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A Colorado Christmas

Saturday 12/3/22 7:30pm

Sunday 12/4/22 3pm

Montrose Pavilion



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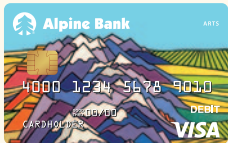
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—Stacey Ryan, volunteer musician



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DEDICATION

Larry Sims

Montrose native Larry Sims began playing clarinet in elementary school. He was drum major for two years at Montrose High School, where he also began to learn about and love jazz and acquired his first saxophone. In college at Western State, Larry majored in business and continued clarinet study, played in bands, and enjoyed leading dance bands which traveled across the Western Slope for gigs.



After college, Larry spent a couple of years as the morning disc jockey at KUBC radio and then joined his father in the Homer L. Sims Agency on Main Street, Montrose, in 1971. Music took a back seat for a few years. When Larry was asked to organize a band concert for the Montrose Centennial in 1982, he stepped into his avocation of providing “...music for all occasions” with The Village Jazz Band. Their business card indicated they were available for “...Weddings, Funerals, Hangings, Church Socials, Bar Brawls, Barn Raisings, Love-Ins and Other Festive Occasions.” He described it as “A Mostly Dixieland sort of Band with a Happy Sound!” Many will remember the popular series of big band concert he put on at the Pavilion in the early 2000s.

Larry joined the VSA Orchestra in 1993 and first soloed in 1994. Through the years, he was soloist three additional times, playing music of Weber, Mozart, Baermann and Rossini. His final performance in 2014 was of Krommer’s *Concerto for Two Clarinets* with clarinetist Holly (Ray) Burgess by his side.



Larry and Janet Sims

Joining the VSA board of directors in 1997, Larry was soon writing program notes, selling program advertising, advertising his own business in the program, and recording the orchestra’s concerts. He worked on publicity and served as the organization’s historian. He played principal clarinet in the orchestra through 2015, when he and his wife, Janet, moved to Boise, Idaho. Larry donated his A clarinet to the VSA in 2022.

Janet beats Larry’s longevity with the VSA Orchestra by a few years (1980-2006), playing violin and acting as chorus accompanist and rehearsal pianist for operas and operettas. She was also chorus director for many performances of *Messiah*.

The VSA dedicates this year’s Christmas by Candlelight concerts to Larry Sims, who played—literally and figuratively—instrumental roles for the VSA from 1993-2015. His influence resonates throughout the organization, and we are indebted and grateful to his generosity on the stage as well as behind it.



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51st Season
2022-23

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Our 51st season launched in September and introduced a new performance schedule of quarterly concerts that will include both Saturday and Sunday offerings at the Montrose Pavilion. Both the orchestra and chorus will share the stage for all shows this season.

We are thrilled to announce that the orchestra conductor search committee has narrowed the field of finalists from throughout the US and Europe to three individuals: Troy Raper from Grand Junction CO, Charlotte Ruth Harrison from Orem UT, and Steven Aguiló-Arbues from Denver CO. Each finalist will guest conduct the orchestra at one of the two-concert performances in December (Raper), February (Harrison), and April (Aguiló-Arbues).



Troy Raper



Charlotte Ruth Harrison



Steven Aguiló-Arbues

The search committee is made up of VSA musician members and chaired by Charles Latshaw, music director of the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra and Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra. “It has been a thorough process, vetting candidates to take the helm of the VSA,” Latshaw said. The committee has been working since June, receiving applications, reviewing conducting videos, and interviewing candidates. “The transition from one conductor to another is a great opportunity for the community to evaluate its musical priorities, and choose the person to best take the VSA from where it is to where we want it to be in the future. All three of these candidates have great potential to thrive and grow with the VSA.”

Part of the selection process will be encouraging audience input immediately following each performance. As an incentive to participate, a beautiful hand-painted violin will be awarded as the prize in a drawing that will highlight our orchestra conductor search (see page 31 for more information).

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD continued

Audience members who complete a guest conductor survey at any of the December, February, and April concerts will be entered into the drawing that will take place at the final April concert. Feedback will be compiled to help the committee reach a decision in May, when they expect to announce the new conductor.

