Dear Friends:

Thank you, Fort Wayne. As a community, you have come together for 75 years to support an orchestra of exceptional caliber, artistic accomplishment, and professionalism. Through performances, educational programs, and community engagement, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic has remained committed to upholding the value it provides the region and for ensuring that great music is accessible to everyone.

The 2018-19 Season allowed us an opportunity to pause and reflect on those who came before us: the artists, patrons, business leaders, and community volunteers who for decades have made possible a legacy that is the envy of many cities throughout the country.

As we embark upon the next 75 years of service to everyone in Northeast Indiana, we are crafting a vision for a Philharmonic of the 21st Century, an orchestra that is even more accessible, and serving increasing numbers of people throughout the region. We are working to become even more innovative, broadening programming and partnerships to reach new audiences, while growing opportunities for children, young professionals, business leaders, and citizens as a leader in a vibrant and engaged Fort Wayne. And, we are striving to become even more valued, aligning with a thriving Northeast Indiana region that is growing into a nationally recognized technology and business hub, with a strong downtown and active neighborhoods, positive climate for growth, and cultural and educational center.

We are grateful for the part you have played in making the 75th Anniversary such a wonderful milestone. As we continue to break down access barriers and create "an orchestra without walls," we promise to do our best to reach every part of a growing and thriving Fort Wayne and Northeastern Indiana.

Thanks to each and every one of you for being a part of a bright future for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

Sincerely,

Chuck Surack
Chairman, Board of Directors

FROM BOARD CHAIR CHUCK SURACK

MISSION AND VALUES

“To foster and instill a lifelong love of symphonic music through performance and education.”

VISION STATEMENT

“The Fort Wayne Philharmonic will be one of the most vibrant, highly acclaimed and financially healthy orchestras in the country, assuring its position as the cornerstone of the regional arts community. It will perform great art in the most excellent possible manner, and create innovative programs across many styles and media, resulting in exceptional experiences for each individual as they are enticed, engaged and thrilled.”

VALUES

Artistic Integrity
Individual & Organizational Excellence
Innovation
Transparency
Accountability
Responsible Stewardship
FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDREW CONSTANTINE

Dear Friends:

We are filled with gratitude for the outpouring of support from Northeast Indiana citizens during our recently completed 75th Anniversary Season. From superstar soprano Renée Fleming on Opening Night to Holiday Pops, specials, youth, education, and pop up concerts throughout the community, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic celebrated this auspicious Anniversary while beautifully addressing its mission to ensure that great music is accessible to everyone. Thank you for playing your part in making the Philharmonic Fort Wayne’s musical home.

Planning an anniversary season is no small feat. One must include the repertory audiences know and love, the magnificent treasure trove of masterpieces that have been bequeathed to us over nearly 400 years. Baroque works and standard repertory by Mozart, Barber, Beethoven, Berlioz, Bizet, Dvořák and Janáček filled the season. To the mix we added exciting new compositions by composers like my friend Joel Puckett and the great American composer Joan Tower.

We performed one of the greatest masterpieces of the 20th century, Benjamin Britten’s massive War Requiem, on the eve of the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice of World War I. And, the Philharmonic took full advantage of new technology with its semi staged concert version of Bizet’s opera Carmen, which included stunning videography. From start to finish, we endeavoured to offer something for every musical taste.

Working with an artist like Renée Fleming was a dream come true for my colleagues in the orchestra and me. We were first in awe of this woman who has reached the highest pinnacle of artistic achievement. What we then encountered was a warm and generous colleague who offered us a full program of works that so beautifully featured her incredibly golden voice.

New colleagues joined the orchestra who are now treasured friends and vital members of the community, and once again staff conductors Caleb Young, Troy Webdell, and Benjamin Rivera brought passion and commitment to their extensive work. We also proudly unveiled the Philharmonic’s first commercial recording, orchestral music by Walter Bricht, which received positive reviews.

We gratefully welcomed Chuck Surack for his second season as Board chair. The Philharmonic is so fortunate to have Chuck as our leader because of his laser focus on the greater good. In addition, he supports the Orchestra in taking artistic and programming chances to become even more relevant in the community, always encouraging innovation.

My colleagues in the orchestra and I wish to express our gratitude to the entire Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers for making this 2018-19 Season so special and unique. Recognition must be given to Anita Cast, Nancy Stewart, and Barb Wachtman for planning such a memorable 75th Anniversary. Every detail was beautifully conceived and effortlessly executed. Take a bow!

Thank you again and again for your devotion and support.

Sincerely,

Andrew Constantine
Music Director
2018-19 SEASON ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Night With Renée Fleming, October 6, 2018

Disney’s Fantasia, November 3, 2018

Britten’s War Requiem, November 10, 2018

Jake Shimabakuro, January 26, 2019
Bizet’s Carmen, February 2, 2019

The Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel, February 16, 2019

An Evening With Leslie Odom, Jr., March 2, 2019

Bach in the Barn Series, May 1-3, 2019
2018-19 SEASON FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018-19 Season saw continued positive financial trends and forward momentum with many of the institution’s Strategic Plans coming to fruition. Ticket sales were bolstered by new special events and steady increases in audiences served. The Philharmonic continued its Comprehensive Campaign: Music for Everyone, adding millions of dollars in special event fundraising and endowment. In aggregate, earned income has increased by more than 55% and fundraising by 65% since 2015, while the Philharmonic continues to work toward a sustainable financial model for the long term. Patron retention and loyalty programs like Insider Evenings and the Silver Baton Soirée encouraged the re-engagement of lapsed donors while cultivating the orchestra’s most ardent supporters. The fundraising gala PHIlnamious continued at the Clyde Theatre where it netted $175,000 in support of education and community engagement programs. Nearly 875 donors supported the Philharmonic in 2018-19, over double the number since 2015, while the Annual Fund grew 50% during that same period.
COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN: MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

The Philharmonic continued its successful Comprehensive Campaign: Music for Everyone, raising nearly $9 million by fiscal year end. Gifts will support the Enduring Endowment Fund and help create a Living Music Fund in order to position the Philharmonic for continued stability and growth. The Campaign will also allow the Philharmonic to engage every citizen of the community through performances, programs, educational opportunities, and collaborations.

