

KVNO *in* 2025

A Year in Review



Introduction



This past year was an incredible one for KVNO! Thanks to you, it became one of our strongest fundraising years ever, and our careful stewardship kept us on solid financial ground. We launched *Creative Omaha*, expanded our marketing reach, and increased listener access through our smartphone app and KVNO.org—important steps for our future.

We also faced real challenges. Like all public media, KVNO lost federal funding this year. Though it made up only about 10% of our budget, it supported essential work: arts coverage, live broadcasts, and recording local concerts. Its loss was deeply felt.

This Year in Review shows how your generosity truly makes a difference. Jeff brings personal stories from our community to the air. Emily curates our rich music library and shares your Friday favorites. Gabriel and the arts desk lift up the work of local

arts organizations. Addison builds partnerships and engages listeners across the city. TZ records and broadcasts local performances, and your support helps us maintain the equipment and the work that keeps our signal strong on air and online.

Every day, magical moments happen at KVNO because you continue to say yes. Our reasons for giving may differ, but our shared values remain - building community through classical music and celebrating the arts that shape our lives. Because of you, KVNO can continue to inspire through music, connection, and creativity.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

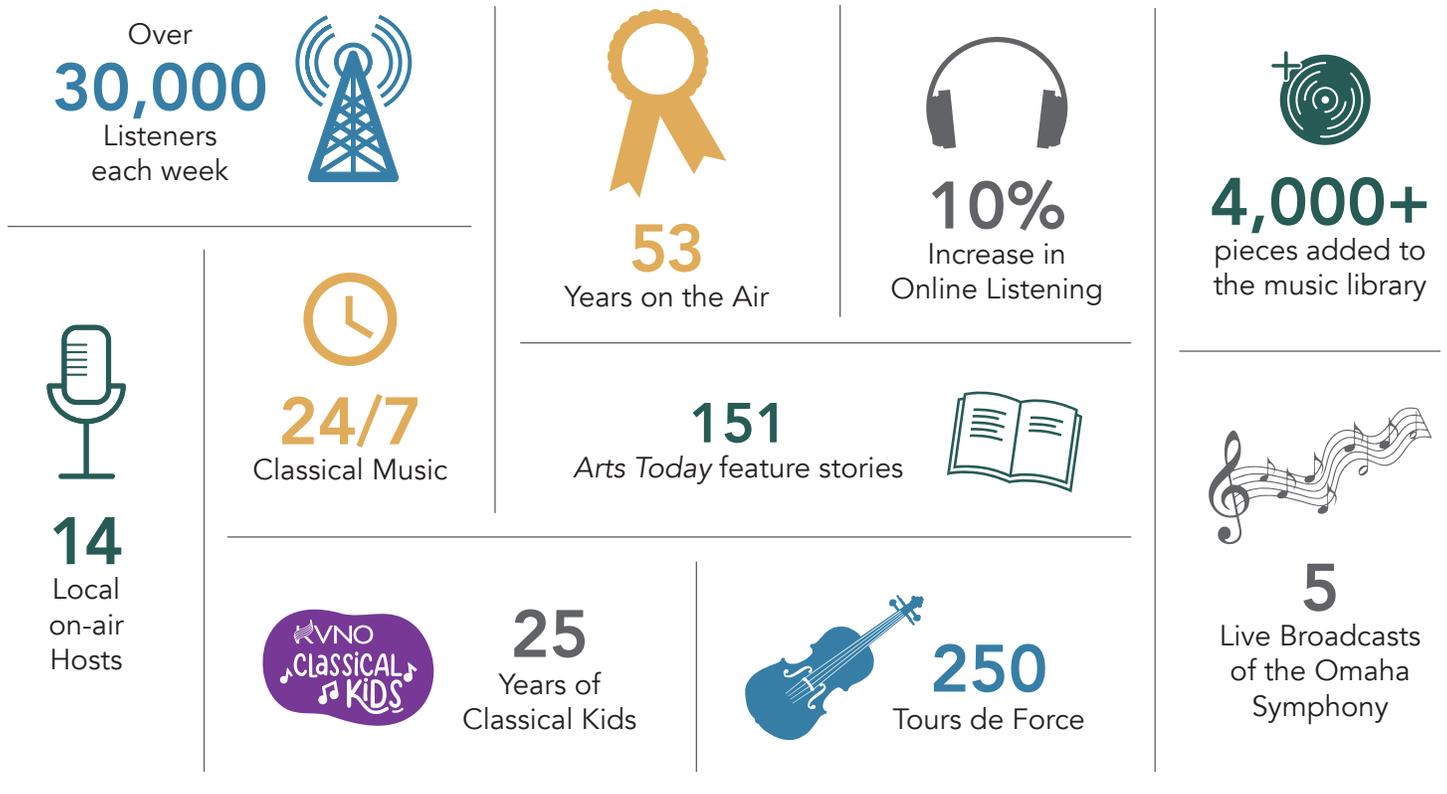
Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Brownrigg".