We hope you will be excited to attend all three shows and participate in this important process. This decision is a vital one—one that will help us continue to bring classical music to life on the Western Slope.

Seasons Greetings!

Hartland H. Clubb Jr., President

Vince Snowbarger, Vice President

Priscilla Fry, Treasurer

Stephanie Helleckson, Member-At-Large

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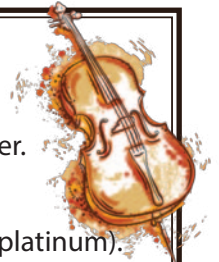
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TROY RAPER **Orchestra Guest Conductor**

Musician and educator Troy Raper is a Colorado native. He began his teaching career in 1988 and is in his first year of retirement after 31 years in education. Raper received his bachelor's in music education from the University of Northern Colorado, where he graduated with honors, and his master's degree in education from Lesley University with an emphasis in educational technology.

During his long career, Raper's school orchestras were consistently awarded superior ratings at music festivals from Palisade to Disneyland. Many former students are now accomplished professional teachers and performers around the country.

As an active advocate for teaching in Colorado, Raper spent 10 years as chair/board member for the Colorado All State Orchestra Governing Board. He has also served as a board member of the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, and as a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association state board. Troy currently serves as production manager and librarian to the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra.

As a member of the musical community on the Western Slope, Raper has spent countless hours developing and nurturing a community of former students, colleagues, and professional relationships. He believes in the accessibility of music to everyone: from the youngest students to professionals, there is a place for everyone in the arts.

“Troy Raper is a musician of the community. Few musicians on the Western Slope have done as much as Troy to bring people and music together.”

-J. Cameron Law, past president of the Colorado American String Teachers Association and member of the Colorado Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

Raper is an accomplished musician with broad performing experience. He has played with orchestras and for festivals all over the west and sits as principal bassist for the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra. He performs regularly in various jazz bands, recording studios, and as a concert soloist.

His hobbies and personal interests include spending time with his family. His wife, Lori, is an accomplished professional artist and teacher. Daughters Mandolyn and Melody both work in careers in music and teaching. He also enjoys arranging music for strings, playing and testing video games, enjoying the open road on motorcycles, and remodeling projects of all kinds.



KATY KRISTOFFERSEN Chorus Conductor

Katy Kristoffersen’s 20 years of experience in coaching and teaching are backed by undergraduate and master’s degrees in music education. Since 2010, Kristoffersen has expanded her practice into mindfulness coaching and loves to incorporate these techniques into all areas of teaching. “Mindfulness is a multi-faceted, dynamic practice that can elevate every part of our day-to-day life.”

She’s been pleasantly surprised to discover how effectively she’s been able to integrate a mindfulness practice into her experiences as musician, director, and collaborator. Her intuitive approach for composing, arranging, playing piano, and singing, facilitate her desire to make music accessible and fun for all. “Music is fundamentally about joy, and I look forward to being a part of the joy the VSA brings to our communities.”

VSA Chorus Conductors

Kelly Neill	2002-2004	Season 31 - 33
Chris Davis	12/2004	Season 34
Aleta Jupille	03/2005	Season 34
Chris Davis	2005-2007	Season 35 - 36
Bethany Ward	12/2007	Season 37
Mary Anne Rathburn	4/2008	Season 37
Bethany Ward	2008-2010	Season 38 - 39
Lenore Hample	2010-2013	Season 40 - 42
Jan Tuin	2013-2017	Season 43 - 46
Allyson Connelly	2017-2019	Season 47 - 49
Katy Kristoffersen	2021-present	Season 50 - present

Note: Seasons run from fall through spring



VSA Orchestra Conductors

Walter Birkedahl	1970-1980	Season 1 - 9
Antonia Brico *	11/1978	Season 8
Rodney Ash *	2/1979	Season 8
Rodney Ash	1980-1985	Season 10 - 14
Keith Cochrane	1985-1989	Season 15 - 18
Dr. James Horton	1989-1993	Season 19 - 22
Michael J. Kern	1993-2022	Season 23 - 50
Scott Betts *	9/2022	Season 51
Troy Raper *	12/2022	Season 51

** guest conductors*

Note: Seasons run from fall through spring





SANDRA SUNDSTROM

Concertmaster

Sandy grew up in Colorado Springs, CO, in a family of musicians. She was involved in orchestras, choirs, and bands throughout her youth, and earned her bachelor of music in education with an instrumental major and choral minor from Arizona State University. Sandy has taught band, choir, and orchestra in all levels of education, elementary through college.

