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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bringing Classical Music to Life:
VSA's 52nd Season Starts with a
FREE Concert at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) Orchestra and Chorus launches season 52 on Saturday, September 9, 2023, with their free, annual “Pops in the Park” concert at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater. The Montrose Community Band, guests of the VSA, will open the concert at 6pm, and the VSA Orchestra and Chorus will take the stage at 7pm.

The VSA supports volunteer musicians of all ages and walks of life who hail from throughout the Western Slope, including the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys. VSA Chorus Conductor Katy Kristoffersen is in her third year at the helm of the choristers. This will be the first concert directed by the VSA's new orchestra conductor and music director, Troy Raper.

It's also the first time Colorado Outdoors is joining forces with the regional, all-volunteer performing arts nonprofit as their concert partner.

“We're excited to help the VSA bring classical music to life—outdoors,” said Colorado Outdoors President David Drago. “We are thrilled to support VSA's outdoor concert as it brings together some of the things that make Montrose such a great place to live, work, and play.”

“It's a fun tie-in that Colorado Outdoors is the concert partner for our only outdoor performance of the season,” VSA Board President Hartland H. Clubb, Jr., said. “We are excited to welcome them and are grateful for their support as our concert partner.”

The theme, “From Sea to Shining Sea,” will take the audience on a journey across the country, celebrating our rich heritage of culture and music. Music selections will highlight contemporary music styles, Americana, marches, light classics, and more.

“The Montrose Rotary Amphitheater is an absolutely spectacular venue, both visually and acoustically, so having a full symphony fill the stage and perform here is truly will be a unique opportunity and musical experience for our audience,” Raper said. “The opportunity for me to share the talents of VSA Orchestra and Chorus in this outstanding outdoor theater is going to be amazing!”

The VSA provides its only free, outdoor Pops show annually to highlight the multifaceted influence of symphonic and choral music, to bring together regional music lovers of all ages, and to encourage season ticket sales, sponsorships, underwriting, and volunteering—on the stage and behind it. “As an all-volunteer performing arts non-profit organization, the only way VSA musicians can achieve our vision of bringing classical music to life is through the generous financial support of partners, advertisers, underwriters, ticket holders—along with logistical, fundraising, and administrative support of volunteers,” Clubb said. “Your support is welcome in any of these areas.”

“A regional all-volunteer arts organization such as the VSA is such a rare and special thing for our multi-generational musicians and audiences,” Clubb said. “An orchestra gives meaning to our lives, and in the ears, minds, and hearts of most people, that's valuable.”

For information, visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation or at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets for the upcoming November-April concert series at the Montrose Pavilion are also available online; in Delta at Clubb's (417 Main St); and in Montrose at Cimarron Wealth Management (1731 E Niagara Rd) and Colorado Smiles (601 S 3rd St). Other inquiries may be directed to 970-765-8323 or info@ValleySymphony.net.

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About the Valley Symphony Association

Since 1970, the Valley Symphony Association has culturally enriched the community and its members by bringing together some of the best volunteer musicians from the Uncompahgre, North Fork, and Grand Valleys to discover and present works of great composers, past and present. Performances range from classical orchestral to upbeat pop, from purely instrumental to purely choral, to a combination of both.

Our goal is to ensure that future generations will enjoy the legacy of live orchestral and choral music that so magnificently celebrates the human spirit.

About Our Season Co-Partners

Cimarron Wealth Management strives to simplify your financial life and give you confidence about your future so you can focus on your passions. It starts with the foundation of investment, estate and tax planning discussions, but our passion is honest conversations about purpose, legacy and generosity.

The David Mize Family has quietly and generously supported all types of Western Slope non-profit organizations for decades and is a longstanding donor to the VSA.

About Concert Partner Colorado Outdoors

Colorado Outdoors is a development company focused on the revitalization of the Uncompahgre River corridor in Montrose. The company's goal is to provide the region with 1) a desirable location for business relocation and commercial enterprise – bringing in skilled jobs, 2) a restored and enhanced river for the benefit of the community, 3) quality, workforce housing for local residents. To date, the company has helped create over 200 new jobs in the community and invested over \$110 million in new buildings, river restoration and trails, guaranteeing public outdoor recreation access for future generations.

About Season 52 (2023-2024)

Here's how the VSA's Season 52 will roll out, including the free, annual Pops in the Park concert at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater, followed by a five-concert series at the Montrose Pavilion between November and April:

Sep - Pops in the Park: From Sea to Shining Sea – **FREE!**

Orchestra & Chorus

Saturday, September 9, 2023

6pm: Montrose Community Band (opener)

7pm: VSA Orchestra & Chorus

Montrose Rotary Amphitheater, 400 Shanes Way, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: Colorado Outdoors

Program Summary: Join us for a journey across the country, celebrating our rich heritage of culture and music!

Nov - Classic Drama: Feel the Music

Orchestra

Saturday, November 11, 2023 6:30pm

Sunday, November 12, 2023 3pm

Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: DMEA/ELEVATE

Program Summary: Feel the music at an evening of compositions from great composers whose creations touch our souls. Experience the full range of human emotions in this special performance.

Dec - Christmas by Candlelight: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Orchestra & Chorus

Friday, December 15, 2023 7pm

Saturday, December 16, 2023 6:30pm

Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: BMO

Program Summary: Our candlelight concert will feature festive and joyful seasonal favorites and a dramatic reading of the beloved poem, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, by the Magic Circle Players.

Feb - A Night at the Movies: Hollywood Favorites, Starring the Classics!

Orchestra

Saturday, February 24, 2024 6:30pm

Sunday, February 25, 2024 3pm

Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: Montrose Regional Health

Program Summary: Pairing the classics of music and film, the VSA orchestra's winter concert features landmark film scores that will evoke distinctive and memorable moments in cinema history.

Mar - Heaven & Bluegrass: Singing the Sacred

Chorus

Saturday, March 30, 2024 6:30pm

Sunday, March 31, 2024 3pm

Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: Budget Blinds

Program Summary: Presenting a mix of ethereal choral music and bluegrass, our spring concert is full of feel-good music that explores and combines these two expressions and forms of spirituality.

Apr - Rites of Spring: Rhythms of Nature

Orchestra

Saturday, April 20, 2024 7:30pm

Sunday, April 21, 2024 3pm

Montrose Pavilion Event Center, 1800 Pavilion Dr, Montrose CO 81401

Concert Partner: Go Big Banners

Program Summary: Let the beauty of music enrich your spirit and feed your soul as we celebrate the season of renewal with music to inspire and delight.
