EUGENE SYMPHONY

2018/19 SEASON | ANNUAL REPORT

Enriching lives through the power of music
**ORCHESTRA**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR**
Francesco Lecce-Chong

**VIOLIN I**
- Jenny Estrin, *Concertmaster***
- Della Davies, *Assistant Concertmaster***
- Lisa McWhorter,∞
  - *Assistant Concertmaster*
- Jamie Chimchirian
- Stephen Chong
- Anthony Dyer
- Rosemary Erb
- Clara Fuhrman*
- Yvonne Hsueh
- Sophie Therrell
- Vacant

**VIOLIN II**
- Matthew Fuller, *Principal*
  - Julia Frantz, *Assistant Principal*
- Claudia Miller
- Dan Athearn
- Alice Blankenship
- David Burham
- Virginia Kaiser
- Marilyn Tyler
- Jannie Wei
- Vacant

**VIOLA**
- Holland Phillips, *Principal*
  - Miriam English Ward, *Assistant Principal*
- Pamela Burovac
- Devin Burgess*
- Lauren Elledge
- Anamaria Ghitea
- Shauna Keyes
- Karlie Roberts
- Kim Uwate

**CELLO**
- Anne Ridlington, *Principal*
  - Eric Alterman, *Assistant Principal*
- James Pelley
- Dale Bradley
- David Chinburg
- Joseph Eggleston*
- Ann Grabe
- Nancy Bowdon
- Vacant

**FLUTE**
- Kristen Halay, *Principal*
  - Wendy Bamonte
  - Jill Pauls (Piccolo)

**OBOE**
- Kelly Gronli, *Principal*
  - Cheryl Denice
  - Annalisa Morton (English Horn)

**CLARINET**
- Michael Anderson, *Principal*
  - Louis DeMartino
  - Carol Robe (Bass Clarinet)

**BASSOON**
- Vacant, *Principal*
  - Mike Curtis
  - Steve Vacchi (Contrabassoon)
  - David Hattenhauer

**HORN**
- David Kruse, *Principal*
  - Jonathan Kuhns-Obana**
  - Jennifer Harrison∞
  - Lydia Van Dreel
  - Scott King
  - Kelsi McGlathin** (Assistant Horn)

**TRUMPET**
- Sarah Viens, *Principal*
  - Joseph Kluase**
  - David Bender

**TROMBONE**
- Henry Henniger, *Principal*
  - Carson Keeble
  - James Meyer

**TUBA**
- Michael Grose, *Principal*

**TIMPANI**
- Ian Kerr, *Principal*

**PERCUSSION**
- Tim Cogswell, *Principal*
  - Brian Scott
  - Randal Larson∞
  - Sean Wagoner

**KEYBOARD**
- Christine Mirabella, *Principal*

**HARP**
- Jane Allen, *Principal*

**CHORUS DIRECTOR**
- Sharon J. Paul

**CONDUCTING FELLOWS**
- Jonathan DeBruyn

* * denotes University of Oregon Graduate Employee
  ** denotes one-year appointment
  ∞ denotes one-year leave

17,125
HOURS OF MUSIC-MAKING IN THE CONCERT HALL AND COMMUNITY THIS YEAR!
18% increase from previous year
Our 2018/19 season will always be particularly special to me as the first season I created as a Music Director. It was the culmination of ideas started a decade ago when I was asked to create a “sample season” for my conducting class in college. It has been a daunting task to continue the innovative ideas and artistic quality of which Eugene Symphony has become nationally renowned, but with the support of our staff, Board of Directors, and musicians, it has been another season that has built upon our legacy. Some of our highlights included:

**Bernstein’s Centennial** – it was important to me to celebrate Bernstein as not only the great American composer, but also his role as conductor, pianist, educator, and philosopher. No musician has had a greater cumulative influence on American orchestral culture than Bernstein. He has inspired me in so many ways, including to re-initiate Eugene Symphony’s Family Concert series, which saw its second year this past season.

