



HARRISBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

STUART MALINA
MUSIC DIRECTOR



**2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

Matthew Herren

Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on our 2020-2021 Season, we have much to be grateful for. We faced unexpected challenges, and with the imagination of our Music Director Stuart Malina, our musicians, and staff, and generous support from patrons and donors like you, we continued to enrich our community through distinctive online performances and creative educational programs. With Masterworks and Capital BlueCross Pops concerts, youth orchestra concerts, videos for young audiences, and musician profiles, we presented a varied and rewarding season that kept us all connected.

In our temporary home at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, we produced ten concerts — six Masterworks and four Capital BlueCross Pops — for on-demand viewing. These concerts with smaller orchestras showed another side of the HSO, shining the spotlight on our strings, brass, and percussion sections, and featuring beloved guest artists like Debbie Gravitte, Jonathan Ragonese, and Steve Rudolph. The season gave us an opportunity to explore repertoire — from 1721 to 2021 — that challenged and delighted our musicians and, we hope, our audiences. We are deeply grateful to the team at Whitaker and their support from the Lois Lehrman Grass Foundation for making these concerts possible.

Our HSYO ensembles were up and running in September, with safety protocols in place and dedicated students, parents, and conductors working hard week after week. These ensembles produced three concerts for on-demand viewing, and our young musicians gained valuable experience in a recording studio setting. Virtual Young Persons' Concerts and **HSO Shorts** videos introduced musical concepts to students in Harrisburg area schools, and, of course, each Masterworks program included a customized **Welcome to the Concert** listening guide.

Additionally, our **A Conversation with the Maestro**

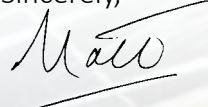
on YouTube allowed us to share the voices

and stories of our musicians and staff, who remind us of our connection as an HSO family. Patrons of all ages ably made the shift to online participation, and we know that whole households have been engaging with us digitally. While nothing can replace the experience of live music in the concert hall, online content can break down barriers of cost, transportation, and fear of the unknown. We see this as a valuable new offering that should continue.

The extraordinary generosity of our patrons and donors, the commitment of our musicians and staff, and the leadership of our Board have combined to position the HSO to emerge inspired, renewed, and prepared to present live music to live audiences very soon. An important part of our renewed inspiration comes from the lessons we have all learned over the past year, which reinforce our humanity, and which bring into focus our desire to create opportunities for engagement with classical music for people of all backgrounds. As we move into our 92nd year, we commit to being an organization that will inspire and serve our entire Central Pennsylvania community.

Until we gather together to share live music again, I send our deepest gratitude and every good wish to each of you.

Sincerely,



Matthew Herren
Executive Director



What a year this has been!

At this time every year, we at the Harrisburg Symphony reflect back on the past season – the highs, the lows, the triumphs, the failures. With all of the sadness and loss our world has endured, I choose to focus on the many positives of 2020-2021.

I am incredibly proud of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. Every part of our outstanding organization worked tirelessly to ensure that we could continue to bring music of the highest quality to our patrons. Our patrons, in turn, once again demonstrated that they are the cream of the crop.

I must begin by thanking our board of directors, who decided in the very earliest stages of the pandemic that the music must continue, and our musicians must be taken care of. When many arts organizations across the country were shuttering, and many musicians were terribly suffering economically, our orchestra continued to perform and to support its most valued assets – the gifted musicians of the HSO. This was an act of bravery that will not soon be forgotten by me or the players in our orchestra.

Our staff, led fearlessly by our new Executive Director, Matthew Herren, has worked long hours keeping the engines of the HSO humming, and always with a smile. These are the unsung heroes of our operations. I am so deeply grateful for all they have done during my tenure here, but never more than this past year, when the hurdles to success were so high.

Of course, I am, as ever, humbled by the brilliance of our musicians. The ten performances we created this

year, covering a very wide range of musical styles and repertoire, were prepared and recorded under stressful and uncomfortable circumstances (playing masked and distanced by 12 feet is not part of conservatory training!). The results were magnificent – concerts we all should be very proud of. The players showed me once again that they are not only great musicians, but great people as well.

Many thanks to Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts for their extreme generosity as our hosts this year.

The most extraordinary part of this pandemic season was the dedication and support we received from you, our patrons and donors. I honestly am at a loss for how I can adequately thank you for the letters, emails, and yes, the outpouring of financial support, we received from you this year. I have often said that we have the best patrons anywhere. You have proved this many times over. I am so, so grateful.

Your support has allowed us to continue enhancing the cultural life of the greater Harrisburg region. It also ensures that we will return to live performance stronger than ever. If this season has demonstrated anything, it is that the arts are essential. Thank you for keeping us strong.

Play on!



Stuart Malina
Music Director



Board Chairs

Dear Friends of the Symphony,

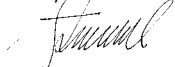
What an extraordinary and unprecedented year this has been for the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, just as it has been an extraordinary and unprecedented year for us all in our personal lives and for our families and our communities. The public health crisis that drove the Symphony from our beloved Forum Auditorium and shuttered our planned concert season was just one part of the deeply unsettling social storm that swept the United States these past months and that has caused us to reflect upon the role the arts must play in forging a community based upon genuine inclusivity and equality.

