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SEASON 52 | 2023-2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Season 52 is turning out to be a great year for the VSA. In December, our board grew with the addition of chorus member and community activist Cathy Hoffman and Budget Blinds owner and businesswoman extraordinaire Cheryl Zahniser. We are hoping to add two more new faces to the board before the end of the season—keep a lookout for them in the slideshow!

New Music Director and Orchestra Conductor Troy Raper is settling into his role brilliantly and has already begun to bring his vast network of resources to bear in developing the VSA, including acquiring new posture chairs and recruiting new volunteer musicians. He is focusing on developing new ways to make classical music fun for both musicians and audiences. Visit pages 24 and 32 for messages from Troy.

Meanwhile, Chorus Conductor Katy Kristoffersen has taken on new, challenging projects with the chorus, including a series of smaller community performances, her compositional collaboration with The Black Canyon Boys for the March *Heaven & Bluegrass* concert, and her formation of a children's chorus to supplement the adult chorus. Her creative performance ideas and ongoing creation of a welcoming choral culture are engaging more singers than ever before. Visit page 30 for a message from Katy.

In January, we hosted our first VSA Barn Raising event in Delta where we outlined the current direction and needs of the VSA and asked for ideas, volunteerism, and support from the community at large. From that meeting, over 25 new volunteers stepped up to assist with various projects, and we collected dozens of new ideas from singers, instrumentalists, and community members alike. In the future, we hope these Barn Raisings will become a regular way for musicians, community members, and the VSA leadership to openly communicate and brainstorm resources for continuing to fulfill our mission of *Bringing Classical Music to Life* in vibrant, collaborative ways. Stay tuned for more information about a VSA Barn Raising in a town near you!

During the remainder of Season 52, with the help of our new volunteer force, we will be working on several projects to set the VSA up for long-term success. We spent much of our time during the first half of the season on board recruitment and training; with our new board members in place, we are turning our attention toward the rest of our organizational structure to ensure we have the best people in the right places to propel us to even greater success.

We are also in the bittersweet process of bidding farewell to long-term VSA Board Members Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., and Priscilla Fry, who will retire from the VSA Board in May after about 15 years of board service each—and even more as VSA musician members (since the '80s for Hartland and the '90s for Priscilla).

VSA FOUNDERS

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Girts & Ina Krumins
Wilma Lowell
Robert Phillips &
Joan Fetters Meikle
Robert & Norma Vold

As we try to capture the depth of their knowledge and experience on all things VSA, we thank them profusely for the time and energy they have dedicated to shepherding the VSA into becoming the successful, growing nonprofit it is today.

As we begin to look towards Season 53, we're getting excited about our conductors' lively, creative ideas for the upcoming year, including new collaborations between chorus and orchestra, music from your favorite cartoons, masterworks of epic proportions, and music that celebrates the natural beauty all around us. We are also excited to announce a new format for our Pops concerts that will see the orchestra return to Cedaredge and the chorus extending to Ridgway for the first time. And next spring, the Valley Youth Orchestra will rejoin the VSA Orchestra onstage for the first time in over five years. For more information on Season 53, visit page 18.

None of this would be possible without our fantastic volunteer musicians, season co-partners, concert partners, annual promoters, underwriters, sponsors, donors, and YOU, our audience. Together, we can make the music possible! Support the businesses, organizations, and people listed in this program and on the slideshow, so they can continue to support us!

DEDICATION

VSA Board Members

Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., and Priscilla Fry

Many—even within our own ranks—are unaware of Hartland and Priscilla's truly significant contributions to the VSA of their time, talent, and treasure.

Their unwavering commitment to the VSA has been remarkable, and their fierce dedication has been instrumental in ensuring that classical music—as only the VSA can deliver it—has a sustained, regional foothold.

We are so very grateful for their considered, thoughtful leadership of our organization and decades of devotion to the VSA family. They have been absolute gifts to the VSA, and we have been so very lucky to have had them on our side.

Hartland and Priscilla, we are privileged to dedicate Season 52's February, March, and April concerts to you. We honor and celebrate you with fondness and wish you both nothing but love in your next chapters.



Hartland H. Clubb, Jr.
President
2010-2024



Priscilla Fry
Secretary/Treasurer
2008-2024

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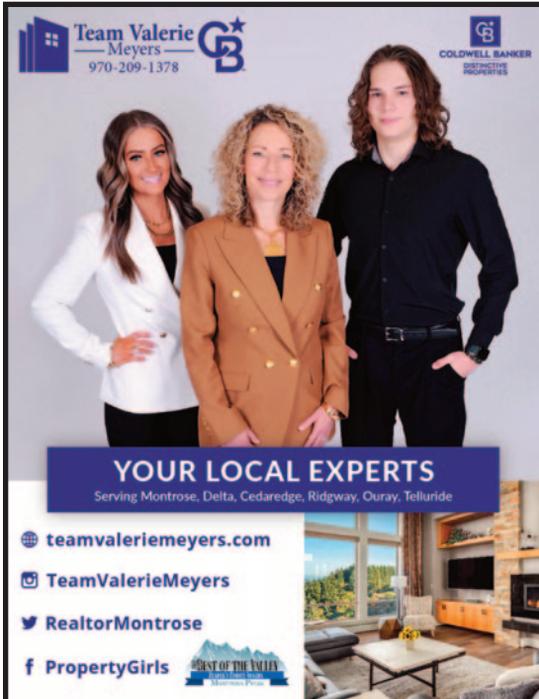


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“My best memory of music was knowing I wanted to play the guitar (at 8 years old) after listening to Peter, Paul and Mary — so I taught myself.”

- Luanne Svaldi, Soprano 1




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WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Catherine Buckley Hoffman Member-At-Large

Cathy was born in Long Beach, CA, to a family steeped in musical talent in many genres and disciplines. Her mother plays the bass; her grandmother was a concert pianist and Juilliard graduate; and great-grandfather, Dan Gridley, was considered “the foremost tenor” internationally in his day. And then there were “the uncles”: Joe Lano, a renowned jazz guitarist; and Dick Stabile, the leader of his own jazz band.



Cathy Hoffman

Cathy has always been drawn to music, and her instrument is her voice. Growing up, her family’s entertainment after dinner was to have a “musicale”: a small, informal musical gathering or concert. “We would play and sing wonderful music from the *Great American Songbook*, spiritual and gospel music, and other music of the time.”

She has performed with the Sweet Adelines in Las Vegas, NV, with the Las Vegas Choral Society, in the Sing it Yourself Messiah with the Golden Gate Symphony, and many other community choruses and choirs. She enjoys performing with the VSA Chorus because, “...being a part of the incredible music produced by the VSA is a huge thrill and privilege.”

Professionally, her career path has largely centered around marketing, human resources, policy and procedure development, collective bargaining, staff development and training, outside medical sales, and most recently, nursing.

Civically, she has served in various capacities with many nonprofits. “I love engaging in projects that benefit children, education, the underserved, the arts, and the community.” She is an active member of Montrose Rotary, co-chair of the Cobble Creek Angel Tree project, a Giving Club member, and she tirelessly assists with many other community projects.

“As a board member, I hope to contribute to the VSA’s full integration into the Western Slope’s cultural fabric, its growth and future development, and providing music and musical education for generations to come.”



...to our volunteers!

We also extend our thanks to our season and concert partners, annual promoters, advertisers, sponsors, underwriters, donors —and our audience!

