

VSA Musician Newsletter – Week of 9/1/23

Hello VSA musicians and welcome to Season 52—and thank you all for contributing your time and talents to bring classical music to life! Our volunteer musicians are our front-line ambassadors for the VSA, so we want you to be “in the know” about all things VSA—for the season and especially the upcoming concert.

Please visit our [website](#) regularly and familiarize yourself with it. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me directly! I’m all ears. 😊

T-shirt Sizing Angst

We are SO happy that a generous sponsor stepped up to provide all musicians with our first casual uniform in the history of the organization! 52 years is a long time to wait for a free t-shirt! :)

We certainly want everyone to be happy, proud, and comfortable in their shirts, so:

Orchestra: if you would like to see if we can adjust your shirt size, please email me **ASAP!**

Chorus: please contact Bonnie with any sizing requests.

Together, Bonnie and I will do our best to adjust your sizes.

NOTE: Cheryl and Dale Zanhiser, owners of Budget Blinds, have not only provided over 100 VSA musicians with t-shirts, they are also our March concert partner, have donated \$1000 toward printing costs, purchased a \$1000 full page ad in the program, and offered to have us represented at the Beacon Fest by sharing their booth (more on that below) to get the word out about the VSA. Organizations and businesses like Budget Blinds allow us to bring classical music to life; please thank them often and profusely! They are GREAT people and CRAZY GENEROUS, and we are so lucky to be the recipients of their kindness. :)

Pops Concert Week Info

- [Beacon feature article on Troy](#)
- [Radio Interview](#) This will air Saturday (9/2) on all Montrose Townsquare Media stations (94KIX, 103.7 The River, and 104.5 The Canyon)
- Pops [Poster](#)
 - [News & Stories](#)—past and present
 - Rehearsal Schedules Online
 - [Chorus](#)
 - [Orchestra](#)

Season 52 Info

Please encourage everyone in your circles to join us for this year’s offerings. Click here for [Concerts & Tickets](#), including posters, radio interviews and spots, and other information.

Other Upcoming Events

Thanks to all the VSA musicians who are representing us at the following upcoming events:

1. **The Montrose Beacon Fest**: Thursday, September 14, 9am-2pm at the Montrose Pavilion. Numerous ensembles will be playing in the ballroom during the 11 o’clock hour. Our wonderful new supporter, Budget Blinds, have asked us to share their booth, so if you’d like to work the booth for a bit or come out and visit, please do!
2. **The Montrose Oktoberfest**: Saturday, September 30, 1-5pm at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater. Our very own German Band will be on stage offering up some toe-tapping polka music for the festivities.

3. VSA Chorus Sings in Ridgway--Free! Come and enjoy the chorus sing in a lovely acoustic space on Sunday, September 17th at 4:00pm at the [United Church of the San Juans](#) as part of UCSJ's "Sunday Sundaes" event series. The chorus will sing selections from Season 51 and Season 52's Pops Concert, followed by fun ice cream reception.

Get involved!

We are in search of volunteers who are interested in the continued success of the VSA and are willing to lend their time and talents to us outside of rehearsals and concerts. These can be VSA musicians or other members of the community such as spouses, friends, supportive professionals, etc., who are willing to donate a small amount of time each month to help us manage various aspects of the organization. Here's where we need the most help:

- **Advisory Committee** - Advises the Board on a variety of topics pertaining to the direction and functionality of the VSA as a whole. If you are interested in being more involved but aren't ready to take on the commitment of being a Board member just yet, or you have specific administrative skills you would like to offer to the VSA, this one's for you!
- **Marketing Committee** - Assists the Development and Communications Director in distributing marketing and publicity materials, collects interesting stories and ideas for articles, helps identify musicians for musician bios, and seeks out new ways to get the word out about what we do.
- **Finance Committee** - Assists the Treasurer in monitoring and managing our funds in a way that supports our mission while providing stability for the organization into the future.
- **Educational Outreach Committee** - Assists with all educational aspects of our mission, including our relationship with the VYO, relationships with local schools, and adult learning opportunities, to further our presence as a classical music education resource within the area.

If you are interested in helping us out in any of these ways, or have other ideas for ways to help out, please contact Stephanie at steph.helleckson@gmail.com or 970-765-8323.

Get to know your fellow musicians!

Answers to these weekly questions can be found on the About Us section of our website under either [Chorus](#) or [Orchestra](#) in the Meet the Members area. The answer will also be posted in the next email, so you can get to know a little more about the people with whom you are sharing the stage.

The last featured musician was bass trombonist **Christian Pfretzschner**, who founded the Backyard Brass, our brass players' chamber group, in his backyard during the pandemic. He's instrumental (pun intended) in leading the groups who'll be representing the VSA this month (see the "Upcoming Events" section above), and his quote says it all: "Performing music teaches this life lesson: the best seats are on stage!" Read Christian's whole story [here](#).

This week's musician question: Whose brother played the bassoon part on his euphonium from 1984-1998?

Happy music-making!

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Thanks!

Stacey Ryan

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VSA Vision: Bringing Classical Music to Life!