In 2010, she and her family moved to Grand Junction. Sandy is a violinist with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra (GJSO), High Desert Opera, and Rockestra, and has an active private studio teaching violin, viola, and cello. Her quartet performs in churches and for area events, and she plays in regional gigs, performs regularly in Aspen for summer weddings, and is a recurring violin coach for Camp Con Brio. Sandy adjudicates for the District 51 Solo/Ensemble, and local auditions, and judged the Colorado West Invitational Music Festival in 2013. She was an active member of the GJSO Board for many years and served on their music director search committee.

In 2013, she started as a paraprofessional in Mesa County School District. Sandy assists orchestras at several middle schools, and in 2014, she was a long-term sub for choirs at a local high school.

Sandy and her husband have two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren. They absolutely love living in Grand Junction: the people, surrounding views, and connections they've made.

What is a concertmaster? The concertmaster is the principal or “first chair” violinist who leads the orchestra in its tuning prior to the concert and customarily plays all violin solos within pieces. The concertmaster also marks the orchestra’s scores with the appropriate bowings to ensure all the violinists are moving and playing in unison, offers suggestions to other string sections, and translates instructions from the conductor into specific technical language for strings.

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WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER Vince Snowbarger - Vice President

Vince Snowbarger's extremely interesting career path includes stints as a full- and part-time college instructor; a lawyer in private civil practice; a member of the Kansas House of Representatives 1985-1997, including a stint as majority leader from 1993-1997; and as a member of Congress (KS 3rd District). He then became the executive director of Kansas Association of American Educators, and finished out his career with various positions ending with deputy director with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.



Vince Snowbarger

Since retiring to Colorado in 2013, he has served in various volunteer leadership capacities, from being his HOA's board president, to serving as council chair of his church, from chair of the Ouray County Road Commission, to serving on the Ouray County Planning Commission. His experience in many areas—legal matters, organizational structure, strategies and leadership, budgeting, fundraising, and communication—will be a tremendous asset to the VSA, and his fellow board members are excited to welcome him to the leadership team.

"I first attended the VSA's 2017 Christmas by Candlelight concert and knew I had to join the VSA Chorus, which I did the following spring." He has been a VSA Chorus member ever since. "I value the opportunity to perform and appreciate the opportunity to provide a musical experience to our Valley communities. Music brings joy to both the musician and to the listener. If music brings you pleasure, you should get involved with VSA!"

Vince has sung in various groups since grade school, including various church choirs over the years, with some lengthy pauses from time to time. He performed in a radio choir for a syndicated church program, as well as in a traveling quartet in college to promote the school. "The fact that my mother was a music teacher and organist at our church might have had some influence over my love of music."

In addition to contributing to the VSA's musical product as a volunteer vocalist, Vince is committed to putting his diverse background to work as a board member to help the VSA transition to a new era with a new orchestra conductor. "New leadership on the podium offers an opportunity to build our audience and find new and different ways to connect with our communities."

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In 1970 a small group of classical musicians met in the parlor of Wilma and Charles Lowell's Eckert home. By 1982, there were 30 musicians practicing once a week in Delta and performing four annual concerts. Over the years, the group has progressed, growing in size and musical ability.



In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Grand Mesa Singers and the Christmas in the Valley Chorus were seasonal contributors, mainly at Christmas concerts. In 2002, these choral groups combined, and the Valley Symphony Orchestra (VSO) became the Valley Symphony Association (VSA) to include both orchestra and chorus.

Today, over 100 VSA performers will once again bring their skill, passion, and talent to the stage. They live and work in our midst, represent the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys, and hail from throughout Montrose, Ouray, Hotchkiss, Eckert, Olathe, Palisade, Paonia, Delta, Ridgway, Austin, Cedaredge, and Grand Junction. Our musicians are teachers, parents, neighbors, students. They have jobs. They have children. They have homes and schedules and commitments. They teach at local colleges, high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools. They work in business, the arts, government, agriculture, law enforcement, and health care. Some are retired. Some are entrepreneurs. Some are military veterans. Some are snowbirds. Some are teenagers. And they are all VSA musicians.