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Ben Eisbart, Co-Chair
Mark Hagerman, Co-Chair
Chuck Surack, Honorary Chair
Will Clark
Andrew Constantine
Vicki James
Eleanor Marine
Sharon Peters
Al Zacher

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<th>Total Enduring Endowment</th>
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* Financials reflect Campaign funds raised through August 31, 2019.
WHAT SETS US APART: EDUCATION

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic boasts one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching education and community engagement programs in the nation, serving 12 neighboring counties throughout Northeast Indiana.

- Annual Young People’s Concerts and the Link Up program, in partnership with the Embassy Theatre and Carnegie Hall, serve more than 4,200 3rd–5th grade students in the greater Fort Wayne Area.
- The Youth Symphony Orchestra program was revitalized with the appointment of Troy Webdell as its new director. Troy brings a wealth of experience as an educator and musician to the role.
- Philharmonic Friends Instrument Loan Program offered quality instruments to eligible student musicians.
- Professional Musician Scholarships offered accomplished students private lessons with Fort Wayne Philharmonic musicians.

CLUB ORCHESTRA

The Club Orchestra program continued in 3 Title I Elementary schools in the Fort Wayne Community School District. An early childhood program called Club Kid-O was created as a pilot in one location, designed to reach 3-5 year olds. As much a social service program designed to transform lives as it is a music program, Club O aims to increase self-esteem and teach discipline and other life lessons through music in an orchestra classroom.

ENSEMBLES IN THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

- Ten chamber ensembles brought classical music into school and community settings for nearly 34,000 students and 3,000 seniors during the 2018-19 Season.
- 190 total ensemble site visits in 97 schools, 86 nursing homes, and 7 community performances (Rochester Home, Sycamore Hills Golf Club, Franklin Electric, Arts United Center, Cobblestone Golf Club, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, and Lincoln Financial Group).
- Counties served: Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Whitley, and Fulton.
- Two String duos serving over 850 pre-K students in the classroom.
WHAT SETS US APART: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

From regional Patriotic Pops concerts every summer, including the signature free July event at Parkview Field, and Holiday Pops on the road during the busy Christmas season, to new programs and services, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and its dedicated donors heavily subsidize quality arts experiences while making friends through great performances.

- NEW: Free Van Ride Service to Masterworks concerts from two convenient locations
- *Music and the Mind*, featuring Renée Fleming with guests Sheri Robb and Dr. Fen Lei Chang
- Fort Wayne Ballet *Nutcracker* and the spring collaboration featuring Sergei Prokofiev’s *Cinderella* with Fort Wayne Ballet offered Indiana’s only professional ballet performances with a live resident orchestra
- Fort Wayne Children’s Choir performed with the Philharmonic at Holiday Pops and selected Masterworks
- Many Philharmonic chamber ensembles offered 45-minute programs at retirement community residences, a partnership with Audiences Unlimited, Inc. These performances addressed issues of socialization and wellbeing in older adults
- *Musically Speaking*, the free, pre-concert talks, offered audiences insight into Masterworks concert programs, hosted by Philharmonic conductors, musicians and guest artists
- The Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Conductors Guild International Conductor Workshop brought aspiring young conductors from several countries to the city to hone their skills
- *Live at Lunch*, the free, around town series of concerts, reached people in their own workplaces and convenient public settings. Casual and relaxed, audiences were free to sample the hour-long concert or stop by for just a few minutes
- *Leading by Listening*, the executive learning workshop, was designed for corporate management teams, where participants were seated within the orchestra to experience lessons about leadership and communication

75TH ANNIVERSARY: KEY EVENTS

- Opening Night Post Concert Reception at Allen County Courthouse, October 6
- Branded gift items at each opening series concert – bookmarks, key chains, luggage tags, all season long
- *Carmen and Cupcakes*, confections for the entire audience after Bizet’s *Carmen*, February 2
- Year-end 75th Anniversary booklet, June 7
- Ice Cream Social for audience at the Patriotic Pops performance, July 3
2018-19 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

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($250,000+)
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The Paul Yergens and Virginia Yergens Rogers Foundation

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Steel Dynamics Foundation
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Aaron Samra  
Club Orchestra Program Manager

Troy Webdell  
Director of Youth Orchestras

DEVELOPMENT

Vacant  
Director of Development

Hope Bowie  
Grants and Sponsorship Manager

Stephanie Wuest  
Annual Fund Manager

FINANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Beth Conrad  
Director of Finance

Kathleen Farrier  
Accounting Clerk

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Emily Shannon  
Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Ed Stevens  
Sales Manager

Brooke Sheridan  
Publications and Graphics Manager

Doug Dennis  
Patron Relations Manager

MaryAnne Skora  
Patron Services Associate

Brittany Walsh  
Patron Services Associate