

Event Dates: November 20, 2019 – La Grande Concert
November 23, 2019 – Baker City Concert
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**SUBJECT: *Unfinished Business*
with the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra**



*La Grande, Oregon...*The Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra will begin its 72nd season with some 'Unfinished Business'. Under the direction of Zachary Banks, the orchestra will perform two concerts featuring violinist Viet Block. The first performance will take place on Wednesday, November 20th beginning at 7:00pm in McKenzie Theater on the EOU campus in La Grande. The second concert will be held in the beautiful St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City on Saturday, November 23rd beginning at 1:00pm.

According to Maestro Banks, "We came up with the theme by giving a nod to the music selections, along with the follow-up to the Grande Ronde Symphony 'Concerto Aria Competition', which took place in February of 2019." Ms. Viet Block was the winner of the Open category, and as such was asked to perform the winning concerto during the fall season- opening concert. Banks concluded, "So we had that business to finish up and it seemed appropriate to add in *Schubert's* 'Unfinished Symphony' to complete the theme."

Ms. Block will be performing Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor by *Max Bruch* (1838-1920). Viet earned a Master's degree in performance from Portland State University's College of the Arts, School of Music in 2018. She currently resides, teaches, and performs in Pendleton, Oregon. Throughout her career as an orchestral player, Viet has had the honor of performing with notable soloists such as Anne Akiko Myers, Alexander Markov and others. Currently, Block is the assistant concertmaster of the Oregon East Symphony, and regularly substitutes with the Boise Philharmonic, the Yakima Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Grande Ronde Symphony.

Music Director Banks commented, "The *Bruch* Violin Concerto is simply beautiful, but quite challenging for the violinist and the orchestra. The virtuosic violin techniques required are quite impressive and lead the listener through an emotional journey."

Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors. EOU student tickets are \$2 and students 8th-12th grade are \$1; under 8th grades are free.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Direct Music Source, 1206 Adams Avenue in La Grande, or at Betty's Books, 1813 Main Street in Baker City or online at granderondesymphony.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door of McKenzie Theater on Wednesday, November 20th, and at the St. Francis de Sales Cathedral on Saturday, November 23rd. Information about the fall concert is on our website granderondesymphony.org. Inquiries can be made via email at grsymphony2@gmail.com.