

LiveConnections

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



WHAT'S YOUR SONG

→ **D**uring a rehearsal leading up to our “A Song Everyone Can Sing” Community Sing in March 2019, a participant named Donald said:

“You know why I really like this song?
Because it talks about us.”

Donald is a choir member from Merakey, which serves adults receiving treatment for disabilities, behavioral health and/or substance abuse disorders. He and his fellow singers had shared their own stories to generate lyrics for new choral music, as part of LiveConnections’ two-year initiative focused on accessibility and inclusion through singing.

The song was *his* song — *our* song — developed through a collaborative process in which participants and professional artists created music together.

Having your own song is powerful — it allows you to express yourself in new ways, to connect to others, to be part of something big. At LiveConnections, we continue to create new music *with* and *by* our communities: amplifying voices that might not otherwise be heard, embracing the people-connecting power of music.

Thanks for all your support,

Melinda Steffy
Executive Director

Hal Real
President

David Bradley
Founding Director

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BIG HURRAH

→ **November 18, 2019**

5:30–9:00pm

at World Cafe Live, 3025 Walnut Street, Philadelphia



LiveConnections' annual party is an evening of exceptional artistry, amazing food and drink, and all of the "feel good" moments you could want.

FEATURING

Students from **Hill-Freedman World Academy** performing original songs from the album **WAKE UP EVERYBODY**

WITH ARTISTS



Andrew Lipke



Luke Carlos O'Reilly



Kristal "Tytewriter" Oliver

AND

◆◆ **SPECIAL GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED** ◆◆

5TH ANNUAL CONNECTOR AWARD

Presented to **Dyana Williams**,
radio host & artist coach

All Big Hurrah proceeds benefit LiveConnections' music education & community programs.

→ 5th Annual Connector Award

Dyana Williams, radio host & artist coach



Our 2019 awardee exemplifies the power of connection through music. Dyana Williams is an award-winning radio host, currently on Radio One Philadelphia's Classix107.9 and Fox29. Named "The Ambassador of African-American Music," Dyana's activism helped establish June as Black Music Month. Dyana also does artist development and has provided media strategies for celebrities including Rihanna, Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes, Alessia Cara, Janelle Monáe and The Zac Brown Band, among many others. She serves on the board of directors of The Philadelphia Chapter of the Recording Academy and the National Museum of African-American Music in Nashville, as well as on the board of visitors of her alma mater, Temple University's Klein School of Media and Communication. Dyana has co-produced the Marian Anderson Awards at the Kimmel Center, and has honored James Earl Jones, Jon Bon Jovi, Berry Gordy, Patti Labelle, Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. She is the proud mother of three adult children: Caliph, Isa and Princess Idia Gamble, and "Nana Dyana" to Luke Gamble.



Young Connector Award

Kawish Sadaqat & Mehwish Sadaqat

We are pleased to present our 3rd annual Young Connector Award to sisters Kawish Sadaqat and Mehwish Sadaqat for their creativity, leadership and ability to foster connections among people. Kawish and Mehwish took part in

LiveConnections "Immigrant Songs" residency, showing remarkable leadership throughout the rehearsal and recording process. Mehwish was also part of the choir from Northeast High School that participated in our "A Song Everyone Can Sing" initiative. They are both active in their community, volunteering for HIAS PA and Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association. Kawish and Mehwish moved to the U.S. from Pakistan in 2018. They both graduated from the honors program at Northeast High School and are currently first-year students at Holy Family University.

Dyana Williams [Whitney Thomas]
Kawish Sadaqat & Mehwish Sadaqat [Jaci Downs Photography]

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▼ BRIDGE SESSION | Joseph Tayoun [Conrad Erb Photography]





ABOUT LIVECONNECTIONS

LiveConnections' mission is to “inspire learning and build community through collaborative music-making.” We believe **live music is an essential part of the human experience**: it fosters joy and is one of the most powerful ways to build bridges between people.

We specialize in music education, arts accessibility and artist collaborations. Since our founding in 2008, we have reached more than **41,000 participants** through our **educational Bridge Sessions and in-school residencies**, and have presented **50 concerts and 13 commissions** through our critically acclaimed LiveConnections Presents concert series.

To create our unique programming, LiveConnections collaborates with artists from **diverse music traditions**. We create opportunities for **audiences with limited arts access** — such as youth from Philadelphia public schools and people with disabilities — to be **active participants in music-making**. The music we create intersects with **significant social issues**, amplifying marginalized voices and encouraging creative responses to our world.

