

# Donor SPOTLIGHT

## Skeie's Jewelers and Eugene Symphony sparkle in the community together

Skeie's Jewelers began its long history as a family-owned, customer-friendly store in 1922 when Ole Larsen Skeie opened his first store in downtown Eugene. Now co-owned by his grandson Rick Skeie along with Rick Beckett, Skeie's Jewelers has been supporting the Eugene Symphony for nearly 20 years.

### What is your favorite part about attending the Eugene Symphony performances?

**Rick Skeie:** I find the Symphony incredibly relaxing. I'm amazed and impressed with the quality of the musicians.

**Rick Beckett:** I love the music. More than that, I really enjoy connecting with friends, other supporters, the audience, and all the wonderful people on stage. Getting to know the guest artists and visit with the conductor is always fun and memorable. I also appreciate learning about history and culture through the music.

### Why do you support the Symphony?

**RS:** I think one of the most important strengths of Eugene is that we are an important cultural center. It's not only the Symphony, it's all the cultural events that come with the University. In addition, we have a couple of ballet companies, an opera, visits from Elton John, and on and on and on. We are truly blessed.

**RB:** We appreciate the arts, and we want to see them continue to flourish in our city. We know there are barriers to funding, and we want to be part of the solution to seeing the arts thrive in our region.

### What does supporting our community's professional orchestra mean to you personally?

**RS:** I believe a healthy life requires improving oneself in four basic areas: physical, mental, social, and what I call spiritual. The spiritual side to me does not necessarily mean religious—it could also mean simply contributing to others' quality of life. Contributing to the Eugene Symphony certainly is part of that for me.

**RB:** Supporting the Symphony offers Skeie's visibility and exposure to a different clientele. It has brought new and returning customers to our showroom for special events, given us additional advertising in *The Register-Guard* and on TV,



deepened connections via social media, and more. Associating the Skeie's brand with the Symphony is good for business and good for the community.

### What does supporting our community's professional orchestra mean to you professionally and for your business?

**RS:** The Eugene Symphony aligns with the values Skeie's aspires to. Simply, it's a very high quality product.

**RB:** The Symphony creates a more livable attractive city, which makes our community a destination. It is also a special luxury for a community our size. This is a point of pride for Eugene: to have such talent, wonderful visiting performers, and this kind of night out!

### What would you say to other businesses and young professionals about supporting and attending the Symphony concert experience?

**RB:** I highly recommend supporting the Symphony. It is so exciting to see what goes on behind the scenes, and to see what it takes to put on a concert. I also believe everyone should experience a performance; it should be a requirement for all Eugene citizens to go, at least once. A live orchestral performance is so much more than you could imagine—it's so special and powerful. 🎻



RICK SKEIE

Skeie's  
JEWELERS



RICK BECKETT