Learn more about VSA musicians by visiting ValleySymphony.net/About Us.

As a regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization, the VSA takes pride in their 51-year history of bringing classical music to life on the Western Slope, their commitment to keeping classical music vital, and their goal of building future audiences.

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Christmas by Candlelight: A Colorado Christmas

CONCERT PROGRAM

Sheep May Safely Graze

By Johann Sebastian Bach
Arr. for Orchestra by Matt Riley

Joy to the World

By Mack Wilberg

O Christmas Tree

By Kirby Shaw

Concerto – Op 6, #8 “Christmas”

By Arcangelo Corelli

Huron Carol - Traditional Canadian Carol

Arr. Andrew Wainwright

Some Children See Him

Lyrics by Wihla Hutson
Music by Alfred Burt
Arr. Yumiko Matsuoka Young

Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy

Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Arr. Jeff Funk

White Christmas

Words and Music by Irving Berlin
Choral Arrangement by Mac Huff

Christmas at the Movies (Miracle On 34th Street, Polar Express, Somewhere In My Memory, Making Christmas, Where Are You Christmas?)

Arr. Bob Krogstad

Intermission

Carol of the Bells

Music by Mykola Leotovich
Words and Arrangement by Peter J. Wilhousky

Five Ukrainians in a Bell Tower (A Ukrainian Bell Carol)

By Mykola Leonovych
Arr. Rick England

You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch

Music by Albert Hague
Lyrics by Dr. Seuss
Arr. Jeff Funk

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Poem by Robert Frost
Music by Ruth Artman

Pat-a-Pan

By Mark Burrows

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Words and Music by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
Arr. John Whitney

O Magnum Mysterium for String Orchestra

By Morten Lauridsen
arr. Sandra Dackow

O Magnum Mysterium

By Morten Lauridsen

Christmas Festival

By Leroy Anderson

Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah*

By George Frederic Handel

* We invite all former members of the VSA Chorus to the stage to sing *Hallelujah*

Sleigh Ride!

By Leroy Anderson

■ Chorus ■ Orchestra ■ Both

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

CONCERT NOTES

By Troy Raper, VSA Orchestra Guest Conductor

Greetings! I am overjoyed that you have chosen to join us for today's performance. As your orchestra guest conductor, let me say how excited I am to have the chance to make music with this outstanding group of musicians. Thank you for the opportunity!

Our program will inspire images of cool evenings by the fire or a winter gathering surrounded by friends and family. The holidays carry with them a huge range of emotion and reminiscence of times past and futures to come. My hope for you is to sit back, remember the time you heard that special piece of music that stuck with you, or one that carries a memory to hold onto.

The orchestra and chorus have worked diligently to prepare a program of joy, excitement, and emotion to share with you, and with works from Bach, Handel, and John Williams, to Dave Brubeck and *The Grinch*, we are sure you will find something special to you. Now please settle in and enjoy this presentation of *Christmas by Candlelight: A Colorado Christmas*.

By Katy Kristoffersen, VSA Chorus Conductor

Joy to the world! 'Tis the season for music that warms the heart, stirs up wonder, and shines a light in our community—literally!

In the dance-like arrangement of *O Christmas Tree*, listen to the rhythmic play on a well-known melody.

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening is Ruth Artman's gorgeous setting of Robert Frost's famous poem, which sets us on a horse in the middle of the woods listening to the falling snow.

O Magnum Mysterium captures the absolute wonder of the animals and shepherds during their adoration of the Virgin birth. Morten Lauridsen's setting is magnificent, humble, and deeply personal.

Listen for the fascinating chords as the chorus sings, *Some Children See Him*, arranged by renowned vocal jazz composer Yumiko Matsuoka Young. The text explores the ways that children all over the world see the baby Jesus in their own eyes, looking just like them.

And I double-dog dare you to NOT tap your foot during *Pat-a-pan!* The title and text create its own drum-like rhythm which is scattered throughout the song.

