PRESIDENT’S SUMMARY

As the 75th season of the Grande Ronde Symphony concludes, I am drawn to feelings of pride as I reflect upon the heritage we continued to honor over the past year. This is an incredible group of musicians, of dedicated board members, and of tremendous patrons who keep the legacy of the Grande Ronde Symphony alive. Thank you!

To recall a few of those success stories...

- The Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra continued under the excellent leadership of music director, Zachary Banks, who offered an array of musical experiences for our audience, along with challenging the 50 musicians
- The 2023 Chamber Series truly delivered on the goal of offering a diversity of musical experience, in a variety of unique settings, and celebrating the incredible talent of our region
- The collaboration with the La Grande School District continued strong, averaging over 50 Fiddle Club students involved and culminating in an exciting performance with the Symphony at the spring concert
- The Concerto + Aria competition was truly robust this year, with 13 applicants, reciting their talents of voice, violin, piano, viola and even saxophone!
- We continued to offer scholarships and lesson reimbursement to encourage young musicians and support local teachers
- Importantly, we had incredible support from patrons and grantmakers

Truly, we are more than just an orchestra! The Grande Ronde Symphony Association adds a deep cultural enrichment to our greater community and we should all be proud of the heritage we are creating.

Alice Trindle, President – GRSA

Ready for the Downbeat of the 76th Season?

We are so excited to announce the return of Music Director, Zachary Banks to the podium for the Grande Ronde Symphony. Zach has brought so much joy and enthusiasm to the stage over the past five years, and we look forward to see what he has in store for the 76th season of the symphony. His skill with providing excellent leadership to the challenging music for the orchestra musicians and his ability to connect with the audience is evidenced in our ever-increasing concert attendance.

Stay in touch by joining the Grande Ronde Symphony’s monthly newsletter, received through your email, to get advanced notice of the plans and programs for the 2023-2024 season.

Mark Your Calendar

Fall Concert:
- November 15, 2023 – EOU
- November 18, 2023 – St. Francis de Sales Cathedral

Winter Concert:
- March 13, 2024 – EOU

Spring Concert:
- May 29, 2024 - EOU

We are excited to start into our 76th season. It’s Time...mark your calendar for GRS Orchestra concerts, get your season pass, and consider becoming a Sustaining member.

Re-Ignite with MUSIC!

~ GrandeRondeSymphony.org ~

Youth Programs SOAR

The Youth Programs of the GRSA continued to grow in the 2022 – 2023 school year with the ‘String & Orchestral Arts Revitalization’ SOARing to new heights. The collaboration with the La Grande School District has provided instruction in string instruments during an after-school program for grades 3-6. This year, students not only learned the basics by starting on the violin, but then graduated to learning note reading and were given the opportunity to branch into playing the viola, the
cello, and even the string bass. Under the leadership of Carla Arnold, with instructors such as Denise Hattan, Kathy Thimmes, Teagan Null, Anne Taylor and Earl Davis, the Fiddle Clubs dazzled family members and audiences with numerous performances. The highlight of the year was when nearly 30 Fiddle Club students, along with the Grande Ronde Student Symphony and Re-Imagine Strings group, performed a piece called ‘A Gypsy Tale’ with the GR Symphony orchestra at the Spring concert in May 2023.

This collaboration with the La Grande School District is critical to keeping music in the hearts and minds of young people. Please take the opportunity to express your appreciation and support when talking with school board members, staff, and Fiddle Club parents.

GR Junior Symphony – A New Name & A New Sponsor

During most of the 2022-2023 school year, the GRSA continued the Student Symphony as an after-school program under the leadership of Mark Emerson. As with many of the activities in which today’s youth participate, students found themselves having a tough time juggling time for school, family and music! We needed to come up with a new model that might allow for more inclusion of students and even adults that might be wanting to return to playing a string instrument.

For the 2023-2024 school year we are pleased to announce the commencement of the Grande Ronde Junior Symphony, as a before-school program, under the direction of Ivy Waite, a first violinist in the GR Symphony orchestra. These group lesson scholarships are being sponsored by the La Grande Soroptimist – Community Fund. A huge THANK YOU for their generosity.

Chamber Series...

A Diverse Hit for ’23 & BIG Plans for ’24

The concerts that were a part of our 2023 Chamber Series certainly met all the goals of expanding into new venues and offering truly diverse music genres. We started in March with a collaboration between the Baker and La Grande High School choirs, joining together with members of the Grande Ronde Symphony, in what we called ‘Choir Rendezvous’. This was followed by the bright pipes and sparkling keys of Gretchen Longwell performing on organ and piano at the beautiful La Grande United Methodist Church. And for the final bit of diversity, we had ‘Whisky for Breakfast’ a bluegrass group, playing twin fiddles at the Haines UMC in mid-June. The concerts not only entertained, but introduced a lot of new people to the programs of the Grande Ronde Symphony.

