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**VSA's 49th Season Opener Features Free  
"Pops in the Park" Shows in Cedaredge and Montrose**

Montrose, CO – The Valley Symphony Association (VSA) kicks off the regional all-volunteer arts organization's 49<sup>th</sup> season with two free "Pops in the Park" shows on Saturday, September 7 in Cedaredge Town Park and Sunday, September 8 at Riverbottom Park in Montrose. Performances start at 5 p.m.

Masterworks and pops concerts comprise the two general types of symphony orchestra concerts. The overarching difference between the two is that masterworks is a concert, and pops is a show. The VSA provides two free pops shows annually to expose the region to the accessibility of their offerings for all ages and to encourage season ticket sales. The only outdoor performances of the season, the pops shows feature both the orchestra and chorus. Selections will highlight contemporary music styles, including

Americana, movie music, rock ‘n’ roll, Broadway tunes, traditional marches, and light classical pieces familiar to all.

“The five concerts in season 49 are designed to offer a wide range of themes that appeal to all ages,” Fry said. Having a regional all-volunteer arts organization such as the VSA is “a rare and special thing for a community, and like other nonprofits, we need help to keep it going and growing,” Fry said. “We’re so grateful to DMEA/Elevate for stepping up to be the concert partner for these pops shows.”

“Because our concerts have sold out for the last year and half, buying tickets in advance guarantees you a seat, and you can save by purchasing season tickets,” she said. Season tickets will be available at the Pops concerts. “Ordering season or individual concert tickets are a great way to plan in advance for fun during the September-April time frame, which is when our season runs, or to purchase as gifts or employee incentives.”

Along with selling more season tickets to a larger demographic, the group is looking to attract past and new sponsors and volunteers to support their organization, “to keep us in the music-making business,” Fry said.

The Cedaredge concert includes a Homemade Pie and Ice Cream Social fundraiser. “Remember to bring your own chair or blanket to thoroughly enjoy these beautiful regional park settings,” Fry said. Food trucks Polar Express and Pupusas will be available at the Riverbottom concert on Sunday.

For information, upcoming concerts, the audition process, and tickets, visit the VSA on Facebook @valleysymphonyassociation and at ValleySymphony.net. Tickets are also available in Delta at Clubb’s and in Montrose at the Pavilion and Maggie’s Books on Main Street.

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## **COURTESY PHOTOS**

Photo by The Studio (Dropbox links)

Photo 1: Valley Symphony Association Orchestra and Chorus (2018-2019)

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/r96j84653y1ok56/Season%2048%20Program%20Cover%20-%20group%20shot%20-%20DSC\\_1529-Vert.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/r96j84653y1ok56/Season%2048%20Program%20Cover%20-%20group%20shot%20-%20DSC_1529-Vert.jpg?dl=0)

***About the concerts, “Pops in the Park”***

For their only outdoor and free concerts of the season, the orchestra and chorus perform a range of popular or “pops” and contemporary music styles, including Americana, movie music, rock ‘n’ roll, Broadway tunes, traditional marches, and light classical pieces familiar to all.

Saturday, September 7, 2018

5:00 pm

Cedaredge Town Park, Cedaredge, CO

Sunday, September 8, 2018

5:00 pm

Riverbottom Park, Montrose, CO

***About the Valley Symphony Association***

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