We truly wish you the warmest of holidays—from our voices to your hearts.

ORCHESTRA ROSTER

Guest Conductor

Troy Raper (Grand Junction)

↳ *Donnin Custer & Eunice Acker*

Concertmaster

Sandra Sundstrom (Grand Junction)

↳ *San Juan Foot & Ankle Center*

Violin 1

Chase Houck (Grand Junction)

Stephanie Helleckson (Paonia)

Naomi Lee (Montrose)

Lindsey Shoemaker (Montrose)

DJo Lowell (Cedaredge)

↳ *Dr. Mary Kleinsorge, DC*

Violin 2

Rachael King (Austin) *

Emma Gomez (Montrose)

Talitha Costello (Grand Junction)

Lois Drysdale (Delta)

Maggie Cline (Olathe)

Tasha Pratt (Montrose)

Vince Farnsworth (Montrose)

Maya Varela (Olathe)

Dawnell Cook (Montrose)

Julie Martensen (Montrose)

↳ *Farnsworth Gallery*

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Barb Kremiski (Grand Junction)

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Carissa Docteur (Grand Junction) *

Beth Pertz (Delta)

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Brent Helleckson (Paonia)

Jacob Helleckson (Paonia)

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Contrabass

Mike Kristoffersen (Ridgway)

Laura Payne (Montrose)

↳ *Welcome Western Colorado*

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Desirée Simler (Delta)

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Oboe

Sammie Alteri (Montrose)

↳ *Troy & Lori Raper*

Clarinet

Holly Burgess (Montrose) *

Stacey Ryan (Montrose)

↳ *Glen Hast*

↳ *Rounds & Brooks CPAs PC*

Bass Clarinet

Karla Miller (Palisade)

Bassoon

Carol Franklin (Grand Junction) *

Toru Arisawa (Grand Junction)

↳ *Ramona Good*

French Horn

Sheri Williams (Cedaredge) *

Clint Miller (Palisade)

Jeff Williams (Cedaredge)

Trumpet

Dave Reddish (Montrose) *

Janet Myers (Cedaredge)

Kendra Sitton (Montrose)

↳ *Avis Rental Car*

Trombone

Cindy Swanson (Montrose) *

Christian Pfrezschner (Grand Junction)

Bruce Mixer (Eckert)

↳ *Avis Rental Car*

Tuba

Austin Reed (Montrose)

Timpani

Anne Clayton (Delta)

↳ *The George Miller Family*

Percussion

Nolan Quinn

↳ *Dr. Mary Vader*

Piano/Keyboard

Anne Koehler (Montrose)

*Denotes principle chair

↳ *Denotes section underwriter*

CHORUS ROSTER

Katy Kristoffersen (Ridgway), Conductor - ♪ *Peggy Kristoffersen*
Max Reilly (Grand Junction), Accompanist

Soprano 1

Diane Balk (Montrose)
Aspen Bue (Montrose)
Charlotte Heath (Montrose)
Kaitlynn Hurford (Montrose)
Carol Mulvaney (Montrose)
Mary Redmond (Montrose)
Luanne Svaldi (Montrose)

Soprano 2

Christine Bloss (Montrose)
Kathy Foglesong (Montrose)
Ann Holmes (Montrose)
Cathy Hoffman (Montrose)
Barb Krebs (Montrose)
Julie Laube (Montrose)
Sarah Morales (Montrose)
Amiee Rawlings (Montrose)
Demeris York (Delta)

Alto 1

Haley Benson (Cedaredge)
Judy Bunyard (Montrose)
Anne Harper (Montrose)
Lorchin Pulsipher (Delta)
Sara Schifino (Montrose)
Philis Schuhmann (Cedaredge)
Sue Warren (Montrose)
♪ *The Ruthanna B. Snow*
Charitable Foundation
♪ *Shirley Richardson Taylor*

Alto 2

Cheryl Harshman (Montrose)
Dianne McCully (Cedaredge)
Chris Munday (Montrose)

Alto 2 (cont)

Liz Soler (Montrose)
Anna H. Strong (Montrose)
Marka Wellington (Cedaredge)
♪ *Sprague Mayger & Priscilla Fry*
♪ *The Ruthanna B. Snow*
Charitable Foundation

