



# JAZZ.FM91

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



## *Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report*

Thank you for your financial support of JAZZ.FM91 during our 2024 fiscal year.

We are proud of our accomplishments during this period and pleased with the progress we made. Throughout these pages, we share with you the impact of your generosity and how it has propelled us forward.

# JAZZ.FM91’s Mission Statement

As Canada’s only 24/7 jazz radio broadcaster and listener-supported charitable organization, JAZZ.FM91 is committed to entertaining, inspiring and uniting our local community and the global jazz community we serve through programming, live performance, education and storytelling. We believe jazz is unifying at its core. Jazz is collaborative and improvisational; it is curious and fearless and inclusive. Jazz is all of us at our best.

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# Joint Report from the Board Chair and GM

Dear JAZZ.FM91 Members and Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the past year we are grateful for the unwavering support of our community. Your commitment has been instrumental to JAZZ.FM91's resilience in navigating challenges and continuing to fulfill our mission as Canada's only all-jazz charitable broadcaster. Together, we are enhancing public appreciation for jazz music, providing vital access to artists, and creating opportunities for the next generation of musicians.

We are pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. In the following pages you will see our continued key role and impact within our jazz community, a testament to our dedicated staff, hosts, volunteers and stakeholders.

## Adapting to a Changing Landscape

This year has tested our resolve. The Toronto radio advertising market faced a 5% decline, while ongoing inflation and high interest rates led to a decrease in introductory-level donations. Like many media organizations, we also felt the impact of digital transformation, which has fragmented our audience and distribution channels. Yet, amidst these obstacles, we remain steadfast in our purpose and dedicated to reaching more listeners with our unique programming.

We also mourned the loss of Dr. Michael Arthurs, our esteemed Musical Director for the JAZZ.FM91 Youth Big Band. His legacy profoundly impacts our community, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. We are grateful to Kelsley Grant, who stepped in as Musical Director, honoring Dr. Arthurs' vision and inspiring a new generation of jazz musicians.

## Financial Overview and Insights

In a challenging economic environment, our revenue did not keep pace with rising operational costs, leading to a revenue decrease of 10% this year and resulting in a deficit of \$45,000. Prudent financial management is one of our long-term objectives. We responded with disciplined expense management, reducing costs by 10% year over year. This approach has helped mitigate the deficit's impact, but we anticipate a longer road to recovery—approximately two to three years.

Aligned with our financial objectives, we have been enhancing our fundraising and advertising strategies. We are seeing promising results, although not enough to offset the industry/economic headwinds and revenue impact. Our efforts led to a significant increase in major gifts, and our new 50/50 initiative raised \$100,000 in net revenue while welcoming nearly 1,300 new supporters into the JAZZ.FM91 community. In advertising, we successfully increased our share of the Toronto market by 16%, defying broader trends in declining radio revenues.

We are rigorously managing expenses and, in alignment with our goals, we now recognize that our current location no longer meets our needs. Therefore, we are embarking on a multi-year project to relocate the station, reducing rental costs and amplifying our impact. You will hear more from us on this project in the months and years ahead.

## A Vision for Growth

While we are energized by successes with our revenue strategies, we refined our long-term objectives to focus on audience growth. Our initiatives include investing in on-air programming, expanding digital content, and enhancing outreach programs to connect with listeners where they are. Growing our audience – exposing and educating more listeners to the jazz art form – is a core part of our charitable purpose. We bolster our capacity to support the broader jazz community—including Canadian musicians, music venues, partners, and supporters. You can expect updates from us as we refresh our programming lineup and song library, all designed to draw more listeners into the world of jazz.

## Looking Ahead to a Promising Future

Despite the hurdles we've encountered, we are optimistic about the future! 2025 will be a significant milestone as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of CJRT which began broadcasting on November 22, 1949. Like all our endeavours, this achievement relies on the steadfast support of our members, donors, volunteers, partners, sponsors and staff. Together, we are propelling JAZZ.FM91 into a brighter future for the jazz community. Thank you for your dedication, trust, and partnership. Also, a special thank you to our retiring board members: Bryan Snelson, Catherine Mitro and Chris Churchill. They have been great colleagues and provided thoughtful insight around the board table. With your support, we are prepared to overcome challenges and are inspired to reach new heights.

