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Bringing Classical Music to Life

Welcome to Our Landmark 50th Jubilee Season

50th
2021-22
SEASON

Where were you in 1970? Back then, the population of Montrose County was just 18,750 people. It seems that the soaring majesty of the mountains, jewel blue lakes, and hidden green meadows called to people with music in their souls, and so the Valley Symphony Orchestra was born.

For the 50 years since our founding, volunteer musicians from all over the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys have been gathering, and we have been growing. Our 50th is an opportunity to celebrate this milestone and thank everyone who has supported our efforts since 1970.

Reaching our jubilee season makes me reflective and grateful to an organization that has given me so much. While a member of the trumpet section in the 80s, I met my wife through an introduction by current VSA principal trumpet Dave Reddish. In 2004, I joined the VSA Chorus to give back musically, and in 2010 I joined the board to contribute civically. I'm proud to lead the organization into its landmark 50th season as the board president.

We have expanded our concert series and we want to grow our audience, gathering people of all ages together to listen to the VSA bring classical music to life. Our musicians are excited to perform again for appreciative audiences.

Having a regional all-volunteer arts organization like the VSA is a rare and special thing for a community. So many people, businesses, and organizations have supported our efforts, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all for keeping us in the music-making business for 50 years.

We invite anyone interested in supporting the VSA either financially or by volunteering to contact us. We look forward to a great 50th year celebrating both our history and our bright future.

Hartland H. Clubb, Jr. with *Priscilla Fry* (2008) and *Brenda Anderson* (2018)
VSA Board President VSA Board Members



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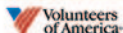
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Sunday | Montrose Riverbottom Park | Food Trucks Available



Christmas on Broadway and Film

SAT DEC 4, 2021 | 7:30PM

SUN DEC 5, 2021 | 3PM

ORCHESTRA & CHORUS



Can you dig it? VSA chorus sings the 70s

SUN MAR 27, 2022 | 3PM

CHORUS

Celebrating Our
50th 2021-22
SEASON



Music from the beloved Disney movie Fantasia!

SAT OCT 23, 2021 | 7:30PM

SUN OCT 24, 2021 | 3PM

ORCHESTRA



Musical storytelling that spans periods and emotions

SUN FEB 27, 2022 | 3PM

ORCHESTRA



Dancing through time, featuring live performances

SAT APR 23, 2022 | 7:30PM

SUN APR 24, 2022 | 3PM

ORCHESTRA



MIKE KERN **Orchestra Conductor**

Michael Kern has conducted the VSA Orchestra since 1993. He is a graduate of Butler University (located in Indianapolis, IN) with a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in music composition. At Butler, he studied jazz string bass with David Baker, nationally-known jazz educator and head of the Indiana University School of Jazz.

Kern played string bass and electric bass guitar professionally for many years in all genres, from polka bands to jazz ensembles to symphony orchestras. He

has performed with with Marvin Gaye, Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery, Doc Severinson, and Buddy DeFranco.

During the summer of 2001, Kern attended the prestigious International Workshop for Conductors in Kromeriz, Czech Republic. Formed by Dr. Harry Hurwitz of the University of Toronto and Artistic Director Maestro Kirk Trevor, the workshop offers musicians opportunities to gain experience rehearsing and conducting professional full orchestras. During an intensive two-week period, attendees prepare six major orchestral works for performance with the Bohuslov Martinu Philharmonic of Zlin, Czech Republic, which partnered with the workshop.

Kern is currently the regular bassist with Take Five, a Western Slope jazz and blues group, and plays in other small ensembles as opportunities arise. He is retired from teaching instrumental and vocal music in public schools.



KATY KRISTOFFERSEN **Chorus Conductor**

Katy Kristoffersen's 20 years of experience in coaching and teaching are backed by undergraduate and master's degrees in music education. Since 2010, Kristoffersen has expanded her practice into mindfulness coaching and loves to incorporate these techniques into all areas of teaching. "Mindfulness is a multi-faceted, dynamic practice that can elevate every part of our day-to-day life."