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Cheryl Zahniser Member-At-Large

As a Colorado native and resident of Montrose since 1985, Cheryl is proud of her Western roots. Her family moved several times while she was growing up, which added to her passion for travel and culture. She fondly appreciates her early years of sitting at the organ with her aunt, learning essential keys and reading music. On Sunday mornings, sounds of the accordion would wake the family, and though she did not realize—or appreciate!—it then, she was learning the impact and value of music. Her volunteer work as a teen brought her to Montrose, where she met her husband-to-be, Dale, and whom she married in 1985. They have worked together for much of their marriage and built numerous businesses.



Cheryl Zahniser

While working with both children and seniors, Cheryl continually found that music has the power to heal, encourage, awaken, and motivate. While she has not mastered an instrument, she continually dabbles on guitar, piano, and the ukulele for joy and comfort.

The love of travel has broadened her dreams, understanding, and appreciation for the human story. “Walking along a small cobblestone alley and hearing a violin, or sipping coffee or strolling along a bridge while hearing street musicians play, is a joy. Life’s experiences are enhanced when sounds and emotions combine.”

Joining the VSA Board has always been a goal. “In 2023, the opportunity presented itself to both support and take a more significant role in my desire to help with the VSA’s sustainability and continued growth. With my background in nonprofits and small businesses, I am looking forward to putting these skills to work. I’m excited to meet many new friends and bring more unique musical experiences to our regional community.”

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"When I was in college at UNC, I played in a trumpet choir with nine other trumpet players. We played "Bugler's Holiday" by Leroy Anderson. Everyone dressed up in their best vacation outfit and trudged onto the stage for a very memorable performance, flippers and all! I must say that the trumpet players have the most fun!" - Kendra Sitton, Trumpet



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Troy Raper

TROY RAPER

Orchestra Conductor & Music Director

Musician, educator, and Colorado native Troy Raper began his teaching career in 1988 and retired from Mesa County Valley School District #51 in 2022 after 31 years in education. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Northern Colorado, where he graduated with honors, and a master's degree in education from Lesley University with an emphasis in educational technology.

During his long career, Raper's school orchestras were consistently awarded superior ratings at music festivals from Palisade to Disneyland. Many former students are now accomplished professional teachers and performers around the country.

As an active advocate in Colorado for teaching, Raper spent 10 years as chair/board member for the Colorado All State Orchestra Governing Board, helping to create a new charter and direction for the organization. He has also served as a board member of the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, and as a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association State Board. He currently serves as production manager and librarian to the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra (GJSO).

Raper is an accomplished musician with broad performing experience. He has played with the Greeley, Ft. Collins, Cheyenne, Durango, and Crested Butte festival orchestras and sits as principal bassist for the GJSO. He performs regularly in various jazz bands, recording studios, and as a concert soloist.

His hobbies and personal interests include spending time with his family. His wife, Lori, is an accomplished professional artist and teacher, and their adult daughters, Mandolyn and Melody, both work in careers in music and teaching. He enjoys arranging music for strings, computer games, mountain biking, riding his motorcycle, and remodeling projects in his new home.

VSA Orchestra Conductors

Walter Birkedahl	1970-1980	Season 1 - 9
Antonia Brico *	11/1978	Season 8
Rodney Ash *	2/1979	Season 8
Rodney Ash	1980-1985	Season 10 - 14
Keith Cochrane	1985-1989	Season 15 - 18
Dr. James Horton	1989-1993	Season 19 - 22
Michael J. Kern	1993-2022	Season 23 - 50
Scott Betts *	9/2022	Season 51
Troy Raper *	12/2022	Season 51
Charlotte Ruth Harrison *	2/2023	Season 51
Steven Aguiló-Arbues *	4/2023	Season 51
Troy Raper	2023	Season 52

* guest conductors

Note: Seasons run from fall through spring

SEASON 52 ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Troy Raper (Grand Junction), Conductor and Music Director

♪ *Donnin Custer & Eunice Acker*

Violin

Sandy Sundstrom (Grand Junction)
Concertmaster
Rachael King (Austin)
Principal 2nd Violin *
Maggie Cline (Olathe)
Aaron Clubb (Grand Junction)
Dawnell Cook (Montrose)
Talitha Costello (Grand Junction)
Lois Drysdale (Delta)
Vince Farnsworth (Montrose)
Laurie Fowler (Ridgway)
Li Gomez (Montrose)
Stephanie Helleckson (Crested Butte)
Chase Houck (Grand Junction)
Rachel Lavadie (Grand Junction)
D.Jo Lowell (Grand Junction) **
Julie Martensen (Montrose)
Chris O'Leary (Ouray)
Tasha Pratt (Montrose)
Maya Varela (Olathe)
Hannah Wieder (Montrose)
♪ *Dr. Mary Kleinsorge, DC (First violins)*
♪ *Farnsworth Gallery (Second violins)*

Viola

Julie Appelhanz (Montrose) *
John Fuerst (Grand Junction)
Sage Koppana (Paonia)
Dan Lamar (Montrose)
♪ *Bill Starnes*
♪ *First Contact Medical Specialists:
Montrose Emergency Physicians*

Cello

Esther Alsum (Paonia)*
Carissa Docteur (Grand Junction)
Brent Helleckson (Paonia)
Jacob Helleckson (Paonia)
Tim Larson (Montrose)
Mary Novak (Grand Junction)
Beth Pertz (Delta)
Chelsea Yamaguchi (Grand Junction)
♪ *Mary Novak*

Bass

Mike Kristoffersen (Ridgway)*
Richard Hansen (Delta)
Laura Payne (Montrose)
♪ *MusicalMud Studios, LLC*

Oboe

Sammie Alteri (Montrose)
Shayna Kniderknecht (Grand Junction)

Flute/Piccolo

Edie Burgess (Eckert) *
Desirée Simler (Delta)
Rosalind Greisz (Ouray)

Clarinet

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

Bass Clarinet

Toby King (Austin)
Karla Miller (Palisade)

Bassoon

Carol Franklin (Grand Junction) *
Toru Arisawa (Grand Junction)
♪ *In memory of Ramona Good*

Alto Sax

Jordan Carls (Montrose)
Toby King (Austin)

Horn

Sheri Williams (Cedaredge) *
Susan Conrad (Ouray)
Josh Goshen (Montrose)
Clint Miller (Palisade)
Jeff Williams (Cedaredge)
♪ *Marble Roots, LLC*

Trumpet

Kendra Sitton (Montrose)*
Janet Myer (Cedaredge)
Dave Reddish (Montrose)

Trombone

Cindy Swanson (Montrose) *
Bruce Mixter (Cedaredge)
Don Mort (Ouray)
Christian Pfretzschnier (Grand Junction)

Tuba

Walter Cummings (Grand Junction)
Gary Miller (Ouray)

Piano/Keyboard

Anne Koehler (Montrose)
♪ *Cedar Point Health*

Percussion/Timpani

Anne Clayton (Delta)*
Andrew Bruington (Olathe)
Gabe Flores (Montrose)
Issac Lavadie (Grand Junction)
♪ *The George Miller Family*
♪ *Western Group Inc.*

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Katy Kristoffersen

KATY KRISTOFFERSEN

Chorus Conductor

Katy Kristoffersen’s 20 years of experience in coaching, accompanying, conducting, and teaching are backed by undergraduate degrees in music and psychology (Miami University, OH) and a master’s in music education (College of Mount St. Joseph).