**Eighth Blackbird residency** – the four-time Grammy-winning ensemble spent a week in Eugene – teaching, performing, and collaborating in our city. I was particularly pleased that they participated in our Youth Concerts and thousands of students experienced their infectious enthusiasm and unique performing capabilities. Their residency culminated in a brilliant performance of Jennifer Higdon’s On a Wire – a concerto expressly created to showcase the ensemble.

**The Color of Sound** – after nearly two years of planning, we unleashed one of the largest projects in our history with a multimedia performance of Scriabin’s Prometheus. Written in 1903, Scriabin described his vision for a work that called for technology that would not exist until almost a century later. Partnering with Eugene’s own Harmonic Laboratory and Light at Play, we created Scriabin’s “Light Organ” – an instrument with the capabilities to convey the expression in music through color – and washed the entire concert hall in color.

These are just a few of the amazing experiences we brought to Eugene this year, not to mention our sold-out performance of *Star Wars: A New Hope* and the community-driven, genre-defying SymFest. It truly is a joy to be a part of an orchestra so committed to bringing us together and redefining the possibilities of artistic expression. Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and belief in our work.

With gratitude and admiration,

Francesco Lecce-Chong
Music Director & Conductor
1. Contemporary ensemble Eighth Blackbird rehearses Jennifer Higdon’s captivating On a Wire, pictured in one of the moments that calls for them to all play different parts of the piano (including inside!) simultaneously.

2. A sold-out Silva Concert Hall was transported to a galaxy far, far away when the orchestra performed John Williams’ iconic soundtrack to *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope* live while the digitally remastered film was shown on a big screen above the stage.

3. During The Color of Sound, the orchestra performed Alexander Scriabin’s *Prometheus: The Poem of Fire* with pianist Christopher Taylor, while the Radiance Orb created by local tech company Light at Play dazzled above with synchronized light.

4. Local favorites, jazz vocalist Halie Loren and trumpeter Tony Glausi, played jazz standards with the orchestra during SymFest.

5. During the summer concert at Cuthbert Amphitheater, patrons waved glowing lightsabers while the orchestra performed music from Star Wars.

6. A stellar cast of vocal soloists joined the orchestra and chorus to perform Verdi’s towering Requiem.

7. The South Eugene High School robotics team built a time machine to transport Beethoven to our Family Concert.
2018/19 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

LEONARD BERNSTEIN’S CENTENNIAL
To celebrate Leonard Bernstein’s centenary, Music Director & Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong curated a three-concert arc to showcase the many sides of America’s greatest musical force. Over the course of three months, we heard the Three Dance Episodes from On the Town, followed by perhaps his most deeply thoughtful work, Symphony No. 2 “The Age of Anxiety,” and then the rarely-heard complete ballet score from Fancy Free. Francesco’s fresh approach to festival-style programming paired Bernstein’s music with composers who influenced him or whom he inspired, and our concerts were part of a global celebration of more than 5,000 Bernstein performances worldwide.

EIGHTH BLACKBIRD ALIGHTS IN EUGENE
As part of a residency project supported by the Hult Endowment and the National Endowment for the Arts, this multi-Grammy Award-winning contemporary ensemble visited Eugene in November and collectively and individually shared their vibrant sound world with more than 6,500 people, including 3,875 elementary school students at one of the most successful Youth Concerts in recent memory. They also performed Jennifer Higdon’s captivating On a Wire, a concerto for sextet and orchestra that occasionally calls for them to all play different parts of the Steinway concert grand piano simultaneously.

STAR WARS LIVE
Silva Concert Hall was transported to a galaxy far, far away in December when the orchestra performed John Williams’ iconic soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope live while the digitally remastered film was shown on a big screen above the stage. Francesco, a self-described Star Wars nerd, conducted before a sold-out house that buzzed with excitement and included enthusiastic fans in costume. Anyone who encountered Chewbacca will forever remember his towering height and contagiously genial growl!

