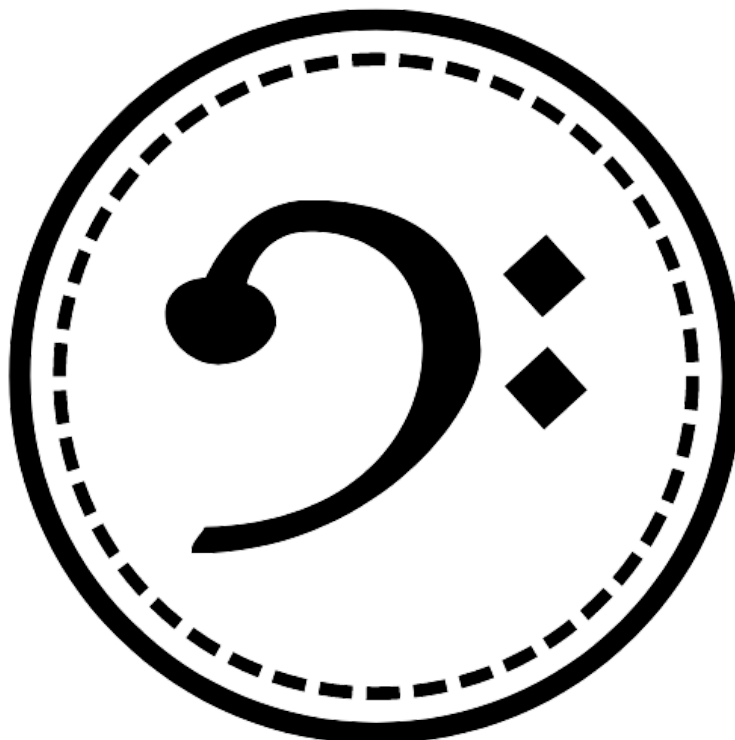




**2024 Annual Report
Low Brass Network
501(c)(3)**

Published December 21, 2024



lowbrassnetwork.org

Directors / Executive Officers:

- Lester Yu** (Fremont, CA) - President
- Eunhyeok Jee** (Davis, CA) - Chief Director
- Ethan Hsiung** (Atlanta, GA) - Associate Director
- Andrew Hazard** (Columbia, TN) - Associate Director
- Arnav Chowdhry** (Santa Cruz, CA) - Associate Director
- Malhar Athavale** (Seattle, WA) - Associate Director

Mission Statement:

Founded in November 2021, Low Brass Network (LBN) is a student-run organization with the primary goal of providing opportunities to low brass instrument students with the help of advisors. We strive to build a connected community of low brass players, provide free music lessons to push students to their potential, provide affordable instruments, and promote the playing of low brass instruments worldwide, especially in underserved areas.

By The Numbers:

As of 2024, our volunteer and student network spans over 20,000 low brass players, covering all fifty states in the U.S. and 40+ countries. This represents a roughly 220 percent growth in membership from 2022. Furthermore, these volunteers have provided over nearly 110,000 free lessons this year.

Letter from Executive Team:

As we wrap up another year at Low Brass Network, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who played a vital role in making 2024 a success. Your passion, dedication and generosity to the world of low brass will continue to impact our community.

To Artists and Composers,

Our advisory board provides us many different perspectives to evaluate when making decisions that would help low brass players to the best of our abilities. Your talent and insights have still inspired countless individuals within our network. We are immensely grateful for the inspiration, advice, and captivating performances that you have brought to our low brass community. We constantly receive messages from excited students, emphasizing how well you demonstrate to them what is possible through low brass.

To our Volunteers,

Behind every event and every lesson, there is a large network of volunteers. From the secondary and university level students teaching lessons and to those who helped out our cause at any point, you are what makes Low Brass Network, a network. Your hard work and commitment in 2024 did not go unnoticed. Your contributions have been nothing short of invaluable, and we could not have done anything without your support.

To our Sponsors and Partnering Organizations,

Your belief in our mission and financial support have been the backbone of our endeavors. Your assistance towards IDAAP has motivated us to push further and continue to commit to improving opportunities for low brass players. We are thankful for your partnership and the opportunities provided, whether monetarily or through other means of support.

To our Donors,

Your generosity has made it possible for us to continue our mission. Your financial contributions have directly supported our outreach programs, lesson costs, instrument donations, and the other projects within LBN. Your belief in our cause fuels our determination to continue building a space for all who share a passion for low brass.

With all this and more, we look forward to continuing with our plans to come in 2025!

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Section 1: Logistics of Low Brass Network

LBN's officer team oversees the network's various opportunities and events. Sponsors, artists, volunteers, and casual players all have the opportunity to benefit from what LBN has to offer.

All low brass players are offered a community where they can discuss and learn the intricacies of low brass music and instruments. Additionally, members are eligible to receive lessons, where they can gain valuable experience that can significantly improve their embouchure, range, tonguing, and other aspects of playing low brass instruments. On top of this, members can receive massive discounts on essential low brass equipment including instruments, mouthpieces, and maintenance equipment.

Volunteers in the Low Brass Network get to receive invaluable opportunities: from significantly improving their experience in leadership, expanding their low brass knowledge, learning how a nonprofit runs its logistics, receiving service hours, and even developing relationships with other volunteers and students.

