



## PRESIDENT’S SUMMARY

It’s been a stellar year for the Grande Ronde Symphony!

From our five fantastic concerts of the orchestra to the continuing success of SOAR (String & Orchestral Arts Revitalization) in the La Grande Public Schools, we have witnessed the accomplishment of our mission to keep music alive in northeast Oregon.

It is difficult to know where to start in preparing a summary of all the great work achieved by board members, orchestra musicians, music directors, teachers, patrons, volunteers, and grant-makers. Please recognize that the following are just a few of the highlights per program area. These are not representative of the hours of work, dedication and contributions made by all the providers that created this tremendous success.

As we navigate our new world during and post COVID19 we will endeavor to continue these successes and look forward to being nimble in adapting to bring the music and keep playing the notes.

*Alice Trindle, President – GRSA*

## Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra



The 2019-2020 season began with some ‘Unfinished Business’ as we celebrated the winner of the 2019 Concerto Aria Competition, Viet Block performing the Brock Violin Concerto. We were treated to hearing the violin along with Schubert’s ‘Unfinished’ Symphony in both McKenzie Theater in La Grande and in the beautiful St.

Francis de Sales Cathedral in Baker City.



The collaboration with various groups during EOU’s ‘Holiday Music Festival’ was deeply rewarding as voices, instruments, and genera combined to celebrate the season.

We capped off the season with ‘Sounds of America’ as the theme for the Winter 2020 concert. Music Director, Zachary Banks tugged at our heartstrings by choosing music composed by local artist John Rinehart, little known American composer Florence Beatrice Price, and brought us home with Copland’s ‘Outdoor Overture’.

As we were about to begin rehearsals for the Spring Concert, the world changed with the advent of COVID-19. While we had to cancel the May concert, we are happy to report that attendance of Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra concerts is up over last year’s numbers, primarily due to the addition of the Baker City concert in November.

As we move forward into the 73rd season for the Grande Ronde Symphony we find ourselves in unprecedented times with a global pandemic creating evolutionary events for all humans, for interactions, and certainly for arts organizations such as the GRSA.

## Down-Beat of the 2020-2021 Season

Next season is looking bright even with the uncertainties of procedures for large group events in light of community health concerns. How the Grande Ronde Symphony will package and deliver music will most likely be forever changed. But rest assured that the Board of Directors and consultants are working diligently to strategically plan so that we may take on a nimble posture that will keep all the programs of the Grande Ronde Symphony alive. To that end, the committees of the GRSA have updated our 2020/2021 Strategic Plan that will guide us in keeping our Youth Programs, Adult Programs, and Operations moving forward as we navigate delivering beautiful music to northeastern Oregon.

We are pleased to announce that the GRSA has renewed the contract with Zachary Banks as the Music Director for the Grande Ronde Symphony. Zach has a number of great programs, pieces, and themes lined out for the year, but rehearsals and performances are all contingent upon COVID19 restrictions and keeping musicians and patrons safe. Zach has already been active in developing our ‘In Tune’ video vignettes and we anticipate finding similar virtual solutions for Fall and Children Concerts. Zach, along with the Board of Directors see these virtual concerts as opportunities to explore new methods of connecting with people. In lieu of season passes, during these video concerts you’ll have opportunity to contribute and maintain our community’s love of music. Find the complete schedule for Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra and Chamber concerts on-line at:

~ *GrandeRondeSymphony.org* ~

## Youth Programs Simply SOAR



The Youth Programs of the GRSA continued to grow as we implemented the 'String & Orchestral Arts Revitalization' program as a result of the generous grant from the Oregon Community Foundation –

*Improving Arts Education in Public Schools.* Under the tutelage of Denise Hattan, Kathy Thimmes, and Carla Arnold, the GRSA Fiddle Clubs have expanded to include after-school instruction for grades 3 through 8. Fiddle Labs were also added this year which allowed students from all clubs to join together, continue their learning, and shepherd note reading and theory. With the on-set of the Corona virus, our amazing instructors pivoted beautifully into virtual rehearsals. We actually saw an increase in the amount of time students were spending on-line, playing with a program called *Fiddle Quest*, and ultimately finding the joy of making music as a daily highlight to get through long hours of isolation due to the virus.

We ended the school year with a great foundation completed with the La Grande School District and plans for 2020-2021. The District has purchased over \$14,000 worth of string instruments, the scheduling for the after-school Fiddle Clubs is in place, and we anticipate the full commitment from Oregon Community Foundation to continue SOAR into the next school year.

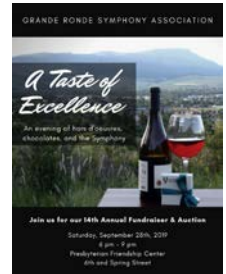
### GR Student Symphony – Building Our Future

From its inception in 1993, the GRSS has had the goal of providing opportunities for aspiring musicians to experience the joy of performing within an orchestra. As part of the SOAR program, we have been able to establish a clear path from learning to playing a string instrument through Fiddle Clubs, moving on to reading music and harmonizing in Middle School Fiddle Labs, and finally progressing into performing with the Grande Ronde Student Symphony.

Under the leadership of GRSS Music Director, Mark Emerson, the program has continued with a small but mighty group of dedicated students playing a variety of classical and modern orchestral pieces. The GRSS performed at the Grande Ronde Retirement Center on several occasions and in Groth Hall on the campus of EOU. We look forward to adding to the number of participants as students graduate from Fiddle Clubs.