Now that the worst of the pandemic siege appears to be lifting, we can again look forward with confidence to what the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra does best and what Maestro Stuart Malina and our wonderful musicians do best: playing magnificent music before a live audience in a great hall. The generosity of our donors and sponsors has supported the orchestra during this terrible drought, and our Board of Directors has taken the necessary steps to keep the orchestra intact even when it was unable to perform before a full audience. Led by our new Executive Director, Matthew Herren, our able administrative staff worked tirelessly to sustain the orchestra and the efforts of our educational programs and youth orchestras.

I am very pleased to note that my colleague and friend, Pat Ferris, succeeds me as Chair of the Board of Directors for the next two years. Pat is an able and energetic leader. It has been my great privilege to have served as Chair for the past three years.

After the painful and difficult trials of the past year, I'm longing to see an auditorium full of people and to hear that good place bursting with the sound of music. I expect that will be a stirring and emotional moment for many of us.

See you in the fall!



Stephen MacDonald
Chair, Board of Directors
Harrisburg Symphony Association



Dear Colleagues and Friends of the HSO,

Immediately upon arriving in Harrisburg from Wheaton, Illinois, thirty years ago, I began a search for the local music community. I was a music-loving, flute-playing paralegal from the suburbs of Chicago wondering if there was a replacement for my beloved Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Flute Society. While there were no actual replacements possible, what I did find in the

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra was the most wonderful new opportunities.

Early on there was the opportunity to sit on the community advisory committee that helped to select Stuart Malina as Music Director, and much later the opportunity to sit in interviews and help to select our Executive Director, Matthew Herren. In between these significant opportunities, I had those of joining the Harrisburg Symphony Society, serving as its president and as a Showhouse co-chair.

Certainly, the most fulfilling opportunity has been to see and hear what Maestro Malina, the orchestra, and the staff have created over these years – a beautiful orchestra with a beautiful sound.

Now that I am retired from the business that brought me to Harrisburg, I welcome this newest opportunity to lead the Harrisburg Symphony Association Board at this particularly interesting time.

During the past year all the committees of the HSA Board, the Maestro, the musicians, the HSYO, and the staff have taken this time to infuse new energy into the organization with virtual concerts and seminars, new diversity and inclusion awareness. They so excel at what they are doing that we may have the greatest opportunities for new growth going forward that we will ever have.

For myself, to continue with the knowledgeable and affirming support to the organization that my predecessor, Stephen McDonald has created, is the greatest opportunity of all.

With warm regards,



Patricia Ferris
Chair-Elect, Board of Directors
Harrisburg Symphony Association

A Home Away From Home

The Harrisburg Symphony's 2020-2021 Season was truly **A Season Like No Other**. Our season would not have been possible without the generosity of Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, who invited us to their Sunoco Performance Theater to record concerts for on-demand viewing. Whitaker became our home away from home during an exceptional time that included, on top of everything else, renovations at the Forum Auditorium.

With major underwriting from the Lois Lehrman Grass Foundation and Whitaker Center's Advancing Performing Arts Fund, we were able to produce a season that included both HSO and HSYO performances. Whitaker's team, led by CEO Ted Black and Production Manager Brian Ariano, were true partners as we navigated the year together. Our friends at Anderson Audio and Wonderscope made us look good and sound good; they and HSO lighting designer Tristan Stasiulus were very familiar with the Sunoco Theater acoustics and its

"LIVE" FROM WHITAKER CENTER

audio and lighting equipment, so our move was seamless. The theater also graciously gave us access to storage space so that Stage Manager Tom Acri, Assistant Stage Manager Pasquale Fera and our crew were able to store our instruments, acoustic shells, and stage equipment on-site as needed.

Our musicians and staff took tremendous comfort in the many efforts the Whitaker team made to keep us all safe, including protocols for security, disinfection, social distancing, and air exchange rate. They were assiduous in observing CDC pandemic recommendations and always remained in compliance with the Commonwealth's guidelines.

What began as a time of unknowns and potential disappointments became a moving and memorable season, where we made music with wonderful new friends. Thank you, Whitaker Center!



Music in the Key of We (MIKW)

In 2016 the seed of an idea took root: it had been seven years since Beethoven's epic *Ode to Joy* had been performed by the HSO, and discussions began to coalesce around 2018 – Nine to the Ninth as the conceptual event was tentatively named. The timing proved inopportune, but the notion of a public concert to commemorate Harrisburg's resilience after the darkest years of the financial crisis was firmly planted. Shortly thereafter the HSA Board updated its strategic plan, and one of the key objectives was heightened relevance with – and connection to – the community at large. A public performance of Beethoven's Ninth was one of the potential manifestations of this mandate, although nothing was finalized on this point when the plan was adopted.

A different priority soon emerged as the 90th anniversary season steadily came into focus. The coincident anniversaries of the Symphony Society (30th) and Maestro Malina's leadership (20th) added fortuitous inertia. The primacy of the 2020 anniversary season quickly took center stage, and Stuart turned to us, as members of the Association Board and Symphony Society, to form an organizing committee to consider potential venues and performance options.

A vital endorsement quickly arrived in the form of a lead gift from Gary and Sylvie St. Hilaire. The couple graciously empowered the committee with tremendous flexibility to contemplate a wide range of possible scenarios. As plans evolved over the next year, it became apparent that the logistics of scheduling a marquee musician to headline an anniversary ball would prove impossible to reconcile, despite the St. Hilaire's generosity.

