DRUPAL partners
A DIVISION OF INNOPPL

Drupal Partners Case Study

Secret Sauce Behind A Successful Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 Upgrade [30% Traffic Increase / 42% Revenue Increase / 4 to 6 Week Shortened Timeline]

A Drupal 9 upgrade case study for every Drupal site owner to read.

Atlanta
7000 Central Parkway,
Suite 220, Atlanta, GA 30328
678-648-7527

www.drupalpartners.com

yourfriends@drupalpartners.com

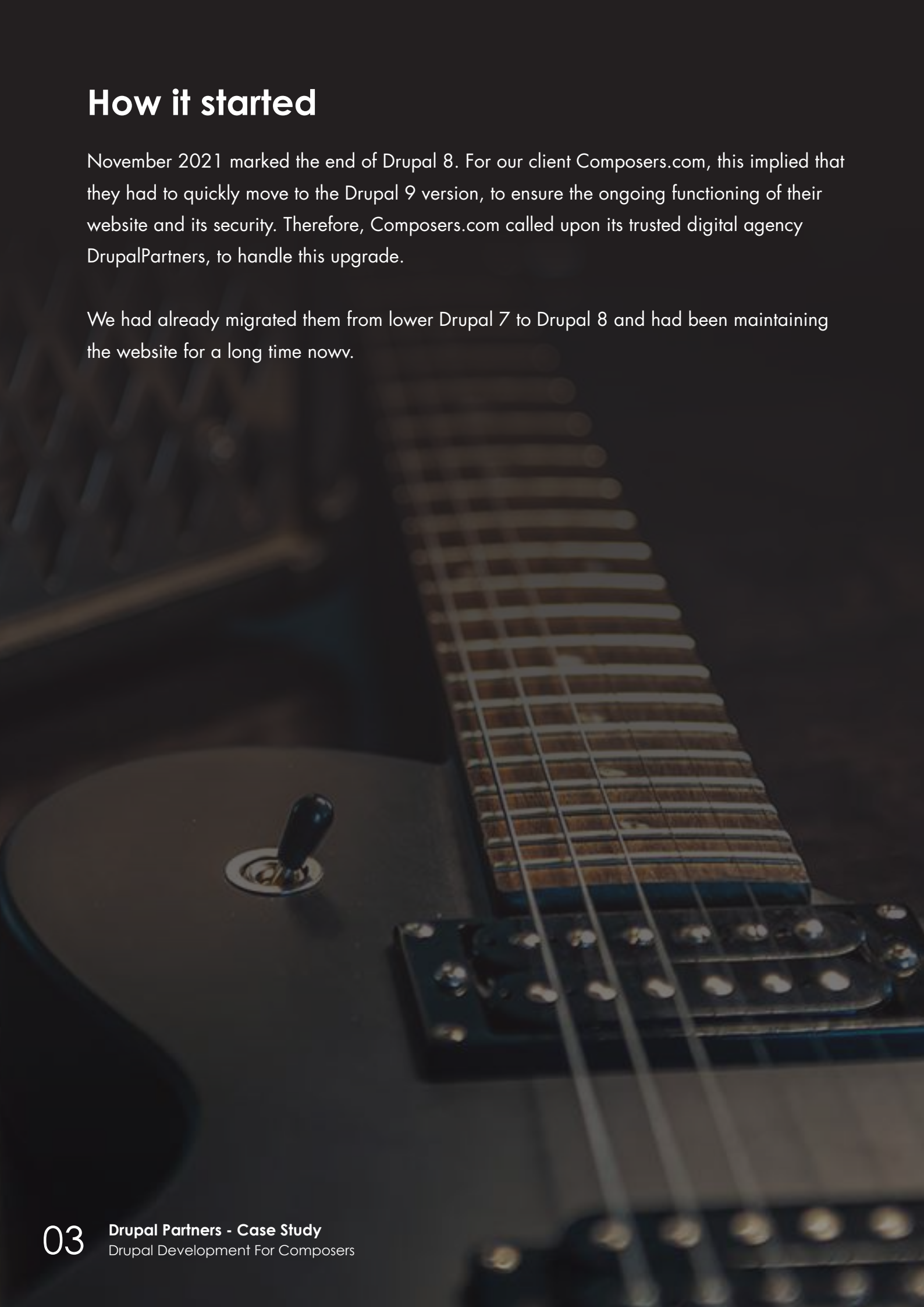
About The Client

Composers.com is one of the most popular online destinations for classical music lovers and composers. The site has been around since the early days of the web and has always been a Drupal shop. When they approached us about helping them upgrade to Drupal 9, we knew it would be a fun project.