With heartfelt gratitude and optimism,



Dana Wigle  
General Manager  
JAZZ.FM91



Peter von Schiling  
Board Chair  
JAZZ.FM91



HUGH' ROOM HUGH' ROOM HUGH'  
LIVE LIVE LIVE



# Vision

To make jazz accessible to everyone.

# Values

**Collaborative:** To collaborate with artists, staff, supporters, community partners, and our Board.

**Communicative:** To be clear, transparent, and inclusive in our communications to all members of our community.

**Empowering:** To encourage ideas, provide assistance where needed, allow for mistakes, and recognize and reward talent.

**Inclusive:** To be inclusive and anti-racist, celebrating all cultures in our content, operations, and hiring practices.

**Innovative:** To challenge assumptions, provide solutions, keep an open mind, welcome new ideas, and try new things.

**Preserving:** To preserve and respect the voices of artists we serve and contributions of individual and corporate supporters.

**Responsive:** To be responsive and attentive to the times and prepared to lead the call for change.

# Programming

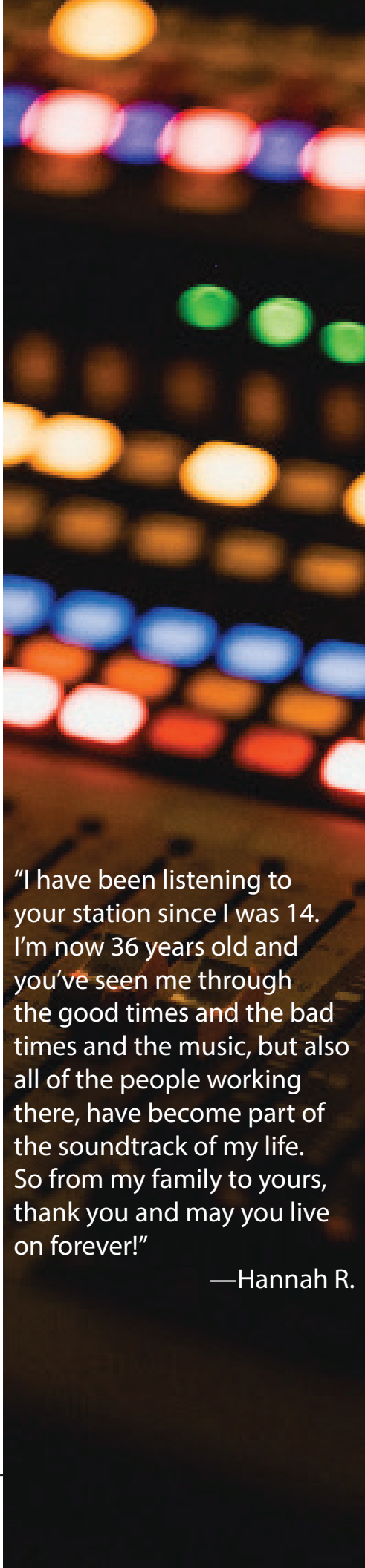
Complementing our regular weekday programming, including **Wake Up** with Heather Bambrick, **The Interval** with Raina Hersh, **Afternoon Drive** with Brad Barker and **Dinner Jazz** with John Devenish, JAZZ.FM91 is proud to broadcast 95 hours per week of personally hosted programming.

Our listeners access a vast collection of titles spanning genres, from timeless classics to cutting-edge contemporary sounds. Our musical universe includes everything from our hosts' personal collections to the vinyl and CDs that line the walls of our station. Nearly 40% of the music we play is Canadian, reflecting the richness of our local talent.

One fifth of JAZZ.FM91's programming is handpicked by our hosts, who curate the content with passion and expertise. In addition, we feature renowned syndicated programs like **Radio Deluxe** with John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molasky, **Ronnie Scott's Radio Show** with Ian Shaw, and the **Jamie Cullum BBC Radio Show**.

From swing to Latin jazz, bebop to blues, big band to fusion, and everything in between, our diverse specialty shows form the unique soundscape of JAZZ.FM91.


