



Contact: Stacey Ryan  
[StaceyVSA@gmail.com](mailto:StaceyVSA@gmail.com) 970-250-2440  
PO Box 3144, Montrose, CO 81402  
ValleySymphony.net

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## **Bringing Classical Music to Life: Drawing of a One-of-a-Kind Artwork to Encourage Audience Participation With Orchestra Conductor Selection Process**

Montrose, CO –The Valley Symphony Association orchestra conductor search committee recently announced that they have narrowed the field of finalists from throughout the US and Europe to three individuals: Troy Raper from Grand Junction CO, Charlotte Ruth Harrison from Orem UT, and Steven Aguiló-Arbues from Denver CO.

Each finalist will guest conduct the orchestra at one of the two-concert performances in December (Raper), February (Harrison), and April (Aguiló Arbues).

Part of the selection process will be encouraging audience input about each guest conductor immediately following each performance. Feedback will be compiled to help the committee reach a decision in May, when they expect to announce the new conductor.

“We hope people will be excited to attend all three shows and participate in this important process,” VSA Board President Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., said. “This decision is a vital one—one that will help us continue to bring classical music to life on the Western Slope.”

As an incentive to participate, a beautiful hand painted violin will be awarded as the prize in a drawing that will highlight the orchestra conductor search. Audience members who complete a guest conductor survey at any of the December, February, and April concerts will be entered into the drawing that will take place at the final April concert.

The artist is professional painter and VSA Chorus member Kaitlynn Hurford. Beyond volunteering her musical talents as a VSA performer, “She has generously offered her artistic talents by painting a violin that is the focus of our season-long conductor search,” Clubb said. For inspiration, she’s using the colors and imagery from the VSA’s four season 51 concerts and brochure. Hurford has an upcoming show in July 2023 at the Montrose Center for Arts (11 S Park Ave), and her prints are available for purchase in Montrose at Mosaic (21 N Cascade Ave).

“We’re so grateful to Kaitlynn for sharing her musical and artistic gifts with the VSA,” Clubb said. “Witnessing her on-going process and watching the violin develop over the next few months will be inspirational and great fun.” Follow the VSA on Facebook and on their website to see the progress of this unique piece of art.

Founded in 1970, the VSA supports volunteer musicians of all ages and walks of life who hail from throughout the Western Slope, including the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys. The VSA's Season 51 launched in September and introduced a new performance schedule of quarterly concerts, with both the orchestra and chorus performing at all concerts. Finalists will each guest conduct one of the remaining concerts in December, February, and April. This season each concert includes both a Saturday and Sunday performance at the Montrose Pavilion. The VSA chorus is under the baton of Katy Kristoffersen, in her second year as chorus conductor.

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.