SPECTACULAR SOLOISTS
World-class performances by our guest artists were frequent and fantastic — from cellist Julie Albers’ soulful rendering of Ernest Bloch’s Schelomo on Opening Night, to violinist Chloë Hanslip’s combination of music by John Corigliano and Camille Saint-Saëns in December, on to Natasha Paremski’s incendiary Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto in January and Pallavi Mahidhara’s pair of Rhapsodies by Gershwin. We also got first glimpse of a rising star, as 18-year-old violinist Julian Rhee blew the house away in March with his impeccably mature Brahms Violin Concerto. Plus, a stellar cast of vocal soloists joined the orchestra and chorus in May to perform one of the greatest masterpieces in the choral/orchestral pantheon: Giuseppe Verdi’s towering Requiem.

A MUSICAL KALEIDOSCOPE
In one of the most ambitious projects in Eugene Symphony history — and quite possibly any American orchestra’s ever — Francesco and the orchestra presented The Color of Sound in April. The program featured eight different works of music including classics by Debussy, Mendelssohn, Handel, plus two monumental orchestral works by Russian composer Alexander Scriabin, all paired with immersive lighting design, custom-built digital animations by Harmonic Laboratory and five student artists, and the one-of-a-kind Radiance Orb created by local tech company Light at Play. The concert was the culmination of months of residency work, which you can read about on page 6. The near-capacity crowd was wowed with every lighting instrument owned by the Hult Center alongside the 32,000 LEDs contained within the Radiance Orb. It was truly a night to remember.

FAMILY CONCERT & SYMFEST
Continuing his Family Concert initiative this year, Francesco and the orchestra introduced young people and their families to the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, who joined the fun at Soreng Theater courtesy of a time machine constructed by the South Eugene Robotics Team. Then, to wrap up the season in June, the third installment of SymFest included a wide range of local stars, and our orchestra proved yet again what a phenomenally flexible ensemble it can be as it accompanied jazz vocalist Halie Loren and trumpeter Tony Glausi, the athletic artistry of Ballet Fantastique, talented young people such as marimbist David Lee and South Eugene High School’s The Dorians choir, and more. And as ever, the pre-concert beverage tastings and food court roundup and post-concert dancing and jazz lounge combined to make it the party of the year at the Hult Center.
Artist residencies engaged nearly **5,000** community members and students.

**5,675** students and teachers from **77** schools experienced Youth Concerts.

1. Eighth Blackbird flutist Nathalie Joachim receives applause after an intimate performance at the Historic Mims House as part of the ensemble’s artist residency in Eugene.
2. Pianist Pallavi Mahidhara coaches a local young pianist as part of the Laura Avery Visiting Masters program.
3. Student artists pose with mentor John Park after the premier of their digital art during The Color of Sound concert.
4. Francesco threw out the first pitch at a Eugene Emeralds baseball game, at which an ensemble of Symphony musicians played the National Anthem and other pre-game music.
5. Elementary students play recorder and sing from their seats at our Spring Youth Concert, the culminating event for the Link Up program.
6. Eugene Symphony French horn player and certified yoga instructor Lydia Van Dreel poses to promote Symphony Yoga in its inaugural year.
7. Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis gave the baton a try at Conduct the Symphony as part of Eugene Sunday Streets.
YOUTH CONCERTS
5,675 students and teachers from 77 schools experienced the Eugene Symphony’s fall and spring Youth Concerts. Schools traveled from as far as Medford, Albany, Oakridge, and Florence, with 796 more students attending than last year.

LINK UP
A record-breaking 2,047 students — up nearly 400 from previous year — participated in Carnegie Hall’s Link Up program through the Eugene Symphony. Students learned orchestral curriculum in schools, and then sang along and played recorder or violin from their seats at our spring Youth Concert. Symphony teaching artists also taught Link Up to 50 students in the BEST Afterschool Program at four elementary schools.