- **Joe's Jazz** with Joe Sealy
- **Voice Tracks** with Dani Elwell
- **New Origins** with Rich Brown
- **Beyond the Fringe** with Danny Marks
- **Jazzology** with Heather Bambrick
- **Blurred Lines** with Walter Venafro
- **Jazz in the City** with Jaymz Bee
- **Gumbo Kitchen** with Ronnie Littlejohn
- **Weekend B&B** with Heather Bambrick and Brad Barker
- **Café Latino** with Laura Fernandez
- **Swing Set** with Alex Pangman
- **BLUZ.FM** with Danny Marks
- **Sound of Jazz**
- **The Big Band Show** with Glen Woodcock
- **Session Notes**
- **Host Your Own Radio Show**



"I have been listening to your station since I was 14. I'm now 36 years old and you've seen me through the good times and the bad times and the music, but also all of the people working there, have become part of the soundtrack of my life. So from my family to yours, thank you and may you live on forever!"

—Hannah R.

Whether it's on an AM/FM radio, home speakers, a mobile app, a smart home device, or elsewhere, people from around the world are listening to JAZZ.FM91.



*Terrestrial:*

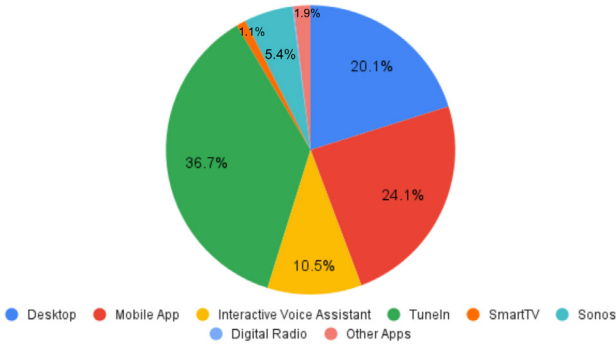
- 2.1 million listeners in Toronto
- 3 million listeners in Canada

*Digital:*

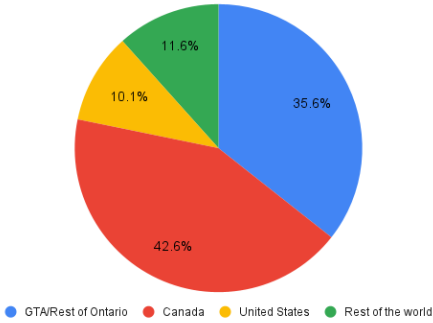
- 5 million streaming sessions
- 441,000 unique listeners
- 1.2 million app sessions

\*instar A12+ 8/28/2023 – 8/25/2024

Digital listener sessions, by platform



Digital listener sessions, by region



Data via Leanstream

# Education & Outreach

## Jazzology

Jazzology, supported by RBC Foundation, is a weekly on-air program that highlights early-career artists by allowing them to program the music for the show, showcasing music that has inspired them and some of their own recordings. Audiences also learn a bit about these artists through conversations between the artists and the show's host, Heather Bambrick. Jazzology, supported by RBC Foundation, airs Wednesdays at 9pm and re-airs on Sundays at 8am.

Each week we showcase a student currently attending one of our partnering post-secondary music programs—Humber Polytechnic, Mohawk College, University of Toronto and York University. New episodes air Wednesdays at 9pm with a repeat airing Sundays at 8am.

JAZZ.FM91's Education & Outreach programs are generously supported by the Alistair and Mary Stewart Fund for Artistic Advancement in Jazz.