A monumental piece like the *Ode to Joy* never really sits quietly on an Artistic Director's back burner. Sensing that the time was right to do something completely different to celebrate the HSO's triple anniversary, the committee pivoted toward the unknown. In a tremendous leap of faith, the concert exploded to become an open and inclusive anniversary event that extended to the entire region: **Music in the Key of We – An Anniversary Celebration of Community** was born.

With the concept finalized, more than 50 sub-committee co-chairs and volunteers were quickly enlisted to execute the most ambitious endeavor the Symphony had ever attempted. Many were on hand when we toured the PA Farm Show

FROM DREAM TO REALITY AND BACK AGAIN



Complex. We all held our breath (and it wasn't simply because we were on pins and needles) as Stuart surveyed the New Holland Arena for feasibility. After several moments he broke into his broad, signature grin and said, "This is it. This is the place." The vision was affirmed.

Countless hours, meetings, and emails later, MIKW grew to become an unprecedented touchstone of community spirit. The fundamental "rightness" of the idea was borne out in conversation after conversation...this was not your ordinary community concert. We visibly observed skeptics transform into ambassadors as we described all the innovative ways we would bring Beethoven's Ninth to the people, just as we would literally bring people from all corners of Harrisburg to hear the music. From County Commissioners to business owners and State Representatives to other community groups, the enthusiasm

generated as we presented MIKW was electric. Perhaps unsurprisingly, once we stepped outside the borders of our traditional operating model – beyond the edges of our comfort zone – the HSO found the voice it needed to sing to and with the community at large.

The new relationships and partnerships forged during the past three years as we mobilized to bring **Music in the Key of We** to fruition are too numerous to mention here. Properly nurtured, they will provide energy and support as the HSO marches toward the century mark. The unprecedented generosity of our traditional and newfound patrons (more than \$500,000 in donations) has been nothing short of humbling, and the goodwill generated throughout the region is a reservoir to tap once Covid-19 has run its course.

With heartfelt gratitude to the Board, the Society, the committee members, the cadre of volunteers and our visionary partners, we contemplate what might have been with bittersweet remembrance. Only the *Ode to Joy* itself can put the appropriate coda on this labor of love. We look forward to that day...when we finally celebrate as one!

Warmly,

Scott Ehrig and Cindy Sisto

Music in the Key of We Event Co-Chairs



Thank you to everyone who supported the Harrisburg Symphony's **Music in the Key of We** Anniversary Celebration! This event brought together people, organizations, and businesses across our area to celebrate the incredible power of music. While we were unable to perform the concert, our community rallied behind the spirit of the event and many of our ticket holders and sponsors generously donated their support back to the HSO. We are grateful for their belief in our mission, and we know the arts in Harrisburg are stronger because of it.

MIKW SPONSORS

Our community partners support the efforts of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra to continue the arts in Central Pennsylvania. Thank you to all the HSO's Music in the Key of We Anniversary Celebration sponsors for their commitment to symphonic music!

A Friend
Abel Personnel, Inc.
Marilynn & Richard Abrams
Randy & Ginny Aires
Marion C. & William H. Alexander
Christopher Mahoney & Joan Barrett
BB&T, now Truist
Bobby Rahal Automotive Group
Brown Advisory Group
Capital BlueCross
Conrad Siegel Investment Advisors
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Anne S. Davis

Carole DeSoto
Edu-Care Services, Inc
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Carmen & Tonia Finestra
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Robert & Mimi Goodling
Bee & Chuck Goonrey
Lois Lehrman Grass
Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce & CREDC
Margaret Hathaway
Pete & Virginia Henning
Highmark Blue Shield
Dr. Anand Jagannath & Dr. Wendy Schaenen

Mountz Jewelers
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The Hall Foundation
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Weis Markets, Inc.
Douglas & Rebecca Wilburne
Debra Yates
Mary & Roy Zimmerman
Mrs. Richard A. Zimmerman

MIKW GALA TICKET DONORS

The Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra thanks those who purchased a Gala ticket to the Music in the Key of We Anniversary Celebration. The generosity of our donors keeps world-class symphonic music playing in Harrisburg.

Richard & Jeannie Ammon
Karen Diener Best
Barbara Bistline
Amy & Ted Black
Alison & Paul Coppock
Sue & Arthur Dym
Mr. & Mrs. S. Walter Foulkrod III
Ms. Margaret Fultz
Sue Ellen & Len Ganz
Mr. Robert Garrett
Carole Forkner Gibbons
Michael L. Greenwald

Greg & Lois Harris
Dan & Cheryl Hayward
Sandra S. Henry
Amy K. Huck
Elizabeth Jamieson
Dr. James & Sandra Jones
Marilyn & Kyle Kauffman
Margee Daniels Kooistra
Byron & Marilyn Koste
Jim & Linda Koval
Carolyn L. Kunkel
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Lisa Micheli

Dr. Bruce & Joan Miller
Phillip & Nancy Dering Mock
Dee & Joe Lewin
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Kathryn & David McCorkle
Mary Anne Morefield
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Marjorie M. Sherman
Pamela K. Inners & Mark S. Silver
Alan Teplis
Robert Ulin & Ann Parson
Pat Vance
Tom & Jane Waite
Bill Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J Warshinsky
Mrs. Jane Wilshusen

MIKW General Admission Ticket Donors continued on page 26

Education Outreach

One highlight of our 2020-2021 season was a new education collaboration between the HSO and Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts. This collaboration resulted in a series of Virtual Young Persons' Concert videos, each of which focused on STEAM content (Science, Technology, Education, Arts, and Math) paired with a performance by members of the HSO percussion section. One example included a comparison of the forms and patterns in music to the natural pattern of the rain cycle.