Tenor 1

Nancy Garcia (Montrose)
Deborah Gordon (Montrose)
Bonnie Koehler (Delta)
Kevin Pulsipher (Delta)
♪ *Vince & Carolyn Snowbarger*

Tenor 2

Judy Lokey (Montrose)
Erv Rawlings (Montrose)
Vince Snowbarger (Ridgway)
♪ *Vince & Carolyn Snowbarger*
♪ *Dr. Sam & Lana Kevan*

Bass 1

M. Ray Gilbert (Cedaredge)
Nathan Howe (Montrose)
Keith Laube (Montrose)
Bob McCormac (Cedaredge)
Seth Ryan (Montrose)
♪ *The George Miller Family*

Bass 2

Rod Bunyard (Montrose)
Hartland H. Clubb, Jr. (Delta)
Robin Nicholoff (Hotchkiss)
Jim Parks (Montrose)
John Thrasher (Delta)
♪ *Seth and Stacey Ryan*

♪ *Denotes section underwriter*

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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Judy Lokey – Tenor 2

Judy Lokey has lived in Montrose since the mid-70s, singing with area choirs since the late 90s and is a charter member of the VSA Chorus.

Judy sang in church choirs and school choruses growing up, so singing has always been a big part of her life.

Originally from Williamsport, PA, Judy grew up with a father who loved music, so much so that, “every Sunday we would listen to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on the radio.” He also sang in a barbershop quartet for several years which lead Judy to sing in one as an adult.

When she moved to Montrose and after raising three children, she sang for a few years at the United Methodist Church, where she became aware of the newly formed VSA Chorus in 2002. “I’ve been involved ever since. I so enjoy the opportunity to sing!”



Judy Lokey

“MUSIC CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.”

- Beethoven

The Valley Symphony Association’s long-held belief in the transformative power of orchestral and choral music continues to educate, entertain, and inspire.



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- HANNAH YATES - PATIENT



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Orchestra

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Lindsey Shoemaker	Violin 1	Steve & Eileen Field
Lois Drysdale	Violin 2	Marie Heroux
Rachael King	Violin 2	Ramond James Financial Services-Toby King
Dan Lamar	Viola	Abel's Ace Hardware
Beth Pertz	Cello	C&N Storage, David Pertz, Joan & Jim, Mitch Bramlage-Edward Jones
Sammie Alteri	Oboe	Kelley Alteri
Stacey Ryan	Clarinet	Paige & Char Proctor, Jim & Eleanor Ennis, Seth Ryan

Chorus

Katy Kristoffersen	Conductor	Spencer Merage
Sarah Morales	Soprano 1	Fernando Morales
Shelley Becker	Soprano 2	Shelley Becker
Christine Bloss	Soprano 2	Carma Reagan
Catherine Hoffman	Soprano 2	Catherine Hoffman
Kaitlynn Hurford	Soprano 2	Newcraft Dental Arts LLC
Demeris York	Soprano 2	Marie Heroux, John York
Cheryl Harshman	Alto 1	In Memory of John Harshman
Phillis Seuhmann	Alto 1	LeRoy & Ruth Hansen
Marka Wellington	Alto 2	United Women of Faith
Nancy Garcia	Tenor 1	Nancy Garcia
Bonnie Koehler	Tenor 1	Uppity Horn Women
Kevin Pulsipher	Tenor 2	Kevin Pulsipher
Hartland H. Clubb, Jr.	Bass 1	DaVeto's Restaurant
Seth Ryan	Bass 1	Paige & Char Proctor, Stacey Ryan, Jim & Devon Rea, 7th Judicial District DA's Team
Jim Parks	Bass 2	Jim Parks





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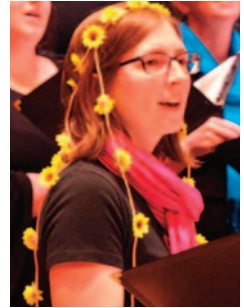
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WHEN ART AND MUSIC COMBINE

Enter the drawing for a fantastic piece of art!