She's been pleasantly surprised to discover how effectively she's been able to integrate a mindfulness practice into her experiences as musician, director, and collaborator. Her intuitive approach for composing, arranging, playing piano, and singing, facilitate her desire to make music accessible and fun for all. "Music is fundamentally about joy, and I look forward to being a part of the joy the VSA brings to our communities."

ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Conductor

Michael Kern (Ouray)
***Mark & Nora Kniskern*

Concertmaster

Debra TenNapel (Montrose)
***The Houlihan-Perryman-TenNapel Families*

Violin 1

Kay Woods (Paonia)
Stephanie Helleckson (Paonia)
Chris O'Leary (Ouray)
Hannah Wieder (Montrose)
Olivia Lindsay (Cedaredge)
Chase Houck (Grand Junction)
Djo Lowell (Cedaredge)
Laurie Fowler (Ridgway)
***Dr. Mary Kleinsorge, DC*

Violin 2

Nora Kniskern (Delta)*
Rachael King (Austin)
Emma Gomez (Montrose)
Naomi Lee (Montrose)
Dawnell Cook (Montrose)
Julie Martensen (Montrose)
Talitha Costello (Grand Junction)
Lois Drysdale (Delta)
Maggie Cline (Olathe)
Tasha Pratt (Montrose)
Vince Farnsworth (Montrose)
***San Juan Foot & Ankle Center*

Viola

Anwen Borgo (Montrose)*
Dan Lamar (Montrose)
Barb Kremiski (Grand Junction)
Carly Willey (Montrose)
Carter Smith (Grand Junction)
***Bill Starnes*

Cello

Martha Ditto (Delta)*
Beth Pertz (Delta)
Mary Novak (Grand Junction)
Esther Alsum (Paonia)
Brent Helleckson (Paonia)
***Mary Novak*
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Contrabass

Mike Kristoffersen (Ridgway)
Laura Payne (Placerville)
***Welcome Western Colorado*

Flute/Piccolo

Kathryn Kubinyi (Ouray)*
Edie Burgess (Eckert)
Desiree Simler (Delta)
***Kathryn Kubinyi Family & Friends*

Clarinet

Holly Burgess (Montrose)*
Stacey Ryan (Montrose)
***Glen Hast*
***Rounds & Brooks CPAs PC*

Bass Clarinet

Karla Miller (Palisade)

Bassoon

Carol Franklin (Grand Junction)*
Toru Arisawa (Grand Junction)
***Ramona Good*

French Horn

Monica Phillips (Montrose)*
Sheri Williams (Cedaredge)
Clint Miller (Palisade)
Susan Conrad (Ouray)
***Marble Roots, LLC*

Trumpet

Dave Reddish (Montrose)*
Kendra Sitton (Montrose)
***Vectra Bank*

Trombone

Cindy Swanson (Montrose)*
Leda Stinson (Delta)
Christian Pffretzschner (Grand Junction)
***Avis Rental Car*

Tuba

Gary Miller (Ouray)
***Annie Lindsey*

Timpani

Anne Clayton (Delta)

Percussion 🎵

Andrew Bruington (Delta)
***Dr. Mary Vader*

Piano/Keyboard 🎹

Anne Koehler (Montrose)
***Roger Whitehouse*

* *Denotes principal chair*

** *Denotes section underwriter*

🎵 *Denotes section not playing in this concert*

INDIVIDUAL MUSICIAN UNDERWRITERS

Violin

Debra TenNapel, Concertmaster
**Donnin Custer & Eunice Acker*
Rachael King
**Raymond James Financial Services -
Toby King*

Viola

Borgo Anwen
**Montrose Regional Health*

Cello

Beth Pertz
**C&N Storage and David Pertz*
Martha Ditto
**Anonymous*



Clarinet

Holly Burgess
**Glen Hast*
Stacey Ryan
**Seth Ryan, Jim & Eleanor Ennis,
Alexander Orthodontics*

Bassoon

Carol Franklin
**Anonymous*

Timpani

Anne Clayton
**The George Miller Family*

Keyboard

Anne Koehler
**Amie Middleton*

**denotes individual musician/chair
underwriter*

OUR STORY

In 1970 a small group of classical musicians met in the parlor of Wilma and Charles Lowe's Eckert home. By 1982, there were 30 musicians practicing once a week in Delta and performing four annual concerts. Over the years, the group has progressed, growing in size and musical ability.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Grand Mesa Singers and the Christmas in the Valley Chorus, were seasonal contributors, mainly at Christmas concerts. In 2002, these choral groups combined, and the Valley Symphony Orchestra (VSO) became the Valley Symphony Association (VSA) to include both orchestra and chorus.

