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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bringing Classical Music to Life:
VSA Musician and Artist Donates Artwork to Support Orchestras**

Montrose, CO – Photographer, artist, and musician Vince Farnsworth has recently donated multiple photographic images to both the Valley Symphony Association (VSA) and the Valley Youth Orchestra (VYO) to support their spring concerts.

“Not only is Vince a talented VSA violinist, he’s also a talented photographic artist,” VSA Director of Communications & Development Stacey Ryan said. “I was tickled pink in late 2022 when Vince generously gave us permission to use his image, ‘Last Dollar Field with Fence,’ as the cover art for our season 52 finale, ‘Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature.’” The spring orchestra concert performances will be held on Saturday, April 20, 6:30pm and Sunday, April 21, 3:30pm at the Montrose Pavilion.

A former research scientist at Caltech in Pasadena, CA, Farnsworth worked in the biological sciences inventing and developing analytical instrumentation, and he holds “20 or so” patents. He was active as a hobbyist with the highly respected Ventura County Astronomical Society, where he learned to photograph deep space images. It is his love of photography—especially the types of otherworldly, deep space imagery revealed through the use of telescopes—that has turned into a second career.

Since retiring to Montrose in 2006 with wife Maggie, Farnsworth has become a well-known, respected, and sought-after landscape photographer and astrophotographer of Western night skies. Many consider him to be the premier photographer of the internationally renowned dark skies of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

He’s the author of “Getting Up Early: The Visitor’s Guide to Photographing the Black Canyon.” He even discovered a natural phenomenon visible during early mornings in spring and summer at the Black Canyon in April 2012. He and park rangers named his find “Dragon’s Tongue.”

It’s the balance between the artistic and the technical, the creative and the scientific, that drew him to the field—and that also led to him invent a new piece of equipment in 2011: the BluPano. Manufactured in Montrose and made of blue anodized aluminum, it’s an adapter used in panoramic photography to correct parallax error, the distortion that occurs when photographing images that include objects both near and far, and is used in night sky photography, when elements of a landscape are included. Night sky photographers the world over owe Farnsworth a debt of gratitude.

Since settling in Montrose, he and Maggie have opened several photography-related businesses. The couple currently owns two photo art galleries. Visit the Farnsworth Gallery in the Montrose Center for Arts (Park and Main). During the spring and summer, his art is showcased at the gallery at Black Canyon Corner (Hwy 50 and 347). “I enjoy meeting lots of interesting people from all over the world at both galleries,” Farnsworth said.

Farnsworth’s photos also hang in many local businesses and organizations, including the Montrose Pavilion lobby, where his work will be on display during both “Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature” concerts.

He got his start in music playing the clarinet in middle and high school. In college, he taught himself to play guitar. It wasn't until over 20 years ago that he started taking violin lessons. He has been playing with various groups for over 19 years and joined the VSA Orchestra in 2013. "I love classical music, and being a part of a performing symphony orchestra is definitely a highlight of my life," Farnsworth said.

Farnsworth captured the image used in the April 2024 VSA concert in 2022 along Last Dollar Road between Ridgway and Telluride. It's a part of Last Dollar Ranch. "I saw the scene and waited until sunset to take the shot," Farnsworth said. "The sky is a little more colorful from all the smoke, as there were many fires that year." He visits this area annually because, "...the fields are completely covered with Mule Ear flowers—the ones that look like daisies—and lupine. It doesn't get much better than that."

"It's a beautiful piece of artwork that captures the beauty of the Western Slope in spring and speaks to the heart of the music the orchestra will be playing for the concert," Ryan said.

For the VYO, Farnsworth allowed the group 17 photos used in a slideshow presentation to complement a piece of music called "Canyonland Skies" at their March 9 concert at the Pavilion.

"I talked to Vince last spring when I came up with the theme for this concert—Dark Skies & Bright Stars—because I thought it'd be a beautiful collaboration," VYO Director Laura Payne said. "We started with photos of sunset, moved into night sky with the Milky Way and constellations, and then finished with sunrise. Most of them have been taken over different locations in Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Vince has been so helpful and I'm glad we can feature his photography."

"It's wonderful when artists step up to support their fellow artists," Ryan said. "When we collaborate, we shine a light on all aspects of artistry on the Western Slope."

Visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation or at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets for all season 52 concerts at the Montrose Pavilion are also available online; in Delta at Clubb's (417 Main St); and in Montrose at season co-partner Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd) and Colorado Smiles (1808 E Pavilion Pl). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or info@ValleySymphony.net. Help support the VSA's new YouTube channel, "Valley Symphony Association - Montrose, Colorado," by subscribing.

For more information about Farnsworth, visit FarnsworthScenics.com.