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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bringing Classical Music to Life: Christmas by Candlelight: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) presents, “Christmas by Candlelight: ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas,” on Friday, December 15 at 7pm and Saturday, December 16 at 6:30pm at the Montrose Pavilion.

Performances by the VSA Orchestra and Chorus will celebrate the sounds of the season and will include a dramatic reading of, “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas” by Magic Circle Players Gary Hokit and Patti Scriffiny. Concerts are presented in partnership with season co-partners Cimarron Wealth Management and the David Mize Family along with concert partner BMO (formerly Bank of the West).

The VSA is a regional all-volunteer performing arts organization in its 52nd season. From high schoolers to retirees, musicians from all ages and walks of life hail from throughout the Uncompahgre, Grand, Gunnison, and North Fork Valleys and come together to bring classical music to life on the Western Slope.

“We are very thankful to have the opportunity to support the VSA and the great things they do for the community,” BMO Montrose Bank Manager Tammy L. Oldson said. “The VSA brings immeasurable value to the community, and to be a small part of that is such a blessing.”

Music Director and Orchestra Conductor Troy Raper is in his first season with the VSA. “Christmas music is the elixir that spreads pure joy no matter where you are,” Raper said. “I love that holiday music can have such a deep resonance with everyone. No one is immune to the joy that infuses them when holiday music reaches their ears!”

Katy Kristoffersen is in her third year as the VSA Chorus conductor. “This concert is a reflection of the meaning of the Christmas spirit as it is felt in the minds and hearts of some of the best composers of our time,” Kristoffersen said. “The chorus immediately connected to this music, as did I. It has been an honor for us to work, rehearse, feel, and reflect on these pieces. We are proud to offer the most meaningful musical experience possible to our beloved audience.”

“Our concerts appeal to all ages, and our musician members are your friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow citizens from throughout the region, 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. Please join us to see and hear what we're all about!"

For information, visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation or at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets for all season 52 concerts at the Montrose Pavilion are also available online; in Delta at Clubb's (417 Main St); and in Montrose at season co-partner Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd) and Colorado Smiles (601 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or [info@ValleySymphony.net](mailto:info@ValleySymphony.net).

### **About the Valley Symphony Association**

Since 1970, the Valley Symphony Association has culturally enriched the community and its members by bringing together some of the best volunteer musicians from the Uncompahgre, North Fork, Gunnison, and Grand Valleys to discover and present works of great composers, past and present. Performances range from classical orchestral to upbeat pop, from purely instrumental to purely choral, to a combination of both.

Our goal is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the legacy of live orchestral and choral music that so magnificently celebrates the human spirit.

### **About Our Season Co-Partners**

**Cimarron Wealth Management** strives 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.

"In a world that is increasingly digital and distant, there is something extraordinarily special about bringing community together for a common purpose, and for over 52 years, the VSA has been at the center of this effort," Michael Murphy, wealth advisor with CWM, said. "The VSA enriches the community with live music; they give a diverse group of musicians an outlet for creating art and beauty; and they remain dedicated to passing on musical traditions to future generations. We will be cheering them on at each concert this year, and we hope you will, too."

**The David Mize Family** has quietly and generously supported all types of Western Slope non-profit organizations for decades and is a longstanding donor to the VSA.

### **About Concert Partner BMO**

BMO's purpose, to **Boldly Grow the Good in *business and life***, informs our strategy, drives our ambition, and reinforces our commitment to double the good. It's how we are driving progress for our colleagues, customers, and communities. We deliver value far beyond the bottom line. Working together with our customers, our employees, and our communities, we look for opportunities to accelerate positive change, united in the belief that success can be mutual. It starts with living up to our values of integrity, empathy, diversity and responsibility in every decision and every action. We're focused on building, investing and transforming how we work to drive performance, because the stronger we perform, the more good we're able to grow for our customers, clients and communities. Helping customers make real financial progress, and financing clients' growth and innovation. Investing in the future-readiness of our workforce, and leading efforts for a thriving economy, a more sustainable future, and an inclusive society.