

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Ocean Music Action is dedicated to musical excellence and conservation action. This year marked an important milestone: the premiere of our first commission, a new work by the Syrian composer, clarinetist, and educator Kinan Azmeh. Commissioning composers to create new works for our ensemble is a key part of our mission; in doing so we grow the repertoire of music celebrating the connection of people and planet, as well as supporting a diverse range of voices, Kinan crafted a musical love letter to the ocean– a meditative journey for clarinet, bass, and harp, with improvisatory sections for all three instruments. The premiere of this piece took place in Honolulu, Hawaii, and included an invitation to the audience to write their own love letter to the ocean, resulting in a collaborative testament to the deep sense of connection that so many of us feel for the ocean.

As Ocean Music Action continues into its second full year, we look forward to sharing our unique musical programs with audiences across the country and encouraging a deeper appreciation and connection to our oceans and waterways.

With deep gratitude,

Megan Conley
President and Founder, Ocean Music Action

# OUR 'WHY'

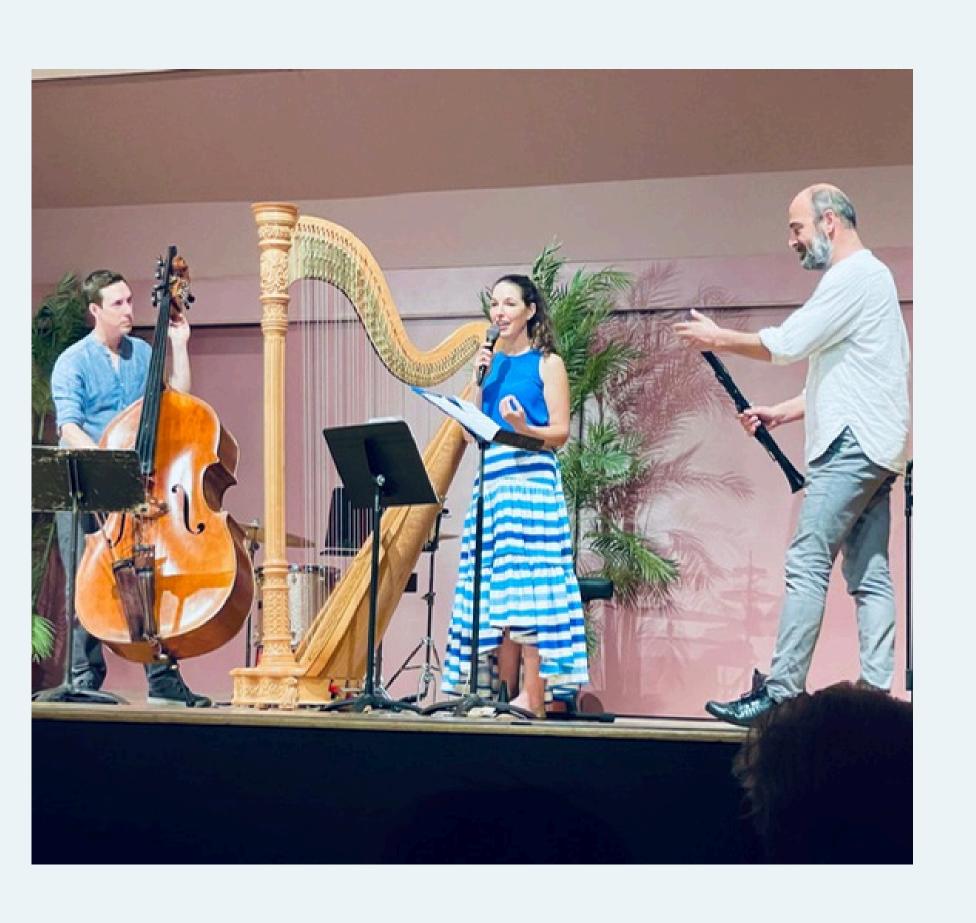
We use the transformative power of music to promote ocean conservation. We present inspiring, world-class performances, each paired with a volunteer activity, to build community and connect audiences to local conservation efforts.

We envision a world where musicians regularly use music to promote environmental stewardship, bring audiences together and build lasting connections within and across our communities.