Sherry Brownrigg, General Manager, KVNO

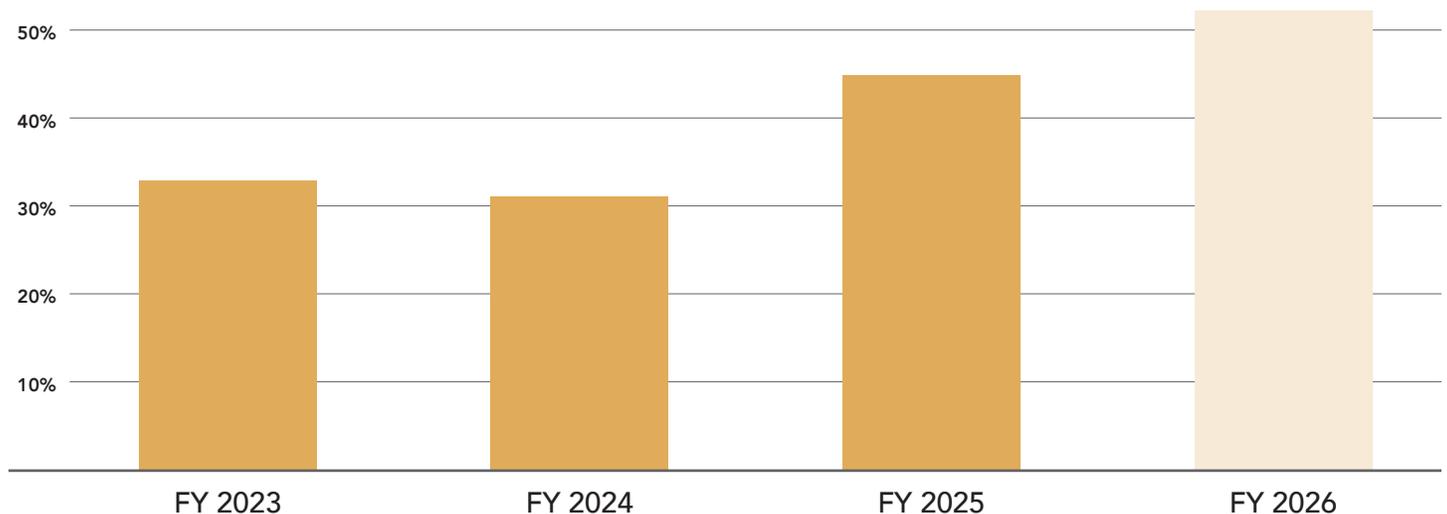
Your Impact

Year at a Glance – 2025 by the Numbers



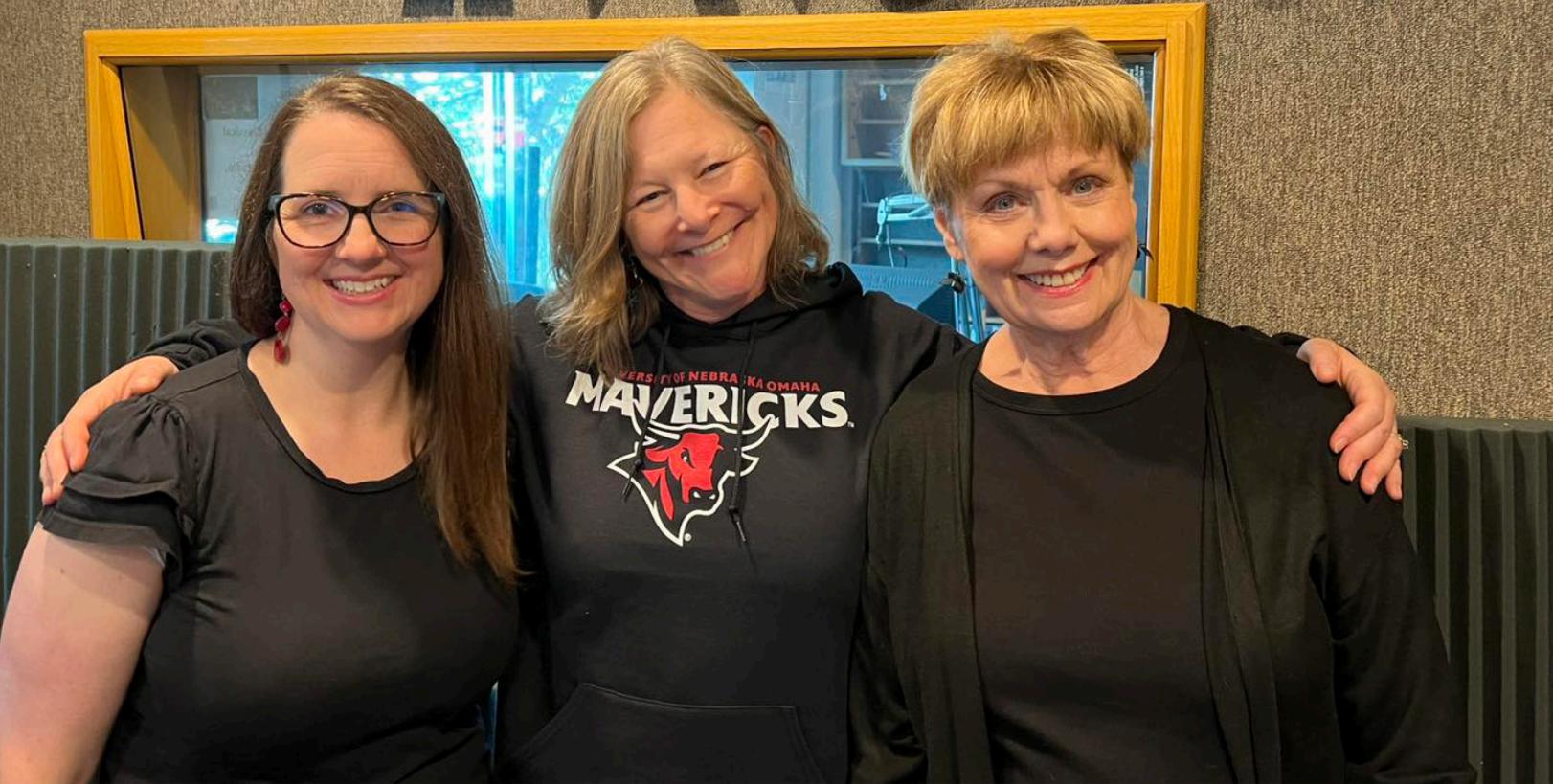
Community Support %

Community support continues to grow and is now the largest single source of funding for KVNO's operations. Listener contributions will account for more than 50% of KVNO revenue in 2026 and beyond.



Community Supported

KVNO 90.7



This is my first year working at KVNO, and I am so proud to be part of this community of classical music lovers. From every walk of life, across the metro and even around the world, you have shown your belief in our mission through your financial support.

Music is best when it is shared. Composers arrange notes on a page, performers offer their interpretation, and listeners complete the circle, receiving the music and giving it life the moment it's heard. KVNO is part of that circle too: curating the music, telling the stories behind it, and using the best technology to carry each performance to you.

Many folks have told me how much KVNO means to them. Exhausted new parents turn to KVNO

to soothe their baby in the car. An accountant relies on familiar favorites and fresh discoveries to help her focus throughout the workday. A listener with limited mobility finds companionship and connections with others in the melodies and stories he hears on his favorite station.

Thank you for being part of this shared experience on KVNO. Because of your support, together we continue to create a community of music that belongs to all of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Becky'.

Becky Lowe, *Development Associate*

"I believe beautiful music cancels out the noise of the world. Thank you, KVNO!"

– Merry

Individual Impact

Every Friday, I welcome a guest from the community to create their own Mixtape playlist for our listeners. In 2025, I had the joy of highlighting contributors from all walks of life: passionate supporters and long-time listeners, luminaries from our creative community, and friends I've made through the years. One of my favorite episodes featured my eldest daughter, Ida, in part because she surprised me with her choices and reasons. (You think you know a kid!)

My favorite part of working at KVNO is hearing why listeners enjoy a particular piece of music. I relish the range of perspectives and reflections about music. The tapestry of Mixtape playlists throughout the year reminds us again of music's power to reach us where we are and impact each of us in unique ways.

KVNO can continue to share that breadth of music all day, every day, because of our supporters. In the wake of federal funding cuts, we experienced an outpouring of generosity from our community and beyond. Some forward-thinking donors also took steps to increase KVNO's endowments or put KVNO in their estate plans. Every gift is impactful and appreciated. Truly, thank you.



