



# EUGENE SYMPHONY

2016/17 SEASON

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## ANNUAL REPORT





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# ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH THE POWER OF MUSIC



# DEAR FRIENDS



Following the phenomenal success of the Eugene Symphony Association's 50th Anniversary Season was no small feat. When we set the bar last year, we set it high, and I for one am always glad to have a benchmark of aspiration for which to strive. During this 51st season, artistically the ensemble continued to evolve and advance through daring performances, our offstage programs brought music into the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community, and we successfully achieved the transition of our artistic leadership and opened the door to the Eugene Symphony's next era.

As a beloved member of the Eugene Symphony family, I hope you join me in being proud of our accomplishments. Together, we – musicians, volunteers, donors, Board leaders, administrators, ticket-buyers, students, and more – have collaborated to make this a successful and inspiring year.

In the pages that follow, you'll see some of ways that we achieved our mission of enriching lives through the power of music. Here are a few of my personal highlights:

- Watching a small child beam and twirl, ice cream cone clutched askew in one hand, while listening to a Tchaikovsky waltz at our outdoor concert in Roseburg in July.
- Hearing the thunderous ovation for our five high-school composers following the premiere of *Ode to the Future* in November.
- At that same concert, filling with awe as the orchestra turned in a heart-thumping performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905," reminding me that great art can caution us not to repeat the mistakes of the past.
- Emotion choking my throat as the entire audience stayed glued in place to hear the final moments of the *Amadeus* soundtrack while the end credits rolled, rapt with attention as Principal Keyboard Christine Mirabella spun out phrases of the Romanze movement from Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20.

- Reading the hundreds of hand-written, often insightful, and occasionally wry comments submitted by audience members in response to our Music Director search surveys, and wondering which candidate would emerge as the consensus choice to lead us onward.
- Observing a group of students at Riverfront Alternative High School as they experienced our *Symphony Connect* program and sang along to a string quartet arrangement of Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'."
- Lastly, seeing Danail Rachev take his final bow on May 11 following an exhilarating performance of Strauss's *An Alpine Symphony*, a fitting conclusion to his eight-year tenure of building the orchestra's strengths and encouraging them to ascend new heights of artistic possibility.

I invite you to look into the pages of this report to see what this year has meant to the Eugene Symphony Association, and how, with your support, we continue to grow as one of the cornerstones of cultural life in Oregon. I am deeply grateful for the unflagging belief of so many people who all share the same hope – that music can and will be a unifying force that brings us closer to one another. Thank you for all that you do.

My best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Scott Freck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Freck".

Scott Freck  
Executive Director



“SymFest was the most fun I’ve had at the Symphony all season! My entire family, including my children, were so engaged and entertained! There was so much to experience all in one place and so many new people in the hall that I know from the community. On top of it all, the concert itself was unforgettable!”

— SYMFEST PATRON



“Collaborating with the Eugene Symphony to bring contemporary art and new audiences into the concert hall was a powerful and rewarding experience. This organization clearly holds artistry and innovation in the highest regard.”

— JOHN PARK,  
Harmonic Laboratory



## 2016/17 SEASON

# HIGHLIGHTS

### QUICK FACTS

At Symphonic series &  
Special Concerts this season,

**1,620**

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES

**874**

YOUTH AND  
STUDENT TICKETS

### SUMMER CONCERTS

Outdoors galore! On July 16, 18, and 19 in Eugene, Cottage Grove, and Roseburg, nearly 10,000 fellow Oregonians heard the Eugene Symphony perform music by Tchaikovsky, Suppé, Porter, and Williams. Soloists Nora Willauer and Maia Hoffman, winners of the senior and junior divisions of ESA's Young Artist Competition respectively, **wowed the crowds with their prowess.**

### LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

For the first time, the Eugene Symphony was featured in an hour-long **radio program broadcast live by KLCC-FM** on September 19. Co-hosted by Executive Director Scott Freck and KLCC's Eric Alan, the program featured cello soloist Joshua Roman and the newly launched *Symphony Connect* string quartet, joined by a small studio audience of Eugene Symphony and KLCC patrons.

### ORCHESTRAL ACHIEVEMENT

For his final season at the artistic helm, Music Director & Conductor Danail Rachev scheduled major symphonic repertoire that he'd been working toward throughout his tenure, including Brahms' Fourth Symphony, Mahler's "Tragic" Sixth Symphony, Shostakovich's searing Symphony No. 11, and **Richard Strauss's heroic and descriptive *An Alpine Symphony***, which closed the Symphonic series on May 11.