In keeping with the HSO's virtual Masterworks presentations, our **Welcome to the Concert** programs were presented in digital format for each Masterworks concert. While we missed gathering with our youngest concertgoers to learn about the music, our digital programs offered young listeners the opportunity to discover connections to classical music at an age-appropriate level.

Our new educational video series, **HSO Shorts**, presents musical concepts in short videos designed for young learners. This series lives on the HSO website and focuses on concepts such as orchestration, accents, and our favorite, theme and variation as compared to donuts!

WE CAN THINK OF THE **THEME** AS OUR PLAIN DONUT AND THE **VARIATIONS** AS DONUTS WITH DIFFERENT TOPPINGS AND FILLINGS.



MAIN THEME



VARIATION 2



VARIATION 3

The HSO Education Committee began work to reimagine both the education and community-focused work we do as we emerge from the pandemic with renewed focus. Details will be announced as plans for new and expanded programs are developed.



Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras

The Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras (HSYO) safely and successfully navigated Covid-19 realities to offer an in-person music-making experience for our student musicians throughout the school year.

For the 2020-2021 season, our HSYO program featured five ensembles and boasted 130 students. Students met in intimate, strings-only chamber orchestras and presented three professionally recorded, made-for-streaming concerts.

This year marked the first full season of our new Elementary String Orchestra (ESO) which performed on two virtual concerts. ESO offers students in grades three through five an opportunity to learn and perform in an ensemble setting and, for many young musicians, ESO will be their first orchestral experience. With the addition of ESO, the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestras' educational pipeline now reaches students in grades three through twelve.



A Conversation with the Maestro featuring Gregory Woodbridge and Madison Engle.

In May 2021, the HSO's new YouTube series **A Conversation with the Maestro** featured HSYO Music Director & HSO Associate Conductor, Gregory Woodbridge. Maestro Woodbridge talked about his role with HSYO, how we navigated the pandemic to continue making music in person, and his musical upbringing. The interview also included a portion of the HSYO Fall Concert and an interview with HSYO student musician Madison Engle!



Elementary String Orchestra, Fall Concert

Through the Eric Morris Mendlow Scholarship, HSYO continued its partnership with the Philadelphia International Music Festival (PIMF).

The Mendlow Scholarship allows one HSYO student to attend PIMF each summer. Congratulations to HSYO trumpeter Matthew Mailman, the 2021 recipient of the Mendlow Scholarship, who attended PIMF in June.



Education Director Mark Hunsberger with HSYO students, including Mendlow Scholarship winner Matthew Mailman, at the Philadelphia International Music Festival



Junior Youth String Orchestra, Fall Concert.



Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra, Fall Concert.

Message from Development



Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

Family...

Over the past year, we all have come to realize the importance of our families as we made our way through a pandemic and took stock of what is important to each one of us. Everyone has different priorities and various ideas of what a family is, but one thing is certain — many of you feel our symphony family is important to you.

In the past year, we also came to realize how vitally important our symphony family is to us and how much we missed seeing you at our concerts and events. But, while we couldn't come together as usual, we felt your presence in so many other ways...

Your gifts to the Symphony Fund helped keep us on stage with personal protective equipment and safety protocols for our musicians, staff, and crew. We recorded concerts and streamed them throughout the year to keep us close to the music and to each other.

Your gifts to the Symphony Fund also allowed the HSO to pay all of our rostered musicians, whether they played with us this season or not. You proudly stood by us during a time of great uncertainty, and we could not have done it without your generosity!

Your gifts to the Symphony Fund gave us the ability to be creative, leading to our YouTube series **A Conversation with the Maestro**. Thank you to everyone who tuned in! We are excited that this is a new offering that will stay with us post-pandemic!

Finally, your corporate partnerships and community sponsorship gifts helped support concert production expenses incurred throughout the year. The many grants we received also provided support to operations and our education department and youth orchestras.

Without all of us working together, the Harrisburg Symphony could not fulfill our mission of presenting inspiring symphonic performances and educational programs for audiences of all ages. Thank you for being part of our family!

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 season, we look forward to seeing you again, in person! It will be wonderful seeing our symphony family together again!


With gratitude,

Cheri
Cheri Comasco

Director of Development

Chris
Christina Stetler

Assistant Director of
Development

 *P.S. We invite you to join the **Da Capo Club** — a dedicated community of monthly donors who have made our mission a priority. In music, going back to the beginning (da capo), allows us to repeat a musical gesture or phrase with more meaning. By giving monthly, Da Capo Club donors reaffirm their support and increase their impact.*

Through automatic recurring donations, monthly givers enable the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra to plan with predictable income as we create exciting performances. To join our Da Capo Club, please visit harrisburgsymphony.org and click Give Now.