EST. 2006



24 PARTICIPANTS PER YEAR



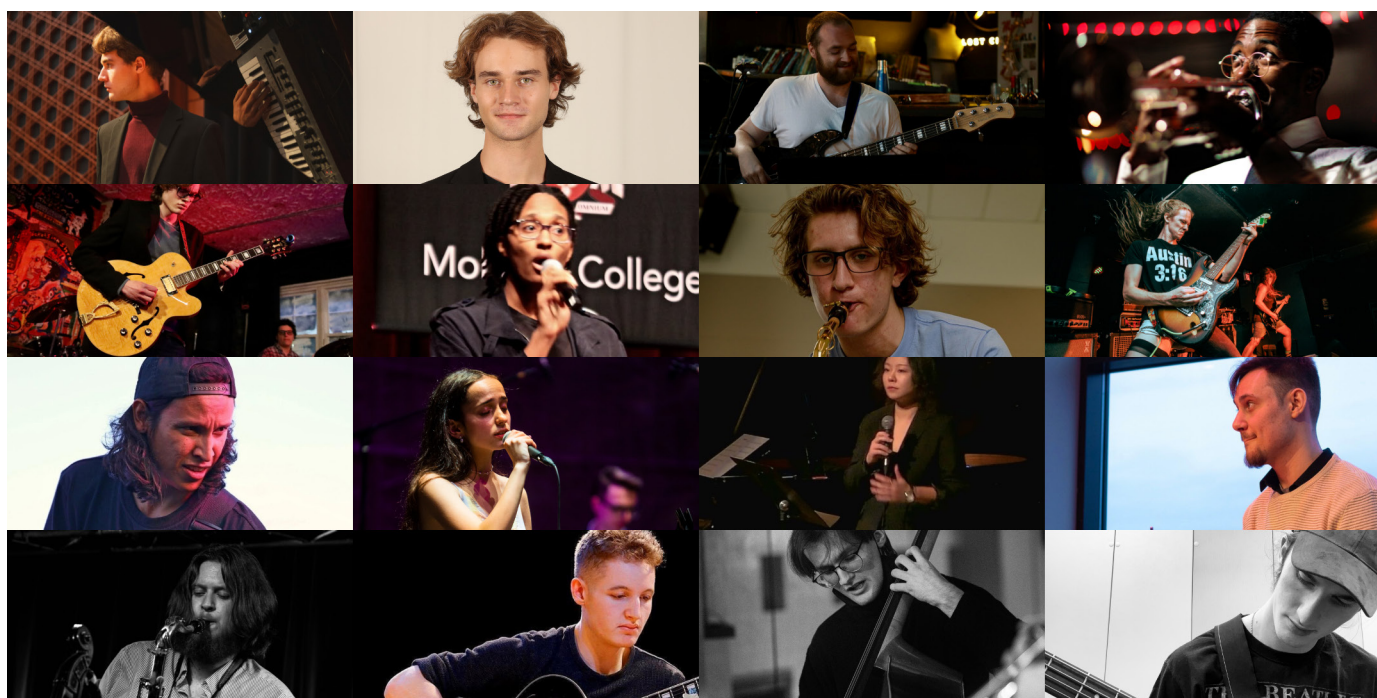
360+ ALUMNI



WEEKLY EPISODES



400+ HOURS OF RADIO



## Discover Women in Jazz

Discover Women in Jazz, sponsored by the Pat and Tony Freedom Fund For the Arts, is an annual concert series that highlights five artists from the city. The concerts are broadcast live-to-air from the Long & McQuade Performance Hall and live-streamed to YouTube. The artists also walk away with performance photos —captured by one of our volunteer photographers —that can be added to their media kits, the video from the YouTube live stream (scan the QR code below to check out the concerts), and mastered audio of the performance.

The 2024 concert featured Ale Nuñez, Elena Kapeleris, Dánae Olano, Joanna Majoko and Nicole Sinclair-Anderson.



Ale Nuñez



Elena Kapeleris



Dánae Olano



Joanna Majoko



Nicole Sinclair-Anderson

Discover Women in Jazz is generously supported by:



Scan the QR Code to watch  
all five concerts

# Education & Outreach

## The JAZZ.FM91 Youth Big Band

The JAZZ.FM91 Youth Big Band is a free professional-level band experience that provides education, mentorship, networking and performance opportunities under the direction of an experienced musician, educator and band director. This program is open to musicians from grades 7-12.

After the passing of Dr. Michael Arthurs in October of 2023, Kelsley Grant, the band’s founding director—circa 2007—stepped back in to get us back up and running in February 2024. Once back in operation, the band performed at Hugh’s Room on May 5, 2024, and at The Rex Hotel Jazz & Blues Bar on May 25, 2024, before breaking for the summer.

The JAZZ.FM91 Youth Big Band is supported by the Red Robin 2017 Foundation.

*“I just wanted to say thank you for putting on such a great show yesterday at Hugh’s Room Live with the Youth Big Band. What an accomplished group of young musicians. They seemed to be having fun and so was the music director...Keep up the great programming and special events.”*  
– Steve C



EST. 2006



18 MEMBERS



250+ ALUMNI



FREE REGISTRATION



## Holiday Heroes Instrument Drive



The Holiday Heroes Instrument drive is an annual instrument drive lasting from November to January. Instruments collected from this drive are then donated to a school or music education program in the city with the aim of providing greater access to instruments and education for children in Toronto's Neighborhood Improvement Areas.