## Fundraising & Events

The 2019-2020 season kicked off with the huge success of the Annual Fundraising Auction held in September. With a new format featuring a lighter faire of delicious hors d'oeuvres, samplings of locally sourced beer, wine, and natural ciders, combined with auction items which were more 'experience' based, we netted a very positive contribution to the general operating fund of the GRSA. Many felt the entire ticket price was worth receiving the in-person performance on the cello by Music Director Zachary Banks, and violinist Viet Block.



Our heartfelt appreciation to all those who attended and contributed to the auction.

### Mark Your Calendar:

#### “A Night In with the Symphony”

We are working out the details for a virtual evening event featuring musical video performances by Zach, members of the GRSO, and community musicians. Rather than an auction, we'll be making a 'Special Appeal' for contributions to help keep the music flowing. Now, more than ever, we need to pull together to support our local arts organizations and local businesses. We look forward to announcing the details of this virtual event, but for now, mark your calendar for “A Night In”. Tentatively to be held:

Saturday, October 3, 2020

Information will be available on-line and postcard reminders.

Chamber Series concerts for this season brought a variety of performers and groups into the homes of La Grande patrons, as well as the little Haines United Methodist Church. From voices raised in song direct from Broadway to the amazing tones of the oboe, chamber concert attendees had a musical treat rarely experienced in eastern Oregon. While we had to cancel several performances due to COVID19, the value of this series was still appreciated by patrons.

The schedule of performances is already set for the 2020-2021 Chamber Concert Series, but the presentation will be quite different. We are going virtual! Performances will be presented on-line and aired on specified dates. It will be a great way to support local musicians in these trying times. Find the complete details on-line at:

~ [GrandeRondeSymphony.org](http://GrandeRondeSymphony.org) ~

## Scholarships and the Endowment

Ambrose Greif, GRISO principal cellist, was the recipient of the Lorna Spain Scholarship for a string musician attending Eastern Oregon University, administered through the EOU Foundation.

The GRSA Scholarship Fund also supported the two Student category winners of the Concerto-Aria Competition: Molly Chadwick (piano) and Ambrose Greif (cello). Watch for performances by these two during the virtual Fall Concert. The Scholarship Fund also helped several aspiring musicians and their teachers by reimbursing lessons costs. What a great way to keep the legacy of the symphony alive through inspiring young musicians!

We would like to grow the Endowment, and will be moving forward in 2020-2021 to develop strategies to encourage charitable giving. However, at this time, our greatest need continues to be in securing funding for annual operating requirements. Therefore, contributions through the GRS *Sustaining Circle* and direct contributions are the best way to keep the many programs of the Grande Ronde Symphony growing. Watch for information regarding the teaming-up of the symphony with local businesses to allow your contributions to go further in helping our community. Working Together Works...so keep an eye on the website and the GRS newsletter for more information.

## Keeping Everything Up-Tempo

Support from a variety of grant foundations remains incredible. We express sincere appreciation to the following:  
Oregon Cultural Trust-Union County Cultural Coalition  
Leo Adler Foundation  
Oregon Arts Commission  
Oregon Community Foundation  
The Miller Foundation



As we move forward into our 73<sup>rd</sup> season during these unprecedented times, more than ever we must keep the music flowing. Reinventing the delivery of our product will happen and we will witness the installation of the love of orchestral music in the youth, along with the greater community. However, we need your support to continue the legacy that is the Grande Ronde Symphony. Please give TODAY! Consider a tax deductible contribution NOW!  
Join our Sustaining Circle to know you are helping to maintain the heritage of music.

Respectfully, *GRSA Board of Directors*

## Keep the Music Flowing



We greatly appreciate your patronage in the past and look forward to your continuing support to assure our musical future. Our paramount need now is for donations to our general operating fund. And while our 2020/2021 season will look very different, we will still be bringing music into your homes, into the youth programs, and into your souls. Please help us keep the music flowing with your contribution today.

The Grande Ronde Symphony Association is the official organization responsible for the orchestra and its programs.

### Supporter Contribution Opportunities

Become a Patron of the Grande Ronde Symphony with a one-time donation or become a member of the *Sustaining Circle* with recurring donations. Your generosity will be acknowledged on the Grande Ronde Symphony website.

Patron level	Donation Amount	
Platinum	(\$1500 or more)	= _____
Gold Baton	(\$1000-\$1499)	= _____
Silver Baton	(\$500 to \$999)	= _____
Bronze Baton	(\$250 to \$499)	= _____
Friend	(\$50-\$249)	= _____
73 <sup>rd</sup> Season Supporter	\$73	= _____
Season Associate	\$35	= _____

Total Contributions = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here to join the *Sustaining Circle* and donate every month. Visit the website for instructions.

If you would like your contribution to be "In Memory" or "In Honor" of someone, please indicate the names(s) below. This will be reflected on Patrons page of the Grande Ronde Symphony website.

This contribution is *In Memory of*:

\_\_\_\_\_ This contribution is *In Honor of*:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Grande Ronde Symphony Assn.  
Mail to: GRSA P.O. Box 824 | La Grande, OR 97850

Or...Pay on-line at: [www.GrandeRondeSymphony.org](http://www.GrandeRondeSymphony.org)