
Master of Persian Music:  
Kayhan Kalhor

**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture  
Meet-the-Artist



**December 7:**  
Richard Stoltzman with  
David Deveau and Sarah Shafer

**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance  
Lecture



# DEPUE BROTHERS BAND

Though Southern Maine audiences may have been unfamiliar with the DePue Brothers Band when they first rolled into town, by the end of their residency with Oventions all who encountered the group were alternately charmed by their gracious and engaging nature and astounded by their musicianship.

Their time with us began with an intimate house party for Oventions Members, Board and Advisory Council members, during which the personable sextet regaled attendees with stories from the road and gave them a preview of what was in store for the public performance. The next day, they went out to Yarmouth to be guest clinicians in the Second Annual Maine Acoustic Festival. Glowing reports came in through the day from the festival: these were skilled and generous educators. With their coaching, the students of the Maine Acoustic Festival put on a concert that was even stronger than last year's highly successful inaugural event. When the DePue Brothers Band took the stage in their own concert, Hannaford Hall came alive with music that spanned from classical to bluegrass, to jazz to Americana, to progressive rock to the beloved Linus and Lucy theme from *Peanuts*.

It was clear the capacity audience ranging from fellow musicians to the untrained ear were completely captivated. We were thrilled to welcome the DePue Brothers Band into our family and introduce them to our passionate community.



**“Kudos to Portland Oventions for finding the DePue Brothers. Having spent the better part of 2 days with them, I do not think that we could have found a better group of musicians/educators/people to work with the young musicians participating in the second annual Maine Acoustic Festival. Through their incredible musicianship and their genuine interest in the form and function of the Festival, they inspired, encouraged, befriended, and offered educational insights that were directly reflected in the final Maine Acoustic Festival showcase concert. The Maine Acoustic Festival feels so fortunate to have found such a wonderful collaboration partner in Portland Oventions.”**

— John Williams, 317 Main

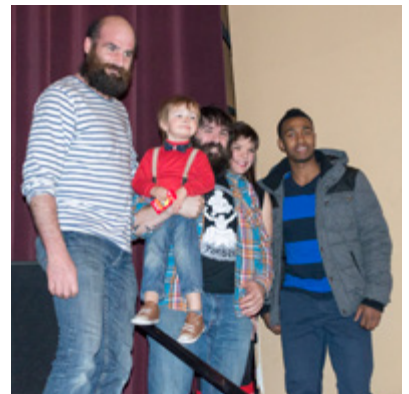
## JANUARY

- **January 24:**  
Black Violin  
School-Time Performance  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
In-School Workshop



- **January 29:**  
Cirque Alfonse: “Timber!”

- OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture  
Film Series  
Post-Performance  
Meet-the-Artist



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

317 Main Community Music Center  
 Bates College  
 Bates Dance Festival  
 Bowdoin College  
 Casco Bay High School  
 Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio  
 City of Portland  
 Council on International Educational Exchange  
 Culture Club-Portland  
 Cultivating Community  
 Good Shepherd Food Bank  
 Hope House  
 HopeGateWay  
 ICA at MECA  
 ILAP  
 Maine Acoustic Festival  
 Maine College of Art  
 Maine Historical Society  
 Oak Street Studios  
 OceanView at Falmouth  
 Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance

Portland Arts and Technology High School  
 Portland Education Foundation  
 Portland Mentoring Alliance  
 Portland Museum of Art  
 Portland Music Foundation  
 Portland Public Library  
 Portland Public Schools  
 Portland School of Ballet  
 Portland Stage Company  
 Portland Symphony Orchestra  
 Preble Street Resource Center  
 Riverton Elementary School and Community Center  
 SPACE Gallery  
 The Telling Room  
 University of Southern Maine School of Music  
 University of Southern Maine Office of Multicultural Affairs  
 Wayside Food Programs  
 Wescustago Youth Chorale  
 Westbrook Performing Arts Center  
 Williston-Immanuel United Church of Portland, Maine