This program is executed in partnership with Long & McQuade (collection partner) and FedEx (distribution partner), and of course the generosity and support of the JAZZ.FM91 community!

*"Thank you! All of you! I have heard that the [visit to the station] was a huge success and such a positive learning experience for our students! We really appreciate all the support from Jazz.FM91."*

*- Sudeep Sanyal, Principal, Nelson Mandela Park Public School*

# Volunteering

1,991  
volunteer hours

36  
active volunteers

## Reception Volunteers:

Shirley Harvey  
Mark Levine  
Lynne Milgram  
(pictured)

Sharon Baker  
Ivor Barlow  
Sandy Bates  
Myra Berg  
Rena Blatt  
Maureen Boles  
Hetty Bolhuis  
Barbara Chudy  
Chris and Susan Climo  
Sandra Cole  
Turdy Conlon  
John Coutu  
Katharin Cowan  
Julie Cudmore  
Alicia Damley  
Marilyn Donofrio  
Sandra Epstein  
Joanne Findon  
Miles Foreester  
Lauren Foster-McCabe

George Gardiner  
Ian Gemmell  
George Hanus  
Ernie Haynes  
Douglas Hughes  
Chris Hutcheson  
Andrew Kent  
Ian Kert  
Gregory Marshall  
Rick Martin  
Jesse McDougall  
Marg Anne Morrison  
John Oughton  
Allison Partington  
Indre Paskauskas  
Peter Pearson  
Frank Pegolo  
Jack Ridout  
Miles Royce  
Erika Schmidt  
Wayne Smith  
Suzanne Stalker  
Gloria Tuck  
Stephanie Turner  
Phil Weber  
Anne Wisniewski  
Stephen Zener



"JAZZ.FM91 is an oasis of civility in an otherwise troubled world. Keep up the great work!"

-Eric L.

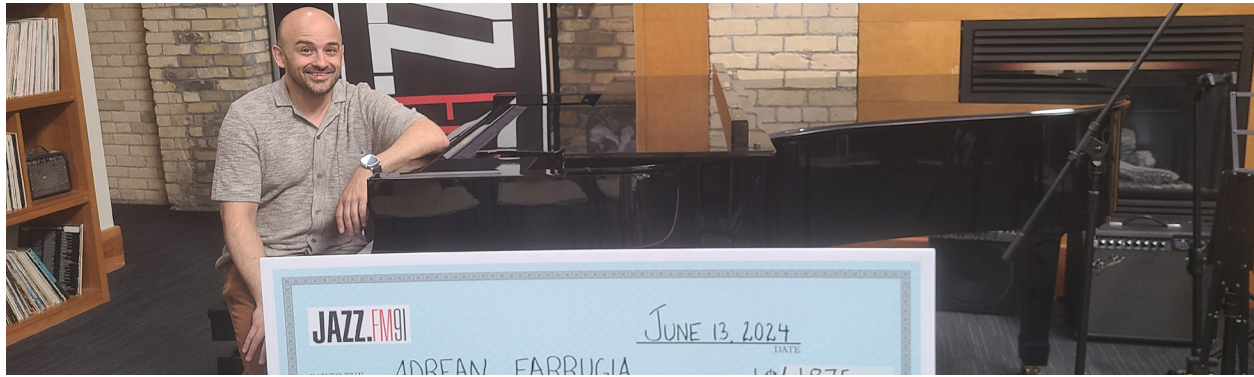
# Community Activities

## Station Tours

JAZZ.FM91 welcomed donors of all levels for private tours of the station. Tours occurred regularly from October through June, and more than 100 guests had the opportunity to see our work firsthand and meet an on-air host.

## JAZZ.FM91 50/50

In January, JAZZ.FM91 launched its first ever 50/50 draw, inviting listeners to contribute to a jackpot that would be shared by the winner and the station. Three such promotions were held during the 2024 fiscal year, in which JAZZ.FM91 awarded more than \$125,000 in prizes.



