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Seasons of

in Song & Overture

Musical storytelling that spans periods and emotions



ORCHESTRA

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The VSA has been a proud cultural institution on the Western Slope for 50 years. The benefits of having a symphony orchestra in our midst are numerous and important, as a vibrant arts community improves the quality of life of our employees and communities. TEI has made it our mission to support local and regional non-profits like the VSA that provide important cultural experiences.



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SAT SEP 11 & Sun 12, 2021 | 5PM | ORCHESTRA & CHORUS Traditional pop, show tunes, and well-known classical works Saturday | Cedaredge Town Park | Ice Cream Social Sunday | Montrose Riverbottom Park | Food Trucks Available

CANDLEL GHT

Christmas on Broadway and Film SAT DEC 4, 2021 | 7:30PM SUN DEC 5, 2021 | 3PM ORCHESTER & CHORUS



Can you dig it? VSA chorus sings the 70s SUN MAR 27, 2022 | 3PM CHORUS

Celebrating Our





Music from the belowed Disney movie Fantasiet 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 AFR 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) Sandra Sundstrom (Grand Junction) # DJo Lowell (Cedaredge) Stephanie Helleckson (Paonia) Chris O'Leary (Ouray) Lindsey Meewis (Montrose) Chase Houck (Grand Junction) Hannah Wieder (Montrose) Olivia Lindsay (Cedaredge) ♪ Dr. Mary Kleinsorae, DC

Violin 2

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

Viola

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

Cello

Martha Ditto (Delta) * Beth Pertz (Delta) Mary Novak (Grand Junction) Brent Helleckson (Paonia) Jacob Helleckson (Paonia) ♪ Mary Novak ♪ Superlative Concrete Seal

Contrabass

Laura Payne (Montrose) > Welcome Western Colorado

Flute/Piccolo

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

Clarinet

Holly Burgess (Montrose) * Stacey Ryan (Montrose) Jeremy Kester (Paonia) ♪ Glen Hast ♪ Rounds & Brooks CPAs PC

Bass Clarinet

Karla Miller (Palisade)

Bassoon

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

French Horn

Sheri Williams (Cedaredge) * Clint Miller (Palisade) Jake Miller (Grand Junction) Marble Roots, LLC

Trumpet

Dave Reddish (Montrose) * Janet Myers (Cedaredge) ♪ Vectra Bank

Trombone

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

Tuba

Gary Miller (Ouray) ♪ Annie Lindsey

Timpani Anne Clayton (Delta)

Percussion

Piano/Keyboard

Anne Koehler (Montrose) ♪ Roger Whitehouse ♪ Cedar Point Health

* Denotes principal chair Denotes section underwriter # Associate Concertmaster





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to Debra TenNapel our concertmaster since 2005



Thank you for your leadership, dedication, community involvement, and for sharing your love of music with us, our audiences, and your students.

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IN MEMORIAM GLENNA SIERACKI

Glenna Chambers grew up in Eagle, CO, in the wonderful '50s. She attended Eagle School until the town closed it in 1959 and finished her last two years of high school in Gypsum, CO, at the new Eagle County High School. Glenna's early life was defined by her many talents and hobbies. She learned sewing and piano from her mother and was known for her beautiful clothes and musical talent. She played saxophone in the high school bands, was a junior high school her mother and was

high and high school cheerleader, and was active in Rainbow Girls.

After graduation, she worked with public service in Denver. There she met and married Ronald Sieracki, and they had three children: Melanie, Leanne, and Jeremy. "Ronnie" was career Navy, and the family enjoyed living in several interesting ports of call.

After Ronnie's untimely death, Glenna returned to Eagle and stayed with her parents, Lola and Glen, for a time before moving to Denver, then Montrose, and later



Glenna Sieracki

to Boone, NC, to raise her children. After they were grown, Glenna came to Paonia to take care of her ailing parents in the late '90s. After their passing, she remained, as Paonia had become her home.

Glenna was a generous person and musician. She played the piano for the Methodist Church, accompanied their choir, and directed the bell choir. Glenna often accompanied high school students for their performances at vocal contests. She was a master bridge player and played as often as she could. She graciously taught many people the finer points of the game.