ENCOURAGING YOUNG MUSICIANS TO ACHIEVE
538 students at middle and high schools throughout Lane County — including Oakridge and Florence — had the opportunity to work with a Symphony musician in sectional coachings.

EUGENE SYMPHONY GUILD YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION
20 young musicians competed in the Eugene Symphony Guild Young Artist Competition for prize money and Eugene Symphony performance opportunities. Congratulations to the 2018/19 winners: pianist Michelle Sulaiman, senior division; and violinist Ian Song, junior division.

ROSEBURG RESIDENCY
Through a six-month residency with Douglas County Youth Orchestra in Roseburg, Symphony musicians traveled to this rural community to provide advanced artistic instruction.

LAURA AVERY VISITING MASTERS
36 outstanding student musicians, from middle school to college-level, performed for and worked with Eugene Symphony’s guest artists in master classes through the Laura Avery Visiting Masters program.

INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOOS
700 people of all ages were able to try a variety of orchestra instruments at our summer concerts, regional libraries, and other community events.

GUILD CONCERT PREVIEWS
The Eugene Symphony Guild Concert Preview engaged 2,603 people — 600 more than last year — through discussions with the week’s guest artist and Francesco or one of our visiting guest conductors.

SYMPOPHY HAPPY HOUR
More than 318 patrons attended Symphony Happy Hour, at which Francesco Lecce-Chong shared upcoming concert highlights through listening parties and a game of musical bingo at First National Taphouse.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES
This season proved to be a high impact year for Artist Residencies. We hosted GRAMMY Award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird and violin prodigy Julian Rhee. The residencies engaged nearly 5,000 community members and students through master classes, school and human service agency visits, library events, open dress rehearsals, and a memorable event at the Historic Mims House in partnership with the local NAACP.

SYMPHONY YOGA
In partnership with Wild Light Yoga Center, we launched a monthly classical music-themed yoga class featuring music from upcoming concerts. Eugene Symphony horn player and certified yoga instructor Lydia Van Drel led each slow, gentle yoga class.

CONDUCT THE SYMPHONY
600 Eugene Sunday Street attendees participated in or witnessed Conduct the Symphony, which gave anyone the chance to take the baton and lead an ensemble of orchestra musicians at this free event!

MAESTRO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Francesco was busy around town! He inspired 300 students during visits to Eugene-Springfield Youth Orchestras, Springfield High School, and Gilham Elementary School; co-hosted Lane Art Council’s First Friday ArtWalk with a total of 400 people joining along the way; and participated in the MLK Day march that culminated in a performance at the John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts for 300 audience members.

COLOR OF SOUND
The Color of Sound concert on April 18, 2019 marked the culmination of a six-month long artist mentorship project and interactive mobile art workshops. Selected competitively, five high school and college-aged artists created digital time-based art projections for the concert with mentorship from John Park, Creative Technologist of Harmonic Laboratory and University of Oregon faculty member. Additionally, in partnership with Imagination International, we offered mobile art workshops on Artie the Art Bus for 175 fourth graders. They learned about synesthesia — a condition which combines two senses — by envisioning the combination between sound and sight, and created abstract art based on the classical music they heard. Select artwork was on display in the lobby at the concert, as pictured on the adjacent page.
THANK YOU!

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. At the 2018/19 Annual Meeting & Celebration, Board President David Pottinger presented Barbara Walker with an award for her six years of service on the Board, which included chairing the 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee in 2015/16.

2. In addition to fundraising for the Eugene Symphony Association, the Eugene Symphony Guild is integral to the success of our two Youth Concerts each year. Thank you for all of your volunteer hours, Guild!

3. At the Eugene summer concert, Francesco visits with Galina Groza, who has generously sponsored our Instrument Petting Zoos for the past seven years.

4. At Gala 2019, Gretchen Hult Pierce accepted the Advocate for the Arts Award on behalf of the Hult family who were instrumental in the creation of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts that the Symphony calls home.

