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:

A Friend of the Symphony

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THE Coca-Cola COMPANY

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ALSTON & BIRD

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.
TDP Fellows

With support from the Mellon Foundation, consultants

Over 450 community leaders gather

14 TDP Fellows attended top music programs, including Interlochen Arts Camp, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Brevard Music Center Summer Institute, with support from the Azra G. Hill Scholarship Fund.

The TDP’s two graduating Fellows were accepted into their top choice schools, NYU and Boston University.

21/22 HIGHLIGHTS

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.

BY THE NUMBERS

6 new TDP Fellows

25% of ASO musicians are involved in the program

2 master classes

3 concert performances with 1,674 views

14 Fellows attended prestigious summer music programs

1,000+ hours of weekly music lessons

21/22 TDP FELLOWS

12th Grade

Roland Saavedra (violin)
Jonathan Walton (cello)

11th Grade

Leyah James (violin)
Jonathan Lackey (trumpet)
Brandon Leonor (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-Vilas (cello)
Esther Sanogo (cello)
Cairo Wren (violin)

7th Grade

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 Veleck. Jonathan will attend NYU, where he will pursue a career in cello performance and audio engineering.

TDP ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

12th Grade

Roland Saavedra joined the TDP in 2014 and studied under ASO Associate Concertmaster Justin Blune. 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.

2022 TDP GRADUATES

Jonathan Walton

Roland Saavedra (violin)

Esther Sanogo (cello)
Myron Leonard (harp)
Waverly Alexander (violin)
Gabriel Silva (trombone)
Xavier Jones (trumpet)
Christopher Johnson (viola)

Waverly Alexander (violin)

Rodrick Johnson (harp)
Eva Tafur (oboe)
Lauren Williams (clarinet)

Boti Tafur (oboe)

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 GRADUATES

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