Since then, the groups each present their own performances and team up for the traditional Christmas concerts, all of which comprise the VSA's seasonal subscription of October through April concerts performed at the Montrose Pavilion.

Today, the VSA's 60+ instrumentalists and 35+ vocalists hail from throughout the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys. Together, VSA musicians kickoff each season in early September with free Pops in the Park concerts in Cedaredge and Montrose. These outdoor shows are a gift to the regional community that supports the all-volunteer performing arts organization.

The VSA takes pride in their history of bringing classical music to life on the Western Slope, their commitment to keeping classical music vital, and their goal of building future audiences.

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SCENES FROM OUR POPS IN THE PARK CONCERTS





DEBRA TENNAPEL

Concertmaster

Concertmaster Debra TenNapel presides as both concertmaster for the VSA Orchestra and conductor of the Valley Youth Orchestras (VYO).

She began playing at age nine and began more serious musical studies at ten under the tutelage of Elizabeth Kidwell, eventually earning regional and national youth-level recognition before joining Northern California's Modesto Symphony Orchestra as a teen. She continued her studies under Mutzuko

Cooper and Warren VanBronkhurst within the California State University system, earning a bachelor's degree in violin performance from CSU-Stanislaus in 1990.

Debra toured the former Soviet Union on a musical exchange, performed at Carnegie Hall while leading a youth symphony tour through New York City, and is in demand as both a performer and instructor. In addition to her work with the VSA and VYO, she performs with the Grand Junction Symphony and Grand Junction Rockestra when she can, all while operating a large private violin studio and solo/chamber offerings through her Cedar Strings ensemble.

A California native, Debra relocated with her family to Colorado's Western Slope in 2005 and joined the VSA Orchestra as concertmaster. In her spare time Debra loves staying active by swimming and gardening, and loves reading a good book when time allows. She and husband, James, have three children, Jacob, Kendra, and Julia, and live in Montrose on a small ranch.

“The presence of an orchestra is often an indicator of a community’s economic and cultural strength, as communities with orchestras tend to draw volunteers, voters, philanthropists, and other active civic-minded participants.”

- League of American Orchestras, 2015



What is a concertmaster?

The concertmaster is the principal or “first chair” violinist who leads the orchestra in its tuning prior to the concert and customarily plays all violin solos within pieces. The concertmaster also marks the orchestra’s scores with the appropriate bowings to ensure all the violinists are moving and playing in unison, offers suggestions to other string sections, and translates instructions from the conductor into specific technical language for strings.

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FANTASTIC FANTASIA : A SPOOKTACULAR CONCERT PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Symphony No. 6 in F Major op. 68 "Pastorale"

1. Awakening a Cheerful Feeling Upon Arrival in the Country
2. Scene by the Brook
3. Merry Gathering of Country Folk
4. Storm
5. Shepherd's Song: Happy and Thankful Feelings After the Storm

Intermission

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)

Night on Bald Mountain

Orchestrated by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Edited by Carl Simpson

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The Nutcracker

Three Dances

Dance of the Sugar-plum Fairy

Chinese Dance

Waltz of the Flowers

Edited by Clark McAlister

Paul Dukas (1865-1935)

Themes from

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Arranged by Jim Higgins

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

The Nutcracker

Three Dances

March

Toy Flutes

Russian Dance

Edited by Clark McAlister



PROGRAM NOTES

A Meld of Music and Magic



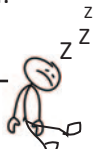
The music for our October program comes from Disney's animated feature film *Fantasia*, first released in 1940. The idea for *Fantasia* began to crystallize in 1937 after Walt Disney had a chance encounter with the conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski. Disney pitched an animated short film paired with music to the famed conductor, and he loved the idea.