Kaitlynn Hurford was always drawing in her school books growing up. In high school, after taking several art classes, she “officially” decided to become an artist. “Those classes confirmed my love of the arts,” Kaitlynn says. She graduated from Colorado Mesa University in 2016, earning a degree in studio art with an emphasis in painting. She’s been developing her own painting style ever since. While she does work in 3D mediums from time to time, “I find myself returning to the paint brush again and again.”



Kaitlynn Hurford

She gathers her artistic inspiration from the world around her, using her own photos as a starting point for all her creations. “I love all things color, so I use a lot of bright colors in my art,” she said. “I try to portray happiness, peace, and a bit of playfulness in all of my works.” Kaitlynn has an upcoming show in July 2023 at the Montrose Center for Art (11 S Park Ave), and her prints are available for purchase at Mosaic Montrose, a gallery and gift shop in downtown Montrose.

Her love of the arts doesn’t stop with painting: she also loves singing! She took piano lessons for several years in her youth, and then joined the choir in high school, where she performed in several musicals. After college, she missed singing in a group setting, so she joined the VSA Chorus in 2018. “It’s a great way to get out, be social, and express myself musically.”

Beyond volunteering her musical talents as a VSA performer, she has generously offered her artistic talents by painting and donating a violin to the VSA. For inspiration, she’ll use the colors and imagery from our four season 51 concerts and brochure.

This beautiful violin will be awarded as a prize in a drawing that will highlight our orchestra conductor search. Audience members who complete a guest conductor survey at any of the December, February, and April concerts will be entered into the drawing that will take place at the final April concert.

We’re so grateful to Kaitlynn for sharing her musical and artistic gifts with the VSA. Witnessing her on-going process and watching the violin develop over the next few months will be inspirational and great fun. Follow her progress on Facebook and on our website and watch their unique art take shape!





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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Vince Farnsworth - Violin 2

A former research scientist at Caltech in Pasadena, CA, Vince 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.



Vince Farnsworth


Since retiring to Montrose in 2006 with wife Maggie, Vince 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 Vince a debt of gratitude.

Since settling in Montrose, he and Maggie have opened several photography-related businesses. Vince’s photos hang in many local businesses, including the Pavilion lobby—check them out! The couple currently owns two photo art galleries—one located at Montrose Center For Arts (11 S Park Ave)—where he enjoys meeting lots of interesting people from all over the world.

Vince 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 20 years ago that he started taking violin lessons. He has been playing with various groups for the past 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!”

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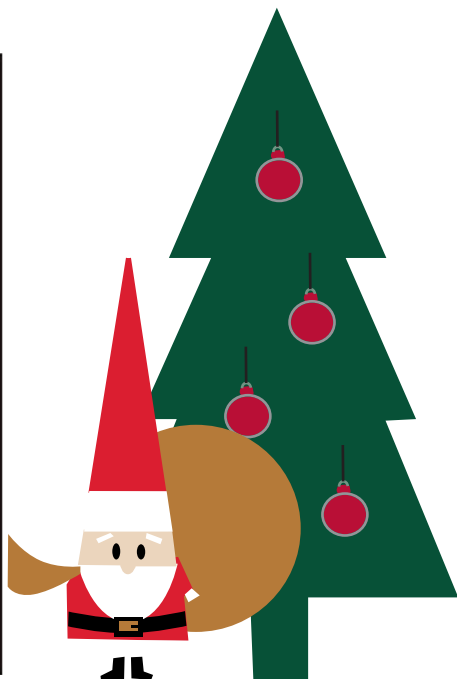
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Locals love local - Community Bulletin Group

"After spending months closed due to effects from the pandemic, the Fox Theater in Montrose reopened last month with a slate of new films."

- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

Dark Skies Community - Dark Skies Group

"Montrose is a central location in Western Colorado, and is surrounded by some of the country's darkest night skies."

- Aaron W, NABUR member

Niagara Community Garden - Agriculture Group

"Hello, plant people! Just wanted to let you know that Niagara Community Garden is taking applications for the 2021 season."

- Aleta L., NABUR member

Little Blue Creek Canyon Project - Local Affairs Group

"What concerns do you have with the project? Do you feel the road should be open eight hours a day, rather than the scheduled five?"