Notable projects include four albums of student songwriting created in partnership with Philadelphia public schools (A DAY IN MY LIFE, FIRST VERSE, WHAT'S GOING ON, and our latest, WAKE UP EVERYBODY); our “Immigrant Songs” after-school program for refugee teenagers, delivered in partnership with HIAS PA; “A Song Everyone Can Sing” which highlighted accessibility and inclusion through choral singing; and our “New Sound of Philadelphia” commissioning project which paired Philadelphia composers with Philly-based ensembles of a different genre.

LiveConnections' work has been **widely hailed**, receiving an NBCUniversal “Project Innovation” grant, a Cultural Access Award by leading arts accessibility organization Art-Reach, a Social Innovations Award, a Barra Award, and a Youth Arts Enrichment grant from the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

WHAT'S YOUR SONG

Over the last several years, songwriting has become a central part of LiveConnections' programs. In everything from our Bridge Sessions to our school residencies to our public concerts, we are making space for participants and artists to create something *new*.

New rhythms. New poems. New songs. New ideas.

Teenagers who are recent immigrants to the U.S. are invited to tell their stories and develop connections in their new community.

Youth and adults with cognitive and physical disabilities use their words and movements to create inclusive new music.

Middle school students unlock the power of poetry to speak about their experiences and emotions.

High school students connect songwriting with digital music technology to write, record and produce their own album.

These voices matter, and we're excited to share these songs with you.



“If you're feelin' down, then turn up this song / I want this music heard across the world... / Everyone join in and sing all over the world!”

—“All Over the World” by Camya, 10th grade, Hill-Freedman World Academy (WAKE UP EVERYBODY, 2019)

WAKE UP EVERYBODY

Inspired by Philadelphia International Records and the idea of “music with a message,” **WAKE UP EVERYBODY** is the third album to come out of Hill-Freedman Records.

The record label is part of the music technology program at Philadelphia public high school **Hill-Freedman World Academy** — an incredible program that combines design thinking, digital literacy and music-making.

In our 2018–2019 partnership with Music Technology teacher **Ezechial Thurman**, LiveConnections teaching artists (**Andrew Lipke**, **Kristal “Tyte” Oliver**, **Luke Carlos O’Reilly**) worked with the entire 10th grade and additional students in an intensive process of writing, recording and producing a full-length album of original student music.

The songs follow the title’s exhortation to “wake up” to what the world — and the students — are facing today. The album moves from the personal to the global, with students singing about love and family, social justice, their futures and their desire to come together in a divided world.

► **LISTEN:** liveconnections.org/wake-up





“ Let music heal your soul / There’s a story to be told / As the journey of life unfolds / I am not alone.”

—“Let the Music Heal Your Soul”
group-generated lyrics (*Immigrant Songs*, 2019)

IMMIGRANT SONGS

In our second year of partnership with **HIAS PA**, LiveConnections’ “Immigrant Songs” program provided opportunities for refugee and immigrant teenagers from Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Venezuela to write songs together.

In weekly sessions with LiveConnections teaching artists (**Blair Bodine**, **Ami Yares**), students shared their stories, expanded communication skills and built bridges of cross-cultural understanding. Their songs speak about change, courage and a deep desire for worldwide peace.

► **LISTEN:** liveconnections.org/immigrant-songs



“ I’m still hurting from his death / But my dad was a fighter / So I’m going to hold his legacy close to my heart / And fight...”

—“The Tie” by Samantha, participant from *The Center for Grieving Children* (*Percussion Studio*, 2018)



PERCUSSION STUDIO

In our 2018–2019 Percussion Studio summer camps, young people made their own bucket drums, learned ensemble drumming, jammed together, and wrote poetry that they then performed at World Cafe Live.

Many of the youth have faced significant challenges in their lives. Teaching artists **Josh Robinson** and **Alex Shaw** — together with guest poet **Yolanda Wisner**, movement artist **Shavon Norris** and songwriter/producer **Andrew Lipke** — brought a trauma-informed approach to their work, creating a safe place where young people could talk and write about the hard things.

► **LISTEN:** liveconnections.org/percussion-studio

▼ Josh Robinson [all images: Jaci Downs Photography]



“I’ve learned to keep trying / and to ask for help. / I believe in me.”

—“A Song Everyone Can Sing” lyrics by Daniel Simpson, based on words from students at Our Lady of Confidence (2019)



A SONG EVERYONE CAN SING

Through our two-year “A Song Everyone Can Sing” initiative, we have been dreaming big about accessibility and inclusion in our city. We asked: *What is a Song? Who is Everyone? What does it mean to Sing?* To answer this, we commissioned a new multi-media choral work that invited people with diverse abilities to participate through singing, movement and visuals.