Enamored of music from the start, at 2 she was reaching for the piano to emulate her talented older siblings. She started composing piano pieces at 4 and accompanying church choirs by 12.

As an undergrad, Katy had the great privilege of studying with Dr. Ethan Sperry, a world-renowned name in the choral and world-music spheres. He helped to draw out her confidence as an arranger and composer. Katy dated Mike Kristoffersen (bass) throughout college, which led to her accompanying every single string bass player in the university. She also caught the eye of bass professor, Dr. Steve Ullery, who requested that she accompany his recital as well as the great Edgar Meyer when he visited to teach a master class.

“Accompanist” is a good metaphor for Katy's skillset, although “joyful forklift” is apt, too. Katy thrives when in service of elevating people around her. This energy has drawn her to stretch her skills outward in several directions: through the lens of music (choral director, music director, private teacher, music educator, accompanist), and through the lens of mindfulness (teaching her original curriculum to corporate and government agencies, private coaching, and starting her own mindfulness course with Mike).

When not hopping from one responsibility to the next, you might find Katy and Mike trail running near their Ridgway home, hiking with their kids, or just sitting outside in the awe and beauty that drew them here in the first place.

VSA Chorus Conductors

Kelly Neill	2002-2004	Season 31 - 33
Chris Davis	12/2004	Season 34
Aleta Jupille	03/2005	Season 34
Chris Davis	2005-2007	Season 35 - 36
Bethany Ward	12/2007	Season 37
Mary Anne Rathburn	4/2008	Season 37
Bethany Ward	2008-2010	Season 38 - 39
Lenore Hample	2010-2013	Season 40 - 42
Jan Tuin	2013-2017	Season 43 - 46
Allyson Connelly	2017-2019	Season 47 - 49
Katy Kristoffersen	2021-present	Season 50 - present

Note: Seasons run from fall through spring



SEASON 52 CHORUS ROSTER

Katy Kristoffersen (Ridgway), Conductor

♪ Peggy Kristoffersen

Accompanist

Susan Decker (Montrose)

♪ *The Ruthanna B. Snow Charitable Foundation*

♪ *Appliance Factory and Mattress Kingdom*

Soprano 1

Diane Balk (Montrose)

Charlotte Heath (Montrose)

Kaitlynn Hurford (Montrose)

Julie Laube (Montrose)

Carol Mulvaney (Montrose)

Mary Redmond (Montrose)

Luanne Svaldi (Montrose)

Michelle Taylor (Olathe)

Bethany Ward (Montrose)

♪ *The Rutanna B. Snow Charitable Foundation*

Soprano 2

Christine Bloss (Montrose)

Kathy Foglesong (Montrose)

Ann Holmes (Montrose)

Cathy Hoffman (Montrose)

Barb Krebs (Montrose) **

Sarah Morales (Montrose)

Amiee Rawlings (Montrose)

Rachel Taylor (Olathe)

Demeris York (Delta)

♪ *Cathy & Jim Hoffman*

Alto 1

Brenda Anderson (Cedaredge) **

Haley Benson (Cedaredge)

Judy Bunyard (Montrose)

Cheryl Harshman (Montrose)

Anne Harper (Montrose)

Lorchin Pulsipher (Delta)

Sara Schiffino (Montrose)

Philis Schuhmann (Cedaredge)

Olivia Taylor (Olathe)

Rebecca Taylor (Olathe)

Sue Warren (Montrose)

♪ *The Ruthanna B. Snow Charitable Foundation*

♪ *Shirley Richardson Taylor*

Alto 2

Melissa Chapple (Montrose)

Sue Decker (Montrose)

Dianne McCully (Cedaredge)

Chris Munday (Montrose)

Liz Soler (Montrose)

Anna Strong (Montrose)

Marka Wellington (Cedaredge)

♪ *The Ruthanna B. Snow Charitable Foundation*

♪ *Sprague Mayger & Priscilla Fry*

Tenor 1

Vic Franks (Paonia) **

Deborah Gordon (Montrose)

Sam Kevan (Austin) **

Bonnie Koehler (Delta) **

Kevin Pulsipher (Delta)

♪ *Dr. Sam & Lana Kevan*

♪ *Vince and Carolyn Snowbarger*

Tenor 2

Terry Belt (Delta)

Mike Edwards (Ridgway)

Jonathan Heath (Montrose)

Jim Hoffman (Montrose)

Judy Lokey (Montrose) **

Erv Rawlings (Montrose)

Vince Snowbarger (Ridgway)

♪ *Joan Moyer*

Bass 1

Dave Conrad (Ouray)

Ted Cole (Montrose)

M. Ray Gilbert (Cedaredge)

Nathan Howe (Montrose)

Keith Laube (Montrose)

Bob McCormac (Cedaredge)

Van Tuin (Paonia)

♪ *The George Miller Family*

Bass 2

Rod Bunyard (Montrose)

Robin Nicholoff (Hotchkiss) **

Jim Parks (Montrose)

Seth Ryan (Montrose)

John Thrasher (Delta)

♪ *Cole Custom Construction*

*Principal chair ♪ Section underwriter ** Charter member



Sandra Sundstrom

SANDRA SUNDSTROM

Concertmaster

Sandy grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, in a family of musicians. She was involved in orchestras, choirs, and bands throughout her youth, and earned her bachelor of music in education with an instrumental major and choral minor from Arizona State University. Sandy has taught band, choir, and orchestra in all levels of education, elementary through college.

In 2010, she and her family moved to Grand Junction. Sandy is a violinist with the Grand Junction Symphony

Orchestra (GJSO), High Desert Opera, and Rockestra, and has an active private studio teaching violin, viola, and cello. Her quartet performs in churches and for area events, and she plays in regional gigs, performs regularly in Aspen for summer weddings, and is a recurring violin coach for Camp Con Brio. Sandy adjudicates for the District 51 Solo/Ensemble, local auditions, and judged the Colorado West Invitational Music Festival in 2013. She was an active member of the GJSO Board for many years and served on their music director search committee.

In 2013, she started as a paraprofessional in Mesa County School District. Sandy assists orchestras at several middle schools, and in 2014, she was a long-term sub for choirs at a local high school.

Sandy and her husband have two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren. They absolutely love living in Grand Junction: the people, surrounding views, and connections they've made.

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. As the leader of the entire string section, the concertmaster also marks the orchestra’s scores with the appropriate bowings to ensure all the strings are moving and playing in unison, and translates instructions from the conductor into specific technical language for strings.

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Season 53 Play!