Financial Report

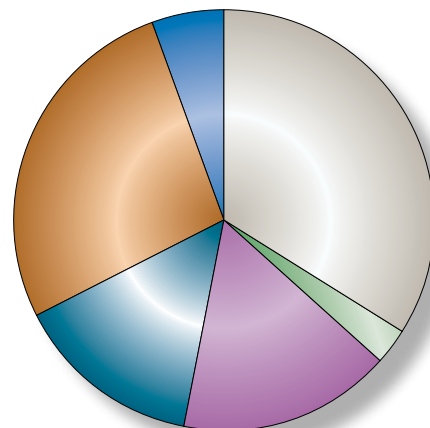
The 2020 – 2021 Annual Report of gifts acknowledges gifts to the Harrisburg Symphony Association over the past fiscal year.

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

What a year! We wish to thank our many donors, subscribers, businesses, foundations, and friends for their support of the HSO, as we create inspiring symphonic performances and educational programs for audiences of all ages.

Gifts to the HSO

	Symphony Fund	\$ 757,950
	Patron Ticket Donations	\$ 66,588
	Unrestricted MIKW Gala Ticket Donations & Sponsorships. . . .	\$ 365,650
	Grants & Concert Sponsorships	\$ 315,001
	Extraordinary Grants & Sponsorships	
	Covid-19 Relief Grants	\$ 98,090
	Government Other	\$ 500,000
	Bequests	\$ 121,610
	Total Giving for 2020 – 2021*	\$ 2,224,889
	Endowment and Investment Balances	\$ 9,500,000



**Please note: Any gift made after June 30, 2021 will be included in the 2021-2022 Annual Report.
This is an unaudited report as of July 25, 2021.*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Harrisburg Symphony Association presents inspiring symphonic performances by its orchestra and also provides educational programs for audiences of all ages, both of which foster an appreciation for and knowledge of music, thereby enriching the cultural life of Central Pennsylvania.

Legacy Society



"The HSO is a big-city orchestra bringing world-class sound to the small city of Harrisburg. A vibrant community needs a vibrant arts scene and the HSO is a big part of that scene. We want future generations to have the same wonderful experience we have enjoyed over the years. This past year, we learned to appreciate the HSO even more as it brought normalcy in abnormal times through their monthly virtual concerts. We thank Stuart, the musicians, and the whole HSO organization for helping to keep us sane while we experienced uncharted territory this past year."

Danielle Dersin and Ted Schellhammer

The Legacy Society honors the individuals, who through their planned and estate gifts, have made a significant commitment to the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. The symphony is grateful to those who remember our history, celebrate our present, and who have provided philanthropic support to ensure future generations will enjoy the orchestral music of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra.

A Friend (5)

Carole E. Anderson †
Karen Diener Best
Russell A. Bower †
Joan Frey Boytim
Melvin J. Brownold
Beth & Truman Bullard
Chris & Diane Carvell
Philip & Nancy Cerveny
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Florence M. Travitz †
Gregg L. Warner
James & Rebecca Weaver
Anne J. Yellott
Mrs. Richard A. Zimmerman

† deceased

"Melanie and I decided to name the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in our estate plan because we have been life-long supporters and attendees of the symphony. We receive great joy from the concerts we attend. We also feel the Harrisburg Symphony has been a cornerstone arts organization in Central Pennsylvania for over 90 years and we want the symphony to live on for many more years."

Fred and Melanie DePalma



Sincere gratitude is extended to our friends who have remembered the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in their estate plan. Your generosity will secure the future of the HSO. If you have named us in your estate plan and do not see your name on the list, please contact Cheri Comasco at 717-612-4964 so we may list you with our current members.



Celebrating 90 Years of HSO



“Why can’t we start an orchestra in this town?”

A simple question posed while sitting around a Harrisburg kitchen table by Jacques Jolas, a pianist from the Juilliard Foundation to Harrisburg native and Head of the Piano Department of the Harrisburg Conservatory of Music Alice Decevee Mitchell over 90 years ago.

With the help of symphony-loving volunteers, musicians, and community partners, the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra raised the curtain for the first time on Thursday, March 19, 1931 at William Penn High School. Our first performance featured music by Gluck, Schubert, Faure, Dvorak, and Sibelius led by conductor George King Raudenbush, which resulted in “cheers for the young conductor and the orchestra.”

There were sixty-eight musicians that first year, from all walks of life – businessmen, teachers, and homemakers who, believe it or not, were not paid for that first concert! (They

were paid fifty cents for the second concert.) In preparation for opening night, the musicians participated in twenty-five rehearsals and to round out the orchestra, some musicians even switched instruments to make sure every instrumental part was covered.

A ticket to the inaugural concert in 1931 was \$2.00 (\$33.72 today). As Mrs. Mary Barnum Bush Hauck, a volunteer, said, “I drove from house to house to sell a two-dollar ticket. Sometimes, at a home, I spent two hours explaining the orchestra. Later, several of these people joined the orchestra society.”

The foresight and energy of the HSO’s founders resonates through the years to today’s orchestra. Through the support of donors and corporate partners, and the leadership of the Board and staff, the HSO has grown from a community

orchestra to the world-class professional orchestra we know today, with 75 tenured musicians, over 24 concerts per season, three thriving youth orchestras, innovative educational and outreach initiatives, and a \$3,000,000 annual budget.