How it started

November 2021 marked the end of Drupal 8. For our client Composers.com, this implied that they had to quickly move to the Drupal 9 version, to ensure the ongoing functioning of their website and its security. Therefore, Composers.com called upon its trusted digital agency DrupalPartners, to handle this upgrade.

We had already migrated them from lower Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 and had been maintaining the website for a long time nowv.



The Challenge:

Composers.com were running on the lowest Drupal 8 version and wanted to move to the latest Drupal 9. As you can imagine, there were a significant number of contributed modules and custom code to update. In addition, they had several years' worth of content that needed to be upgraded. Besides these, the significant challenges include:

- Server compatibility
- Solr search
- Security updates
- Core views overwrite
- Config sync
- Customized patches on the custom module which is not covered on the rector module

What we discovered

We have a team of Aquia-certified migration experts specialized in migration and development for Drupal websites. Our team went through the Composers.com website and its basics extensively and here are the key findings:

- Even though the website showed no signs of sluggishness on the front-end, it was powered by the Drupal 8.3 version
- The site's core module needed to be upgraded
- The site's solr modules needed to be upgraded
- Possibilities of dependency issues arising post-upgrade were eminent

Our Approach

We had a two-pronged approach to the project. First, we need to update all of the contributed modules and custom code so that it would be compatible with Drupal 9. This took some time, but it was necessary to ensure a smooth upgrade. Second, we needed to use the Migrate Plus and Migrate Source CSV modules to upgrade all of the content from the old site to the new one. This process was relatively straightforward and only required a few hours to complete.

Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 Upgrade Steps

Key Solutions Provided To Support Smooth Upgrade

- The upgrade process included going from Drupal 8.3 to Drupal 8.8 to Drupal 8.9 to Drupal 9.0. Alpha upgrade, update compose 2, Drush '10'
- Installed the "Upgrade Status" module and verified Drupal 9 compatibility for the website where the Drupal 9 compatibility score was above 85%
- Removed unused modules and update the contribute modules
- Updated the core module to the latest Drupal 9.3 version
- Applied the right patches for dependency issues (Core Module)
- Upgraded Contrib Module and Custom Module (Drupal 9 compatible) to the latest version and applied patches for dependencies
- Updated the Solr 9 on the server and upgraded the Drupal Solr search module (runupdate.php)
- Applied the patches for dependency use

Benefits of Upgrading To Drupal 9

There were many benefits of moving to Drupal 9, but here are some of the most significant ones that we think are essential to mention here:

1. Website Security: As Drupal 9 is powered by the latest version of Symfony, it will receive regular security updates. This will help keep the composers.com site secure and free from any vulnerabilities.

2. Improved Performance: Drupal 9 also comes with performance improvements that made the site faster and more responsive.

3. Improved User Experience: Drupal 9 comes with a number of user experience improvements that makes it easier for website users to navigate the site and find the information they need. (Conversational UI and user-friendliness)

4. Better Support: As Drupal 9 is the latest version of Drupal, composers.com will have access to better support from the Drupal community.

5. Future-Proof: As Drupal 9 is powered by Symfony 4, it is future-proof and will be easy to upgrade to any new versions of Drupal that are released in the future.

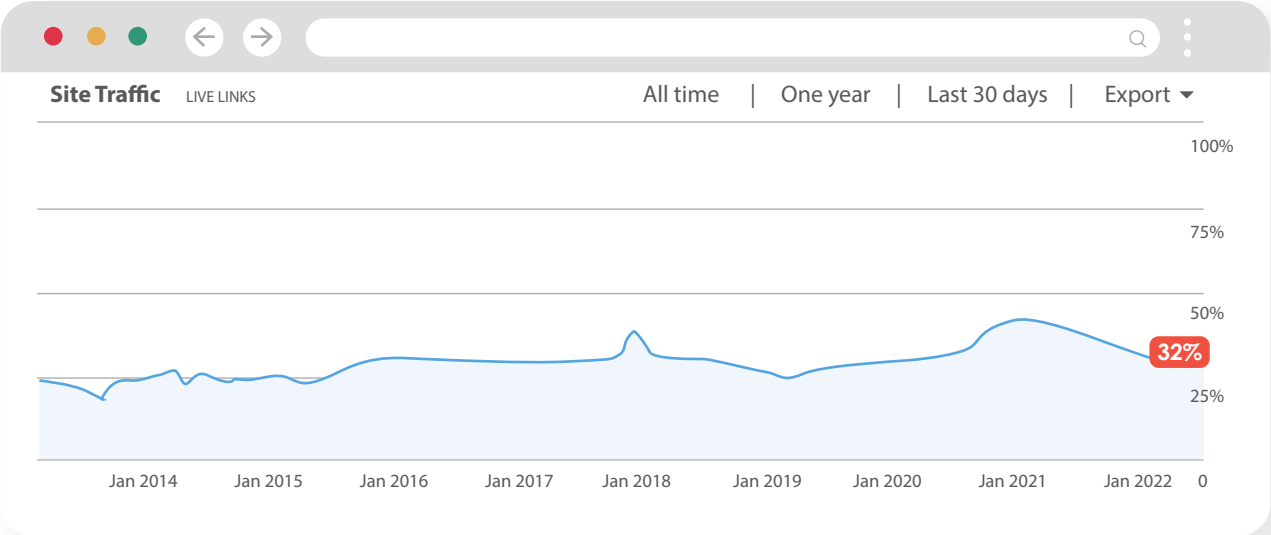
6. Post-upgrade: Post-upgrade the bugs were fixed on the website which was not visible on the Drupal 8 version.