Celebrate!
Sounds of Summer



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Orchestra
Sat, Sep 7, 2024, 5pm, CedarEdge
Sun, Sep 8, 2024, 5pm, Montrose
Chorus
Sat, Sep 14, 2024, 7pm, Montrose
Sun, Sep 15, 2024, 4pm, Ridgway

Laugh!
Saturday Morning Soundtracks



From Bugs to Elmer, showcasing the cartoon classics we've heard all our lives

Orchestra
Sat, Oct 26, 2024, 6:30pm
Sun, Oct 27, 2024, 3pm

Snow!
A Winter Wonderland



The VSA is in a flurry! Join us for a blizzard of carols and holiday cheer

Orchestra and Chorus
Sat, Dec 7, 2024, 6:30pm
Sun, Dec 8, 2024, 3pm

Sing!
Epics and Idols



Presenting beloved masterworks in monumental proportions

Orchestra and Chorus
Sat, Feb 22, 2025, 6:30pm
Sun, Feb 23, 2025, 3pm

Connect!
Past, Present, and Future



Blending new and seasoned musicians in an extravaganza of orchestral music

Orchestra
with the VYO Symphonic Chamber Orchestra
Sat, Mar 29, 2025, 6:30pm
Sun, Mar 30, 2025, 3pm

Water!
Find the River



Dive in and experience water's impact on our hearts, minds, and spirits

Chorus
Sat, Apr 26, 2025, 6:30pm
Sun, Apr 27, 2025, 3pm

Concert series at the Montrose Pavilion
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-GJSO Patron, Heidi Pool



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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Julie Appelhanz - Viola

Julie has played the violin for 39 years and the viola for 33 years. She started lessons with Sharon Gillespie, a Suzuki teacher in Boulder, CO. She joined her middle school orchestra and transitioned from violin to viola in the space of a single school year. She went from trying to convince her parents to let her quit playing the violin to wanting to pursue a career as a symphonic violist. She credits her orchestra director, Brett Wallace, with this about-face and for his inspiration. "I connected with the viola in a way I hadn't with violin, but now I love both instruments."



Julie Appelhanz

She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in music performance at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and a master's degree in music performance at University of Denver. She has played as a violist with the San Juan (Durango), Grand Junction, Cheyenne, Fort Collins, Greeley, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Colorado Symphonies. She is a private instructor of violin and viola, both classical and folk styles, at Precedence Music Academy in Montrose where she very much appreciates the community of teachers. In addition, she also assists with sectionals and mentoring for the Valley Youth Orchestra. Julie also plays the Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle and spent a year in Norway studying folk music and culture.

Born in Boulder, CO, she moved to Montrose in August 2009. Shortly thereafter, "I married a widower with four kids and was busy getting the hang of that situation." In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, sewing, camping, hiking, and ATVing.

She joined the VSA around 2012. "The VSA is a very important part of our community! Coming together to master a piece of orchestral music and share it with the larger community is an amazing thing. I believe that humans need to make music together and share it with audiences, regardless of professional or amateur level, and it is something I encourage all students to try out."



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A Night at the Movies: Hollywood Favorites, Starring the Classics

CONCERT PROGRAM

Star Wars Epic - Part II

1. Main Title Theme
2. Princess Leia's Theme
3. The Imperial March

John Williams (b.1932)
Arr. Robert W. Smith

Selections from ***The Phantom of the Opera*** Andrew Lloyd Webber (b.1948)
Arr. Calvin Custer

How to Train Your Dragon

John Powell (b.1963)
Arr. Sean O'Loughlin

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

1. Song of the Lonely Mountain
2. Axe or Sword? The Dwarves' Dilemma
3. The Dwarf Lords
4. Dreaming of Bag End
5. Old Friends and The Adventure Begins

Howard Shore (b.1946)

Music From Apollo 13

James Horner (1953-2015)
Arr. John Moss

Symphony #25 - G Minor

1. Allegro

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Intermission

2001: A Space Odyssey

Also Sprach Zarathustra - "Sunrise Opening" Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Blue Danube Waltz Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

Selections from E.T.

John Williams
Arr. John Cacavas

Concert Suite from ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix***

Nicholas Hooper (b.1952) and John Williams
Arr. Victor Lopez

The Wild, Wild West

Richard Markowitz (1926-1994)
Arr. Roy Phillippe

From the Music Director

I love movies! But more importantly, I love the music that makes the movies. When working with movie music you must understand the emotional and narrative power of music, as well as the importance of collaboration in the creative process. Movie composers use the imagery and the story to build art that is truly "new" in the world of music. While most composers "borrow" themes—or straight out steal material—from previous composers, they creatively negotiate the twists and turns of the story and interweave sound and story into what we hear. This concert takes you on a journey of images through sound.



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A Night at the Movies

CONCERT NOTES

John Williams' contribution to film music is monumental, marked by his ability to create scores that deeply resonate with the narrative and emotional landscape of the movies he works on. His approach to composing is often likened to sculpting, where he meticulously shapes and arranges a few notes to uncover the musical piece within, akin to a sculptor revealing a statue from a block of stone.

Howard Shore is a renowned Canadian composer known for his extensive film scoring work. Born on October 18, 1946, in Toronto, Ontario, Shore has created soundtracks for many prominent films, including *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, for which he won three Academy Awards. He has collaborated with notable directors such as David Cronenberg and Martin Scorsese, showcasing his versatility across various film genres. Shore's contributions to music extend beyond film, including operas and concert works, cementing his status as a versatile and influential figure in contemporary music.

James Horner was an acclaimed American composer and conductor, born on August 14, 1953, in Los Angeles, CA. He was renowned for his film scores that often blended classical and contemporary elements. Horner's most celebrated works include the scores for *Titanic*, for which he won two Academy Awards, and *Avatar*, both directed by James Cameron. He also composed music for *Braveheart*, *A Beautiful Mind*, and *Apollo 13*, among others. Horner's unique style and emotional depth in his compositions made him one of the most sought-after composers in Hollywood. Tragically, he passed away on June 22, 2015, leaving behind a legacy of memorable and influential film music.

Richard Strauss was a prominent German composer and conductor, born on June 11, 1864, in Munich. He is renowned for his significant contributions to late Romantic and early modern music. Strauss's compositions include operas, such as *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Salome*, and tone poems like *Also Sprach Zarathustra* and *Don Juan*. His music is characterized by its expressive intensity and orchestral innovation. Strauss served as a leading conductor, directing orchestras in Berlin and Vienna. His career spanned the tumultuous shifts of the early 20th century, reflected in his evolving musical style.

Johann Strauss II, often called the "Waltz King," was a prolific Austrian composer born on October 25, 1825, in Vienna. He revolutionized the waltz genre, making it popular across Europe. Strauss II composed over 500 waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and other types of dance music, as well as several operettas and a ballet. His most famous works include *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *The Blue Danube*, which was prominently used in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. His music epitomized the light, entertaining style of the Viennese waltz, and his influence extended well beyond his lifetime.

A Night at the Movies

CONCERT NOTES cont.

Richard Markowitz was an American film and television composer born on September 3, 1926, in Santa Monica, CA. He began his career in music leading a big band in high school and later served in World War II. Post-war, he studied music in Paris under notable composers like Arthur Honegger and Arnold Schoenberg. Markowitz made his mark in film composing with the 1958 film *Stakeout on Dope Street*. He is well-known for his television work, including composing the theme song for *The Rebel* and scoring for *The Wild, Wild West*. His versatility in composing for a variety of TV series and films highlighted his skill.