It was an enormous, collaborative process, led by LiveConnections concert curator **Mary Javian**. Composer **Jay Fluellen** wrote the music, poet **Daniel Simpson** created lyrics based on participants’ own words and writing, movement artist **Shavon Norris** developed ways for diverse bodies to participate, VOCES8 co-founder **Paul Smith** led choirs in the innovative “VOCES8 Method” of learning music, Drexel University’s **ExCite Center** used technology to visualize sound, and our partners at **Art-Reach** helped us embed Universal Design throughout the process. Four partner choirs — **Merakey, Northeast High School, Our Lady of Confidence Day School** and **Overbrook School for the Blind** — collaborated with the artists in a series of generative workshops that embedded participants’ voices and experiences in the finished piece. ASL interpretation, audio description and additional accommodations helped ensure that *everyone* could participate.

At our culminating Community Sing in March 2019, internationally renowned a cappella ensemble **VOCES8** joined the partner choirs to present the world premiere of the multi-faceted new work. The whole audience was invited to join in the music-making, celebrating human ability and the joy of singing together.

► **LISTEN:** liveconnections.org/song-everyone





PROGRAM REPORT FY19

→ Our 10th Anniversary Season (2018–2019) was full of deep partnerships, creative energy and a whole lot of music.

31 educational Bridge Sessions featured **24** artists and were attended by **49** schools and human service organizations. **100%** of participants attended for free, and we reimbursed costs for **30** school buses. **10** topics included old favorites such as “World of Percussion” and “Dancing Vibrations,” as well as newer topics such as “Jazz Speaks” and “Voices & Bodies in Social Action.”

5 in-depth residencies and camps provided a total of **480** instructional hours focused on percussion, poetry and songwriting. **170** students participated, and **48** original songs and poems were recorded.

3 LiveConnections Presents concerts featured **1** commission and **2** world premieres, with music spanning jazz, classical, pop and Latin American genres. We hosted **15** workshops and **2** Bridge Sessions directly tied to the concerts.

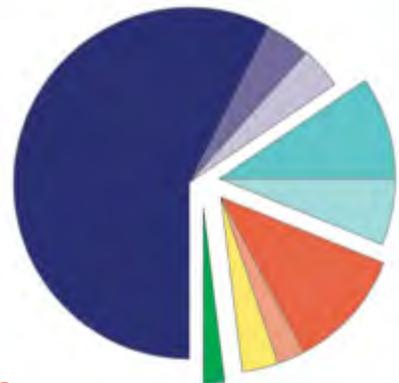
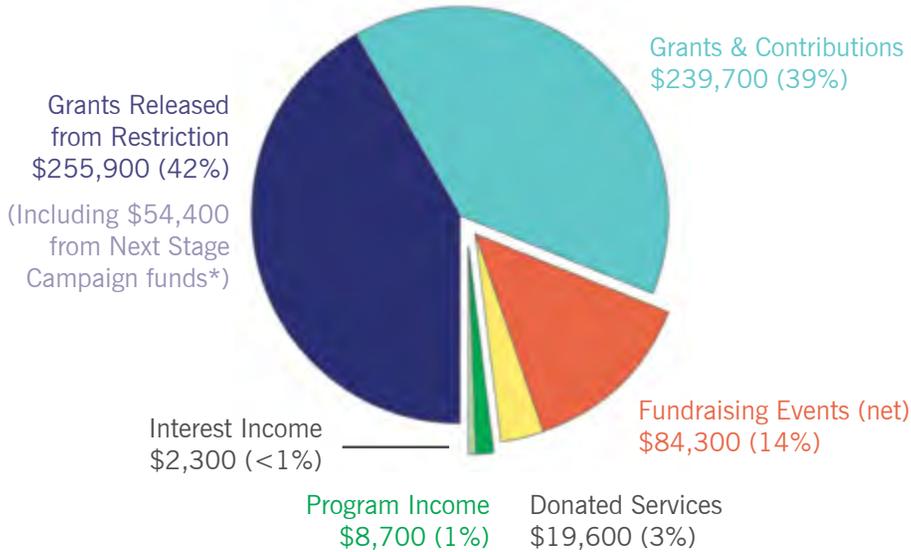
4400 people participated in our programs, of which **70%** were students from public schools, **20%** were youth and adults with disabilities from schools and human service organizations, and **10%** were general audiences.

Programs were featured on 6abc, Broad Street Review, The Key, KYW 1060AM, NBC10, Philadelphia Citizen, Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Tribune, Philly Life and Culture, WDAS-FM, WURD 91.6FM/900AM and WXPB-FM.

