

Welcome

September – October 2017



Greetings all!

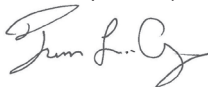
It is truly my privilege and honor to welcome you to this Eugene Symphony performance. I am filled with the greatest excitement as I enter into my first season as your Music Director and join forces with these brilliant musicians. Over the coming years, I look forward to sharing in powerful musical experiences with all of you.

Take a moment right now and look around you—find someone you don't know and say hello. What are they looking forward to the most about the concert? Share your favorite composer or piece of music.

Did you do it? Good. Congratulations, you just helped create a more welcoming environment for great music! At the same time, you ensured that you and someone else will have an even stronger connection to the music through your collective experience. I encourage you to join me in having this interaction at concerts because we all know this music can inspire the imagination, stir the emotions, and revitalize the soul. The more we ready ourselves to connect with the music in an active way, the more our lives will be enriched by the experience.

As part of finding more ways to interact and create dialogue around our concerts, I encourage you to check out our new format for program notes. I am delighted to introduce you to my dear friend, Tom Strini, long-time music critic for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and now an instructor at Oregon State University. Tom and I will be working together to bring you program notes unique to each performance by the Eugene Symphony in an informal, colorful way! This is an experiment for all of us, so we welcome your feedback throughout this season.

Thank you for joining us!



Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director & Conductor



Dear Friends,

Welcome! It's an exciting time at Eugene Symphony. After completing the search for our new Music Director & Conductor with the unflagging effort of our search committee and strong community support, we are proud to welcome Francesco Lecce-Chong to the podium!

Francesco will share his talent and energy to support our mission of *enriching lives through the power of music* and continue the development of one of the finest regional orchestras in the country. With him at our helm, we expect the concert hall experience to be one of excitement, passion and joy.

Changes this season also include the 7:30 p.m. start time for Symphonic series concerts. The earlier start time has been on our radar thanks to audience survey input, and we are glad to now implement the change. We will continue to embrace feedback about your concert experience.

The Eugene Symphony Board of Directors, staff, and musicians strive to increase access to music in all corners of our community, and we are happy to report those initiatives are growing. We are proud of our existing Education & Community Engagement programs that reach thousands of children and adults each year, including our Youth Concerts and our annual free summer concert, *Symphony in the Park*, which is now performed in three communities: Eugene, Cottage Grove and Roseburg. Through one of our newest programs, Symphony Connect, we partner with local human service agencies to share the power of music to heal and elicit joy.

We are also thrilled to branch into the community through our collaboration with McKenzie River Trust and Travel Lane County for February's "Four Seasons of the McKenzie River" concert. I encourage you to participate in this project, which you can learn about at eugenesymphony.org/mckenzie4seasons. After the November 22 deadline, submitted imagery will be selected for compilation and then projected during the performance of Vivaldi's famous work. It's sure to be a highlight of the season!

We are glad you are here. Thank you for your support!



Dave Pottinger, President of Eugene Symphony Board of Directors