7. New Modules: The latest Drupal 9 comes with new modules that can be used to improve the functionality of the website. These modules include the Media Library, Workspaces, and Layout Builder modules.

Results:

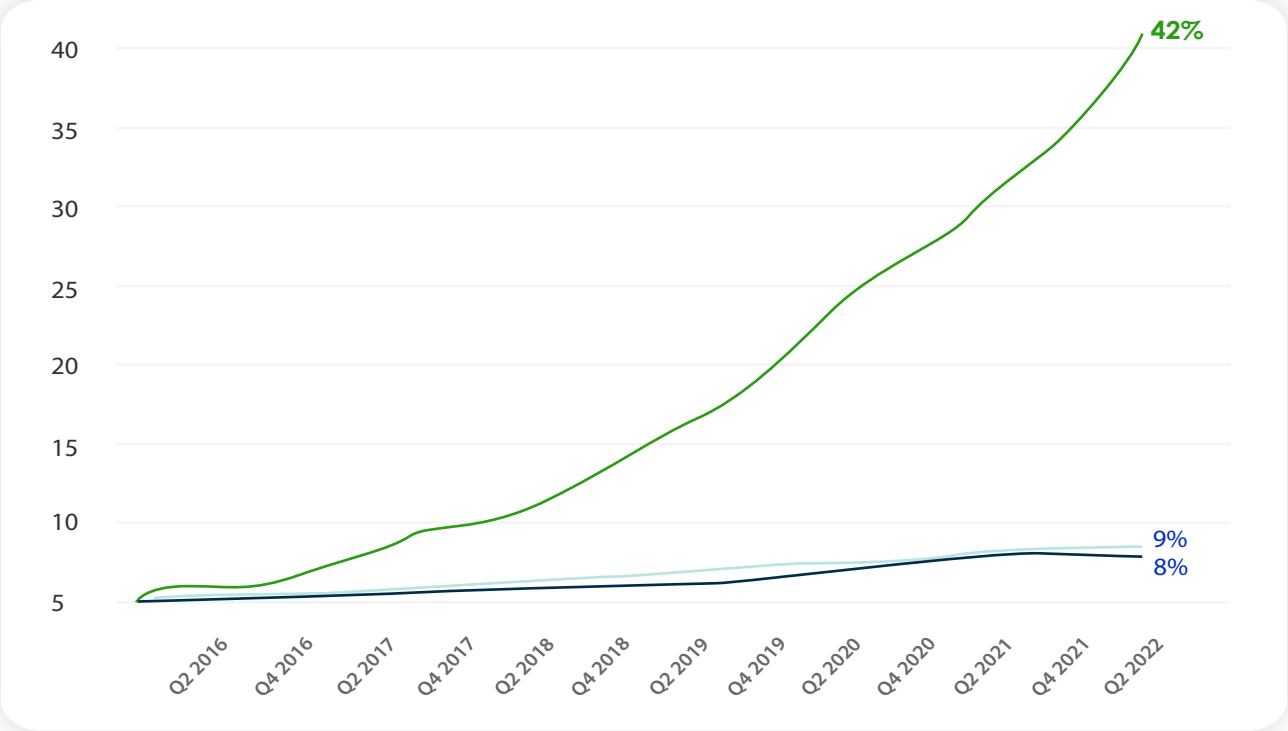
As a result of the upgrade, Composers.com witnessed increased traffic and engagement on the website.