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Heaven & Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred

CONCERT PROGRAM

<i>At the River</i>	Hymn Tune, Adapted by Aaron Copland
<i>Down in the River to Pray</i>	David L Mennicke
<i>Wayfarin' Stranger</i>	Mack Wilberg Li Gomez (Violin)
<i>Salt Creek</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow</i>	Dick Burnett Arr. K. Kristoffersen
<i>The Lamb</i>	John Tavener
<i>Didn't Leave Nobody But the Baby</i>	Gillian Welch, T-Bone Burnett, Alan Lomax, and Mrs. Sidney Carter Arr. K. Kristoffersen
<i>Animas Fork</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>I'll Fly Away</i>	Albert E. Brumley Arr. K. Kristoffersen
<i>Blackberry Blossom</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>And Am I Born to Die?</i>	Charles Wesley Arr. Bela Fleck and Abigail Washburn Choral Arr. K. Kristoffersen

Intermission

<i>"Sanctus" from Missa Aeterna Christi Munera</i>	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
<i>Chill From a Rose</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal</i>	Traditional Arr. Alice Parker
<i>Old Joe Clark</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>Wondrous Love</i>	Traditional Arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
<i>Alpine Glow</i>	The Black Canyon Boys
<i>Simple Gifts</i>	Adapted by Aaron Copland Transcribed for chorus by Irving Fine
<i>Will the Circle Be Unbroken</i>	Lyrics by Betsy Rose, Cathy Winter, and Marcia Taylor Traditional; Arr. J. David Moore

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Heaven & Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred

From the Conductor

The creative and beautiful theme of this concert, Heaven and Bluegrass, was originally conceived by Allyson Cotham (formerly Allyson Connelly), conductor of the VSA Chorus from 2017-2019, and I am so grateful to have inherited it. While our selections differ from the original program—cut tragically due to Covid—today’s vision honors and celebrates the original intention. That this concert takes place on Easter weekend feels exactly right, considering the nature of the music: we offer settings of deeply spiritual texts that explore human suffering, mortality, joy, devotion, reverence, and the human desire for meaning.

We are so proud to feature the music of local Montrose bluegrass band, The Black Canyon Boys! Partnering with local musicians is of great importance to our community, and it is extra special today, as it truly embodies the inherently collaborative nature of bluegrass.

You’re seeing the musical fruits of our country’s ancestral roots, as professionals and amateurs stand side-by-side on stage. This is a live, modern example of how the best music education works: by playing side-by-side with experts and teachers. It’s a living metaphor of the core value of the VSA: there is a place for everyone in the arts.

Experience the heart of this music, as we look with eyes heavenbound.

CONCERT NOTES

Today’s guest artist, **The Black Canyon Boys** are the bluegrass brainchild of Anthony Mainiero, David Lutz, and Karl Topper. Founded right here in Montrose, CO, this mountaingrass band brings joy, energy, and an incredible presence to the stage. With expressive and unique takes on traditional bluegrass, modern jam grass, and anything in between, these guys know their way around the musical landscape to help your feet get stomping and start romping for a good time.

Wayfarin’ Stranger is an American classic, and many genres claim it as their own, including folk, gospel, and bluegrass music. This particular setting is beloved by many and written for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra by **Mack Wilberg**.

I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow is a traditional American folk song, initially titled *Farewell Song*. Its origin is officially unknown, like so many folk and bluegrass songs, but affiliated with its 1913 publisher R. D. Burnett, known as “The Blind Man.” The piece you hear today includes biblical references to blindness and the “man of sorrows” from Isaiah: 53:3. It has been sung by the Stanley Brothers, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and of course, the Soggy Bottom Boys, featured in the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Heaven & Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred

CONCERT NOTES cont.

John Tavener, British composer, set William Blake's famous poem "The Lamb" to music in 15 minutes. Apparently he heard the whole of this piece in the car and wrote it almost instantly, saying, "I read the words, and immediately I heard the notes." In essence, Blake's poem is about the duality of Jesus and God as two different but related entities. Blake also contrasts youth and old age. Listen for Tavener's clever use of mirroring a melody to create an unsettling chromatic harmony, as he expresses musical duality, dissonance, and contrast in his interpretation of the text.

Didn't Leave Nobody But the Baby and *I'll Fly Away* are favorite selections from the fabulous *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* bluegrass/country/folk soundtrack. *Didn't Leave Nobody But the Baby* is a reverie about vulnerability, abandonment, and solitude, and the universal search for connection. **Albert Brumley** apparently wrote *I'll Fly Away* while picking cotton on his father's farm in Oklahoma. Brumley used the idea of a "prison" as a metaphor for life on earth, especially the life of a slave or sharecropper, in Brumley's case.

And Am I Born to Die? **Charles Wesley's** 1763 hymn has been reimaged by the great Doc Watson into a bluegrass/folk classic. The themes within the original hymn—mortality, purpose, existential questions—are themes found far and wide in bluegrass music. This particular arrangement is based on the Béla Fleck/Abigail Washburn cover of this haunting tune.

Palestrina's "Sanctus" from *Missa Aeterna Christi Munera* has been described as "...art at its simplest and finest," by score editor Henry Washington. The mass, in its entirety, is revered by great composers from Bach to Debussy. This short section is a treat on the ears. It explores a small musical idea in motet form, so you will hear all four sections playing with the same motif throughout the piece at different times. It is a truly beautiful addition to the "Heaven" portion of today's program, as the text aligns with our Easter weekend performance: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal is my favorite arrangement of another song found in *The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion* compilation, published by William Walker in 1834. Alice Parker just shines here. Listen for the joy that she evokes with the rhythmic "Alleluia" section. Wondrous Love, another lovely setting by **Alice Parker and Robert Shaw**, is truly reverent in its treatment of the famous American hymn tune. This is another example of a piece that is rooted in many traditions of American music, including folk and bluegrass.

Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature

CONCERT PROGRAM

Repertoire Sponsor: Richard and Cindy Hansen

The Emperor Waltz “Kaiser-Waltzer” Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

Three Cuban Dances I. Cervantes (1847-1905)
1. Moderato Espressione Arr. Langley
2. No Llores Más (Weep no Longer)
3. Moderato Melanconico

Blue Tango Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)

Cowboy Fantasy Bill Holcomb (1924-2010)

American Suite Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
1. Andante Arr. Brendan McBrien
2. Allegro
3. Allegro Moderato

Intermission

Warrior Legacy Soon Hee Newbold (b.1974)

The Rite of Spring Themes Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
Arr. Bob Lipton

Dream Machine Brian Balmages (b.1975)

The Great Steamboat Race Robert W. Smith (b.1958)

An American in Paris Suite George Gershwin (1898-1937)
Arr. John Whitney

From the Music Director

This concert is about rhythms: the rhythms in our landscape that change as the days grow longer and the rhythms of music as we awaken from a long, cold winter. Whether we are listening to dance rhythms, energetic races down a wide river, or just exploring the genuine American music of Gershwin, we all feel the same need as the rhythm forces us to tap our toes or nod along in time. Composers use the sounds they hear in nature or the rhythms they are surrounded by to create musical emulations of those sounds. I hope this concert will get your toes tapping and get you ready to jump into summer with an energetic groove in your step!

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Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature

CONCERT NOTES

The Emperor Waltz (Kaiser-Walzer) is a famous waltz by **Johann Strauss II**, composed in 1889. This piece, originally titled *Hand in Hand*, was intended as a tribute to the friendship between Austria and Germany, represented by Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. The waltz is characterized by its majestic introduction, leading into a series of melodic and graceful waltz themes. It's known for its rich orchestration and distinctive Viennese style, reflecting Strauss's mastery in waltz composition. The piece has become a staple in classical music repertoire, often performed at concerts and ballroom events, epitomizing the elegance and charm of the late 19th-century Viennese culture.