Ocean Music Action is centered around artistic excellence and community service focused on environmental conservation. We believe that diversity and excellence go hand in hand. We are committed to working toward a world where the planet and all of its people are treated as precious.







# HOW WE WORK

Music brings people together. By presenting unique and engaging concerts, we create memorable experiences that connect to people's emotions, and help them, in turn, connect and take action in their local community.

For each concert, we partner with a local conservation organization and use our concert platform to promote their work, organize a community day of action to build their volunteer base, and provide resources for continued audience participation in local conservation efforts.

# **OUR ARTISTS**



Megan Conley Harpist



**Shawn Conley**Bass



Colin Jacobsen Violin



Kinan Azmeh
Clarinet and Composer



Abe Lagrimas, Jr Percussion and Ukulele



Maile Okamura

Dancer



# **OUR PARTNERSHIPS**

Ocean Music Action collaborates with cultural institutions, environmental conservation organizations, and artists of all disciplines, using our concert platform to support and amplify our common purpose.

### Sustainable Ocean Alliance

Sustainable Ocean Alliance is a nonprofit that works to activate young people, develop and implement innovative solutions, and mobilize a global movement with the goal of restoring the health of the ocean in our lifetime. Ocean Music Action was honored to join the Deep Sea Summit in Honolulu on Feb 19th, raising awareness about the potential damage caused be deep sea mining.

### Honolulu Chamber Music Series (HCMS)

Ocean Music Action was a featured ensemble of the Honolulu Chamber Music Series on April 18th. Members of the Malama Maunalua team attended the concert, sharing educational materials, including live limu (seaweed) samples for audience members to see, smell, and touch. Our program included the world premiere of Kinan Azmeh's piece 'Dear Ocean.'





### Bishop Museum

Ocean Music Action harpist Megan Conley performed 'Voice of the Forest' by Takuma Itoh for Bishop Museum's *Kahuli Festival* in September, and returned to the Museum in November to perform for *Celebrating La Ku'oko'a*. Her performance featured a new arrangement by Hawaiian composer Leilehua Lanzalotti, commissioned through a New Music USA Creator Fund Grant.