### INNOVATION AND CREATION

With support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Hult Endowment, we pushed the boundaries of the concert experience and opened our stage to teenage talent. On November 17, we premiered *Ode to the Future*, a theme-and-variations based on Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" which was co-written by **five high-school-age composers**. Berlioz' 19th-century dramatic legend *The Damnation of Faust* was given 21st-century dimensions on April 13, as local arts collective Harmonic Laboratory created compelling digital imagery which was projected onto the walls and ceiling of Silva Concert Hall.

### NEW AUDIENCES

In three non-subscription performances, Eugene Symphony **welcomed 1,019 first-time ticket-buyers**. On December 11, the orchestra performed the soundtrack for the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus* while the audience delighted in the story of Mozart's genius and Salieri's jealousy. Portland-based Pink Martini entertained a near-capacity crowd on February 4, including a cameo performance by 2002 Miss America and Oregon native Katie Harman. Our most diverse audience of the year turned out for **SymFest 2** on June 3, which saw the Symphony debut of Eugene vocalist Siri Vik as well as blistering sets by string trio **Time for Three**.

### STUNNING SOLOISTS

Award-winning soloists such as pianist Stephen Hough and guitarist Sharon Isbin captivated Hult Center audiences, while up-and-coming stars like cellist Joshua Roman, pianists Andrew von Oeyen and Soyeon Kate Lee, and violinist Elena Urioste proved popular as well. **Mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke** turned in perhaps the performance of the year as Marguerite in *The Damnation of Faust*, as her "**King of Thule**" aria left us **all breathless.**

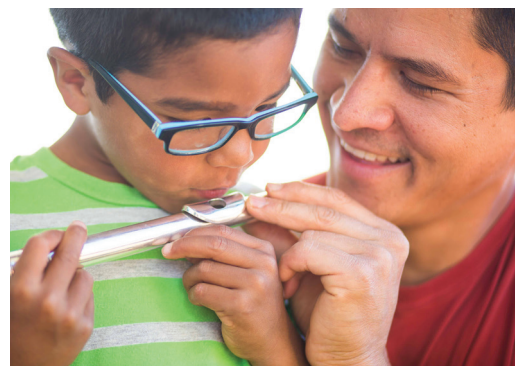
### MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH

On the minds of many was the 14-month international search for Mo. Rachev's successor. The Search Committee reviewed 257 applications from 44 countries, including 36 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Nine semi-finalists were invited to Eugene in July and August for interviews and reading sessions with a chamber ensemble from the orchestra. Then, three finalists were named – **Dina Gilbert, Ryan McAdams, and Francesco Lecce-Chong** – each of whom led a Symphonic series concert and met with a wide variety of constituencies. In the end, **Lecce-Chong was appointed on April 5 by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors**, and announced to the public on April 26.



“The program was a great experience for me; a wonderful way to improve my playing while getting to meet other local musicians and receive coaching from a very talented Eugene Symphony musician. She gave freely of her time and talents to make us better musicians.”

—PLAY IT AGAIN! PARTICIPANT



“The most valuable lesson I learned came from collaborating with the other composers. Typically, composers work alone, but *Ode to the Future* taught me that when people – composers or otherwise – work together, they can create something more powerful than any of them could have created alone. *Ode to the Future* has taught me about the strength of community, and the importance of collaboration to create a better world.”

— KATIE PALKA, age 15



# EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

From toddlers to teens and students to seniors,

**20,857**  
PEOPLE

experienced live music through our Education & Community Engagement programs this year, nearly all of them at no-cost participation.

### YOUTH CONCERTS

**5,140** students and teachers from 79 schools experienced the Eugene Symphony's fall and spring Youth Concerts, *iCompose: The Future of Music* and *The Orchestra Moves*, at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

### LINK UP

**1,170** students participated in Carnegie Hall's *Link Up* program through the Eugene Symphony. Students learned orchestral curriculum in schools, and then sang along and played recorder or violin from their seats at our spring Youth Concert *The Orchestra Moves*. ESA teaching artists also taught *Link Up* to 50 students in the BEST Afterschool Program at César E. Chávez, Howard, River Road/El Camino del Rio, and Spring Creek Elementary.

### ENCOURAGING YOUNG MUSICIANS TO ACHIEVE

More than **400** students at regional middle and high schools had the opportunity to work with a Symphony musician in master classes, sectionals, chamber ensembles, and career coaching sessions.

### EUGENE SYMPHONY GUILD YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

**22** young musicians competed in the newly renamed Eugene Symphony Guild Young Artist Competition for prize money and the chance to perform in Eugene Symphony's summer concerts. Congratulations to the 2016-17 winners: cellist Chas Barnard, senior division, and pianist Aveek Ganguly, junior division.

