

# 2020/21 SEASON UPDATE



# EUGENE SYMPHONY

January 2021

Greetings all!

With each passing month that we have been unable to make live music collectively, I find myself missing more and more my colleagues on stage, you in the audience, and the sense of community that we create together at our concerts.

As we have finally turned the page to a new year, I think it is worth remembering that it is in these most challenging times that we show our greatest strength and commitment to our work. Despite not being in a concert hall together, we have found new ways to engage virtually and have been able to partake in marvelous musical experiences. We shared, for the very first time online, two of our greatest achievements during my tenure with the orchestra so far: *The Four Seasons of the McKenzie River* and *The Color of Sound*. In both instances, we reached as many or more people than we did originally within the concert hall—and that's an accomplishment because those were nearly sold-out concerts!

Several new and continuing initiatives have kept our mission alive throughout the pandemic: radio broadcasts, small outdoor performances, our Young Artist Competition and Link-Up program going virtual, and free private lessons for students who otherwise could not access them. We've deepened our partnerships in the community and rapidly expanded our online presence, setting ourselves up to be an even stronger version of ourselves when we return to full concerts.

After multiple setbacks in the fall, I am happy to say that I will be in Eugene in mid-February to conduct a small ensemble performance that will be recorded in high-definition video and audio and made available through our *Soundwaves* virtual concert series. We plan to do the same in March, April, and May. Additionally, we continue to plan for the eventual return of our full orchestra and audience in the Hult Center. The fact that we can even continue to plan and adapt during this time is because of your support, encouragement, and patience.

I am so grateful to be a part of this remarkable organization as we navigate these challenges because I know we share the belief that music is a necessity, not a luxury. I know we believe that music connects us, bringing comfort, hope, and joy to our lives. The pandemic has not weakened us. It has strengthened our resolve.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. I look forward to rejoicing together and sharing many inspiring musical experiences in 2021 and beyond.

Francesco Lecce-Chong, Music Director & Conductor



## Soundwaves — *The Color of Sound* Released November 29, 2020

“Color and light, two favorite things. Thank you, for the creativity and ability to pull off this remarkable, immersive concert. You succeeded with the expressive color, nuances as an instrument. This program wouldn't have happened but for COVID. And I and many others would never have heard, seen or experienced any of it. A silver lining, refracting.”

—Patron feedback



Dear Eugene Symphony supporters,

While very little of this past year has gone the way any of us could have predicted, I am pleased to share that we anticipate ending this fiscal year on June 30, 2021 in good financial health and with a balanced operating budget. This projection—detailed on the following page—is based on the gift renewals we anticipate receiving by year's end. If we learned anything from 2020, it is that things can change in a moment's notice, so I share this news with the caveat that any unexpected events in the next five months could amend this forecast.



Without concert tickets to sell, we have relied solely on contributed revenue and will continue to do so for the duration of the 2020/21 season. We have continued to engage our community and hire as many of our talented musicians as possible because of the support of a broad consortium of organizations and individuals. These funds include the largest single-year grant in our organization's 55-year history, from the Coronavirus relief program administered by the Oregon Cultural Trust. We are also grateful for and humbled by the steadfast support of other granting foundations, corporate partners, and individual donors who believe we must keep moving forward and maintain our capacity so that when a return to the concert hall is possible, we are ready.

So even though we haven't performed a concert in the traditional sense since February 29, 2020, I am proud of the many creative ways the Eugene Symphony has continued to deliver on its mission of **enriching lives through the power of music**. All told, our virtual activities have allowed us to reach more people than we typically do with in-person events during the same time period. That's a silver lining, to be sure, but we know it's not a replacement for the live music we all cherish and crave. We do hope to return to live performances with audiences by this summer, pending health guidelines, and will provide more updates as plans become more concrete.

In the meantime, I invite you to peruse the pages that follow for more details about how your support makes an impact. Until we meet again at the Hult Center, Cuthbert Amphitheater, or anywhere else the magic of music convenes us, I wish you well, and say again, THANK YOU!

My best,

Scott Freck, Executive Director

## The Four Seasons of The McKenzie Re-released October 29, 2020

"What a great idea and what a very enjoyable performance! Living very near Vida as I do, I was most impressed by the photography, and Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" was just perfect to display this magical river."



"We needed this sooo much!"