Although Glenna had never played timpani before, she was recruited in 1999 by long-time VSA violinist Vivian Cheney to take on the part for the VSA Orchestra.

"Initially I had to encourage her to not be shy and really thwack the heck out of the timpani," conductor Mike Kern said. "She really grew into the part and became our stalwart timpanist for over 20 years."

Glenna is greatly missed!

Seasons of Love in Song & Overture CONCERT PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) Idomeneo Overture K. 366

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) Arr. Merle J. Isaac

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)

Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) Arr. Cliff Colnot

Giuseppi Verdi (1813-1901)

Ennio Morrocone (1928-2020) Arr. for cello and orchestra by by Volodymer Kotliarov, as performed by Yo-Yo Ma

Peter I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) Arr. Jerry Brubaker

Henri Wieniawski (1835-1880)

George Gershwin (1898 - 1937) Arr. Chuck Sayre When I am Laid in Earth (Dido's Lament) from Dido and Aeneas Soprano soloist: Allyson Cotham

Fidelio Overture op. 72

Piano Concerto No.21 in C Major k.466 (Elvira Madigan) Mov. 2 Andante Piano soloist: Katy Kristoffersen

The Italian Girl in Algiers Overture Ed. William Ryden

A Puccini Trilogy

Violin soloist: Debra TenNapel Cello soloist: Martha Ditto Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore – Live for Art, Live for Love from Tosca O mio babbino caro – Oh, My Dear PaPa from Gianni Scicchi Un bel di vedremo – One Fine Day from Madama Butterfly

Intermission 🎾 🎾

Triumphal March from Aida

Lady Caliph Cello soloist: Martha Ditto

Romeo and Juliet Overture

Andante non troppo from Violin Concerto No. 2 in D Minor op.22 Violin soloist: Debra TenNapel

Selections from Porgy and Bess



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Jeasons of Love in Song & Overture

Spanning periods and emotions, our winter orchestra concert is all about drama—musical drama that tells a story. From the depth of despair to the apex of exhilaration, these songs are filled with passion. From lush to poignant, quiet to dramatic, selections span 500 years, from the late 1600s to the twentieth century.

Today's concert will feature a number of talented soloists, including principal cellist Martha Ditto, soprano Allyson Cotham, and pianist (and VSA Chorus Conductor) Katy Kristoffersen, along with VSA Concertmaster Debra TenNapel in her final performance with the VSA Orchestra.

OUR MUSICIANS

Who performs in the VSA Orchestra and Chorus?

They are teachers, parents, neighbors, students. They have jobs. They have children. They have homes and schedules and commitments. They teach at local colleges, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. They work in business, the arts, government, agriculture, law enforcement, and health care. Some are retired. Some are entrepreneurs. Some are military veterans. They represent the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys and live in Montrose, Ouray, Hotchkiss, Eckert, Olathe, Palisade, Paonia, Delta, Ridgway, Austin, Cedaredge, and Grand Junction. Some of them are snowbirds. Some of them are teenagers. And they are all VSA musicians.

This season we have over 100 performers who bring their skill, passion, and talent to the stage. The VSA is proud to be celebrating our 50th year as a regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization composed of musicians who live and work in our midst.

BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO LIFE!

The VSA takes pride in our 50-year history of bringing live symphonic music to the region, our commitment to keeping classical music vital, and our goal of building audiences of all ages.

The VSA's aim is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the legacy of live orchestral and choral music that so magnificently celebrates the human spirit.

FOUNDERS

Dr. Ted Dickinson Bernard & Erma Hast Girts & Ina Krumins Wilma Lowell Robert Phillips & Joan Fetters Meikle Robert & Norma Vold

CT EL



FEATURED MUSICIAN Nora Kniskern - Violin



The VSA bids fond farewell to Nora, who retired from the VSA in January, and thanks her for her dedication and joy in music.

Nora started playing violin in Eau Claire, WI, at age 8, but not before struggling through endless piano lessons and fights with her two siblings for practice time on the keyboard. Realizing that at least one of her children needed to play something other than piano, Nora's mom signed her up for Suzuki violin lessons. "It was one of the best things that ever happened to me."