**“The “Who’s Hungry” opportunity really fit right in with some of our priorities and to address some of the important but tough messages through an arts audience was different for us but it proved really effective. We had a great experience working with Portland Ovarations.”**

— Mark R. Swann, MSPA  
 Executive Director,  
 Preble Street



Kåfig Masterclass



Wescustago Youth Chorale

## FEBRUARY



● **February 1:**  
 Sing-a-Long-a “Grease”

World Premiere

# “THE SUMMER KING”

As a cultural organization, we love seeing audiences connect with the performing arts whether it is through a pre-performance lecture with a local teaching artist, a masterclass by one of our visiting artists, at a spontaneous arts happening or during a live performance at one of the many venues we inhabit. What we didn't know until this season was how much the love for what we do could grow when helping an artist achieve a dream.

Through working with Maine-based composer Dan Sonenberg to produce the world premiere of his opera *The Summer King* our passion for the performing arts took on new heights. When first speaking with Sonenberg about his opera and its tragic hero, Negro League ball player Josh Gibson, we knew giving *The Summer King* its world premiere was something we should do and *wanted* to do. The question loomed: was this something we *could* do?



Commissioning and premiering a contemporary opera is risky business. Though we have financially supported artists through commissioning, this was our first foray into the world of producing and it raised even more questions. Did we have the capacity to give this piece the premiere it deserved? Would there be an audience for it? Would we be able to wrangle all of the parts and attract professional instrumentalists, singers and artistic personnel to join us in this leap of faith? Would Dan finish the score in time? Could we even consider the possibility of inspiring a future national production?



With all of these questions we knew *The Summer King* would take everything we had as an organization. It would also take everything our community had to give, from financial support to a willingness to collaborate, to an immense passion for the performing arts and its importance in telling stories. It would take a Board of Directors whose commitment to the arts is boundless. But at the heart of it all, it took an artist. Thank you, Dan, for your dream, your passion, your immense artistry, indelible spirit, trust and friendship throughout this incredible journey. You hit it out of the park.





## Josh Gibson: Tragic Hero

Josh Gibson is one of those historic figures that epitomizes greatness but tragically never reaches their full potential. A victim of baseball's "Gentlemen's Agreement," which all but officially barred black players from big league baseball, Gibson was one of the best hitters in the game, was known as the "black Babe Ruth" (or alternately Babe Ruth was known as "the white Josh Gibson") and was only the second Negro League baseball player inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was tortured by internal demons, which were spurred on by external demons of prejudice and segregation. In no ball player is the agony of segregation more poignantly distilled than in Gibson, who lived just long enough to understand his own obsolescence, to see Jackie Robinson get the call to the big leagues and break the color barrier, when he knew his own abilities and very life were waning.

**"The entire staff of Portland Ovarions has been deeply involved with every stage of bringing this opera to life over the last year; I have enjoyed having them as collaborators."**

— Dan Sonenberg, Composer, *The Summer King*

**"As a presenting organization we feel it is really important to not just be a part of bringing things to the stage but actually making them happen from the get go. Working with an artist to realize his dream is pretty much as thrilling as it gets as a presenter."**

— Aimée M. Petrin, Executive Director, Portland Ovarions



Last but not least, it takes audiences, audiences who want to witness historic artistic moments, audiences who want to escape their everyday lives with just one night at the theater, audiences willing to take a chance on something new and support a community member in realizing his dream. We had no reason to doubt the response. Once again the community stepped right up to the plate.

We are proud to share that national opera producers were in attendance at the premiere and were enthusiastic about what they saw and heard. Christopher Hahn, the General Director of Pittsburgh Opera is in discussion with Dan Sonenberg about producing a fully staged version of *The Summer King* to hit their stage during an upcoming season and tour to several other opera houses.

Working on *The Summer King* over the course of the last two years re-kindled a sense of pride within the entire Ovarions staff, making us feel incredibly fortunate to live in such a creative community and to work for an organization that makes such a work of art possible. But, most importantly, it takes a creative and vibrant community of people who care deeply and give generously. *The Summer King* is Portland's opera.