Stokowski was literally a superstar in the classical music world. The Maestro was renowned for his masterful recordings and radio appearances from the late 1910s onward. He was featured on the April 28, 1930, cover of Time magazine (and again in the November 18, 1940, issue as the conductor of *Fantasia*). With his intense countenance, commanding stature, and wild mane of hair, Stokowski was—and still is—the very image of what many people envisioned for a long-haired, frenetic conductor.

Stokowski was a pioneer in sound recording and was the impetus behind Disney's creation of a special sound system for *Fantasia* they called *Fantasound*, to raise live sound sensations of a concert hall to even greater heights. Disney was famous for encouraging his directors to use all types of inspiration to help animators create their magic. Director Wilfred Jackson brought in horror movie great Bela Lugosi to inspire and create the character Chernabog in the "Night on Bald Mountain" sequence. Irina Baronova of the American Ballet Theatre danced for Disney artists to help inspire the dancing ostrich in the "Dance of the Hours" segment.

Fantasia earned two Academy Award honors. In 1942, the Board of Governors voted to present the revolutionary motion-picture-and-music meld two special awards. The first award went to Disney and the developers of *Fantasound* for "outstanding contribution to the advancement for the use of sound in motion pictures through the production of *Fantasia*." The second award was presented to Stokowski "...and his associates for their unique achievement in the creation of a new form of visualized music in Walt Disney's production of *Fantasia*, thereby widening the scope of the motion picture as an art form."

Fantasia, while acclaimed by critics, was extremely expensive to produce, since Disney also invented the *Fantasound* equipment for the highest fidelity to accompany the film. Released during WWII, no distribution was possible in the European markets, so it wasn't until the 1960s, when the counterculture of the day embraced the film's trippy imagery, that the film became truly popular.





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FEATURED MUSICIANS The Hellecksons

In 1994, the Hellecksons fled the Front Range of Colorado in search of a more rural lifestyle. They purchased a small vineyard near Paonia, built a small stone cottage, and started what would become the Stone Cottage Cellars winery.

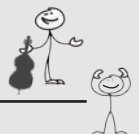


Jacob, Stephanie, Karen, and Brent

The Helleckson-VSA connection began a few years later, in early 2000, when seven-year-old Stephanie played violin in the second half of the Valley Youth Orchestra's inaugural season at the Lamborn Valley School in Paonia. Five years later, Jacob also joined the VYO as a cellist. Brent was soon recruited as a VYO cellist mentor, and Karen became president of the VYO Board, completing the Helleckson family immersion. They continued their VYO involvement until 2009, when they graduated to the VSA Orchestra. The family has also collectively sung with the VSA Chorus a few times. Despite the changes of nearly 22 years, the VSA has remained a constant staple in the Helleckson's lives.

Stephanie played in the VSA Orchestra from spring 2009 until fall 2010, when she left to obtain bachelor degrees in music and anthropology at CU Boulder, playing in the campus orchestra throughout her degree. She returned to the VSA Orchestra briefly for the 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 seasons, which bookended a year in Hawaii, playing as a stand partner with her first violin teacher and VYO founder, Lu Vorys, for Lu's final season. In 2017, she moved to Florida to obtain her master's degree in music administration and choral conducting, before returning to Colorado and the VSA Orchestra in 2019. She also teaches violin and voice lessons in the Paonia area and is teaching violin classes at the North Fork School of Integrated Studies using the same violins Lu used to teach her.

Jacob similarly played with the VSA Orchestra from spring 2009 until he left for college in the fall of 2013. He continued to play cello in the campus orchestra while he obtained his bachelor's degree in marketing from CU Boulder. Following graduation, he remained in Boulder working for marketing agency Sterling Rice Group (SRG) and playing cello at friends' weddings. The 2020 pandemic inspired SRG to become a permanently remote operation, so Jacob moved back to Paonia to be closer to family and save for his first house. This is his first season playing with the VSA Orchestra in seven years.