# Concerts and Events

Live performance is one of the hallmarks at JAZZ.FM91, and we hosted 18 concerts and events during the 2024 fiscal year. These included:

- Two One Stop Vocal Jazz Safaris, curated by Jaymz Bee and taking place at Lula Lounge;
- Six **Sound of Jazz** concerts featuring our traditional Caribbean Christmas Mixtape with Larnell Lewis and Joy Lapps-Lewis; tributes to Joey Francesco and Guido Basso; and headlining artists Danny Marks, Canefire and ES:MO (Elizabeth Shepherd and Michael Occhipinti);
- Our New Year Kitchen Party with Heather Bambrick featuring Molly Johnson;
- Live to Air concerts, with Dizzy & Fay and Jill Barber;
- Oscar Peterson Day Celebration featuring Robi Botos, Jim Doxis and Pat Collins and hosted by John Devenish and Celine Peterson;
- Five Live to Air concerts with our Discover Women in Jazz series;
- A very special 24 Hours Live fundraising event on July 26 & 27 that was featured artists performing live every hour.



# Farewell Jaymz Bee!

For over twenty years, Jaymz Bee has been a key member of the JAZZ.FM91 team. His dedication to supporting artists, along with his passion for entertainment, helped shape many of our programs, including the Jazz Lives concerts, local and international Jazz Safaris, and the beloved Jazz In The City.

Always up for new challenges, Jaymz recently turned his creative focus to filmmaking. In true Bee fashion, he's earned recognition at global festivals, including Cannes, Paris, London, Hollywood, and Tokyo.

Jaymz is now dedicating himself full-time to his filmmaking career and bidding farewell to JAZZ.FM91. While this marks the end of Jazz In The City, we look forward to his next chapter.

The final episode of **Jazz In The City** aired on July 25th and we celebrated Jaymz at the 40th One Stop Vocal Jazz Safari on July 11th.

Jaymz will continue working with local artists and attending GTA festivals. He's currently developing a TV pilot and his feature film *Magickland*, which is in production.



# Condensed Financial Statements

<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Revenue	3,584,949	3,312,564	3,279,206	3,217,988	2,907,324
Expenses	3,168,578	2,907,234	3,391,671	3,266,506	2,952,288
Surplus/(Deficit)	416,371	405,330	(112,465)	(48,518)	(44,964)
Assets	1,244,462	1,599,296	1,348,258	1,310,967	1,347,205
Liabilities	558,248	507,752	369,179	380,406	461,608
Net Assets	686,214	1,091,544	979,079	930,561	885,597
Cash & Cash Equivalents - start of year	289,337	712,671	1,025,701	762,020	668,481
Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of year	712,671	1,025,701	762,020	668,481	587,073

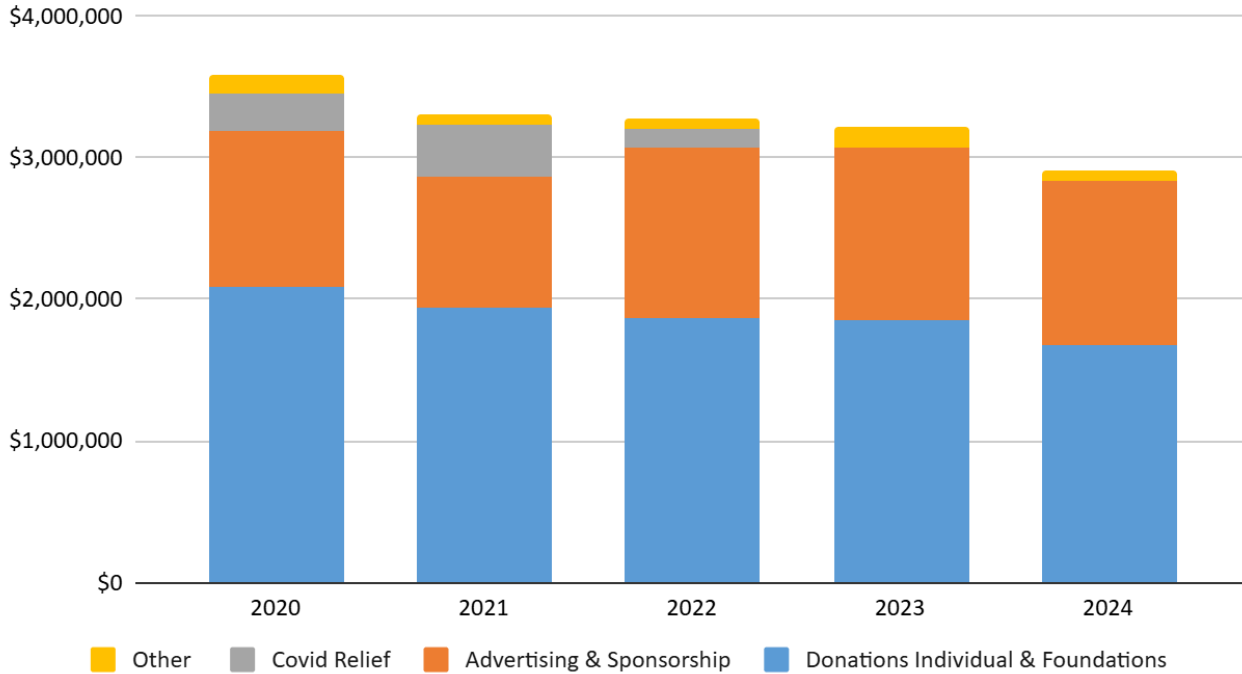
In 2024, revenue decreased by 10% compared to 2023, resulting in a deficit of \$45,000. This was offset by a corresponding 10% reduction in expenses across operational areas, highlighting a focus on tight expense management.