# POP! AUCTION BENEFIT

POP! is an exciting evening that transforms a waterfront warehouse into a street festival with pop-up performances from local artists, delicious food from some of Maine's finest dining establishments and extraordinary silent auction items from local retailers, restaurants and artists. Thanks to our local partners, POP! 2013 raised approximately \$40,000 to benefit Ovation's Offstage; without their participation and support this evening and the work we continue to do throughout our great community would not be possible.

**“...few events can capture the essence of Portland more than Portland Ovation's' annual POP! Fundraiser.”**

— Portland Press Herald

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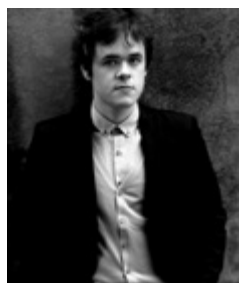


## FEBRUARY, CONT.



**February 6:**  
 Green Day's "American Idiot"

**February 7:**  
 Benjamin Grosvenor



**February 11:**  
 Compagnie Käfig  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
 Pre-Performance Lecture  
 Hip Hop Masterclass



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## MARCH, CONT.

### March 13:

So Percussion: "Where (we) Live"

### OFFSTAGE:

Percussion Masterclass  
 Art Exhibit  
 Panel Discussion



### March 22:

"Man of La Mancha"



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### March 29:

DePue Brothers Band

### OFFSTAGE:

Guest Clinicians at Maine Acoustic Festival  
 Members' Salon



## APRIL

### April 5:

"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"

### OFFSTAGE:

School-Time Performance  
 In-School Residency  
 Teacher Workshop  
 Family Workshop



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## APRIL, CONT.



**April 5:**  
 Handel and Haydn Society  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
 Pre-Performance Lecture

**April 10-12:**  
 "Who's Hungry"  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
 Advance Visit with Dan Froot  
 Film Series  
 Post-Performance Q&A  
 Pierce Atwood Luncheon  
 Advisory Council Meetings



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**“Travelers is proud to support Portland Ovations and its efforts to introduce students to the values in arts & culture. Through a foundation of multicultural understanding, the arts stimulate our creativity and enrich our learning. As ambassadors of Portland Ovations and their school-time performances, we see first-hand how they directly contribute to local community vitality. We look forward to working with Portland Ovations to continue reinforcing the arts to students in the area.”**

— Rita Ortiz, Director Employee & Community Engagement, Travelers Foundation



**April 13:**  
Bobby McFerrin: “Spirit You All”  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
Pre-Performance Lecture



# CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

As you can imagine, bringing 24 singers — all under the age of 10 — from Africa to Portland can be challenging. For instance, this was the first time Ovations encountered a “nap room” stipulation in an artist rider. However, the challenges of presenting the African Children’s Choir were well worth it. Whether performing for two full houses in Merrill Auditorium, swapping songs with recent African immigrants at a church supper or sharing the stage with local kids’ chorus members, the choir brought extraordinary music, dance and inspiration to our community.

On day one, following their rousing performance at Merrill Auditorium, choir members were treated to a community dinner prepared by the youth group at Portland’s Williston-Immanuel Church. After dinner, an evening of cultural sharing and mutual admiration commenced, with the choir trading music with a group of new Mainers living in Portland’s Hope Gateway House as well as members of the Wescustago Youth Chorale.

Day two began with a sold out School-Time Performance at Merrill Auditorium. After more than 1800 Maine students and educators jumped to their feet to give the African Children’s Choir a standing ovation, the Choir boarded their tour bus and stopped in at East End Community School for an afternoon of lunch (featuring some very popular whoopie pies), games and singing and dancing with the students.



Ovations and The Telling Room also collaborated on designing and implementing in-class workshops with English Language Learner students from South Portland Middle School, where Ovations Offstage staff came into the classrooms and connected the students learnings to the African Children’s Choir performances at Merrill Auditorium, providing them with the spark to write about their experience.