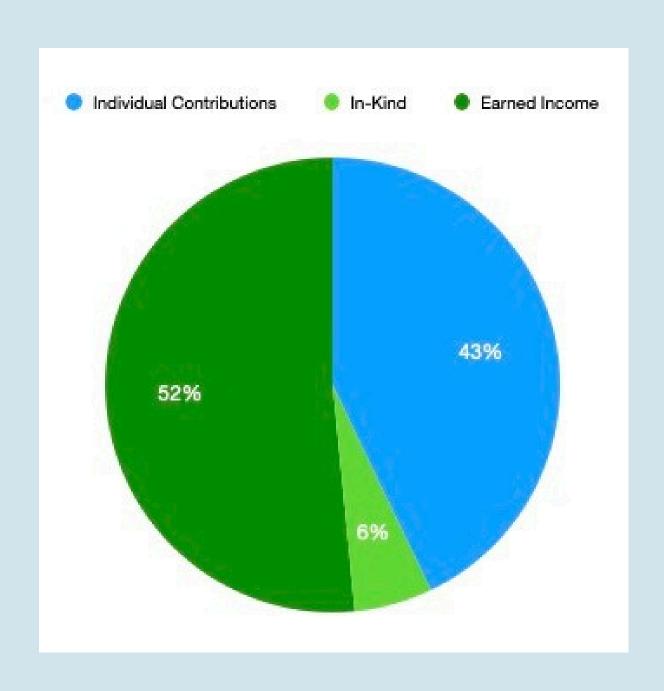
### Mālama Maunalua

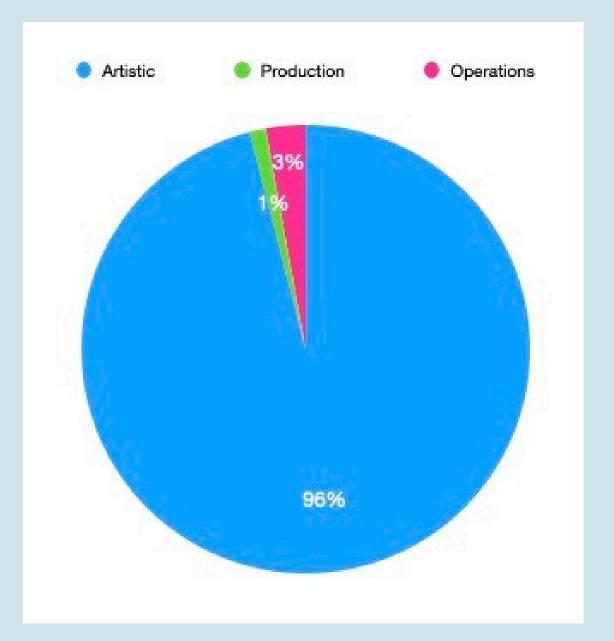
Ocean Music Action is thrilled to continue our partnership with Malama Maunalua, organizing a volunteer day of action in conjunction with our Honolulu Chamber Music Series concert in April. Our volunteers removed 1380 lbs of invasive seaweed, which was donated to the local farm Keiki & Plow.

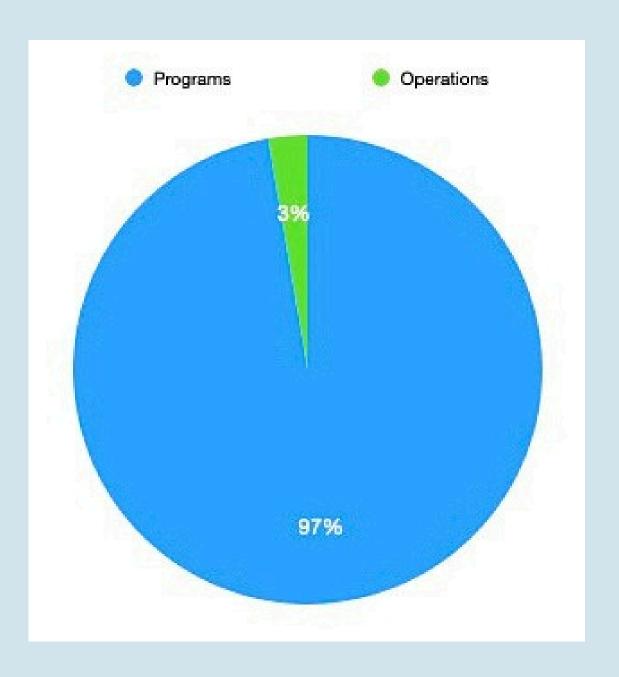
### Yogarden

Ocean Music Action harpist Megan Conley and cellist Anna Callner Pare supported Yogarden's work and mission through a performance of holiday music at the annual Yogarden Holiday Market. This sustainably-focused market took place on the Yogarden 7-acre organic farm and featured local artisans, farm-to-plate food, and nature-based holiday crafts.

# 2023 FINANCIALS







**INCOME** 

**EXPENSES** 

PROGRAMS VS OPERATIONS

# IN THE PRESS



# Star Advertiser, April 2 2023

Highlighting our Honolulu Chamber Music Series concert and volunteer day, the Advertiser quoted bassist Shawn Conley as he described Ocean Music Action: "The idea was, 'Can we do more than just playing music... can we harness the power of that feeling [when] you go to a great concert and it finishes and you just want to hear more?"

# Island Scene Magazine, October 2023

Ocean Music Action was the cover story for HMSA's Island Scene with an article entitled 'Water Music' that included an interview with OMA founder Megan Conley. The article is available at <a href="https://islandscene.com/water-music">https://islandscene.com/water-music</a>.



# By the Numbers

6 Live Performances

364 Audience Members Reached

1,380 Pounds of invasive seaweed removed

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### **Adrienne Correa**

Science Advisor. Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at UC Berkeley; Founder and Co-Director of Berkeley Center for Ocean Futures



# WITH GRATITUDE

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. Thank you so much!

### Individuals

Annonymous

Karim Al-Zand

Shayna Brown

Megan and Shawn Conley

David and Martha Hamamoto

Catherine Lanteri

Susan Metter

Lily Primus

Gabrielle and Jason Rhodes

Kelsey Sham

Fumiko Wellington

Bub and Paulette Wo





# THANK YOU