Support from donors, sponsors, and advertisers played a pivotal role in managing the financial challenges of 2024 and ensuring we successfully delivered on our mandate to entertain, inspire and unite.

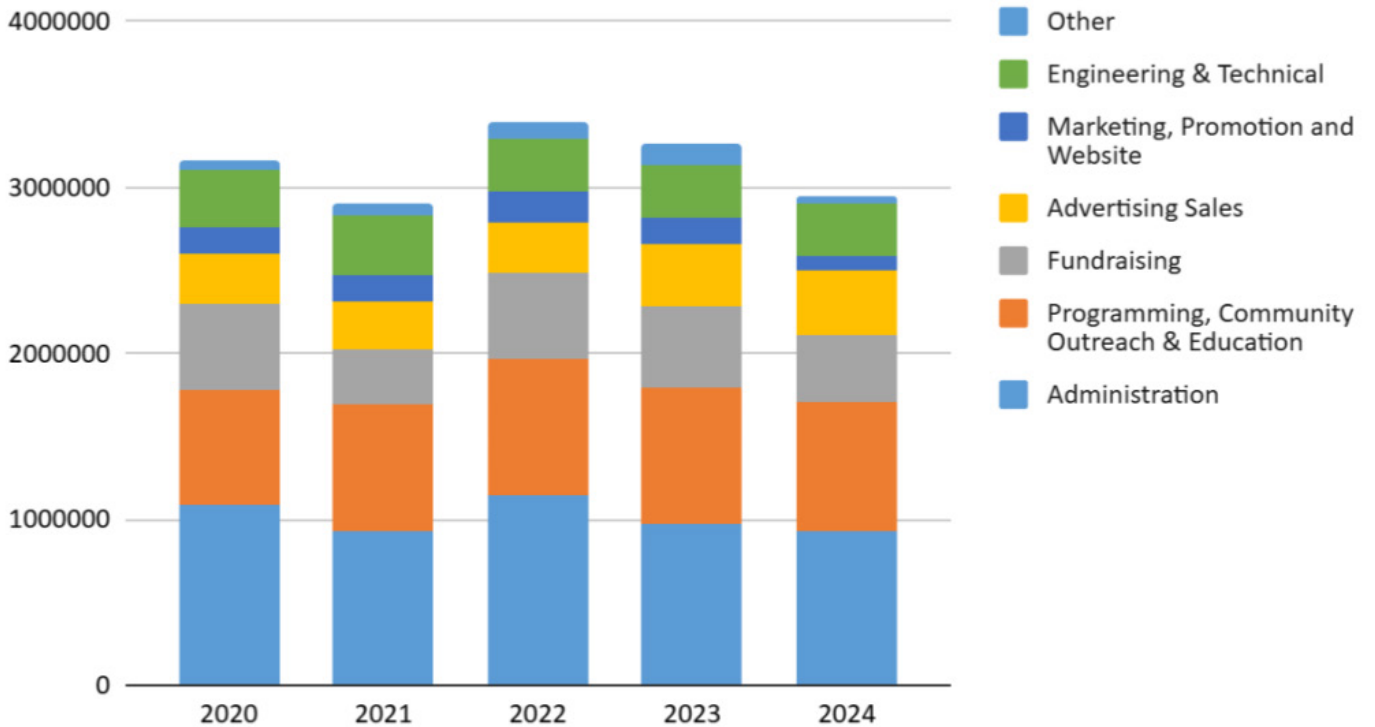
JAZZ.FM91 is audited by the chartered professional accountants KPMG. The fiscal year 2024 audited financial statements are available at [jazz.fm/about-us/annual-reports](https://jazz.fm/about-us/annual-reports).