—Patron feedback



### 2020/21 SEASON SPONSORS

#### Platinum



#### Gold



#### Silver



#### Bronze



#### In-Kind



### 2020/21 FOUNDATION SUPPORT

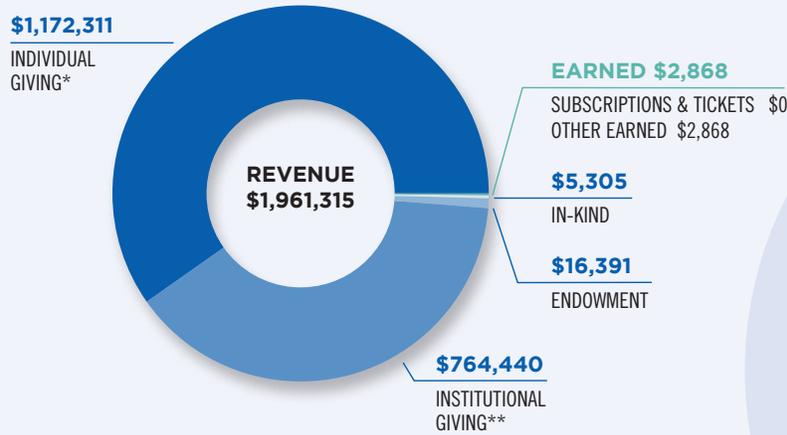


#### The Haugland Family Foundation



# 2020/21 FINANCIAL UPDATE

## REVENUE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

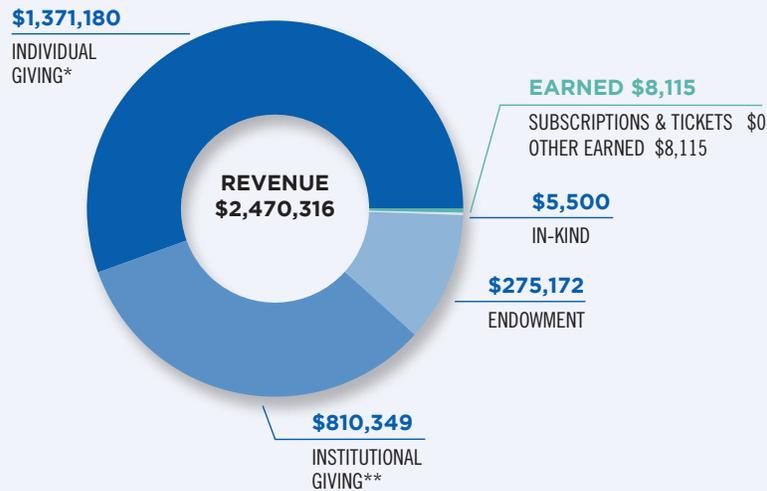


INSTITUTIONAL GIVING INCREASED BY

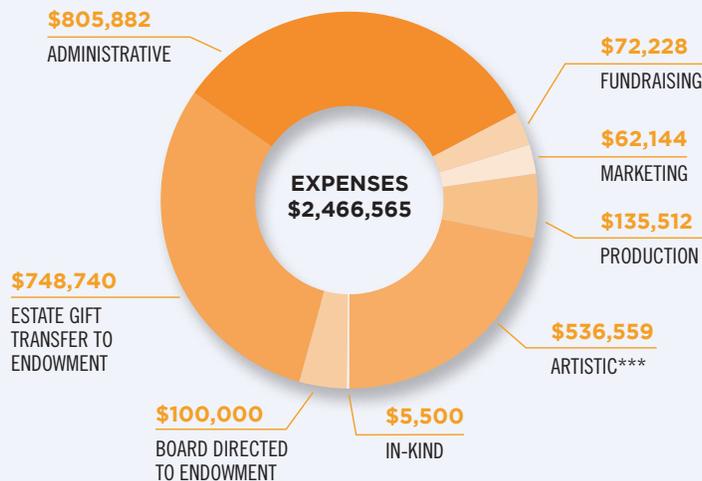
**93%**  
compared to 2018/19 Season (pre-pandemic)

**50%**  
compared to 2019/20 Season (early pandemic)

## PROJECTED RESULTS BY JUNE 30, 2021



## USE OF FUNDS (BUDGETED)



ANTICIPATED NET RESULT  
**\$3,751**

Unaudited figures as of December 31, 2020 and subject to change

\* Includes Estate Gift | \*\* Includes Oregon Cultural Trust Grant | \*\*\* Includes musician pay

# COMMUNITY IMPACT



Lisa McWhorter, Assistant Concertmaster

**26%**  
INCREASE IN  
ENGAGEMENT\*

## PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM (NEW!)

45 middle- and high-school band and orchestra students will receive eight free private lessons, creating more work opportunities for our Eugene Symphony musicians! Learn more at [eugenesymphony.org/lessons](https://eugenesymphony.org/lessons)

## RECORD-BREAKING PARTICIPATION

*Twice as many young musicians as prior seasons* participated in the virtual Eugene Symphony Guild Young Artist Competition. Details and winners at [eugenesymphony.org/YAC](https://eugenesymphony.org/YAC)

**3,341** regional students are participating virtually in Carnegie Hall's Link Up program: *The Orchestra Swings* through the Eugene Symphony—**an all-time record for this program**, with 1,300 more participants than last season! Learn more at [eugenesymphony.org/LinkUp](https://eugenesymphony.org/LinkUp)

This season so far:

**40,993** vs  
LIVES ENRICHED

Last season, same time period:

**32,623**  
LIVES ENRICHED

\*All engagement is virtual unless listed as live and is measured from July 1, 2020–Jan. 23, 2021. Programs include: radio broadcasts, individual musician performance and concert recordings, education initiatives, Francesco in the community, donor events, and live performances.

## THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE

Francesco's weekly musical watch parties and interviews have invited nearly **10,000 views** this season, providing opportunities for musical connection while we continue to shelter-at-home. Join in **Thursdays at 7pm** on Francesco's Facebook or YouTube channel—no account needed!

The second program in our *Soundwaves* series features the *Symphony Connect* String Quartet—Violins Lisa McWhorter and Stephen Chong, Viola Lauren Elledge, and Cello Dale Bradley—performing a selection of works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, David Bowie, Journey, and more. Designed with a music therapist, this eclectic program invites you to meet the musicians, hear stories of resilience and hope, and even participate if you feel so moved!



# SOUNDWAVES

featuring the *Symphony Connect* String Quartet

Watch at [eugenesymphony.org](https://eugenesymphony.org) | Free, and no password required!

**FEB 11**  
**7:00PM**