### PLAY IT AGAIN!

**11** chamber ensembles, comprising **35** musicians from the community, participated in Play It Again! Adult Chamber Ensembles and performed in a free public performance after working on repertoire with Symphony musicians.

### ROSEBURG RESIDENCY

Through an extended residency with Douglas County Youth Orchestra in Roseburg, Eugene Symphony musicians provided advanced artistic instruction to students in this rural community.

### LAURA AVERY VISITING MASTERS

**18** outstanding student musicians from middle school, high school, and college performed for and worked with Eugene Symphony's guest artists in master classes through the Laura Avery Visiting Masters program, which also engaged over **200** audience members throughout the season.

### INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOOS

Instrument Petting Zoos provided a hands-on opportunity to **675** people of all ages to try a variety of orchestra instruments at our summer concerts, the Eugene Public Library, and other community events.

### GUILD CONCERT PREVIEWS

The Eugene Symphony Guild Concert Preview engaged **2,282** people through discussions with the week's guest artist led by Maestro Danail Rachev or one of our final three Music Director candidates during the 2016/17 season.

### ISBIN/ROUSE RESIDENCY

A special joint-residency with guitarist Sharon Isbin & composer Christopher Rouse in February engaged more than **570** students and community members through master classes, school visits, community performances, and a special film screening.

### SYMPHONY CONNECT

In its pilot season, *Symphony Connect* engaged more than **340** community members through interactive string quartet performances designed in consultation with music therapist Danielle Crowe. *Symphony Connect* performances provide access to the arts for connection, creativity, enjoyment, and healing to traditionally underserved populations.

### ODE TO THE FUTURE

**Five** high school composers from across Oregon collaborated with composer Rob Kyr and University of Oregon graduate composition students to co-create a piece based on Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" that the orchestra premiered in November 2016.



MUSICIAN  
SERVICES\*  
**5,423**

\*Total number of times individual musicians have played at rehearsals, concerts, education and community events this year.

# ORCHESTRA

## MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Danail Rachev

## VIOLIN I

Searmi Park, *Concertmaster*

Lisa McWhorter,  
*Assistant Concertmaster*

Stephen Chong

Della Davies

Anthony Dyer

Rosemary Erb

Jennifer Estrin

Yvonne Hsueh

Nelly Kovalev

Bashar Matti\*

Sophie Therrell

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

## VIOLIN II

Matthew Fuller, *Principal*

Sasha Chandler,  
*Assistant Principal*

Claudia Miller

Dan Athearn

Alice Blankenship

David Burham

Julia Frantz

Virginia Kaiser

Valerie Nelson\*

Marilyn Tyler

Jannie Wei

Vacant

## VIOLA

Holland Phillips, *Principal*

Miriam English Ward,  
*Assistant Principal*

Lauren Culver\*

Lauren Elledge

Hanya Etter

Anamaria Ghidea

Adam Hoornstra ∞

Shauna Keyes

Kim Uwate\*\*

Vacant

Vacant

## CELLO

Anne Ridlington, *Principal*

Eric Alterman

Dale Bradley

Kathryn Brunhaver\*

David Chinburg

Ann Grabe

James Pelley

Nancy Sowdon

Vacant

## BASS

Richard Meyn, *Principal*

Forrest Moyer,  
*Assistant Principal*

Tyler Abbott

Rick Carter

Milo Fultz

Greg Nathan ∞

Nathan Waddell ∞

## FLUTE

Kristen Halay, *Principal*

Wendy Bamonte

Jill Pauls

## OBOE

Kelly Gronli, *Principal* ∞

Cheryl Denice

Annalisa Morton (English Horn)

## CLARINET

Michael Anderson, *Principal*

Louis DeMartino (E-flat Clarinet)

Carol Robe (Bass Clarinet)

## BASSOON

Vacant, *Principal*

Mike Curtis

Steve Vacchi (Contrabassoon)

David Hattenhauer

## HORN

David Kruse, *Principal*

Jennifer Harrison

Lydia Van Dreef

Scott King

Jonathan Kuhns (Assistant Horn)

## TRUMPET

Sarah Viens, *Principal*

Joshua Silva

David Bender

## TROMBONE

Henry Henniger, *Principal*

Ron Bertucci ∞

James Meyer

## TUBA

Michael Grose, *Principal*

## TIMPANI

Ian Kerr, *Principal*

## PERCUSSION

Tim Cogswell, *Principal*

Brian Scott

Randal Larson

Sean Wagoner

## KEYBOARD

Christine Mirabella, *Principal*

## HARP

Jane Allen, *Principal*

## CHORUS DIRECTOR

Sharon J. Paul

\* denotes University of Oregon Graduate Employee

\*\* denotes one-year appointment

∞ denotes one-year leave



# LOOKING BACK

## ON DANAIL RACHEV'S EIGHT SEASONS WITH EUGENE SYMPHONY

The Eugene Symphony Association thanks Music Director & Conductor Danail Rachev for his eight years of work enriching lives through the power of music, and wishes him the best of luck in his future artistic endeavors. He departed to pursue the next stage of his career after his tenure concluded in June 2017.

