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An orchestra gives meaning to our lives, and in the ears, minds, and hearts of most people, that's valuable.

Bank of the West has an outstanding record of supporting the arts in local and regional communities. Being the concert partner for the final performance of the VSA's Jubilee Season is just one example of that important tradition. Without business support to complement individual giving, organizations like the VSA could not survive.

We hope all the individuals, families, and businesses in our communities will continue to enjoy the benefits of this amazing orchestra and support them by attending their concerts and through generous individual giving.

**The Montrose and Delta Bank of the West Branches are
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Congratulations on your landmark 50th Season!**

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BANK OF THE WEST
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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We conclude our 50th Jubilee Season with a flourish—and a farewell—as we honor long-time VSA Conductor Michael J. Kern in his last performances with the VSA. This is truly the end of an era, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mike for dedicating over a quarter-century to the organization.


He's grown tremendously as its conductor, and what he's accomplished and given in service to our regional community is no small thing.

We thank our regional all-volunteer performing artists who dedicate so much of their time and talent to bring us superb performances throughout the year. The VSA supports musicians of all ages and walks of life who hail from throughout the Western Slope, including the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys.

Our gratitude goes out to all of our audiences, our concert partners, and our many sponsors, underwriters, advertisers, and donors who helped us make the music possible throughout our 50th season, especially after such a difficult couple of years leading up to it. We look forward to seeing you in Season 51!

Hartland H. Clubb Jr., VSA Board President | Priscilla Fry, VSA Board Treasurer

Farewell to Michael J. Kern



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bringing classical music to life!
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PRESENTING SEASON 51

We're pleased to announce some exciting and significant changes for the 2022-2023 season: Season 51 will see the orchestra and chorus performing together at four quarterly concerts, and those at the Montrose Pavilion will present both Saturday and Sunday offerings!



Tickets are available now at [ValleySymphony.org](https://www.valleysymphony.org).

Pops in the Park: Big Sounds in a Big Space

Saturday 9/10/22, 5pm | Montrose Rotary Amphitheater
Our only free and outdoor concert of the season, our annual Pops concert kicks off season 51. We'll perform a wide range of popular and traditional music styles sure to please concert-goers of all ages. Bring your own shade and sunscreen, round up your friends, and join in the fun!

Christmas by Candlelight: A Colorado Christmas

Saturday 12/3/22, 7:30pm | Sunday 12/4/22, 3pm | Montrose Pavilion
Celebrate the joyous sounds of the season—Colorado-style. Our holiday concert will ring in the cheer! These festive and joyful seasonal favorites will warm your heart and help children of all ages start off the season right.

Young Composers: Be Inspired!

Saturday 2/4/23, 7:30pm | Sunday 2/5/23, 3pm | Montrose Pavilion
We will celebrate the beautiful minds and imaginations of music's child prodigies and young composers. Spanning time to the present, these brilliant artists are some of the most well-known for their contribution to music history—or for the music they're making right now! Be inspired by these young people who dream big. The concert will feature a premier work from a regional choral student composer.

Pop Stars & Superheroes

Saturday 4/22/23, 7:30pm | Sunday 4/24/23, 3pm | Montrose Pavilion
It's a bird...it's a plane...it's the VSA Orchestra and Chorus in their final performance of the season! This jam-packed concert teams up some of the most iconic superhero themes of all time, along with pop songs that are the stuff of legend. These songs connect us across oceans and beyond borders, forming links to the past, present, and future. With cape or guitar, everyone needs a hero! Join us for a family-friendly concert that's just plain fun.




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51st 2022-23
Season

Saturday 9/10/22 5pm

Christmas by Candlelight
A Colorado Christmas



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51st 2022-23
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Saturday 12/3/22 7:30pm | Sunday 12/4/22 3pm

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**YOUNG COMPOSERS:
BE INSPIRED!**



VALLEY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
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51st 2022-23
Season

Saturday 2/4/23 7:30pm | Sunday 2/5/23 3pm

**POP STARS &
SUPERHEROES**



VALLEY SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION
ORCHESTRA & CHORUS

51st 2022-23
Season

Saturday 4/22/23 7:30pm | Sunday 4/23/23 3pm

Concerts at the Montrose Pavilion
Pops in the Park at the Montrose Rotary Amphitheater

Students: \$5 | Adults: \$25

Delta: Clubb's, 502 Main St

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Online: ValleySymphony.org

Phone: 970-275-8676





MICHAEL J. KERN **Orchestra Conductor**

Michael J. Kern has been conducting the VSA Orchestra since 1993. He is a graduate of Butler University (Indianapolis, IN) with a bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in music composition. He has announced his retirement: season 50 will be his last as the VSA's orchestra conductor.

