

Donor SPOTLIGHT

Paul Roth: Eugene Symphony's pizza-slinging, trombone-playing sponsor and Board member



Why do you value music?

I value it because it has become one of the great centers of gravity in my life. I've been playing the trombone since 6th grade and have stuck with it, so I've experienced what music can do. I play in several bands around town and even though I'm not the greatest musician, I'm good enough that playing it brings great joy and a sense of accomplishment, and playing it with others has brought me true friendships. Music demands the best from those who devote their lives to it—sensitivity, perception, self-awareness, teamwork, humility, persistence, hard work—so it's no wonder musicians are great people and fun to hang around with! They have to be to succeed at their art. They are so worthy of our support.

What do you believe music provides to a community?

It is a means of expression for many and a means of connecting to emotions for many more. It means a fun night out for a lot of people! It is a center point around which people in a community can gather and share an experience. It provides a forum for some people to literally amaze others with what they can do.

Why do you choose to support the Eugene Symphony?

The Eugene Symphony is the great symbol and pinnacle of music in our community, so I think it demands our support. It is a community treasure. There is so much talent, creativity, emotion, and commitment represented by the orchestra musicians and staff that to not support it would be literally a crime against humanity.

What other music organizations to you support? Do you find supporting several creates synergy and prosperity for all?

I support many music organizations. My business does fundraisers for school bands, we've hired hundreds of local musicians to perform at Roaring Rapids, we sponsor music events like the Springfield Orchestra Festival, and host groups like Swing Shift Jazz Orchestra and the bands at the University of Oregon. There is so much musical talent in our community that deserves to be showcased. I also love to connect the different areas, like seeing our Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong conduct the UO Marching Band at Autzen Stadium last September!

Why do you prioritize supporting music?

I support music in our community for the above reasons, and because even the smallest level of support can have so many benefits. A \$100 donation to your local elementary school music program will have a HUGE impact! Imagine what \$1,000 would do. I encourage everyone who reads this to consider making a small donation to their local school and see what happens! And donating to the Symphony supports musicians who have devoted their lives to their art and inspires youth, which is so cool.

What benefits have you experienced through supporting the Eugene Symphony?

I think one of the main benefits is being able to be around others who really appreciate music and musicians. Being a supporter and a subscriber to our Symphony opens up a wonderful community and sense of shared connection.

Share a story about the power of music in your life.

I am a proud supporter of the University of Oregon Marching Band in addition to the Symphony. I've been lucky to be able to play with them on occasion at football and basketball games, which I've done for more than 25 years! The kids in the band are so cool! Last year, the band needed a trombone and they invited me (old enough to be their dad) to play with them at the Women's First Round NCAA Basketball Tournament held at Duke University. We won both games. The power of music got me a really fun trip!

Share a specific story of seeing your contributions to the Eugene Symphony at work.

I have many. In early March, Roaring Rapids sponsored the first annual Springfield Orchestra Festival, in which the Eugene Symphony played a major role. What a treat to see Francesco working with 200-plus young kids from all around the state! This was a great example of how the symphony enriches lives through the power of music. 🎻