Sponsors can further their goals and ignite change within the low brass community through collaboration with LBN. This provides the added benefit of significantly increasing their exposure to a well-receptive community of low brass players that would be interested in their products. Also, by supporting LBN, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, corporations are eligible for certain tax benefits.

Artists that support LBN help grow the market for low brass, which, in turn, raises demand, leading to a mutually beneficial relationship between the artist and LBN. Moreover, by being advertised to the low brass community, artists can receive more exposure while also providing quality information and performances to the LBN community. Some artists also receive monetary benefits.

Note: If you would like to help out with our endeavors monetarily, feel free to donate to our organization. Any help goes a long way towards helping support the low brass community.

Section 2: Summary

Section 2.1: Summary of Lessons

We offer two different types of lessons at LBN. Our large network of volunteer students, who are looking to gain teaching experience, are matched up with underprivileged students and beginners alike. For this lesson format, accessibility is key: lessons are free and largely online. The other lesson format consists of matching professional teachers with intermediate / advanced-level students who are unable to find teachers in their local areas; lessons are paid and mostly in-person.

Section 2.2: Summary of Other Initiatives

The **IDAAP: Instrument Donation and Assistance Program**: Starting early 2024, we started working with individual music nonprofits (i.e. school bands, community bands, and community music hubs) to provide their underprivileged students with access to instruments at a significantly reduced price, thanks to our sponsors. We will also be able to connect these students to our large volunteer network to provide them free guidance along the way. In 2024, these programs were to be specifically targeted towards a few large cities in areas where LBN members are underrepresented and will expand to more rural areas in the future. The program is still developing, but we can expect this program to double our membership by 2027 and save students tens of millions of dollars through the next three years.

The **LBN Instrument Donation Program** has been fully merged into the new IDAAP.

The **LBN Ensemble Program** will return starting in summer 2025, with it being a great option for new chapters.

The **LBN Research Program** conducted research and published a paper in October of 2022 regarding toxic buildup inside low brass instruments. Since then, there has not been progress on LBN research due to a shift in focus, and plans for the future of LBN research are yet to be determined.

The **LBN App** is on hold in favor of other initiatives. The app has been in development for over 2 years, with a private beta testing. However, there are major technical difficulties that prevent it from being launched publicly anytime soon. We hope to publish it during the second International Low Brass Festival.

The **LBN Podcast** is on hold in favor of other initiatives, but we expect more episodes to come out in the leadup to the second International Low Brass Festival.

The **LBN Competition** and **All-World Ensembles** will return in 2025.

Section 3: Future Goals/Plans

Section 3.1: Second International Low Brass Festival

The second International Low Brass Festival will take place in mid-December of 2025. It will be an in-person festival with events such as performances, competitions, master classes, forum discussions, research conference, sponsor showcases, and much, much more. Pending final vote, the festival will be held in Houston, Texas in partnership with universities, colleges, and other venues in the area. Pre-registration is expected to launch in summer 2025.

Section 3.2: Expansion Toward Certain Regions

While an improvement from last year. Roughly 95 percent of LBN members do not reside within Oceania. Roughly 95 percent of LBN members do not reside within Asia. Roughly 99 percent of LBN members do not reside in Africa. We will keep working on expanding our area of operations, and to work with more students and volunteers in these areas, mainly through our IDAAP program.

Section 3.3: Headquarters

Currently, our main headquarters is located in Fremont, California, with secondary locations in Columbia, Tennessee, Atlanta, Sheffield, Munich, Osaka, Brisbane, Hyderabad, and Los Angeles. However, starting late 2025, our headquarters will be moved to Nashville, Tennessee. A physical location is in the plans with a timeline of 2027-2028. We plan to bring on full-time employees to work at this location, allowing us to better manage our programs, festivals, partnerships, and introduce a more direct approach to assisting the low brass community.

Resolution

Resolved:

That Low Brass Network hereby acknowledges the receipt of this Annual Report for the year two thousand twenty-four. That the contents of the Annual Report, as presented by the Low Brass Network, are found to be true and correct to the best of our knowledge and understanding.

That the initiatives detailed in the report are recognized as significant contributions by our network to the low brass community. That the Executive Team has thoroughly reviewed and agrees with the information and statements presented in the Annual Report. That the Board of Directors of Low Brass Network has duly considered and officially endorses the Low Brass Network Annual Report for the year two thousand twenty-four. That Low Brass Network expresses its appreciation for the dedication and efforts of all leadership, staff, volunteers, students, artists, donors, and everyone involved in fostering a growing collaborative environment within the low brass community. That Low Brass Network commits to continued support for the improvement of opportunities for all low brass players. That this resolution is hereby adopted and approved by the Board of Directors of Low Brass Network.

Resolved further, that the officers of Low Brass Network are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary actions to implement and follow this resolution.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being those who wrote this report, have executed this resolution as of the date first above written.

Lester Yu

Position: President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, horizontal strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.

Eunhyeok Jee

Position: Chief Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'E' followed by a 'j'.

Ethan Hsiung

Position: Associate Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by 'H'.

Andrew Hazard

Position: Associate Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'A' followed by 'H'.

Arnav Chowdhry

Position: Associate Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, horizontal strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.