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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bringing Classical Music to Life: VSA Announces Orchestra Guest Conductor for February “Young Composers: Be Inspired!” Concerts**

Montrose, CO –The Valley Symphony Association is delighted to announce that Charlotte Ruth Harrison of Orem Utah will guest conduct the orchestra at their winter concerts at the Montrose Pavilion on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 3pm. Performances will feature both the orchestra and chorus. Katy Kristoffersen is in her second year as the VSA Chorus conductor. The concert partner is Montrose Regional Health, and the concert theme is, *Young Composers: Be Inspired!*

“We’re excited to welcome Charlotte as our orchestra guest conductor for the February concerts,” VSA President Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., said.

Born and raised in Utah, Harrison studied oboe performance with Dr. GERALYN GIOVANNETTI at Brigham Young University and graduated *magna cum laude*. She earned a master of music specializing in orchestral conducting from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) under the tutelage of Dr. Clifton Evans. She is an active conductor, oboist, educator, singer, and pianist. Her musical studies have spanned genres and ensemble types including Baroque, classical, contemporary, jazz, chorale, and more.

“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.”

Most recently, Harrison held the position of assistant conductor and librarian for the UTA Symphony Orchestra from 2020-2022. Before this she conducted the BYU Group for New Music from fall 2019 to spring 2020. She has also guest conducted several community orchestra rehearsals including the Utah Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Texas Symphony Orchestra. Harrison has also had the privilege of working with many of the country’s finest conducting educators in masterclasses including Marin Alsop, Dianne Wittry, John Farrer, Edward Cumming, Mark Laycock, Dirk Brosse, and Salvatore DiVittorio. She was chosen as one of two finalists for the Respighi prize in conducting at the New York Conducting Workshop and conducted the Chamber Orchestra of New York in their Memorial Day concert in May 2022.

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 VSA conductor search committee reach a decision in May, when they expect to announce the new conductor.

“We hope people will be eager to 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 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. Founded in 1970, the VSA is celebrating their 51<sup>st</sup> season. This year, the VSA rolled out a new performance schedule with quarterly concerts that started in September. Their annual *Christmas by Candlelight* concerts were held the first weekend in December to sell-out crowds. Upcoming concerts are slated for February (4 and 5) and April (22 and 23), and both the orchestra and chorus will perform at all four concerts.

For information, news on the 2022-2023 season, the audition process, and tickets, visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation or at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets are available in Delta at Clubb’s (502 Main St) and in Montrose at Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd) and Colorado Smiles (601 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-275-8676 or info@ValleySymphony.net.

#### **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 and outpatient health care services, including cardiology, oncology, minimally invasive surgery, laboratory, medical imaging/radiology, Mountain View Therapy, Level III Trauma Center, Acute Rehabilitation Unit, advanced respiratory and 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.