**“What an extraordinary exchange across continents. The children are clearly focused on aspirations and education and having a sense of hope — that’s very much the message of the choir and very much the message we try to give our students every day. That education is the best hope for the future, and that no matter what your background is, you can succeed.”**

— Marcia Gendron, East End Community School Principal



## APRIL, CONT.

**April 13:**  
“Nearly Lear”  
School-Time Performance

**OFFSTAGE:**  
Post-Performance Q&A



**April 25:**  
Pilobolus  
**OFFSTAGE:**  
Dance Masterclass  
Post-Performance Q&A



# CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: KAYHAN KALHOR

Last fall, Portland Ovations celebrated the art and culture of Iran. In partnership with the University of Southern Maine's Multicultural Student Affairs Office, Ovations presented Kayhan Kalhor, Grammy-nominated soloist and composer, and his colleague Ali Bahrami Fard at Hannaford Hall, USM, in Portland.

Kayhan Kalhor played the *shah kamen*, a new instrument created just for him, on a program featuring material from his new album, *I Will Not Stand Alone*, on the World Village label, Harmonia Mundi. In the lobby before the performance the University offered traditional Middle Eastern cuisine prepared by students and faculty.

Audience members enjoyed a free public presentation of Persian arts in Maine before the program. Reza Jalali, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs, shared his experiences as a New Mainer, writer and educator from Iran. The presentation concluded with a lively demonstration of a traditional Iranian folk dance that had everyone in the room clapping in time with the music.

In concurrence with the concert, Multicultural Student Affairs hosted the first survey of contemporary Iranian photography to travel to the United States, *Persian Visions*. The exhibit on the Gorham campus featured 20 artists who use the camera as a tool for cultural expression and self-exploration and was organized by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art and the University of Minnesota Department of Art. Over 50 works introduced some of Iran's most celebrated photographers to American audiences for the first time.



**“At the end, the large audience, some in traditional Iranian garb, awakened as if from a trance to give the musicians a thunderous standing ovation.”**

— Christopher Hyde,  
*Portland Press Herald*

## MAY

### May 8:

“The Summer King”

#### OFFSTAGE:

- Pre-Performance Lecture
- Arts Happening
- Post-Performance Reception
- Meet-the-Composer Luncheon
- USM Symposium



# 2013-14 BY THE NUMBERS

28,760

Attendees

35

Mainstage Performances

288

Performing Artists

5

Venues



9,653

people served by Ovarions Offstage

56

Offstage Activities

9

School-Time Performances

11

Free Lectures

38,413

people served by Portland Ovarions made possible through...

609

Members

23

Sponsors

20

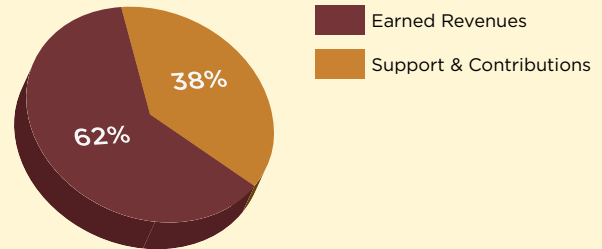
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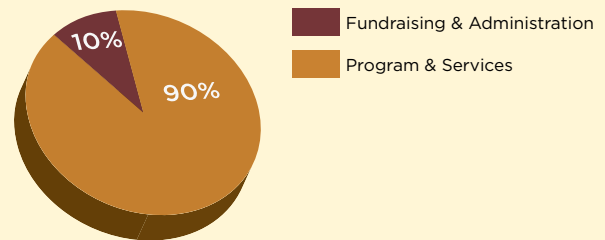
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Revenues	2013-14
Support and Contributions <sup>1</sup>	663,096
Earned Revenues	1,075,229
<b>Total Support and Earned Revenues</b>	<b>1,738,325</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programs and Services	1,644,940
Fundraising and Administration	185,310
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,830,250</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	384,082
Property and Equipment	9,028
Investments and Other Assets	1,334,613
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,727,723</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	296,588
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>296,588</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,108,630
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets <sup>2</sup>	58,347
Permanently Restricted Net Assets <sup>3</sup>	264,158
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,431,135</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>1,727,723</b>

## REVENUES



## EXPENSES



Program expenses include artist fees and accommodations, venue rentals, marketing, local labor and production, etc., which help fuel the Maine creative economy.

