



**The  
Giving Common**

An Initiative of the Boston Foundation

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## Lexington Symphony Inc.

PO Box 194 Lexington MA 02420 0002

**Incorporation Year:** 1996

<http://www.lexingtonsymphony.org>

**Organization Contact:** info@lexingtonsymphony.org Epp Sonin  
Arts,Culture & Humanities Symphony Orchestras

**CEO/Executive Director:** Ms. Epp Sonin

**Board Chair:** Ms. Epp Sonin Lexington Music School



**Current**

**Mission Statement:** Lexington Symphony is a professional orchestra of devoted musicians who share a passion for classical music, a commitment to community engagement, and a dedication to exacting standards of performance.

Connecting to the community is at the heart of Lexington Symphony's mission and approach. Working to make classical music accessible to all, Lexington Symphony offers outreach programs that serve all ages, provides tickets at affordable prices, and presents exciting concert experiences that audiences love.

**Needs Statement:** Lexington Symphony has historically been staffed by a combination of volunteers from the orchestra and Board members, with the strategic vision for the organization set by collaboration of Music Director, orchestra members and Board. Together, their success has led to significant growth over the past nine years. The organization is at a turning point for sustainability as it approaches burn-out of volunteers handling staff work. Greater professional resources are critical to its future sustainability and success.

An internal benchmarking study comparing similarly-situated arts organizations shows Lexington Symphony is offering more programs than any other group in the comparative pool, yet with the leanest staffing.

Priorities for hiring staff are:

1. Development director. It is anticipated that this position would be self-sustaining.
2. Executive Director.
3. Increasing staff marketing hours to full-time, to build audience for both its subscription concerts and programs for youth, particularly in towns outside Lexington.
4. The orchestra has made steady increases to musician compensation and will continue to address musicians' pay.

Lexington Symphony also needs direct support for its subscription concerts, to enable it to continue to engage the community with creative, thought-provoking programs that require the resources of a full symphony orchestra.

**Impact Statement:** Offering six concerts each season at Cary Hall in Lexington and outreach programs including its award-winning Orchestrating Kids Through Classics™ for third and fourth graders, the Symphony annually reaches over 6,500 audience members of all ages.

Lexington Symphony's commitment to community, celebration, collaboration and cultural enrichment was in full bloom in 2012-2013, a year that marked the Town of Lexington's 300th birthday. The orchestra commissioned and premiered three new works by Sky Macklay, Pulitzer Prize-winning Michael Gandolfi and John Tarrh. This project spawned multiple collaborations between arts groups: New Hampshire-based Walden School, three choruses in Lexington including a select choir from the high school, a choreographer from Boston Ballet School, students from the Lexington School of Ballet, and organizers of Lexington's Cary Lecture Series. National ASCAP awards for both the Lexington Symphony and Macklay, press coverage by the Boston Globe and selection by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as an example for other arts groups to emulate further underscore the broad impact of this project.

The costs of the commissioning project presented a significant fundraising challenge in FY13, which the orchestra met with a creative fundraising endeavor. Though the Symphony budgeted conservatively for a loss, it ended the year with a surplus.

In 2013, Lexington Symphony's educational outreach program for elementary children, Orchestrating Kids Through Classics™, hit the mark of reaching over 10,000 students, educators and parents from diverse communities in the Greater Boston area since the program's launch in 2009. The orchestra continues to work to introduce more children to the orchestra through this popular program, including economically disadvantaged students (presently 25% of attendees).

To build on its successes, whether through creative projects like the 300th anniversary commissions or through expansion of educational outreach programs, the Symphony needs to increase its annual revenues. Hiring a development director would help the orchestra realize its artistic and educational goals by organizing and enabling the group's fundraising efforts, thereby increasing individual donor giving and foundation support. Expanding audience reach and continuing to build impact beyond Lexington's borders is another goal for the future, one that will also likely contribute to revenue growth.

**Full-time Staff:** 1

**Volunteers:** 40

(excludes part-time staff)

## Programs Detailed on Profile

Orchestrating Kids Through Classics™

Lexington Symphony Subscription Concerts

**Projected Revenue:** \$309,265.00

**Projected Expenses:** \$306,170.00

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$347,151	\$342,857	\$306,034
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$316,554	\$333,643	\$338,985

### Top Funding Sources

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Top Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--
<b>Second Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--
<b>Third Highest Funding Source &amp; Dollar Amount</b>	--	--	--