"I have enjoyed seeing the orchestra grow in numbers and ability in my 27+ years as the conductor. I had only directed an orchestra during conducting class in college, and while my familiarity with bands helped, working with strings is a whole other matter! My conducting skills have progressed through the years. Attending an international conducting workshop in 2001 helped me see where I could improve—and I am still learning.

Judging an ensemble's capability is something learned over time, and understanding the diverse backgrounds of the musicians in your charge is no easy task. It takes patience and caring, and I do care deeply for the musicians whom I conduct. Many have become good friends. I really do appreciate and love them all.

Our musicians give so much to the VSA: they all have lives to live yet dedicate themselves to our orchestra. As volunteer musicians, they donate their time to rehearse, practice, and perform with the talent they have personally cultivated for years, if not decades.


I thank all board members—past and present—for encouraging and helping me reach a certain level of accomplishment with the orchestra. I feel that I am leaving the orchestra in a good position and trust that the next conductor will continue to grow this ensemble musically toward more and more proficiency that brings a larger audience to classical music.

We have accomplished more than I could dream of those many years ago. The VSA Orchestra is a very good community orchestra and many other community orchestras would be happy to be in our position! I wish all the success in the world to the VSA and its members."

VSA Orchestra Conductors	
1970-1980	Walter Birkedahl
1980-1985	Rodney Ash
1985-1989	Keith Cochrane
1989-1993	Dr. James Horton
1993-2022	Michael J. Kern

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Conductor

Michael Kern (Ouray)
♪ *Mark & Nora Kniskern*

Interim Concertmaster

Sandra Sundstrom (Grand Junction)
♪ *The Houlihan-Perryman-TenNapel Families*

Violin 1

Kay Woods (Paonia)
Stephanie Helleckson (Paonia)
Chris O'Leary (Ouray)
Hannah Wieder (Montrose)
Olivia Lindsay (Cedaredge)
Chase Ferguson Houck (Grand Junction)
Djo Lowell (Cedaredge)
♪ *Dr. Mary Kleinsorge, DC*

Violin 2

Rachael King (Austin) *
Emma Gomez (Montrose)
Naomi Lee (Montrose)
Talitha Costello (Grand Junction)
Lois Drysdale (Delta)
Maggie Cline (Olathe)
Tasha Pratt (Montrose)
Vince Farnsworth (Montrose)
♪ *San Juan Foot & Ankle Center*

Viola

Anwen Borgo (Montrose) *
Dan Lamar (Montrose)
Barb Kremski (Grand Junction)
Julia Appelhanz (Montrose)
♪ *Bill Starnes*

Cello

Martha Ditto (Delta) *
Beth Pertz (Delta)
Mary Novak (Grand Junction)
Brent Helleckson (Paonia)
Jacob Helleckson (Paonia)
♪ *Mary Novak*
♪ *Superlative Concrete Seal*

Contrabass

Laura Payne (Montrose)
Mike Kristoffersen (Ridgway)
Richard Hansen (Delta)
♪ *Welcome Western Colorado*



* Denotes principal chair | ♪ Denotes section underwriter | # Associate Concertmaster

Flute/Piccolo

Kathryn Kubinyi (Ouray) *
Edie Burgess (Eckert)
Desiree Simler (Delta)
♪ *Kathryn Kubinyi Family & Friends*

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)
♪ *Marble Roots, LLC*

Trumpet

Dave Reddish (Montrose) *
Janet Myers (Cedaredge)
Kendra Sitton (Montrose)
♪ *Vectra Bank*

Trombone

Cindy Swanson (Montrose) *
Leda Stinson Ebert (Delta)
Christian Pfretzschner (Grand Junction)
♪ *Avis Rental Car*

Tuba

Gary Miller (Ouray)
♪ *Annie Lindsey*

Timpani

Anne Clayton (Delta)

Percussion

Andrew Bruington
(Olathe)
♪ *Dr. Mary Vader*

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Anne Koehler (Montrose)
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LET'S DANCE!

CONCERT PROGRAM

Summer Dances - Brian Balmages

Wiener Blut (Vienna Blood) - Johann Strauss

Ballet performed by *Zaina Bowen, Ellie Gerhard, Thomas Hampton, Valerie Merritt*
A Time To Dance (Montrose) | Choreography by Catherine Frates

Slavonic Dances - Antonin Dvorak, Edited by Steven L. Rosenhaus

Blue Tango - Leroy Anderson

Tango performed by *Sweet T & Lady V*
Choreography by Toren Wagner

Music from The Lord of the Dance - Ronan Hardiman

Clogging performed by *Bailey Brand, Emma Gatt, William Huffman,
Kendall Taylor, Caylie Velasquez*
A Time To Dance (Montrose) | Choreography by Catherine Frates