Three Cuban Dances is a set of piano pieces composed by **Ignacio Cervantes**, a Cuban pianist and composer. Cervantes, known for blending European classical music with Afro-Cuban rhythms, created these dances as part of his contribution to the late 19th-century salon music tradition. These pieces are characterized by their lively, rhythmic qualities that reflect the fusion of cultural influences in Cuba. They are celebrated for capturing the essence of Cuban musical styles, combining elegance with vibrant, danceable rhythms, making them popular among both classical musicians and enthusiasts of Cuban music.

Blue Tango is an instrumental composition by **Leroy Anderson**, written in 1951. This piece became one of Anderson's first major successes and a popular light music classic. It is known for blending the traditional rhythmic structure of the tango with a distinctive, dreamy melodic line, giving it a unique and memorable character. The use of pizzicato strings and lush orchestration adds to its charm, making it a favorite in both concert performances and recordings. *Blue Tango* exemplifies Anderson's talent for creating music that is both accessible and artistically rich, bridging the gap between classical and popular music genres.

Antonín Dvořák was a renowned Czech composer of the late 19th century, born on September 8, 1841, in Nelahozeves, Bohemia (now Czech Republic). He is widely recognized for his contribution to classical music, especially for his symphonies, chamber music, operas, and concerti. His most famous work is the *Symphony No. 9, "From the New World,"* which reflects both his European roots and his fascination with American folk music. Dvořák's compositions are celebrated for melodic inventiveness, rich orchestrations, and incorporation of elements from Czech folk music, contributing significantly to the nationalist music movement. He also served as the director of the National Conservatory of Music in New York City for a time.

Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature

CONCERT NOTES cont.

An American in Paris Suite is an extended symphonic composition by **George Gershwin**, composed in 1928. Inspired by Gershwin's time in Paris, it evokes the sights and energy of the French capital in the 1920s. The piece is known for its innovative use of jazz and classical elements, and it famously incorporates the sound of Parisian taxi horns. It's a vibrant, rhythmic work that blends various musical styles, reflecting Gershwin's unique ability to bridge the gap between classical and popular music.

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We're ecstatic to report that VSA Orchestra bassist Richard Hansen and his wife, Cindy, have stepped up as our first concert repertoire underwriters for the April orchestra concert!

In addition, the Hansens also purchased carts for our newly procured posture chairs, along with underwriting Richard's bass section mate, Mike Kristoffersen!

Our thanks to Richard and Cindy for their incredible generosity and for leading by example to make the music possible!





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DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS

Volunteer orchestral and choral groups like the VSA are an outcropping from the concept of the American community band, which predates the Civil War. Immigrants brought the band tradition with them to the US, where thousands of ordinary citizens participated in these ensembles.

After the Civil War, census figures indicated that, across the country, there were about 10,000 community bands. Town bands were admired and provided townspeople with popular, light entertainment for concerts. While the quality of performance varied, the enjoyment and value to each town's social and cultural climate is undeniable.

Community bands experienced a great dying out after World War I, victims of a cultural shift to mass media, radio, and more, all which led to a rise in school music programs. The increased number of musicians who learned an instrument and played in high school and college bands but did not pursue music as a career also provided a rich pool of amateur talent seeking an outlet for their musical abilities. As a result—and ironically—there was once again a rise in participation in community bands.

While there will always be music teachers and professional musicians participating in volunteer music performance groups like the VSA, the majority of members come from professions that are not related to music. Most are amateurs who enjoyed playing in school and missed the camaraderie and music-making. Others are students looking to gain more rehearsal time and learn from more experienced musicians.

These ensembles give *everyone*, regardless of their age or chosen career path, a place to play their instrument, contribute to their community, and most especially, to enjoy themselves while making music.



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SALUTE TO OUR ROOTS

Founders Ted and Tricia Dickenson

Ted was a young intern at Vancouver General Hospital in Vancouver, BC, Canada, where he met Tricia, a nursing student. They married in 1958.

What followed is an amazing story of commitment to family and community. Tricia, the youngest and only daughter of four children, was born and raised in a small town on Vancouver Island where her father was the superintendent of the local lumber mill. Ted came from Champaign, IL, where his father was a professor of economics at the University of Illinois. The importance of community was foundational to their upbringing.

Shortly after marrying, Ted and Tricia moved to Georgia, where Ted served as a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force. Next, they were off to Denver, where Ted completed his surgical residency and established his own practice in general surgery. Tricia worked as a surgical nurse at National Jewish Hospital and volunteered at the Molly Brown House Museum.

Then the unexpected happened. Jim Austin (Montrose city manager), Steve Scott (Montrose Memorial Hospital administrator), and Robert Schmidt (Montrose school superintendent) showed up to recruit Ted to join the hospital staff in Montrose. In the spirit of enthusiasm, openness to change, and with a natural leaning toward curiosity and courage for adventure, they packed up and moved--five days later! The young family, which now included three daughters, Heather, Jennie and Karen, quickly settled into their new life in Montrose.

A significant piece of the recruitment was the expectation that Ted become an integral part of the community to help Montrose continue to grow as a thriving community. And so, it began.

Ted's community resume is impressive. It included the Rotary Club, Montrose Community Foundation, founder of the Montrose Academic Booster Club, Montrose Woodworkers Guild, numerous Montrose Memorial Hospital committees, and Daily Press medical columnist, to name a few. He founded the Montrose Academic Booster Club and co-founded the Montrose Forum. He lived commitment to community service by example, continually encouraging others to embrace that same commitment.

Tricia's resume is equally impressive. She filled in as a surgical nurse at the hospital, was a county health nurse and a cofounder of the first home health



Ted Dickenson



Tricia Dickenson

SALUTE TO OUR ROOTS (CONT)

business in Montrose and was a consultant and instructor to providers and counselors with Community Options.

But it didn't stop there for Tricia. Her community involvement also included starting the Montrose Arts Council, appointment to the first city planning commission, election to the city council in 1988, and serving as Montrose mayor for three terms. In 2018 she received a life achievement award as a Montrose "Woman of Distinction." She also cut the ribbon for the opening of the Montrose Pavilion and was a member of the Valley Symphony Women's Auxiliary.

And one other combined and notable resume item: Ted and Tricia became part of the elite group of Valley Symphony Association (VSA) founders in the late 1970s. Ted's love of classical music nurtured Tricia's, and it resulted in their decades-long commitment to supporting the VSA. She quite proudly describes the VSA as belonging to the regional community. "It's ours—and it's damn good!"

With vivaciousness and life-loving spirit, Ted and Tricia lived their community commitment to the fullest. Ted passed unexpectedly in 2012; Tricia continues to enjoy attending concerts. The VSA is grateful for their role as founders.



In musical memory of Ramona Good

A faithful contributor of funding and bassoonists since 1984.



Her son, Paul Good, played bassoon parts on euphonium (1984-1998), and daughter, Carol Franklin, has played bassoon with the VSA since 1998.

Our gratitude to everyone who donated to the VSA in Ramona's memory.

I love the orchestra family. We bond and relate. Music brings us together. It helps our hearts, and we love to share it with others. Life isn't complete without it. - Lois Drysdale, Violin 2

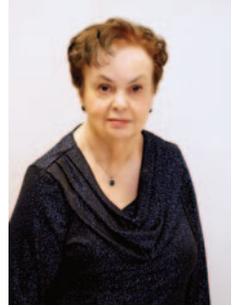


FEATURED MUSICIAN

Charlotte Heath - Soprano I

Charlotte has always had a love of music. She took piano lessons as a child but realized she liked to sing more. While she had a few voice lessons, singing in choirs truly developed her talent—and it helped that she was raised in a church that sang four-part harmony.