Increase in Site Traffic



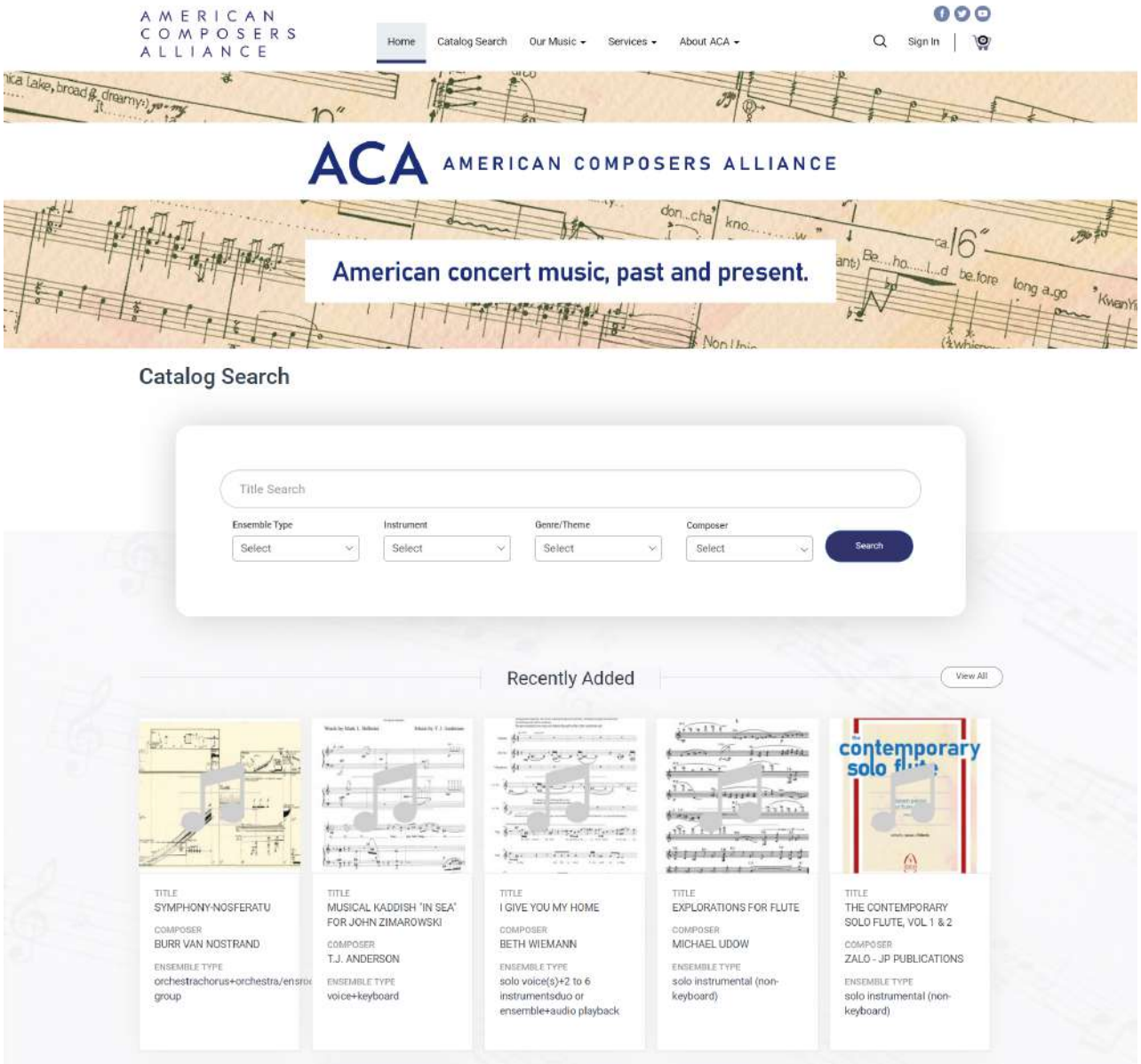
42% Revenue Increase

The website's performance also improved significantly, and the user experience was enhanced thanks to the new Drupal 9 features. A 30% increase in traffic was recorded.



Overall, the upgrade was a success and we are very happy with the results.

4 to 6 Week Shortened Timeline



Composers.com is now powered by Drupal 9.3 and is receiving regular security updates and performance improvements. The website is also more user-friendly and easier to navigate thanks to the new Drupal 9 features. We are very happy with the results of the upgrade and would recommend it to anyone who is running an older version of Drupal.

Other Useful Resources

- Case Studies
- eBook
- Infographics
- Whitepaper
- Blog
- Fact Sheet
- Webinar

Want More Info?
Contact Our Drupal Partners Team Today!
yourfriends@drupalpatners.com

The information transmitted, including attachments, is intended only for the person(s) or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and destroy any copies of this information.

© 2022 DrupalPartners.com