5. Founders Society Bronze Patron Shawn Boles gives a smooch to his wife, Melva, who is a past president of the Eugene Symphony Guild.

6. Our 2018/19 Board of Directors gathered at the Annual Meeting & Celebration. A list of all Board members’ names are at the back of this report. Thank you for your contributions of time, treasure, and talent!


28% of donors in the 2018/19 season were first-time donors to Eugene Symphony. THANK YOU for joining the Eugene Symphony family this year!

23% of all donors in the 2018/19 season increased their gift from the previous season. THANK YOU for continuing and deepening your support!
The Founders Society is a group of donors who give an annual contribution of $2,500 or more to Eugene Symphony. THANK YOU for your extraordinary commitment to our onstage performances, music education programs, and community engagement.

**PLATINUM PATRONS**

$25,000 +
- Anonymous
- Eugene Symphony Guild
- Niles & Mary Ann Hanson
- Marie Jones & Suzanne Penegor
- Terry West & Jack Viscardi

**GOLD PATRONS**

$10,000 - $24,999
- Keyhan & Lauren Aryah
- Natalie & Zack Blalack
- David & Patricia Giuliani Family Foundation
- Dave & Sherrie Kammerer
- Trieber & Michelle Meador
- Meg Mitchell
- David & Paula Pottinger
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- Betty L. Soreng Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Dr. Matthew Shapiro & Maylian Pak
- Dunny & Debbie Sorensen
- Ray & Cathie Staton

**SILVER PATRONS**

$5,000 - $9,999
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- Warren & Kathy Barnes
- Deb Carver & John Pegg
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- Pam Graves in memory of Glendora Burbank
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- Martha B. Russell Subfund of the Arts Foundation of Western Oregon Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
- Andrew & Julia Stittner
- Andy Storment & Jaini Van Scholten
- Barbara & James Walker
- Ashlee Cribb & Walt Woliver
- Jack & Florence Vollstedt

**BRONZE**

$2,500-$4,999
- Anonymous (2)
- Friedl Bell
- Brad Chvatal & Erin Dickinson
- Shawn & Melva Boles
- Jack & Dondeana Brinkman
- Susan K. Gilmore & Phyllis J. Brown
- Anne & Terry Carter
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- Jeff & Julie Collins
- Nancy Coons
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- Ray & Libby Englisher
- Ginger Fifield
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- Laura Parrish & Richard Matteri In memory of Britta Putjenter
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- Harry & Connie Wonham
- John & Emilie York

**Founders Society of the Eugene Symphony**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Contributions from Founders Society members made up 70% of all individual giving in 2018/19.

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This list recognizes donations made for the 2018/19 season between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. A complete list of donors of all levels is available in the most recent program magazine available online at eugenesymphony.org/news.
2018/19 SEASON

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS* & IMPACT

USE OF FUNDS

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FY19 INCOME

TOTAL $2,535,860

EARNED

$948,310

$206,164 SPECIAL SINGLE TICKETS

$137,978 SYMPHONIC SINGLE TICKETS

$93,126 OTHER EARNED

$511,042 SUBSCRIPTIONS

$418,887 INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

$197,712 EVENTS

$40,853 IN-KIND

CONTRIBUTED

$1,546,697

$355,304 ENDOWMENT

$574,794 INDIVIDUAL GIVING

$1,003,338 ARTISTIC

*Unaudited estimated results as of Sept 10, 2019
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IN RECOGNITION OF THE EUGENINE-GREYTON SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

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GUEST ARTIST SPONSORS

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND IN-KIND SPONSORS
2019/20

Join us in the upcoming season for these special events and more!

**Leslie Odom Jr.**
Jazz standards and Broadway hits, followed by our annual Gala.
**FEBRUARY 29, 2020**

**Peter and the Wolf**
Family Concert — fun for all generations.
**APRIL 26, 2020**

Details and tickets: eugenessymphony.org | Hult Center Ticket Office 541-682-5000