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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bringing Classical Music to Life:
Young Composers: Be Inspired!
Audience Invited to Give Feedback on Guest Conductor**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) presents, “Young Composers: Be Inspired!,” on Saturday, February 4 at 7:30pm and Sunday, February 5 at 3pm.

Presented with season partner Cimarron Wealth Management and concert partner Montrose Regional Health, performances celebrating the composer’s journey will be held at the Montrose Pavilion and feature both the orchestra and chorus.

A regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization in its 51st year, is in the midst of a search for their next orchestra conductor.

One of three finalists for the position, guest conductor Charlotte Ruth Harrison of Orem Utah will kick off the concert with a creative presentation of movements from the first symphonies of classical heroes Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Bizet, and Glazunov.

"I am delighted to join the VSA Orchestra and Chorus to explore and celebrate music from young and growing composers," Harrison said. "Whether you are coming to extend your knowledge of classical and contemporary music, or to enjoy a night of beautiful melodies, this will be a concert you won't want to miss."

The chorus will give the audience a window into the contemporary composer's journey from a trio of young Western Slope composers who each have written compositions especially for this concert. Katy Kristoffersen is in her second year as the VSA Chorus conductor. "As an added feature to this unique and inspiring concert, we will invite a willing, young audience member to the stage to interactively create and build a composition with members of the orchestra and chorus—live!" Kristoffersen said.

Over 100 musicians ranging in age from teens to octogenarians share the stage for the VSA's quarterly concerts this season. "Our concerts appeal to all ages, and we're comprised of your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow citizens from throughout the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys, who volunteer their time and talent to produce concerts we are truly proud to present," VSA Board President Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., said. "It's so rare and special that we on the Western Slope have access to classical music through the VSA."

Audience input will be gathered as part of the conductor selection process immediately following each performance. (Troy Raper guest conducted the December concerts, and Steven Aguiló-Arbues from Denver will conduct the April concerts.) Feedback will be compiled to help the committee reach a decision in May, when they expect to announce the new conductor.

Audience members who complete a guest conductor survey at any of the December, February, or April concerts will be entered into a drawing for a beautiful hand painted violin by local artist and VSA Chorus Member Kaitlynn Hurford.

For information, upcoming concerts, tickets, and the audition process, visit the VSA on Facebook @ValleySymphonyAssociation and online

at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets are also available in Delta at Clubb's (502 Main St), in Montrose at Colorado Smiles (601 S 3rd St) and at season partner Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd), and at the door on event days. Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or info@ValleySymphony.net.

About the Valley Symphony Association

Bringing classical music to life since 1970, the Valley Symphony Association has culturally enriched the community and its members by bringing together some of the best volunteer musicians of all ages from the North Fork, Grand, and Uncompahgre Valleys and throughout the Western Slope to discover and perform works of great composers, past and present. Concerts range from classical orchestral to upbeat pops, from purely instrumental to purely choral, to a combination of both.

About Season Partner Cimarron Wealth Management

We strive to simplify your financial life and give you confidence about your future so you can focus on your passions. It starts with the foundation of investment, estate and tax planning discussions, but our passion is honest conversations about purpose, legacy and generosity.

About Concert Partner Montrose Regional Health

Montrose Regional Health is a 501(c)3 nonprofit healthcare system serving Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, Gunnison, Delta, Hinsdale and San Juan counties. The hospital is licensed for 75-beds and offers an extensive range of inpatient & outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Acute Rehabilitation Unit, advanced respiratory & pulmonary services, and the family birthing center. The health system has a reputation for acquiring the latest technologies in healthcare, from robotic assisted surgical services to UVC-disinfection technology. Montrose Regional Health is the second-largest employer in Montrose County, with more than 700 employees and 100 providers who represent 23 medical

specialties. With a tagline that reads *Caring for you like family*, the health system is known for its warm patient care.