For more information, please contact Dana Wigle at [dwigle@jazz.fm](mailto:dwigle@jazz.fm).

## Revenue FY2020 - FY2024



## Expenses FY2020 - FY2024



# Donor Spotlight

JAZZ.FM91 is grateful to its members, donors and sponsors for their unwavering support of the station's programming, its outreach education activities, and its commitment to advancing the careers of jazz artists across the country.

The following people have made significant donations to JAZZ.FM91 during its 2024 fiscal year.

## Major Donors (\$5,000+)

Anonymous (3)  
Colin Baxter and Ruth Harris  
Burgundy Legacy Foundation  
Michael and Margaret Catford  
Christopher and Susan Climo  
Gary and Pam Craig  
Steven Endicott  
Michael Finlayson  
Martine M. Irman  
Ross Lawrence  
Katherine Mantella  
Pat and Tony Freedom Fund for the Arts  
William Peckford  
RBC Foundation  
Walter Schneider  
Anne Schneider  
Yvonne Chan and Geoff Scott  
The William and Mary Singer Family Foundation  
Marie Slaight  
Bryan Snelson and Linda Mackay  
Stephen Thomas  
Peter von Schilling and Joanne Gauthier

## Patrons (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Audrey S. Hellyer Foundation  
Catherine Stewart and Brian Banks  
Sandra Caswell  
Sandy England and Mark Guilbeault  
Estate of Alan Fergus Brown  
Steve and Rosemary Marsh  
Eve Nash  
Terence and Nancy O'Brien  
Nancy Ogden  
Lorne Ould  
Margaret Spears  
Christopher Stait  
Twenty Ten Capital Ltd.  
Karla Widgren



# Sponsors

*Afternoon Drive Sponsor*



*Dinner Jazz Sponsor  
Oscar Peterson Day Sponsor*



*Café Latino Sponsor*

**DRESDEN**

*Blurred Lines Sponsor*



*Music Memory Sponsor*



*Performance Hall Sponsor*



*Sound of Jazz Sponsors*



**THE WALRUS**



# Partners

*Holiday Heroes Instrument Drive*



*Jazzology*



*Jazzology and Scholarship Partners*



# Hosts



Heather Bambrick



Brad Barker



Jaymz Bee



Rich Brown



Jamie Cullum



John Devenish



Dani Elwell



Laura Fernandez



Raina Hersh



Ronnie Littlejohn



Danny Marks



Alex Pangman



John Pizzarelli  
& Jessica Molaskey



Joe Sealy



Ian Shaw



Walter Venafro



Glen Woodcock

# Board of Directors

Peter von Schilling **Chair**

Marc Paris **Vice-Chair**

Thompson Egbo-Egbo **Vice-Chair**

Cathy Alexander  
Shirantha Beddage  
Sandra Caswell  
Christopher Churchill

Greg Gooding  
Christopher Grossman  
Catherine Mitro  
Bryan Snelson

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## Staff



*Front Row (left to right): Dana Wigle, General Manager, Lynne Milgram (Reception Volunteer), Mark Levine (Reception Volunteer), Sara Trimarchi-Floro (Promotions), Denise Lau (Traffic), Wayne Williams (Programming Director), Glenn Crosse (Producer), Steven Endicott (Fundraising Lead)*

*Back Row (left to right): Shirley Harvey (Reception Volunteer), Warren Locke (Sales Manager), Suzanne Bélanger (Controller), Mary Kate Dall (Membership Manager); Walter Venafro (Sales); Jonsaba Jabbi (Digital Manager) Jelani Watson (Education and Outreach Officer)*

*Absent from photo: Glenn Knight (Production Director) and Brad Barker (Music Director)*

Thank you for your support!

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Charitable Registration # 118864826 RR 0001