In March 2021, we celebrated our 90th birthday with a concert of brass and percussion program that included the HSO premiere of James Stephenson’s *Fanfare for Democracy* (written for the 2021 Presidential Inauguration) and Eric Ewazen’s *Symphony in Brass*, paired with favorites by Berlioz, Respighi and Shostakovich. Two of Dvorak’s *Slavonic Dances*, which were played on our own inaugural concert on March 19, 1931, rounded out the program.



Harrisburg Symphony Society
Presents



Saturday, April 30, 2022
6:00 – 10:00pm
The Willows at Ashcombe Mansion

Presenting Sponsor:

**Patricia and Rolen
Ferris**



Mansion Sponsor:

The Willows at Ashcombe Mansion

Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Call 717-612-4970
or email Karen Best: kdbest@pa.net

Harrisburg Symphony Society



Dear Friends,

We at the Symphony Society look back on the 2020-2021 season with extraordinary gratitude for your friendship and support. Together, we found new and creative ways to stay connected.

Last fall, we were excited to make new friends at our first Movie Night at the Ballpark. During the winter months, our specially designed Valentine's Day card offered members the opportunity to reach out to friends and family. Through these and other initiatives, the HSS welcomed more than 30 new Symphony Society members this season.

We also enhanced our social media presence and are now on Facebook and Instagram, so please 'like' and 'follow' the HSS. In addition, we invite you to stop by our recently renovated webpages on the HSO website for the most up-to-date information on future activities and upcoming events. Visit www.harrisburgsymphony.org and select Symphony Society.

Our quarterly e-Newsletter shifted to an entirely electronic format this year. This means members can easily access additional interesting HSS and HSO segments, like the **A Conversation With the Maestro**, simply by clicking on the links within the newsletter.

Using a few modifications unique to this season, we also provided Musician Hospitality, continuing this special tradition for which the Symphony Society is known. HSS volunteers

were on hand for Masterworks and Capital BlueCross Pops concert rehearsals to extend a snack and friendly welcome to the musicians during the virtual concert taping breaks at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

With optimism and hope, we look forward to gathering with you this fall for the Season Opening Reception on September 30, 2021, at the Susquehanna Art Museum, this year's host venue. We are trying something a little different this coming season and are celebrating on a Thursday evening, a few days before the opening weekend concerts. More details and ticket information for this sure-to-be-wonderful kick-off celebration will be available soon.

Be sure to grab your calendar and plan to join us for our next spring gala and fund-raiser in support of the HSO, "Return to Ashcombe Mansion." Check out page 14 for a sneak-peak on plans and to learn about your early opportunity for involvement.

On behalf of the HSS Board of Directors, thank you for being our friend in music.

Thank you kindly,


Amy Black
President

The HSS is pleased to honor Lois Lehrman Grass with the 2021 "Keep the Music Playing" Award.

Harrisburg Symphony Society

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A Conversation with the Maestro

The HSO embarked on an exciting new monthly project entitled **A Conversation with the Maestro** this year on YouTube! These conversations allowed us to connect on a more personal level, as we shared stories from behind the scenes with our new Executive Director Matthew Herren, our Music Director Stuart Malina, our Associate Conductor and HSYO Music Director Greg Woodbridge, and several of our world-class musicians. Here is a snippet of what we learned this year!

Matthew Herren – Executive Director

I'm very optimistic because of the people at the table here; because of the board and the staff and the musicians. We're all truly working together, as we always have.



Andreas Oeste – Principal Oboist

During my audition for the HSO, I remember that door opening and just kind of being shocked at how beautiful [the Forum] was. And I remember Sue Klick was guiding me and she actually got worried because I looked so shocked, but really I was just taken aback by the beauty of the hall.



Nicole Sharlow – Principal Second Violinist

I would say one of the things that makes Harrisburg unique is that we're all there staying and living together for the entire weekend that we come to play. The fact that we are able to stay in a hotel and be together allows us this opportunity to socialize together outside of rehearsal, which really just cements these friendships and relationships. And when you're friends with someone performing with you and you have this respect for them that's built both on professional experience and social experiences, it's just it's easier to play.



Peter Sirotin – Concertmaster

I think my audition was June of 1996. I got on a Greyhound bus because I didn't have my driver's license yet and came to Harrisburg and found it really charming. I saw the river and I thought, 'Oh this is a lovely place.' I very quickly made a lot of friends and just the atmosphere of this — the Central Pennsylvania area — I came to love it very quickly.



Sara Cyrus – Principal Horn

It really does feel maybe family is too strong a word, but there's so much camaraderie and it's a very supportive orchestra. I love coming here and playing with people from different parts of the East Coast: a lot of people from DC, and Baltimore, Philly, Boston. After rehearsals, sometimes the whole horn section will just stay a little longer and rehearse ourselves, just because we want it to sound better. That's just one of the things I love about playing here.



Peter Wilson – Principal Timpanist

Coming back and playing this season, I realized just how much I've missed the experience, the feeling of playing live with others, especially my colleagues in Harrisburg who are some of my favorite colleagues that I've ever worked with. I think that's one of the things that a lot of people would say about our orchestra is the friendships are really what makes the music making so joyful.