She says her primary claim-to-fame is that she is the mother of daughter, Bethany Ward (VSA Chorus Conductor from 2008-2010), and son, Jonathan Heath (who has acted in Magic Circle productions). In fact, Charlotte has been a Magic Circle Player in two productions herself.



Charlotte Heath

She moved to Montrose because of her daughter. After vacationing here, Bethany fell in love with the mountains and moved to Montrose after college, taking a job as a music teacher. Charlotte and her husband made the move after retiring early from jobs with schools in Texas. She enjoys having her family close by, including grandson, Colton, and son-in-law, Jason. “I wasn’t born here, but I got here as soon as I could! I love living in Montrose.”

Charlotte joined Bethany in the VSA Chorus in 2006 and sang a duet that year from Vivaldi’s *Gloria*. The VSA wasn’t Charlotte’s first experience with singing in a choir: she has sung in various groups, from college choirs to the Houston Symphony Chorus, for nearly 50 years.

Two interesting things about Charlotte: she is a breast cancer survivor, and some of her favorite music are requiems. “I treasure my time in the VSA chorus--all 17 years. I met my best friend there and many other dear friends. It has been a joy!”



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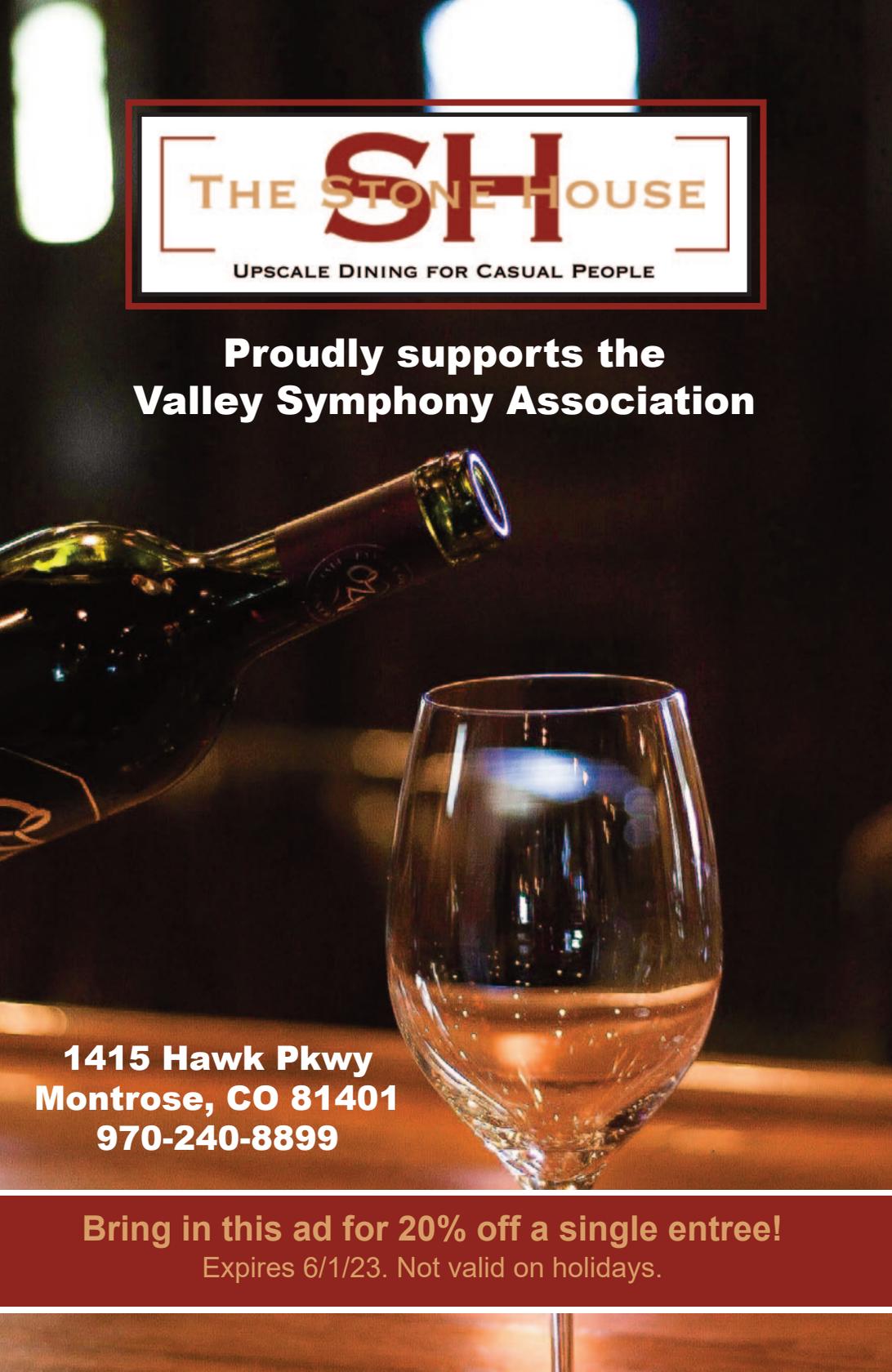
Orchestra

Troy Raper	Conductor	Bank of Colorado-Delta, JP Wolfe
Lois Drysdale	Violin	Marie Heroux
Rachael King	Violin	Raymond James Financial Services-Roby King
Maya Varela	Violin	Davis Clothing Company
John Fuerst	Viola	John Fuerst
Beth Pertz	Cello	C&N Storage, Superlative Concrete Seal, Mitch Bramlage-Edward Jones (Delta)
Mary Novak	Cello	Marie Heroux
Mike Kristoffersen	Bass	Richard Hansen
Laura Payne	Bass	Jim Payne
Edie Burgess	Flute	Ramona Good's Chickadees
Stacey Ryan	Clarinet	Jim & Eleanor Ennis, Jim & Devon Rea, Bill & Sharyn Bennett, Tricia Comstock-Dental Hygiene Care
Toru Arisawa	Bassoon	Carol Franklin
Carol Franklin	Bassoon	Jeanine (Good) Chinn
Sheri Williams	Horn	Camp Robber
Christian Pfretzschner	Trombone	Oktoberfest Oompah Band
Anne Clayton	Percussion	The George Miller Family

Chorus

Katy Kristoffersen	Conductor	Tim & Gen Spangler
Diane Balk	Soprano 1	Anonymous
Ann Holmes	Soprano 1	Ann Holmes
Mary Redmond	Soprano 1	Anonymous
Luann Svaldi	Soprano 1	Luann Svaldi
Christine Bloss	Soprano 2	Bloss Dental Care
Cathy Foglesong	Soprano 2	Anonymous
Barb Krebs	Soprano 2	Pahgre's Restaurant
Julie Laube	Soprano 2	Keith & Julie Laube
Sarah Morales	Soprano 2	Fernando Morales
Aimee Rawlings	Soprano 2	Colorado Smiles
Demeris York	Soprano 2	Bob & Jeanie Brown
Anne Harper	Alto 1	Violet Marie Harper
Cheryl Harshman	Alto 1	Cheryl Harshman
Diane McCully	Alto 1	Douglas McCully
Melissa Chapple	Alto 2	Melissa Chapple
Susan Decker	Alto 2	Decker & Associates PC
Liz Soler	Alto 2	Roger Faucher
Marka Wellington	Alto 2	United Methodist Women
Bonnie Koehler	Tenor 1	Uppity Horn Women
Kevin Pulsipher	Tenor 1	Lorchin Pulsipher
Erv Rawlings	Tenor 1	Colorado Smiles
Mike Edwards	Tenor 2	Mike & Trish Edwards
Judy Lokey	Tenor 2	Alison Easter
Vince Snowbarger	Tenor 2	Vince & Carolyn Snowbarger
Keith Laube	Bass 1	Keith & Julie Laube
Jim Parks	Bass 2	Jim Parks
Seth Ryan	Bass 2	Jim & Devon Rea, Jim & Eleanor Ennis, 7th Judicial District DA's Team

Section underwriters are listed on the rosters on pages 13 & 15

A close-up photograph of a wine bottle being poured into a glass. The bottle is tilted, and the liquid is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic sense of movement. The lighting is warm and focused on the bottle and glass, with a blurred background of what appears to be a restaurant or bar setting.