A Salute to the Big Bands - Arr. by Calvin Custer

Charleston performed by *Deb Aspen*
In Step Dance Academy (Cedaredge) | Choreography by Deb Aspen

INTERMISSION

Grease - Lyrics and Music by Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs
Arr. by Calvin Custer

In the Mood - Adapted for orchestra by Larry Sims

With the Montrose Community Band Sax Ensemble
Jitterbug, Charleston, Lindy Hop, East Coast Swing & West Coast Swing
performed by *Seth & Stacey Ryan*
In Step Dance Academy (Cedaredge) | Choreography by Deb Aspen

Bohemian Rhapsody - Arr. by Clark Gault

Journey's Greatest Hits - Arr. by Victor López

Let's Get Loud - Words and Music by Gloria Estefan and Kike Santander
Arr. by Victor López

Tap performed by *Faith Hampton, Matthew Hampton, Valerie Merritt*
A Time To Dance (Montrose) | Choreography by Veronica Hale

The Best of Bruno Mars - Arr. by Victor López



OUR HISTORY: BRINGING CLASSICAL MUSIC TO LIFE!

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, the VSA's 60+ instrumentalists and 35+ vocalists hail from throughout the North Fork, Uncompahgre, and Grand Valleys.

The VSA takes pride in their 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.



OUR MUSICIANS

Who performs in the VSA Orchestra and Chorus?

They 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. They represent the Uncompahgre, Grand, and North Fork Valleys and live in Montrose, Ouray, Hotchkiss, Eckert, Olathe, Palisade, Paonia, Delta, Ridgway, Austin, Cedaredge, and Grand Junction. Some of them are snowbirds. Some of them are teenagers. And they are all VSA musicians.

This season we have over 100 performers who bring their skill, passion, and talent to the stage. The VSA is proud to be celebrating our 50th year as a regional, all-volunteer performing arts organization composed of musicians who live and work in our midst.

FOUNDERS

Dr. Ted Dickinson
Bernard & Erma Hast
Girts & Ina Krumins
Wilma Lowell
Robert Phillips &
Joan Fetters Meikle
Robert & Norma Vold



LET'S DANCE!

CONCERT NOTES



Without music, dance would not exist. Music has the power to make us feel a certain way, which is just one of the immense roles it plays in dance. Dance needs music to set the mood, establish the beat, and inspire the motivation needed to start moving.

Different styles of music create various types of beats, which all correspond to specific styles of dance. While some dances can be performed to any kind of music, there is always a typical genre that it matches with. Simply stated, the traditional version of each dance style corresponds to either slower or faster music. The waltz, lyrical, or ballet utilize slower tunes, while fast, upbeat songs are most often paired with the various swing dance styles, hip-hop, tap dancing, or the salsa.

Ultimately, with dance, it's whatever inspires you to move to the music. We thank all of our dancers who volunteered their time and energy to move to the music!

Today, we'll dance through time and experience a delightful afternoon full of movement and flair! Showcasing dance styles through the ages, the final orchestra concerts of our Jubilee Season speak to the unity among the arts and how they draw on each other for inspiration. From tap to tango to swing, today's selections and live performances underscore the timeless connection between music and dance.



Have a song in your heart? Join the VSA Chorus!

Mark your calendar to audition for Season 51 on Thursday, August 11, 2022!*

VSA Community Chorus members perform at the *Pops in the Park* concert on September 10.

VSA Chorus members perform at [ALL](#) Season 51 concerts.

*Details at ValleySymphony.org
(go to About Us/Chorus/Auditions & Rehearsals)



FEATURED MUSICIAN

Kay Woods - Violin

The year was 1970. Just as the little group that was to become the VSA Orchestra held its first practice in the North Fork Valley, I held a violin for the first time—smelled the fresh varnish, while gently lifting it out of its three-quarter-sized cradle.

As a fifth grader, I never imagined being this excited about learning an instrument, as reading music was a struggle. But after hearing a live soloist in my grade school gymnasium, I was sure about my choice. My mother promptly signed me up for violin lessons. However, my first teacher, a towering handsome member of the Minnesota Orchestra, broke the sad news to my parents: I would never make the junior high orchestra. Woefully shy, I clammed up in lessons. But my mother knew better and promptly switched teachers.

My original inspiration—the soloist from the gymnasium, Cheryl Hanson—became my new teacher. With her help, I played in my first recital before entering junior high and became a soloist in the high school orchestra. Being a member of the National Music Honor Society and performing in the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony for four years earned me a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to major in music education at Mount Senario College, in Ladysmith, WI. After transferring to the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, I focused on performing.

Enrolling my oldest daughter in violin lessons in 1995 inspired me to become a registered Suzuki violin teacher. My travels have led me to perform in various orchestras throughout the Midwest, Montana, and Colorado, before moving to Paonia in the fall of 2008 and joining the VSA. It's been a joy sharing my musical journey with this wonderful group of talented folks.