**Rebecca Kaufman –
Principal Harpist**

I think what sets us apart is the respect and the affection everybody has for one another. Not just the musicians, but the conductor, with management, with the board. Everybody works to make the Harrisburg Symphony a beautiful organization in Central Pennsylvania. I think it's respect. I really do.



**Adriana Linares –
Violist**

The Harrisburg Symphony is the only orchestra that I've consistently kept coming back to since I got the job. You start to develop relationships with players, with the conductor. I associate Harrisburg with going to see my friends. It is a place where people gather with their friends, make great music in a safe space, in a place of mutual respect. That's what it is to me: the music, the people, and the environment.



**Stuart Malina –
Music Director**

Our musicians always come to play, they always play hungry, they know they've got two shots on a weekend, and they want them both to be fantastic. They take this job personally...and that makes me so happy.



**Duane (Bassist) and
Karen (Piccolo) Botterbusch**

It's an investment in the community and it's being done right. It's a model, honestly. It's a model organization. It's networking and professional things that I mean I learn something new all the time from my buddies in the bass section. You're playing with friends; people who are supportive and who like being there. Everybody looks after one another and it is a family. I know you hear it a lot about the word family, but it really is that.



**Greg Woodbridge –
Associate Conductor and
HSYO Music Director**

People need music in their life so I'm very hopeful that once we are able to get back together in public I think, I really think it's going to take off.



You Tube

Subscribe to the HSO's YouTube channel and don't miss a single episode! To watch, go to www.YouTube.com, then search for Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. Select the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra page and click Subscribe. There is no cost affiliated with this subscription.



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Symphony Fund donors support the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra through donations, helping to provide the funds needed to meet the HSO's mission to present inspiring symphonic performances by its orchestra and also provide educational programs for audiences of all ages, both of which foster an appreciation for and knowledge of music, thereby enriching the cultural life of Central Pennsylvania. These gifts are vitally important to the continuing symphonic legacy of the HSO. Crescendo Club members indicated by ♪.

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We take great care to provide an accurate and complete Annual Report, and to acknowledge all who have financially supported the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra in the past year. If we omitted your name, please contact Cheri Comasco at ccomasco@harrisburgsymphony.org or call 717-612-4964 or Christina Stetler at cстетler@harrisburgsymphony.org or call 717-612-4962. We apologize in advance for any errors.

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The **Eric M. Mendlow Scholarship** is presented annually to a member of the Harrisburg Symphony Youth Orchestra, in memory of Eric M. Mendlow, by his parents, Mark & Jane Mendlow.



Ways to Give / Planned Giving

How to Give to the Harrisburg Symphony Association (HSA)

Aside from cash, checks and online (credit card) gifts, donations to the Harrisburg Symphony may be made in a variety of ways, many of which are tax-advantaged. Each gift, regardless of size, allows us to keep the music playing. Below are some additional ways to give.

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Donor avoids capital gains on appreciation of the stock and receives an immediate tax deduction. For outright gifts of appreciated long-term securities, deduction is equal to the fair market value of the securities on the date the donor relinquishes control of the assets to HSA. To donate stock simply provide the following information to your investment company and they will transfer your gift of stock to Harrisburg Symphony Association's brokerage account.

Brokerage Name: The Bryn Mawr Trust Company

Financial Advisor: Joseph Rogers 717-520-5645

Organization Name: Harrisburg Symphony Association

DTC#: 901

Account #: Please call Cheri Comasco at 717-612-4964 for the account number

Note: When you make a gift of stock to the symphony, your name is **not included** with the transfer information. Please contact the Development Office to notify us of your stock gift.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

If you are 70½ years of age or older, you can transfer directly from your IRA to HSA without realizing any taxable income. For those aged 72 and older, this charitable transfer can also **satisfy** your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

IRA GIFT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The SECURE Act of 2019 increased the age individuals must begin taking RMDs from their retirement savings from 70½ to 72.

- You may still make a gift from your IRA if you are 70½ years of age on the date of the gift. If you

are 70½ years of age or older (but under 72), any Qualified Charitable Distributions, though excluded from taxable income, may be included in calculating your future RMDs.

- Funds must be transferred directly to HSA from your IRA.
- Up to \$100,000 per individual may be contributed per year.
- You do not realize any taxable income on the transfer and cannot claim an income tax deduction for the gift.
- No goods or services may be received for your IRA donation.

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS (DAFs)

Donor Advised Funds are a type of giving program that allows you to combine the most favorable tax benefits with the flexibility to support your favorite charities easily. An increasingly popular charitable vehicle, DAFs are an excellent way to both simplify your charitable giving and facilitate your strategic philanthropic goals.

*Most often with DAFs we do not receive the name of the donor, so **please include your name** when using your DAF to make a gift to the HSA or notify us via email that your gift is coming from your DAF!

GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

Using life insurance to make a major gift is an option for donors who no longer need policies purchased some years ago. Donors may choose to assign their policies irrevocably to Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. In this case, they realize an immediate tax deduction in the amount of the policy's current value. The proceeds are not subject to estate taxes and the premiums are deductible for income tax purposes in the years in which they are paid.