FEATURED MUSICIANS



Brent has steadfastly performed in every VSA season since 2009 while juggling a growing wine business, environmental activism, and various community improvement projects. Having taken lessons in both violin and cello with his kids, he decided that the cello was better suited to the size of his hands. Brent continues to play, making good on the condition under which he and Karen paid for their children's lessons: every year, they return home and play Christmas carols together. Thursday night VSA Orchestra rehearsals have become his most carefully defended personal time, which he happily shares with his children whenever they are in the area long enough to play a concert or season.

In 2009, Karen retired from the VVO Board and now happily assumes the roles of audience member and pie baker. She enjoys Thursday nights when the house in Paonia is quiet, often using the personal time to practice piano or take walks with friends. She has attended almost every VSA concert since 2009, and frequently brings a Paonia contingent along.

For the Helleckson's, music is a lifelong family affair, and the VSA gives them a regular excuse to play and experience music together. Their favorite part is rehashing Thursday night rehearsals and every performance in musician geek-speak during the car rides back to the stone cottage.

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IN MEMORIAM

Keith Krickbaum

Keith was born November 3, 1936, in Scottsbluff, NB, to Lloyd and Rachel Krickbaum. He completed high school in 1955 and in 1957 graduated from junior college in Nebraska. He and Nancy McReynolds were married in 1958, and in 1959 he enlisted in the United States Army. He proudly served his country in Seoul, Korea, for 16 months.

Over the years Keith and Nancy had four children and lived across the US and in Mexico and Argentina. He worked as a plant manager in several food and confectionary factories throughout his career and was a motivating and successful leader. He also volunteered with many organizations throughout the years, including serving on the VSA Board from 2015-2018. He loved his work, but more than work, he loved his family and the outdoors.

Keith treasured spending his time camping, fishing, hunting, and hiking with his children as they grew up, and then with his adult children and grandchildren later in life. He lived his life doing what he wanted and enjoyed without anything stopping him, always smiling or laughing and appreciating every moment, and always willing to help and teach others. He was passionate about life.

He often said, "There're worse things than dying," and proved this by getting in one last ice fishing trip at Blue Mesa Reservoir with his grandson just before he passed. He died peacefully with his family by his side, and he is now truly Home.

Keith will be deeply missed, 83 years young.





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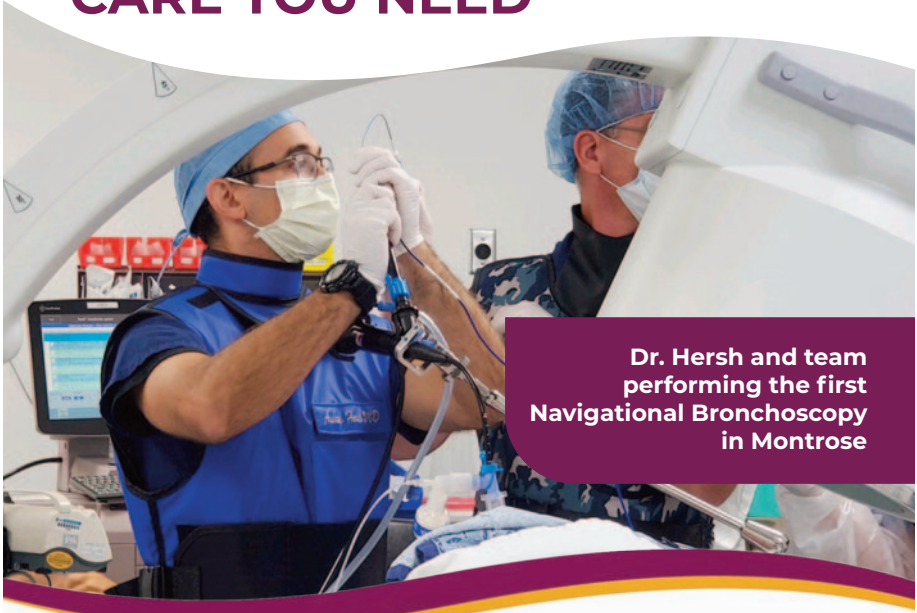
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