Ben Rasmussen,
*Host of Midday Mixtape
& KVNO Development Director*



KVNO Endowments

KVNO is supported by two endowments: the KVNO Future Fund and the Otis Twelve Legacy Fund. These endowed funds help provide long-term stability for the station. Thanks to generous supporters, KVNO's endowments have grown more than 200% in the past three years.

Estate Giving

Including KVNO, or one of its endowments, in your estate plans helps ensure Omaha's classical radio remains strong for generations to come. Documenting and sharing your intentions with us will ensure your gift makes the greatest impact and honors your wishes.

A Musical Café

I've never worked at a restaurant, but since taking over Morning Classics last year, I've come to think of myself as the host of a musical café right here in Omaha. I'll find you the perfect table in a cozy little corner, with no waiting, as you listen to uplifting music.

In one corner, the Omaha Symphony is tuning up for your Symphonic Sunrise. Wolfgang is at another table putting the finishing touches on his Morning Mozart. Gabriel Escalera is chatting with a creative luminary for Arts Today...oh, how this café is overflowing with creativity!

At that table is a comedian, and over there, an entrepreneur. And coming in just now is someone who overcame a personal tragedy who was inspired to spread joy to others—by naming her chickens after famous people like Dolly Parton! These are just some of the guests I've featured this past year on Jeff Around Town. As the saying goes, "Everyone has a story."

Of course, I'll occasionally share a personal story of my own. Like the time a cycling accident I had led to a moment of kindness from a stranger. And if it's the end of the week, you might catch un peu de français on French Friday Feature.

Whatever your taste, it's an honor to serve up delicious music, share composers' stories, and connect you to our community's thrilling arts and culture scene.

Bon appetit!



Jeff Koterba,
Host of Morning Classics & Resident Cartoonist



Music Library

One of my favorite parts of being KVNO's Music Director is that I get to listen to new albums and add great music to KVNO's music library. Thanks to your support, this year we've added a lot of music to our collection:

- **More than 320 new albums of music**
- **More than 4000 individual pieces!**

Some highlights include albums featuring Terry Riley, Florence Price, and Avi Avital. This year there were many new recordings of piano music. There are so many excellent performers recording today—we wanted to be able to share some of them with our listeners.

I also reviewed lots of 20th and 21st century music, including a number of albums by living composers, mostly for use in our Friday night show, Modern Classics. Some of my favorites include music for strings from composer Jessie Montgomery, and a brand-new album from composer Kevin Puts. These will show up especially in upcoming episodes of Modern Classics.



Emily McIvor,
Host of Friday Favorites & Music Director





Gabriel's Top Stories of the Year:



The Legacy of Omaha Mayor Subby Anzaldo Lives On in Sicily



NOMA: Dana Murray Brings World-Class Jazz to Omaha



Cinematca's Festival Brings Latin American Cinema to Omaha

What a remarkable year it's been for the Arts Desk! One of our biggest highlights was the launch of Creative Omaha, KVNO's original video series celebrating the artists, makers, and visionaries who shape our city's cultural life. Each episode offers a glimpse into the passion, creativity, and collaboration that makes Omaha's arts community thrive.

This year, our team continued to grow in depth and spirit, with thoughtful storytelling and a shared dedication to showcasing the power of the arts, from our collaboration with Dean Hilt on Power

of the Arts to favorite segments like Pass the Popcorn and Between Two Covers.

Here's to another year of creativity, connection, and celebrating the incredible talent that makes Omaha such an inspiring place to call home.

Gabriel Escalera,
Director of the KVNO Arts Desk

New Arts Features



Power of the Arts

As the Dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Michael Hilt, Ph.D., has long championed the importance of creative leadership and community engagement. Now, he brings that same passion to the airwaves.

This year, Hilt launched a new recurring segment within KVNO's Arts Today, where he sits down with people in leadership roles at Omaha's arts and cultural institutions. The goal? To explore the stories, decisions, and vision behind the organizations that shape Omaha's creative life.



Creative Omaha

This year, KVNO debuted our original video series celebrating the people and places in the arts community that make Omaha extraordinary. The first video features an Omaha icon, the Dundee Theater. You can watch Creative Omaha on our website, YouTube channel, or social media. Keep your eye out for more of this series in 2026!