In all cases, donors are advised to consult with their tax advisor and/or their financial advisor to determine specific tax savings and/or the planned giving opportunity which best fits their particular need. Please feel free to review more options on our webpage at: harrisburgsymphony.plannedgiving.org

Contact Cheri Comasco, Director of Development, at 717-612-4964 to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Harrisburg Symphony Association Tax ID number is: 23-1355180



Harrisburg Symphony Volunteers

The past year presented many challenges for the Harrisburg Symphony but recording concerts at Whitaker Center for streaming became a valuable way to share music and artistry. A few very dedicated volunteers shared their time, energy, and enthusiasm at each rehearsal and recording session, which gave us a unique opportunity to interact with the musicians and staff. We look forward to seeing each of you soon for a live performance this fall.

Shelly Bloom

Shelly Bloom,
Volunteer Coordinator



Rich and Deb King



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Harrisburg Symphony Volunteers

The Board and Staff of the HSO wish to thank our concert volunteers for their time and dedication. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Dearest HSO Patrons,

I am truly humbled by the unfaltering support you all have shown for the Symphony this past year.

When the pandemic struck, we, like many of you, were worried about what the future would hold. Would we weather the storm? No one knew.

In the beginning, I dreaded making disappointing calls to our patrons, but as I began to speak with you, one-on-one, our conversations were encouraging and uplifting. When I asked if you would like your season tickets refunded, so many of you replied, "Can I just donate that purchase to the Symphony?" Others said, "Let's put it towards next season," and some even asked "How can I help more?"

You all made my heart play a song of joy.

We, the staff, and board of directors, put our heads together with the singular goal of providing the Symphony experience that our patrons love, in a fashion that was "pandemic-safe".

And so, together, we all learned how to organize, perform, record, present, and enjoy virtual concerts on the Internet. This was no small feat, and honestly, I was as apprehensive about watching and listening to a concert on my computer as many of you were.

Yet, we did it! And, we did it well.

I lost count of the number of near-frantic calls and emails pouring in just before the concerts began, but we resolved every challenge together. I believe we successfully guided every patron, who wanted to enjoy the virtual concert, through the steps to access the broadcast on their

computers, tablets, and phones. Kudos to each and every one of you who stretched your tech-savviness to new lengths! I know I did.

I will forever cherish your thunderous accolades that poured in during each concert while Stuart and the musicians embraced and carried us on their musical journey once again.

While the last year has been nearly intolerable for all of us; from self-isolation to the loss of so many loved ones, somehow, we have endured, even grown, and certainly become more of a family than ever before.

We at the HSO, and myself, want you to know that the heartfelt communications and conversations we have had with you, gave us the strength to move forward each day, and the motivation to forge new ways to share the joy of the symphony experience with you.

I am elated by your kindness, grateful for your continued support, and privileged to know so many of you on a very personal level. We are fortunate to have such an incredible, loving, and caring family of patrons.

As we look forward to resuming live performances this fall, I genuinely hope you will continue to share your stories and life events with us, as they are the connections our board, staff, musicians, and volunteers have so gratefully enjoyed during these tough times.

Warmest Regards,



Gloria Giambalvo

Director of Sales and Marketing



Harrisburg Symphony Association

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2020-2021 Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

Stuart Malina

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Gregory Woodbridge

Associate Conductor

First Violin

Peter Sirotn, Concertmaster

Frank M. Masters, Jr. Chair

Dawn Wohn, Associate

Concertmaster

Tallie Brunfelt,

Assistant Concertmaster

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Ang Cheng

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Second Violin

Nicole Sharlow, Principal

*Randy & Ginny Aires Chair**

Justin Gopal, Assistant Principal

Clifford Bernzweig

Patrick Desrosiers

Gabriel Meza

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Rachel Schenker

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Lisa Welty

Sarah Zun

Viola

Julius Wirth, Principal

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Katie Overfield-Zook,

Assistant Principal

Alice Bish

Marjorie Goldberg

Adriana Linares

Joshua Lohner

Yoshihiko Nakano

Petula Perdakis

Rebecca Rothermel

Derek Smith

Cello

Fiona Thompson, Principal

Dr. & Mrs. William Kanenson
*Chair**

Igor Zubkovsky, Assistant

Principal

Jennifer DeVore

Jonathan Fink

Elyssa Gilmar

Naomi Gray

Erik Jacobson

Sheldon Lentz

Daniel Pereira

Todd Thiel

Bass

Devin Howell, Principal

Lena Goodson, Assistant

Principal

Duane Botterbusch

Charles Breaux

Paul Klinefelter

Peter Paulsen

Flute

David DiGiacobbe, Principal

In Memory of David A. Elias, Jr.
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Karen Botterbusch

Piccolo

Karen Botterbusch

Oboe

Andreas Oeste, Principal

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Richard Basehore

English horn

Richard Basehore

Clarinet

Janine Thomas, Principal

Dr. & Mrs. William M. Murray
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Linda Farrell

Bassoon

Joseph Grimmer, Principal

Darryl Hartshorne

Richard Spittel

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Richard Spittel

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Sara Cyrus, Principal

Leise Ballou

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David Byrd-Marrow

Trumpet

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Trombone

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Harrisburg Symphony Society
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Timpani

Peter Wilson, Principal

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Percussion

Christopher Rose, Principal

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*Rodney J. Sawatsky**

Adrian Stefanescu

Barry Dove

Harp

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Keyboard

Theresa Klinefelter, Principal

Ronald & Marjorie Katzman
*Chair**

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Gregory Woodbridge

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