

The LOTUS Project 2022 - 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Beyond the performers' incredible talent, the audience was left with more: an opportunity for wonder, renewal, and a blissful escape into the starry night sky.

-Trenton Daily, 2022

PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH CHERUBINI-WIDMAN

Alicia Brozovich, Artistic Director www.thelotusprojectnj.org Alex Meakem, Executive Director

2022-2023 SEASON

FIELDS OF LIGHT

"We are choral music artists who are passionate about what we do and the difference it can make in a community. Our vision is a little bigger than just putting on concerts."

Alicia Brozovich, Artistic Director (U.S. 1 Interview, December 2022)

LEADERSHIP

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Alex Meakem, Executive Director

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Alicia Brozovich, President
Alex Meakem, Vice-President
Kamala Silvey Cafaro, Secretary
Colton Martin, Treasurer
Lisa Lunsford
Jacob Nelson
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WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to craft immersive musical experiences in which we can encounter the world with new eyes and a renewed sense of wonder. We do this through:

- **Immersive concerts in non-traditional performance venues**
- **Compelling stories about our shared human experience**
- **Highlighting historically excluded voices**
- **Humanitarian partnerships that engage with and elevate the local community**



SEASON **HIGHLIGHTS**

2022-2023: FIELDS OF LIGHT

The second season was named for the common thread among the three primary concerts.

> I think if I had to put [this experience] in one word: discovery—of being able to rise to a challenge, the discovery of new music, of a new way of looking at things–the discovery of it has been over-arching for everybody."
>
> *(A. Brozovich, interview with Lori Goldstien, ARTS NEWS NOW)*

HUMANS

STORY TELLERS

72 Musicians
20 Volunteers
2 Living Composers
2 Production Arts Organizations
1 Artist-in-Residence

IMMERSION

WHERE TO FIND US

Planetarium at the New Jersey State Museum
Historic Masonic Temple
Patriots Theater at the War Memorial
Trenton Country Club

Performances also in Basking Ridge (NJ), Brick (NJ), and NYC

COMMUNITY

SHARED EXPERIENCES

1500+ Audience Members
8 Live Concerts
7 Venues in NJ and NY
5 Collaborative Partners
1 Summer Tour

CONNECTION

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey
James R. Halsey Foundation for the Arts
Raw Daisies Independent Film Productions
Somerset Hills Chorus
Westminster Community Chorus

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
CHEE BRAVO

MULTIMEDIA ARTIST AND PRINTMAKER

Artist-In-Residence Chee Bravo was an invaluable creative team member for the season, especially in regards to producing Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles*. Her artwork took centerstage to anchor the four movements of the musical story:

After listening to Path of Miracles, reading interpretations of it, and viewing Youtube videos of pilgrimages, Chee created four 8' by 12' banners, each depicting a scene that captures the tone and meaning of its corresponding movement. She viewed the banners as four stations, akin to the twelve stations of the cross. To make the banners, Chee produced a series of four silkscreens derived from her digital collages of images found along El Camino.*

"This was during the ongoing pandemic, and this performance felt so hopeful that for those few precious moments I felt at peace."
- Chee Bravo





....Multi-media artist Chee Bravo's journey to El Camino was serendipitous. Her friend, Tamara Torres, was The Lotus Project's first artist-in-residence. Tamara invited Chee to attend the choir's Out of Silence concert in 2022.

"This was during the ongoing pandemic, and this performance felt so hopeful that for those few precious moments I felt at peace," said Chee.

Inspired by the ethereal music, she created a silkscreen titled The Choir. As soon as Alicia saw it, she knew who would be the artist-in-residence for their second season...*

***Lori Goldstein, ARTS NEWS NOW**
The Lotus Project: The Discovery of Music, Art, and Meaning in Path of Miracles

CONCERTS & **PROJECTS**

We are grateful to have had connections made and stories told this season through U.S. 1, ARTS NEWS NOW, and Trenton Daily.



Beethoven Symphony No. 9
October 2022

LOTUS soloists joined Capital Philharmonic of New Jersey, Somerset Hills Chorus, and Somerset Hills Chorus for two stellar performances of Beethoven's ever-popular ninth symphony. Performances in Basking Ridge and Trenton reached over 1000 audience members.



Consolation of Apollo
December 2022 | January 2023

Kile Smith's ethereal setting of Apollo 8 transmissions was enveloped by a live planetarium show at the Planetarium at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. The sold-out concert, whose audience included the composer himself, was offered a second time in January to a full house.



Bleeding Juniper
January 2023

By special invitation, LOTUS musicians provided the soundtrack vocals for an independent film project, *Bleeding Juniper*, produced by Raw Daisies - a local independent film company whose mission is to champion voices that might otherwise go unheard.



Youth of The Nation
March 2023

Board members supported community partner James R. Halsey Foundation for the Arts at their annual gala in March by performing a LOTUS arrangement of Youth of The Nation with Trenton rap artist T-Rob. The Foundation received fantastic support for their projects working with Trenton youth.