1. Support and contributions includes endowment distributions of \$35,438 from Portland Ovations and \$10,000 from CCEF fund.
2. Represents value of CCEF fund greater than corpus.
3. Represents the corpus of the CCEF fund.

*Audited financial statements are available upon request.*

## “We came from Moncton New Brunswick to Portland for the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain concert.

We were pleasantly surprised that the Merrill is such a nice venue! It was easy to get to, parking was a snap, and the seats were well placed and comfortable. All the staff and volunteers we encountered were helpful and friendly. The concert was great, and my “non-ukulele playing wife” enjoyed it immensely, as well as I.

What a bonus to have the Joel Eckhaus exhibit and lecture beforehand! It was entertaining as well as educational.

Please pass my thanks along to all the staff, volunteers, Joel and friends who made our visit a memorable experience. You should be very proud of the quality experience you provide.

In closing I should also say that we booked a few extra days for sight seeing and shopping in the area to make it a trip. We shopped in all the outlet stores, and malls, but the best experience was right in downtown Portland. Again, everyone we encountered were pleasant, courteous, and eager to help.

We look forward to the next trip.”

—Paul and Lynn Nickerson, Irishtown (Moncton), New Brunswick.

# Signature Events during the 2014-15 Season

Each offered with Ovations Offstage events connecting our community to the artists and performances. Check [portlandovations.org](http://portlandovations.org) often for updates and information.



## “Basetrack Live”

Thursday, March 26, 2015 • 7:30 pm • Westbrook Performing Arts Center

Named one of the top 10 theater events of 2014 by the *New York Times*, *Basetrack* draws on the power of individual stories to examine the collective experience of Marines stationed abroad, and their families, as they struggle to cope with separation and the uncertainties of war. Visually arresting, sonically engaging and emotionally gripping, *Basetrack* is a dynamic multi-disciplinary work at the intersection of theater, music, new media, journalism and technology. *Basetrack* takes actual text from social media sites and pairs it with interviews with Marines filmed while at war to create an educational, moving, and inspirational theatrical work. A true multimedia experience with a live quintet, narration and projected images combining to tell the powerful story of war and humanity.



## The Nile Project

Sunday, April 12, 2015 • 7 pm • Merrill Auditorium

Flowing from the rich cultural traditions, geopolitical issues and the great beauty of the world's longest river comes The Nile Project. Led by charismatic Ethiopian-American singer Meklit Hadero, a pan-Nile percussion section drives this orchestra of Ethiopian *masenko* and saxophone; Egyptian *ney*, oud, violin, *simsimiya*, and *tanbura*; Ugandan *adungu*; bass guitar; and vocalists singing in multiple languages. The Nile Project's unique sound comes from intensive work among the various musicians, learning from one another and translating that experience into collectively composed new songs. The result is an unprecedented collaboration that garnered The Nile Project's first recording, *Aswan*, a coveted spot on NPR's Top 5 Must-Hear International Albums of 2013.



## Lucky Plush: “The Queue”

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 • 7:30 pm • Westbrook Performing Arts Center

Equal parts dance and theater, *The Queue* unfolds in a fictional airport, where travelers stumble humorously, tragically and awkwardly into each others' private lives. Created by Lucky Plush founder/director Julia Rhodes and collaborator Leslie Danzig, *The Queue* finds its influences in early 20th-century forms of slapstick, vaudeville, Busby Berkeley-style choreography, creaky one-act plays and a 1746 farcical play about a family inheritance. These sources and performance vocabularies collide with contemporary dance and the distinctly non-theatrical context of waiting to create a dance-theater production, showcasing Lucky Plush's signature blend of immediacy, humor and kineticism.