

Donor SPOTLIGHT

Zack Blalack: Donor, sponsor, Board member and dad!

What first drew you to a Eugene Symphony concert and later to be a season ticket holder? My wife, Natalie, loves classical music and started as a subscriber on her own. When she renewed her subscription several years back, I asked what seats she had gotten us and was surprised that she had only bought one ticket! We quickly added a second seat because it was a way to spend more time with her while expanding my musical tastes. From that day on we have been subscribers!

Tell us why you enjoy going to the Symphony? We really enjoy the social interactions that are possible, before, during and after each performance. We will often grab dinner or drinks before the concert, mingle with friends at the Hult Center, and often finish the night off with a reception or meet at a local restaurant. We also really love an evening free of distractions, where we are immersed in that magical moment of music being created by the talented musicians.

What inspired you to serve on the Eugene Symphony Board of Directors? As a community member, the Eugene Symphony Board has allowed me to connect with many people and businesses that support the arts in our area. I have also gained many new insights and abilities through my roles as Development Committee Chair, and as a member of the Executive and Strategic Planning Committees. As a small business owner it has also opened the door to many new relationships, which have led to successful business connections.

Tell us how sponsorship fits with your personal and professional goals? As a sponsor, Natalie and I have had the pleasure to meet many wonderful, personable and incredible artists. Because of the perks of being a sponsor, we are able to extend our appreciation of the music and the arts to our clients and close friends. Sponsorship also offers considerable media exposure in the Eugene/Springfield area, from which my business has benefited.

How does music impact you, your family, and our community? The music impacts us in a very positive way; we often leave a performance feeling relaxed and energized for the next performance. Our two-year-old son, James, has been able to attend several rehearsals and loves listening to the various instruments make their unique sounds. The Instrument Petting Zoos have given James an appreciation for the instruments while piquing his curiosity. Our community is blessed to have such a wonderful symphony making great music. Natalie and I are especially excited for the inaugural season of our new Music Director, Francesco Lecce-Chong. His vibrancy and enthusiasm will bolster the orchestra for years to come.

What encouragement or advice would you give to young leaders to attend, serve, and give to our Symphony? Put yourself out there! If you are looking to make new friends, business connections, or just for a fun night out, I would suggest looking to the Eugene Symphony. Some of the music that you will encounter has never been heard before and other pieces are hundreds of years old. A contribution of your time, talent and treasure will be used to carry forward the traditions while ensuring we remain attractive to future music lovers. 🎵



(Top) Zack Blalack with his wife Natalie, their son James and daughter Cynthia. (Above) Zack and Natalie meeting Pink Martini's China Forbes at the Eugene Symphony Gala in 2017.

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Zachary A. Blalack
Financial Advisor