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SUPPORTING  
THE TDP

The enduring successes of the Talent Development Program, its Fellows and its alumni are possible thanks to generous community support.

Thank you to the companies, foundations, and individuals who supported TDP Fellows last year, including:

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ALSTON & BIRD



Atlanta  
Symphony  
Orchestra  
Talent Development  
Program

IMPACT  
REPORT

21|22

One of the most successful elite diversity music programs in the United States, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's **Talent Development Program (TDP)** provides gifted Black and Latinx musicians in grades 5-12 with the highest level of musical training.

TDP alumni go on to attend top music schools, and professional careers as soloists, chamber musicians, orchestral performers, composers, teachers, and more. Read on to learn about program highlights from the 2021/22 season and catch up with some of the TDP's accomplished alumni.





# Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

## Talent Development Program

In its 28th year, the TDP served exceptional Black and Latinx student musicians with master classes, performance opportunities, weekly music lessons, and summer scholarships.



### SPOTLIGHT PERFORMANCES

- TDP Fellows **performed before** leaders of Fortune 500 companies BlackRock and The Coca-Cola Company, and as part of the *Reimagine the Legacy* event honoring Congressman John Lewis.
- At the acclaimed **Chicago Youth in Music Festival and National Pathways Summit**, three TDP Fellows performed alongside students from nine other musical pathway programs, led by Grammy® Award-winning conductor Riccardo Muti.
- In **The Sphinx Competition's** junior division, TDP Fellow Brandon Leonard won second place and the Audience Choice Award.

### ADMISSION TO ELITE MUSIC PROGRAMS

- 14 TDP Fellows attended top **summer music programs**, including Interlochen Arts Camp, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Brevard Music Center Summer Institute, with support from the Azira G. Hill Scholarship Fund.
- The TDP's **two graduating Fellows** were accepted into their top choice schools, NYU and Boston University.

### AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY

- With support from the Mellon Foundation, consultants interviewed **more than 100** TDP Fellows, parents, alumni, and other stakeholders to understand the program's strengths and areas for growth.
- Over 450 community leaders gathered at the 2022 Symphony Gala in May to honor TDP founder Azira G. Hill for her contributions to music education. The star-studded evening raised more than **\$780,000** for community and education programs.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**6**  
new TDP  
Fellows

**2**  
master  
classes

**25%**  
of ASO  
musicians are  
involved in  
the program

**3**  
concert  
performances  
with 1,674  
views

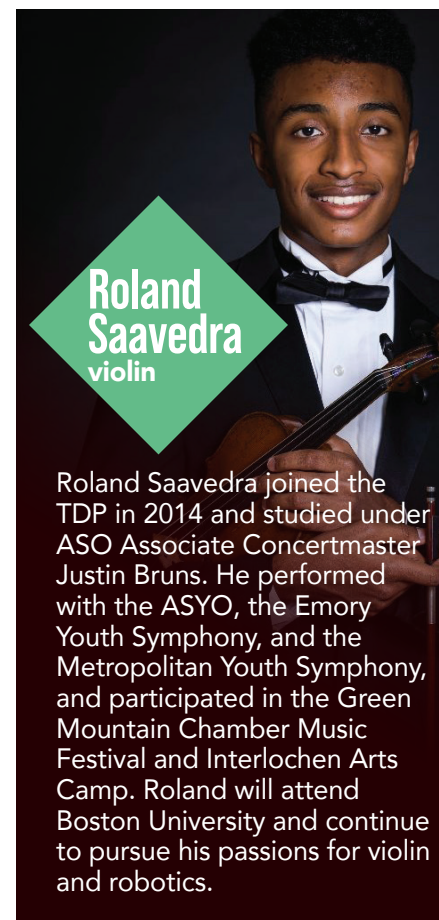
**14**  
Fellows  
attended  
prestigious  
summer music  
programs

**1,000+**  
hours of  
weekly music  
lessons

### 2022 TDP GRADUATES



Jonathan Walton started his musical journey at age eight and was a member of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra (ASYO) Digital Academy and the TDP since 2020, studying under ASO cellist Dona Vellek. Jonathan will attend NYU, where he will pursue a career in cello performance and audio engineering.



Roland Saavedra joined the TDP in 2014 and studied under ASO Associate Concertmaster Justin Bruns. He performed with the ASYO, the Emory Youth Symphony, and the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and participated in the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival and Interlochen Arts Camp. Roland will attend Boston University and continue to pursue his passions for violin and robotics.

### 21/22 TDP FELLOWS

#### 12th Grade

Roland Saavedra (violin)  
Jonathan Walton (cello)

#### 11th Grade

Leyah James (violin)  
Jonathan Lackey (trumpet)  
Brandon Leonard (cello)  
Kyle Lynch (viola)  
Bria Rives (double bass)  
Stanley Yeboah (viola)

#### 10th Grade

Jaia Alli (cello)  
Justin Griffin (trumpet)  
Sage Harrison-Conaway (harp)

#### 9th Grade

Alia Hampton (harp)  
Christopher Johnson (viola)  
Xavier Jones (trumpet)  
Gabriel Silva (trombone)  
Evie Tafur (oboe)  
Lauren Williams (clarinet)

#### 8th Grade

Waverly Alexander (violin)  
Myron Leonard (harp)  
Stella Reber-Viñas (cello)  
Esther Sanogo (cello)  
Cairo Wren (violin)

**“**  
*I enjoy the opportunity to meet new musicians my age, as well as the professional musicians of the ASO. It truly shows how diverse people can be, yet still come together as one because of music.*

GABRIEL SILVA  
TDP Class  
of '25



### TDP ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Trombonist **Philip Williams** (2018) was featured in the 2021 biopic of Aretha Franklin, *RESPECT*, starring Jennifer Hudson. He also won first prize in the 2021 Robert Marsteller International Trombone Competition in Columbus, GA.

Cellist **Denielle Wilson** (2013) won a position with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the 2022/23 season, after finishing a term with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. Denielle was also the winner of the strings division of the 2021 Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions Excerpt Competition.

Violinist **Maalik Glover** (2015) won a two-year CSO/CCM Diversity Fellowship with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

Bass trombonist **Jahleel Smith** (2014) won a position with the Kansas City Symphony for the 2022/23 season, after completing his contract with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

Trombonist **Lovrick Gary** (2016) was selected for the Rosemary and David Good Fellowship with the Minnesota Orchestra and will perform with the Orchestra for two seasons.

Cellist **Lindsey Sharpe** (2015) serves as a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, continuing her training with the Chicago Symphony. Lindsey also serves as the Business and Memberships Manager for El Sistema USA®.

Bassist **Xavier Dubois Foley** (2011) returned in March 2022 to Atlanta Symphony Hall to perform the world premiere of his original composition *Soul Bass*.

Violinist **Chelsea Sharpe** (2011) performed as a member of the Grafenegg Festival Orchestra in summer 2021, and won a position for the 2022/23 season with the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra.

Violist **Drew Forde** (2010), known as ThatViolaKid, was featured in a 2021 commercial for the Frito-Lay company to promote their new Chili Lime SunChips flavor.

In February 2022, cellist **Khari Joyner** (2009) composed and performed the score to the Atlanta Ballet's *Inherited*, a world premiere work by choreographer Anderson Souza.