PATH OF **MIRACLES**

Chee Bravo describes her inspired vision for bringing the scenes from El Camino de Santiago to life

"In March, I had the opportunity to visit Spain and somehow squeezed in a day trip to Burgos. Seeing some of the landmarks in person, and meeting a couple of pilgrims were the highlights that connected me in a small way to this project.



My vision for the immersive portion of The Path of Miracles performance is for each guest to walk under a path of a beautiful, glowing night sky as they enter the venue.

I also wanted to highlight the four-part composition with four stations: Roncesvalles, Burgos, Leon and Santiago. These four stations are likened to the Roman Catholic's 12 stations of the cross.

A series of four silkscreens were created from the digital collages of images found along the 500+ miles long walk from France to Spain (The Way of St. James). The station banners were then created from these silkscreened artworks.

At each station guests will be invited to place a lit candle along with a penned miracle if they're willing to share."

SUMMER TOUR

BRICK | TRENTON | NYC

Commissioned by Gabriel Crouch and Tenebrae in 2005, Joby Talbot's Path of Miracles has already proven to be one of the great choral works of the 21st century.

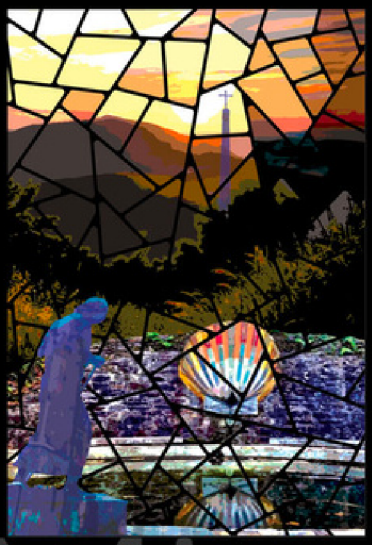
The music is based on four stops along along the centuries-old pilgrimage El Camino de Santiago, tracing the challenges, hopes, transformations, and miracles experienced by pilgrims each year. In other words - a perfect repertoire selection for our first tour.

Consultations with Chee Bravo, Gabriel Crouch, and three different presenters with personal experiences on El Camino de Santiago all informed the presentation of the program. Singers wore scallop shells and dressed as hikers - a visual nod to the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who travel El Camino each year. Audiences were encouraged to write something they consider a miracle, place a candle inside, and set their miracle next to one of the four banners displayed around the venue.

The performances were so popular that we were invited to perform in Morristown and NYC in Spring 2024.

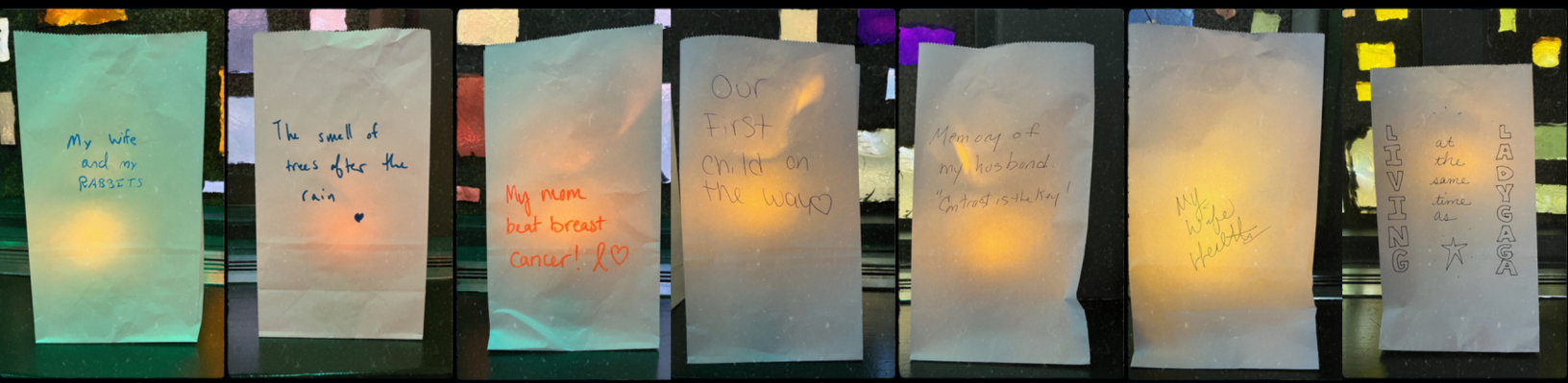








Path of Miracles



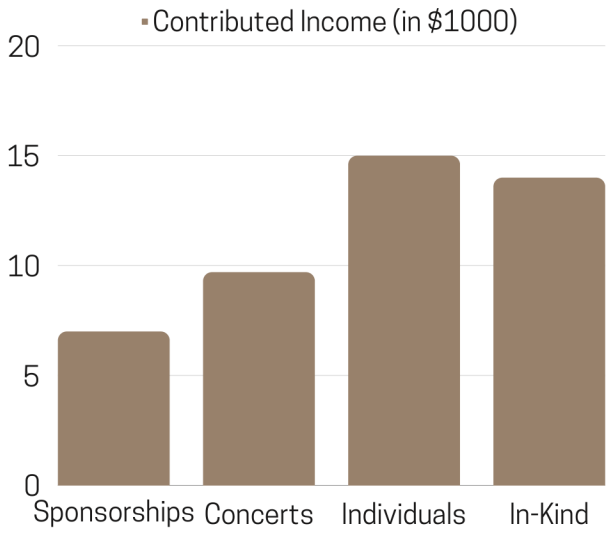
BUILDING OUR VISION
ACHIEVING OUR MISSION