"I believe we have one of the best regional orchestras in the United States, and I am very proud of what we have accomplished together here in Eugene over the last eight years."

— DANAIL RACHEV

### HIGHLIGHTS OF RACHEV'S TENURE

- ESA commissioned **five** new orchestral works, three of which premiered in the celebratory 50th Anniversary Season.
- Elevated the quality of the orchestra with key hires throughout the ensemble, including Concertmaster Searmi Park, who took the position in 2013.
- Spearheaded new initiatives like the multidisciplinary festival Counterpoint and Symphony in the Park, a free summer concert that has become an iconic and beloved annual event in Eugene.

"Thank you so much for all that you have brought to our experience of classical music and for contributing so much to our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It has been a great pleasure to work closely with you and come to know you and your family as friends."

— BARBARA WALKER,  
Board member, 50th Anniversary  
Celebration Committee Chair,  
and 12-year patron

"It has been such an awesome experience to watch the orchestra grow under Danail's leadership. So many people tell me the orchestra has never sounded better."

— MATT SHAPIRO,  
Eugene Symphony Board President  
and 17-year patron

"I wish to thank Danail for his contribution to the growth of the Eugene Symphony. Danail's love and devotion for classical music has challenged the players and made our Symphony one of the finest regional orchestras in the nation."

— DAVID POTTINGER,  
Eugene Symphony President-Elect  
and nine-year patron

"I will always be grateful to Danail for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be Eugene Symphony's Concertmaster. We have been so fortunate to have him on the podium — he has always demanded the highest possible musical standard from the orchestra, while giving us the artistic freedom to express ourselves."

— SEARMI PARK,  
Concertmaster



▲ Rachev with violinist Itzhak Perlman, September 2014.



# THANK YOU!

## DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

### QUICK FACT

Our supporters are devoted and have deepened their impact! The average donation amount from individuals increased by

**12%**

### DID YOU KNOW?

The arts are good for business, and businesses want a thriving and creative community.

This season we recruited 16 first-time corporate sponsors for concerts and events, and total corporate support increased by

**15%**



- 1 Conductor's Cabinet members applaud Francesco Lecce-Chong at the Music Director reveal event on April 26, 2017. 2 Maylian Pak, Elizabeth Allcott St. Clair, and Raychel Kolen bid on a Gala 2017 package. 3 Board member Barbara Walker and her husband, James, dance at Gala 2017. 4 Board member Mary Ann Hanson greets Andrew Stiltner and his wife, Julia, granddaughter of Carolyn Chambers. 5 Leaders of Summit Bank, Palo Alto Software, Technology Association of Oregon, and Concentric Sky helped make our Tech Night Out at the Symphony possible. 6 Natalie and Zack Blalack (Ameriprise Financial) with China Forbes of Pink Martini. 7 Drs. Keyhan and Lauren Aryah, recipients of the 2017 Advocate for the Arts Award.