FINANCIAL REPORT FY19

REVENUE

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019
 Unrestricted Total: \$610,500
 Unrestricted Surplus: \$9,600

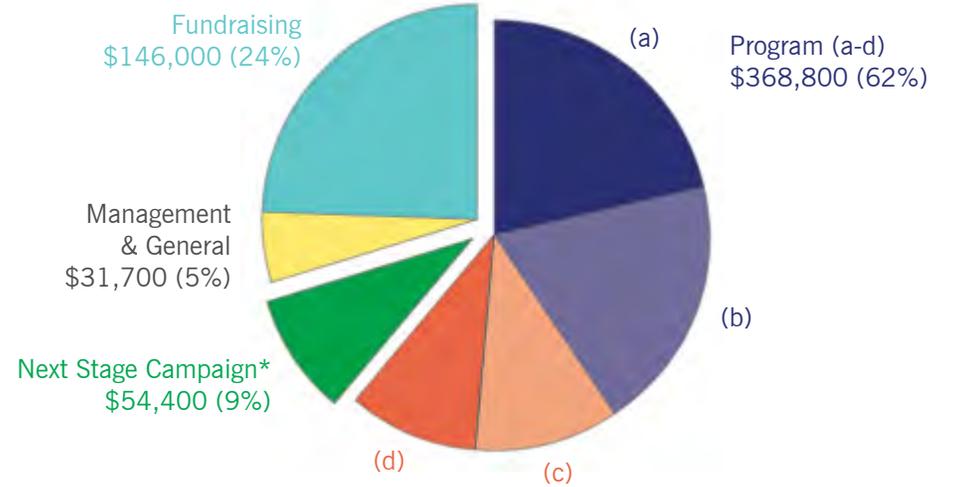


BY SOURCE / TYPE

Foundation Grants	57%
Corporate Grants & EITC Funding	4%
Government Grants	4%
Kids Count Campaign	10%
Other Individual & Board Donations	6%
Big Hurrah (net)	11%
Kids Rock Philly (net)	3%
Donated Services	3%
Earned Revenue	2%

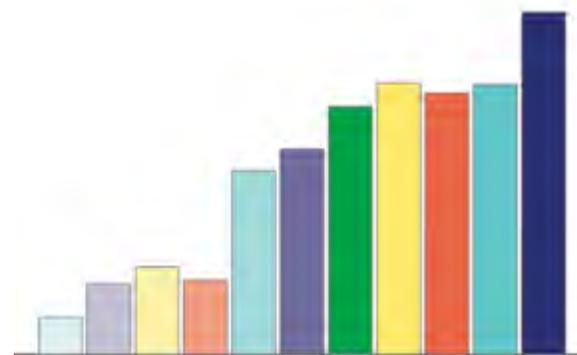
EXPENSES

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019
 Total: \$600,900



% of Program:

- (a) Bridge Sessions (35%)
- (b) Residencies (32%)
- (c) A Song Everyone Can Sing (17%)
- (d) Concerts (16%)



ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

FY09 – FY19

**The Next Stage Campaign is a new initiative of LiveConnections and World Cafe Live to create a joint social enterprise. More info soon!*

For a copy of LiveConnections' audit report or IRS 990, please contact Executive Director Melinda Steffy at melinda@liveconnections.org.

THANKS TO OUR DONORS!

July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

BIG HURRAH

EVENT November 12, 2018

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World Cafe Live
WXPB-FM

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EVENT February 24, 2019

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Special thanks to Stacey, Jason, Leo & Maxie Mandel for hosting this event.

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CAMPAIGN May 6–15, 2019

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LiveConnections is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Additional support provided in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

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We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. To request an update or correction, please contact us at development@liveconnections.org or 267-295-2946.

▼ BRIDGE SESSION [Conrad Erb Photography]





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October 27, 2019 @ 4pm
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Beethoven: Mass in C & Choral Fantasy
March 7, 2020 @ 7:30pm
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A Feast of Carols
December 14, 2019 @ 5pm
Saint Pauls Episcopal Church

Limitless: Bates, Curry, and Gijelo
May 2, 2020 @ 7pm
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Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 8 pm

Robyn Bollinger, *violin*
Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, *viola*
Grieg: *Holberg Suite, Op. 40*
Mozart: *Sinfonia Concertante, K.364*
Dvořák: *Serenade, Op. 22 E Major*

Love Triangle

Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 8 pm

Fei Fei Dong, *piano*
Robert Schumann: *Overture, Scherzo, and Finale, Op. 52*
Clara Schumann: *Piano Concerto, Op. 7, A minor*
Brahms: *Symphony No. 4*

Gran Partita

Saturday, February, 29, 2020 at 8 pm

Oliver Herbert, *cello*
Mozart: *Marriage of Figaro Overture for WW octet*
Ibert: *Cello Concerto*
R. Strauss: *Serenade, Op. 7, E-flat Major*
Mozart: *Serenade No. 10, K. 361, B-flat Major "Gran Partita"*

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