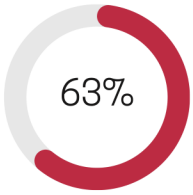
1500+

audience members

Expanding Our Reach

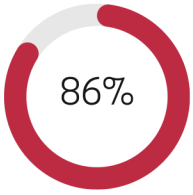
Our LOTUS-hosted concerts are always offered to audiences on a free-will offering ticketing model. We are thrilled prioritize bringing incredible music and art to diverse audiences throughout the Northeast Corridor.





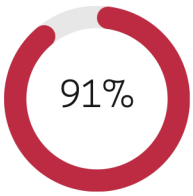
Trenton Focus

Percentage of concerts and events hosted in Trenton



Audience Support

Percentage of events hosted at accessible venues (in NJ and NY)



Accountability

Percentage of funds that directly supported season programs and artists

TRENTON AND BEYOND

Our goal is to not only bring transformative experiences to Trenton, but to also inspire audiences and artists to view the Capital City as an artistic hub. Of the 1500+ audience members, over 750 were present at the Trenton events.

Trenton Events 55%

Other NJ Cities 30%

New York City 15%



INSPIRED **ENCOUNTERS**

CONSOLATION *(OF APOLLO)*

On January 28, 1986, I was sitting in science class watching a news broadcast on a thirteen inch television placed on a projector stand to give the class a better view. Our class had written letters to the teachers on the Challenger Shuttle wishing them all the best. We were excited and ready to see the outcome of their proposed experiments.

As the rocket began to lift into the sky our class cheered with enthusiasm. A minute later we were stunned to silence as the shuttle exploded and then tears as we began to comprehend what that meant for the lives aboard the Challenger.

My faith in the space program was damaged if not completely destroyed. I did not watch another launch, event, press conference to do with NASA or anything related.

LOTUS' first performance of Consolation of Apollo was my first NASA thought in years. To start, I had misread the title for weeks. In my mind it was the Constellation of Apollo.

Imagine my surprise when the title really sat with me. It was as if the universe gave me a way to heal. I was able to sing myself to wholeness. It is often said that forgiveness is not for the offending party, but for you. In this case it could not be more true. With tears in my eyes and my heart beating fast, I was able to release all that pain and sing a wonderful piece of music. Thank you LOTUS for ripping off the Band-Aid and facilitating restoration. (LOTUS musician)

REWRITING A REQUIEM

"I want you to know that your benefit concert last year has inspired an expansion of the Requiem. It now includes a hymn to Ukrainian martyrs on a poem composed by a James Matthew Wilson. The title of the expanded composition will be Requiem for The Forgotten."



Composer Frank La Rocca reached out to us in May 2023 to let us know how our performance and programming of Requiem for The Homeless *in July 2022 opened the door to a reworking of his music.*

22-23 SEASON **DONORS**

INDIVIDUALS

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Kenneth Albone
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James Kinzel
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Erica and Omelan
Austin Kurbansade
Barbara Kurka
Anne LaBate
Katie Land
Sally Lane

YOUR IMPACT

Every concert, every moment of inspiration, every connection is supported by your dedication to the arts. Because of you, we grow one step closer realizing our vision for Trenton. We can't wait to continue sharing your passion with our community.

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this list. For edits, please contact info@thelotusprojectnj.org

Thank you for your incredible support during our second season;
***you** make all the difference!*

Mindy Langer
Emma Levitt
Rachel Liss
Rob Long
Lisa & Nathan Lunsford
Carol Lysak
Joseph Maggio
Julianne Maggio
RoseMarie Marciniak
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Medina Pringle
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Debra Reinhard
Jacqueline Reynolds
Alicia Rivas
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Michael & Anne Rumpza
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Gavin Springer
Cheryl Stallworth-Glitz
Suzel Stampleman
Jennifer Stanislawczyk
Angelica Stern
Elizabeth Strickland
Christiane Szerman
Arisa Taddei
Julia Tell
Joslyn Thomas
Jensen Thomas
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Sergey Tkachenko
Pam and Rich Toft
Desiree Tomich
Sharon Torello
Brian Tucker
Akemi Urasaki
JoAnn Uvenio
Lauren Uvenio
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Share your passion for art: spread the word, attend an event, or give today

Your support brings musicians, artists, audiences together in the Capital City, access to premiere concerts regardless of financial status, creative use of urban spaces as concert venues, and humanitarian partnerships that engage with and elevate the local community.



SCAN ME

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