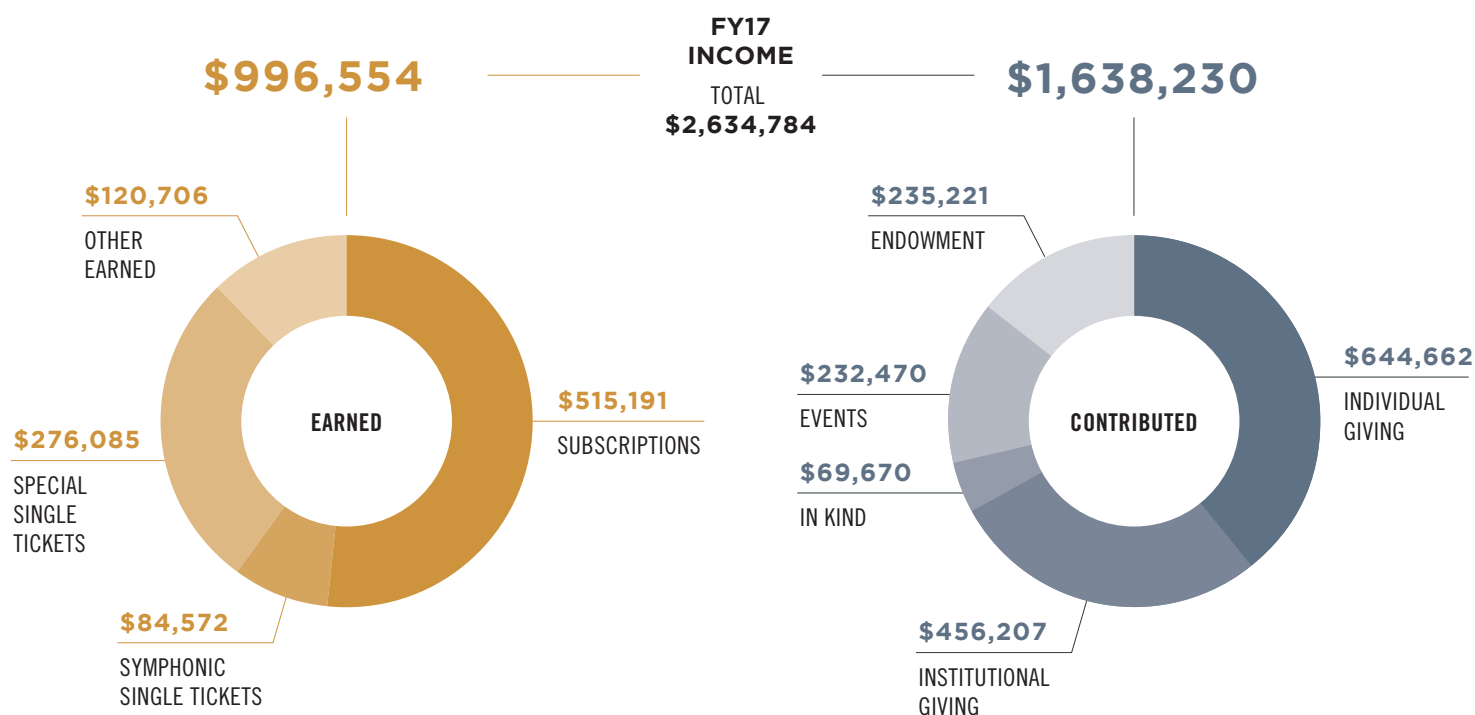
See a complete, current list of donors on the most recent program magazine available online at [eugenesymphony.org/news](http://eugenesymphony.org/news)



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS\* & IMPACT

## USE OF FUNDS

ARTISTIC	\$1,078,562
PRODUCTION	\$389,589
MARKETING	\$202,171
FUNDRAISING	\$132,853
ADMINISTRATIVE	\$761,741
IN-KIND	\$69,670
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,634,586</b>



## YOUR SUPPORT MADE POSSIBLE:



**100+**  
MUSICIANS  
EMPLOYED



**25**  
FREE COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS FOR NEARLY  
20,000 PEOPLE



**12**  
SYMPHONIC AND  
SPECIAL CONCERTS IN  
THE HULT CENTER FOR  
NEARLY 22,000 PEOPLE



**4**  
YOUTH CONCERTS IN  
THE HULT CENTER FOR  
MORE THAN 5,000  
STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



**1**  
WORLD PREMIERE  
OF A YOUTH-WRITTEN  
COMPOSITION

**NEARLY 50,000 LIVES ENRICHED THROUGH THE POWER OF MUSIC!**

\*Figures accurate as of third-quarter projection approved by the Finance Committee on June 9, 2017



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE 52<sup>ND</sup> SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

### JULY 22, 2017

Francesco Lecce-Chong takes the podium as our new Music Director & Conductor at Eugene Symphony in the Park at Cuthbert Amphitheater.

### SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Soprano superstar Renée Fleming opens the season with the orchestra at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

### DECEMBER 17, 2017

Cirque de la Symphonie Holiday Spectacular – a family-friendly evening full of spirited classics played by the orchestra while acrobats, aerial flyers, jugglers and dancers delight!

### FEBRUARY 3, 2018

SPECIAL EVENING! Gala 2018 benefitting Eugene Symphony's onstage, music education and community engagement programs.

### FEBRUARY 15, 2018

The Four Seasons of the McKenzie River featuring Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* with projected imagery of one of Oregon's natural treasures. A partnership with McKenzie River Trust, Travel Lane County, and supported by the Hult Endowment.

**Subscriptions available now! Single tickets available August 8.**

**Details at [eugenesymphony.org](http://eugenesymphony.org) or 541-682-5000.**

## THANK YOU TO OUR 51<sup>ST</sup> SEASON SPONSORS