Pass the Popcorn

Film has the power to inspire, entertain, and connect us—whether through cinema, television, or the latest streaming series. Recognizing this art form's vital role in our lives, Arts Today launched Pass The Popcorn, a new segment dedicated to celebrating the world of film. We teamed up with Film Streams and local screenwriter and director, Christine Burreight, to bring listeners insights and recommendations every Thursday.

Artists and Organizations featured in 2025

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Omaha Community Playhouse | KANEKO | UNO Theatre Summer Musical Theatre Academy | Nebraska Medical Orchestra |
| Omaha Chamber Music Society | Hot Shops Art Center | UNO Band | Nebraska Poetry Society |
| Omaha Film Festival (OFF) | Bluebarn Theatre | Voices of Omaha | Laura Petry |
| Omaha Performing Arts | Benson Theatre | Bel Canto Duo | Anne Madison |
| Omaha Conservatory of Music | Bellevue Little Theatre | Voices in Alliance | Moonyani Wright |
| Omaha Symphony | Bak Museum and Learning Center | South Omaha Immigrant History Museum | Jerusha Hess |
| Opera Omaha | Benson First Friday (BFF) | Vesper Concerts | John Kubat |
| Omaha Children's Museum | Film Streams | Omaha Polish Heritage Society | Rodney Tague |
| Omaha Public Schools | Lauritzen Gardens | Pottawattamie Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (PACE) | Paul Serrato |
| Omaha Broadway Bar | The Durham Museum | Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival | Josie Langbehn |
| SHARE Omaha | Lofte Community Theatre | Ming Toy Gallery | Dar VandeVoort |
| North Omaha Music and Arts (NOMA) | Shelterbelt Theatre | Gallery 1516 | Anne Marie Kenny |
| Joslyn Art Museum | Clover24 | | Megan McCoy |
| | The Bookworm | | Charlene Donaghy |
| | UNO Theatre | | Brad Marr |
| | UNO Jazz Band | | |

Classical Kids



Every month, KVNO honors a new Classical Kid who excels in their music studies. We celebrate young musicians from the metro who play, sing, and compose. Each Classical Kid shares their story in an interview on KVNO and earns a \$300 scholarship from the Soener Foundation, in memory of Mary Belle Soener, to continue their music education. In the program's history, over 300 young artists have been honored as KVNO Classical Kids.

In January, the 2025 Classical Kids wowed the audience at our annual Classical Kid Showcase at Omaha Conservatory of Music. Each year, the showcase is free and open to the public, celebrating the incredible young musicians in our community.

2025 Classical Kids

Tegan Hess
January

Roger Si
February

Pooja Ruwe
March

Catherine Dickinson
April

Claire Wang
May

Nina Flamminio
June

Sara Bertellotti
July

Bryan Qiao
August

Andreas Brink
September

Ivy Armendariz
October

Marilyn Grant-Holler
November

Maggie Dickinson
December

In the Community

This year, I set out to strengthen KVNO's ties within our community—and what a year it's been. We launched new partnerships with incredible local organizations and had the privilege of serving as media sponsors for concerts, film festivals, university events, and so much more.

These collaborations give us the chance to meet listeners like you and introduce new faces to KVNO. Every event reminds me how lucky we are to be part of a community that cares so deeply about the performing arts in Omaha. People are excited to see us out in the community supporting

the events they love, and that is only possible because of the continued support of our listeners.

As we look ahead, I'm excited to keep growing our listener base and welcoming people of all ages into the KVNO family.

If you see us around town, please stop by and say hello. We'd love to meet you!



Addison Parr, Marketing Manager



Thank You to our 2025 Business Sponsors

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Alliance Francaise | Omaha Conservatory of Music |
| American Midwest Ballet | Omaha Door & Window |
| Arbor Family Counseling | Omaha Farmers Market |
| Dr. Denenberg Facial Surgery | Omaha Music Teachers Association |
| Eye Consultants, PC | Omaha Public Library Foundation |
| Film Streams | Omaha Restaurant Week |
| Fontanelle Forest | Omaha Symphony |
| Heartland Flute Choir | Opera Omaha |
| Hot Shops | Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies |
| KANEKO | The Bookworm |
| Kiewit Luminarium | The Next Chapter books and gifts |
| Lauritzen Gardens | NU Foundation: Wear Black Give Back |
| Max I. Walker | UNO Theater Summer Music Theater Academy |
| Munroe-Meyer | UNO's Bak Museum |
| NExT Foundation | UNO's College of Arts and Sciences |
| North Omaha Music & Arts | Vesper Concerts |
| Omaha Chamber Music Society | Voices of Omaha |
| Omaha Community Playhouse | |