In 2023 & 2024 we will be offering yet another great series, but changing it up a bit. We will have three concerts at larger venues, with a lower door price, but presenting a diverse array of musical styles. This is our ‘Grande Rendezvous’ series. But wait...We still want to honor the tradition of more classical presentations in smaller or home settings. So, watch for two concerts in the ‘Noteworthy’ series.

Check it out and sign up for a Chamber Series Season Pass to reserve your spot at all five concerts!

Scholarships and the Concerto + Aria Competition

The GRSA Scholarship Fund supported the two Student category winners of the Concerto-Aria Competition: Alice Mohlman (pianist) and Hannah Schfer (violinist). Both musicians performed at the Spring 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 the inspiring of young musicians! Watch for the performance by Soprano, Shahayla Ononaiye, as the winner of the ‘Open’ category of the C+A Competition in November – Fall concerts of the symphony.

Grant-maker & Patron’s Generosity...Sustaining the Legacy

Support from a variety of grant foundations and from you, our patrons, was incredible this past year. We express sincere appreciation to the following:

- Oregon Cultural Trust
- Union & Baker County Cultural Coalitions
- The Reser Foundation
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Oregon Community Foundation
- The Miller Foundation
- The Observer & Baker City Herald
- Herbert A. Templeton Foundation

As we move into the 76th season on the Grande Ronde Symphony it is truly time to leave your mark on the legacy.

- Consider a tax deductible contribution NOW!
- Join our Sustaining Circle and set up a monthly or annual contribution through your bank
- Join the Legacy Society through your charitable giving plan by contributing $10,000 or more to the GRS Endowment fund

Let’s keep it going and growing for another 76 years!

Respectfully, GRSA Board of Directors
Getting Your Business Out in Front

The Grande Ronde Symphony Association is seeking corporate sponsors of our 2023-2024 Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra season. We have an exciting 2023-2024 year of music ahead of us. Our concerts have grown in attendance to nearly fill 400-person capacity venues and each concert will provide an opportunity for corporate sponsors to reach attendees and show your community support for the 45-plus musicians who set aside hundreds of hours to practice and participate in the symphony orchestra. This 2023-2024 season offers an opportunity to introduce your brand. We have developed three sponsorship packages:
- Platinum @ $4500
- Gold @ $3000
- Silver @ $1500

Your sponsorship would be a huge boost for the Grande Ronde Symphony along with many community attendees. Please contact Board member: Eric Brown at 619-818-0502 or email: eric@ericdbrown.com

’Tis the 76th Season!!

Join with patrons, supporters, and musicians from the Grande Ronde Symphony at our annual gala on October 21, 2023, as we gather for an evening of appetizers, live jazz, and good company to lead off the new season.

This major fundraiser for the GRSA will include an exciting silent auction, a chance to get to know our local musicians, and an opportunity to chat with the orchestra conductor, Zach Banks. You might even have a chance to “wield the baton” at a future symphony concert.

We will also be featuring some special silent auction items that will allow you to support the orchestra without adding to the clutter in your closet.

This gala marks the 76th year of musical excellence of the GRSO and we are excited to celebrate it with you!

- Who: Friends and supporters of the GRS
- What: Season Opening Gala
- Where: Presbyterian Friendship Center - La Grande
- Why: To celebrate the start of the new musical season
- When: October 21, 2023, from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Please find the enclosed ticket, fill out and tear off the right side, and mail along with your check to GRSA, PO Box 824 La Grande, OR 97850. Tickets are also available on our website: GrandeRondeSymphony.org

Purchase confirmation will be emailed. Tickets must be purchased in advance (by October 13th) and will not be sold at the door. ‘Tis the season to celebrate!!

Keep the Music Flowing for the 76th Season!

We need music in our lives! It’s crucial that your Symphony continues to connect our community through incredible music. Purchase your season pass for great concerts and add in a contribution as a patron to keep the power of music growing.

Name __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________

Season Tickets for GR Symphony Orchestra Concerts 2023-2024:
- Adult # ______ at $38 each  = __________
- Senior (+65) # ______ at $30 each  = __________

Season Tickets for Chamber Series (5):
- Chamber Series Season Pass #______ at $90 each = __________

Patron Contribution Opportunities
We need your help to keep the music flowing! Become a Patron of the Grande Ronde Symphony with a one-time donation or become a member of the Sustaining Circle with recurring donations.


Patron level  Donation Amount
- Adopt a Concert ($1500 or more)  = __________
- Gold Baton ($1000 - $1499)  = __________
- Silver Baton ($500 - $999)  = __________
- Bronze Baton ($250 - $499)  = __________
- Friend ($50 - $249)  = __________

Total for Tickets & Contributions  = __________

Please check here if we can count on your donation every month/year by joining the Sustaining Circle.

If you would like your contribution to be “In Memory” or “In Honor” of someone, please indicate the names(s) below.

This contribution is In Memory of: __________________________________________

This contribution is In Honor of: __________________________________________

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

Or...Pay on-line at: GrandeRondeSymphony.org