Thank you for letting me be a part of it!



Kay Woods



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FEATURED MUSICIAN

Andrew Bruington - Percussion

Raised in Grand Junction, Andrew Bruington graduated from Central High School. He holds a bachelors in music education from Colorado State University and a masters in music education from Central Washington University through the American Band College.

Andrew has been the band director at Delta Middle School since 2008, and since 2010, he has performed as a percussionist with the VSA Orchestra and Chorus as well as with the Valley Youth Orchestra.

When not playing or teaching, he enjoys playing board games with his wife, Kayln, and friends and taking care of his fur baby, Sydney.

“The VSA has afforded me the opportunity to play music beyond what I do during the school day and given me the chance to play with musicians from all walks of life and from all over the Valleys,” he said. “This is exactly what music is supposed to do: connect people together.”



Andrew Bruington



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4/23 - SPRING CLEAN UP |
KNOW YOUR FOOD DAY

4/24 - RIDE YOUR BIKE DAY

4/25 - COMMUNITY GARDEN DAY

4/26 - ALL ABOUT RECYCLING 101

4/27 - ADOPT-A-STREET

4/28 - ADOPT-A-TRAIL

4/29 - NATIONAL ARBOR DAY



Starting with a Dream

Many beloved brands, bands, and businesses started as a dream 50 years ago:

- ♦ Walt Disney World opened its doors.
- ♦ NASDAQ, the first electronic stock market, started its ticker tape.
- ♦ The Eagles, a titan of classic rock, was formed.
- ♦ Amtrak merged 20-passenger railroads into one transcontinental system.
- ♦ Valley Symphony Orchestra hosted its first season.

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

Cheers to your dream and vision, and thank you for your service to this community.



CHRIS REICHMANN

Financial Advisor | Montrose, CO

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There's an advantage to working with a financial advisor who knows you – and your financial goals.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE VSA?

Volunteer, participate, or just show your support!

We have two upcoming events to help us raise funds to purchase instruments and music.



27th Annual Black Canyon Classics Car, Truck and Rod Show

Mark your calendars and start your engines for this event benefitting the VSA!

Saturday, 6/4/22, 8am-3pm, Cerise Park, Montrose CO
BlackCanyonClassics.org

If you love classic cars, volunteer to staff the VSA tent at the event.
To volunteer, call 970-275-8676 if you are interested in helping.



Note-orious Fun Run

Saturday, 8/6/22, 8am-12pm, Cerise Park, Montrose CO

Help us raise \$10,000 to provide our musicians with instruments and music they need to play and sing right back at you during our upcoming 51st season!

To run, walk, or volunteer: ValleySymphony.org (Support Us/Donate)



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Join the Conversation!

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

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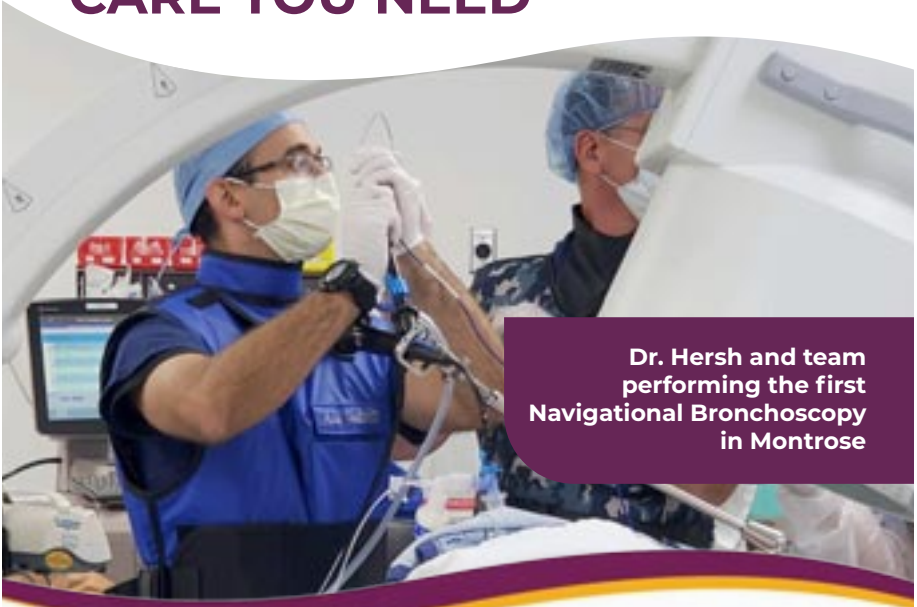
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*Best wishes to
The Valley Symphony Association
for another great season of music!*

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