- Josue Perez, Journalist Product Manager

Discussion on Meat-Out Day from a Beef Producer's Perspective - Food Group

"So being a beef provider, several people have asked me about my opinion on the Governor's Meat Out Day."

- Cally H., NABUR member



get started by visiting: nabur.montrosepress.com

DISCOVERING OUR ROOTS

Volunteer orchestral and choral groups like the VSA are an outcropping from the concept of the American community band, which predates the Civil War. Immigrants brought the band tradition with them to the US, where thousands of ordinary citizens participated in these ensembles.

After the Civil War, census figures indicated that, across the country, there were about 10,000 community bands. Town bands were admired and provided townspeople with popular, light entertainment for concerts. While the quality of performance varied, the enjoyment and value to each town's social and cultural climate is undeniable.

Community bands experienced a great dying out after World War I, victims of a cultural shift to mass media, radio, and more, all which led to a rise in school music programs. The increased number of musicians who learned an instrument and played in high school and college bands but did not pursue music as a career also provided a rich pool of amateur talent seeking an outlet for their musical abilities. As a result—and ironically—there was once again a rise in participation in community bands.

While there will always be music teachers and professional musicians participating in volunteer music performance groups like the VSA, the majority of members come from professions that are not related to music. Most are amateurs who enjoyed playing in school and missed the camaraderie and music-making. Others are students looking to gain more rehearsal time and learn from more experienced musicians.

These ensembles give *everyone*, regardless of their age or chosen career path, a place to play their instrument, contribute to their community, and most especially, to enjoy themselves while making music.

We salute the VSA and look forward to the 51st Season!

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Return to Life | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday • September 17, 2022 • 7:30pm

Sunday • September 18, 2022 • 3:00pm

John Estacio's *Frenergy*, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto #1 featuring Zhengyi Huang, piano, winner of GJSO's 2022 Young Artist Competition, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major

Behind the Music: Symphonie Fantastique | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday • October 15, 2022 • 7:30pm

Sunday • October 16, 2022 • 3:00pm

Edward MacDowell's *Hamlet and Ophelia* and Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*

A Christmas Classic | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Thursday, December 15, 2022 • 7:30pm

A traditional holiday concert performed by the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra and Western Colorado Chorale with sing-a-longs & more!

John Williams: Maestro of the Movies | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday, January 14, 2023 • 7:30pm

The Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra performs your favorite songs written by John Williams! It's a thrilling evening of heartwarming songs from cinema.

Singer Morgan James In Concert | Tickets \$50 - \$75

Saturday, January 28, 2023 • 7:30pm

Morgan James is an American soul singer, songwriter, and actress. James is well known for her numerous musical collaborations with the Jazz collective Postmodern Jukebox.

Re:Awakening | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday • February 11, 2023 • 7:30pm

Sunday • February 12 • 3:00pm

Emilie Mayer's Symphony No. 5 in F Minor, Antonio Rosetti's Concerto for 2 Horns in Eb Major, and Felix Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* Overture

Classical Goes West | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday • March 11, 2023 • 7:30pm

Sunday • March 12, 2023 • 3:00pm

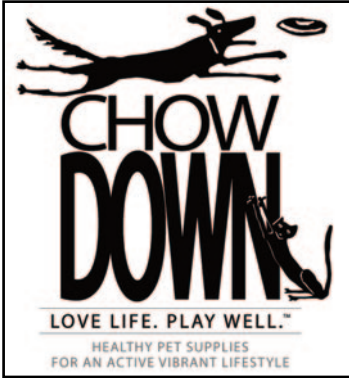
Elmer Bernstein's *The Magnificent Seven* Symphonic Suite, George Clinton's *The Rose of Sonora*, Ennio Morricone's "Gabriel's Oboe" from *The Mission*, & Aaron Copland's *Billy the Kid Suite*. Guest Conductor Renee Noel Gilliland.

Brahms & Rutter | Tickets \$5 - \$45

Saturday • April 29, 2023 • 7:30pm

Sunday • April 30, 2023 • 3:00pm

Johannes Brahms' *Schicksalslied*, op. 54 (Song of Destiny), John Rutter's Gloria, and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 featuring the GJSO Chorus.



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