Nora Kniskern

Nora played through high school, though there was no orchestra at the schools she attended until her junior and senior years. She participated in state solo and ensemble competitions and successfully auditioned for the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies at age 12. She joined a strolling string group, Mellifluous Strings, made up of high school violinists. She started college as a music major, and studied abroad for a semester at the University of London where she met with teachers she knew from Suzuki summer music camps in Wisconsin. As a sophomore, she became an English major and left her violin behind.

When her son began taking violin lessons with Debra TenNapel, "I foolishly mentioned that I had played the violin, and Deb urged me to get back into music. Eventually, I agreed, if she would agree to be my teacher." Nora has performed with the VSA Orchestra since 2008.

Her interesting career path includes a stint in the Peace Corps teaching English, history, and African history in Kenya, East Africa; copy editing with a publishing company; reporting for a business journal; and various positions in the health care field.

Her choice of hobbies matches her unusual career path: she loves road biking, and her COVID-inspired greenhouse has been a fun learning experience. She also is a fourth-degree black belt in Seidokan karate. Consider yourself warned: "I don't recommend trying to steal this old lady's purse!"







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FEATURED MUSICIAN Cindy Swanson - Trombone



Cindy's musical education began early. Her father played guitar in local bands and taught Cindy and her siblings to play guitar, piano, and drums. "Music was always a huge part of family life."

In fifth grade, Cindy began playing baritone, taking it on full time in seventh grade, but only after her band director bribed her with a candy bar. "I really wanted to play percussion!" She taught herself trombone that year, but her arms weren't quite long enough to work the slide, so she stuck with the baritone.



Cindy Swanson

As a freshman in Brighton, CO, she rediscovered her passion for trombone because, "I really wanted to play in jazz band, and I realized that my arms had finally grown long enough!" As a sophomore, she was first chair.

By her senior year, she was playing five different instruments (baritone, French horn, trombone, trumpet, and alto sax) in five different bands, and she directed the pit orchestra for the drama club and sang in the choir. She received the Louis Armstrong Award, the "top senior jazz award," given to only one recipient per high school, in recognition of "outstanding musical achievement and an incredible dedication" to the program.

While a student at Aims Community College in Greely, CO, Cindy played trombone in the University of Northern Colorado Pride of the Rockies Marching Band and euphonium in their concert band. As a music education major at Western State College, she played multiple instruments in multiple performing groups and co-taught band in Crested Butte. "I also had the privilege of playing euphonium, British baritone, and trombone with the Colorado Brass Band," an elite brass-only group of players and music instructors from around the world who gather each summer in Gunnison.

A few credits short of her bachelor's degree, she got married, started a family, and began running Avis Rental Car in Gunnison. Her job eventually brought her to Montrose, where she began teaching band at Pope John Paul Second Academy and later for Colorado West Christian School, where she still teaches. She joined the VSA Orchestra in 2009 and plays with the Backyard Brass, an amazing group of musicians comprised mainly of VSA Orchestra brass members.

All of her four children have the family knack for playing any instrument. In fact, Cindy's oldest daughter, who as an infant accompanied Cindy to her classes and music rehearsals, began attending the prestigious Berklee School of Music in 2020. The VSA looks forward to the next generation of Swansons!



5 - 6 pm on third Tuesday every month

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NABUR is a free online forum to connect with your community, focus on facts & make a difference.

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Join the Conversation!

Locals love local - Community Bulletin Group "After spending months closed due to effects from the pandemic, the Fox Theater in Montrose reopened last month with a slate of new films." - Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

Dark Skies Community - Dark Skies Group

"Montrose is a central location in Western Colorado, and is surrounded by some of the country's darkest night skies." - Aaron W, NABUR member

Niagara Community Garden - Agriculture Group

"Hello, plant people! Just wanted to let you know that Niagara Community Garden is taking applications for the 2021 season." - Aleta L., NABUR member

Little Blue Creek Canyon Project - Local Affairs Group

"What concerns do you have with the project? Do you feel the road should be open eight hours a day, rather than the scheduled five?" - Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

Discussion on Meat-Out Day from a Beef Producer's Perspective - Food Group "So being a beef provider, several people have asked me about my opinion on the Governor's Meat Out Day."

- Cally H., NABUR member

get started by visiting: nabur.montrosepress.com





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Best wishes to The Valley Symphony Association for another great season of music!

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