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OUR HISTORY: BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO LIFE!

In 1970 a small group of classical musicians met in the parlor of Wilma and Charles Lowell's Eckert home. By October, 1971, the Delta County Community Orchestra was under the baton of Walter Birkedahl of Mesa State College and first performed on March 2, 1972, at Cedaredge Hunsicker Elementary School. On March 16, 1978, the nonprofit known as the Valley Symphony Association was formed to sponsor the orchestra. At that time, nearly 50 musicians from Montrose, Delta, Grand Junction, Ouray, Gunnison, Paonia, Hotchkiss, Cedaredge, and Eckert practiced once a week in Delta and performed four annual concerts.



In the late 1990s and early 2000s, numerous choirs, like the Grand Mesa Singers and the Christmas in the Valley chorus, were seasonal contributors to the orchestra, mainly at Christmas concerts. In 2002, these choral groups combined and came under the VSA umbrella to create the VSA Chorus.

The VSA continues to grow in membership, musical ability, audience size, and program variety, and is thought to be the only orchestra in Colorado that is not based in a college community. Today, the VSA's 100+ regional volunteer musicians come together from throughout the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys to bring their skill, passion, and talent to the stage.

The VSA believes in the transformative power of music to inspire and entertain. Our diverse regional volunteer musicians treasure the opportunity to perform live to connect Western Slope audiences of all ages. The VSA's goal and purpose is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the legacy of live orchestral and choral music that so magnificently celebrates the human spirit.

As a regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization, the VSA takes pride in their long history of keeping classical music vital, building future audiences, and bringing classical music to life on the Western Slope.





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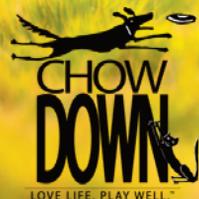
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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Sheri Williams - Horn

Sheri has been playing horn since she started in 5th grade in Colorado Springs. She chose it because it was her favorite brother's instrument. Her love of music started much earlier than that, though, with piano lessons and singing as a young child—but don't ask her to do either now! She ended up loving the sound of the horn and was glad that she chose it as the best instrument for her.



Sheri Williams

As a music education major at CU Boulder, Sheri met her future husband, Dave, at marching band camp. "We like to say that's where all the cool people meet!" At CU, she played in many groups including brass and woodwind quintets, the symphonic band, wind ensemble, as well as the orchestra. "That was my first time playing with an orchestra, and I loved it from the start."

After college, while still single, she moved to China and taught English to Chinese English teachers as they finished their degrees. She lived and worked in Anhui Province in China for two years and enjoyed the cross-cultural relationships that she made. She had many chances to play horn in China because, "...at that time, in the '90s, foreigners were treated a bit like celebrities and asked to perform often."

Sheri returned to the US after two years overseas, worked in various ministry and teaching roles, and got serious about that guy she met in college! They started a family and had four amazing kids. Sheri had a music studio and gave music lessons periodically during the years of having a young family and through several moves away from Colorado and around the Midwest. Unfortunately, she didn't have much of a chance to play horn during that time. She started again while living in a small Wisconsin town, outside the Twin Cities area, around 2012. It was a joy to be back playing in an orchestra.

Married to Dave for nearly 28 years now, they moved to Cedaredge seven years ago for him to pastor New Hope Church. They are thankful to be near the mountains again and love to hike, kayak, and camp when they are able. They are brand-new empty nesters after sending their youngest off to college in August and are hoping to use the extra time to have more adventures in our beautiful area.

Sheri began playing with the VSA Orchestra in 2017, the year after moving to Cedaredge. She is very thankful for the wonderful group of musicians and the camaraderie in the organization and the community support of the group.

Donate today to make the music happen!

<https://valleysymphony.net/support/donate>



About Our April Concert Imagery

Not only is Vince Farnsworth a talented VSA violinist, he's also a talented photographic artist who generously gave us permission to use the image, pictured right, as the cover art for our April *Rites of Spring* concerts.



*Last Dollar Field with Fence
by Vince Farnsworth*

He captured this image in 2022 along Last Dollar Road between Ridgway and Telluride. It is part of Last Dollar Ranch.

"I saw the scene and waited until sunset to take the shot," Vince said. "The sky is a little more colorful from all the smoke, as there were many fires that year." He goes to this area every year because the fields are completely covered with the Mule Ear flowers (the ones that look like daisies) and lupine. "It doesn't get much better than that."

Visit the Farnsworth Gallery in the Montrose Center for Arts (Park and Main). During the spring and summer, Vince also showcases his art at the gallery at Black Canyon Corner (Hwy 50 and 347). For more information about his artwork, visit www.farnsworthscenics.com or call 970-209-7154.

Enjoying the music, thanks VSA!



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WHO ARE OUR VSA MUSICIANS?

They live and work in our midst, represent the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys, and hail from Montrose, Ouray, Hotchkiss, Eckert, Olathe, Palisade, Paonia, Delta, Ridgway, Austin, Cedaredge, Telluride, Crested Butte, and Grand Junction. Our musicians 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 and elementary schools. They work in business, the arts, health care, government, agriculture, law enforcement, and as entrepreneurs. Some are retired. Some are teenagers. Some are military veterans. Some are snowbirds. And they are all VSA musicians.

Learn more about VSA musicians by visiting ValleySymphony.net/About Us.

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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Van Tuin - Bass I

Van has been singing for as long as he can remember. "My dad was a music lover and had me singing in church from day one. We had a family band, and as the youngest of five kids, I started playing trumpet at age 5. In the 4th grade I switched to tuba, which I still play."

He moved with his family to Paonia when he was just 10 years old, and for 60 years, he's called Paonia "home."

Van sang in the high school chorus and the Point Loma College Acapella Choir and took voice lessons in both high school and college. He has performed at more than 150 funerals over the years. He owned and operated Tuin Glass for 40 years in the North Fork Valley and coached basketball at Paonia High for nine years.

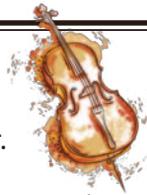
Van joined the chorus in the 2009-2010 season when Bethany Ward was the director. "I enjoy the VSA for the challenge of learning and then sharing the music. I am now retired and enjoy traveling with my high school sweetheart and wife of 47 years, Trish. I also enjoy our five grandkids, 4-wheeling, and turning bowls on my lathe."



Van Tuin

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