

# THE RENO PHIL Quarter Note

## Dear Friends of the Phil,

Welcome to The Quarter Note  
- keeping you in rhythm with all  
things Reno Phil!

Our musicians, board, and staff are working harder than ever to make sure we continue to bring great music to the Truckee Meadows. It began this spring with our Spread Joy campaign featuring videos of Reno Phil musicians performing music that brought them joy. Our Youth Symphony Orchestra collaborated on a virtual performance of *Pomp & Circumstance* for the Class of 2020. Our new foray into the digital performance world culminated with Maestro Laura Jackson and over 80 orchestra, chorus, and staff members presenting the state song, "Home Means Nevada."

We then moved from online to outside as northern Nevada came alive with music on Saturday nights during the summer. Soloists and small ensembles presented surprise pop-up performances in driveways, parks, plazas, and outdoor public spaces like assisted living communities and health care facilities. Now, we will return to the Pioneer Center for a livestream concert event.

I'll end on a bittersweet note - when we are together again, one orchestra member will have changed roles. After many years of orchestra membership, violinist Valerie Nelson has made the difficult decision to retire. She writes, "It is so special to play in the Reno Phil. I will miss all the camaraderie, the concentration of all of us working together and hearing the music being made while sitting within the orchestra. Now I will enjoy the music from the audience perspective."

Valerie has introduced thousands of people to music over the years at the Phil, through her introduction to the music program for children "Step into Music," as well as by teaching hundreds of violin students. On behalf of the Phil, we thank Valerie for a lifetime committed to introducing people to the joy of music.

Thank you for your support of music in northern Nevada.

Yours,

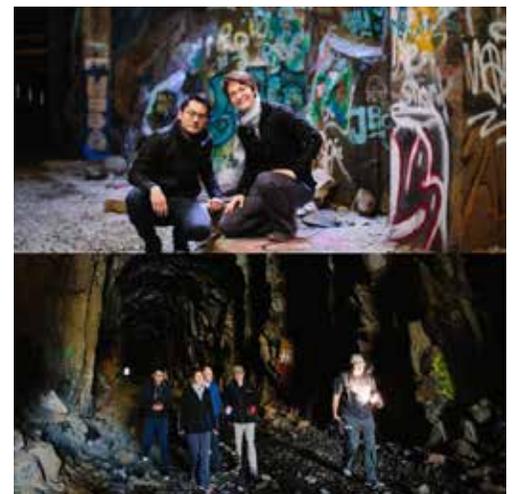


Tim Young  
President & CEO



## THE WORK OF ART

During the 50th Anniversary of the Reno Phil, the organization partnered with PBS Reno to create "The Work of Art: Reno Phil." This one hour documentary highlighted the commission and creation of a new classical piece entitled "Transcend" by composer Zhou Tian in honor of the Reno Phil's 50th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad. The documentary originally aired on PBS Reno on October 14, 2019, and has since won a silver Telly award in the Television: General Documentary category and a gold Communicator Award of Excellence in the Film / Video-Documentary category.





## SPREADING JOY THROUGH MUSIC

How can a symphonic organization pursue its mission during a pandemic? The Reno Phil is continuing to create unique solutions for the challenges caused by COVID-19 to bring live music to our community. This summer, the Reno Phil performed surprise pop-up performances throughout the region on Saturday evenings.

Over the course of eight weeks, the Reno Phil sent 47 musicians to over 100 locations in Reno, Sparks & Tahoe. Locations were kept a secret, in order to prevent any large gatherings from taking place. Safety has been a primary concern for the organization, with musicians wearing masks and social distancing. Locations included health care facilities, public parks, outdoor restaurants, assisted living communities, public plazas, and even front yards and driveways.

"The essence of the Reno Phil is live music," said Tim Young, Reno Phil President & CEO. "When our concert venues were closed we had to find a new way to continue to spread musical joy in the community. By performing these concerts our musicians have re-discovered the thrill of live performance, and hundreds of people have been surprised and delighted by live music in their driveway or park."

*Words can not describe how much our mini concert meant to us and our neighbors. It was such an uplifting evening. We were still in the thick of the pandemic and everyone wore masks and socially distanced. Our lives were essentially "isolation" and to have live music was such a feel good moment for all of us. Thank you for allowing us to share this evening with our neighbors.*

- Tom and Sally Tate

*Marina was amazing at Anderson Park! The music was awesome and she taught us about the harp and its history.* - Debra King

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Yvonne Murphy

Yvonne Murphy is the CEO and President of Yvonne Murphy Group, a private consulting firm specializing in transformational thinking for CEOs. She is also a member of a private international laboratory, Agentic Group, for venture development, high velocity thought experiments, and transcendent peer-to-peer cooperation.

Born into a military family, Yvonne was raised in both the Midwest and South. Relocating in 1980, Nevada has been her home for 40 years. With 35 years of work experience in Nevada, she holds a Doctorate in Business Administration. Her work history includes Earnout Strategies, Office of the Governor (Kenny C. Guinn), RR Partners, Jones Vargas Law Firm, Norman Properties and The Gilman Murphy Group. She was a successful lobbyist for 12 sessions of the Nevada Legislature (1995-2017).

In addition to being a season subscriber and a donor, Yvonne is in her second year as a member of the Reno Phil Board of Trustees. When not working, Yvonne's interests include music, art, interior design, and world travel. Her favorite moments are those spent sharing time with old and new friends.

### **What was your experience with music as a child? Did you play an instrument?**

No, I didn't play an instrument, really. Since I grew up in Detroit, Motown ruled the world. If you lived in Detroit, you didn't even think about other music unless it was gospel at Sunday church. As I got older, my dad started playing jazz music and I fell in love with that. In time he introduced me to some of the classical music records he had.

### **When did you first get involved with the Reno Phil and what inspired you?**

About 12 years ago, my husband (the late Dennis E. Widdis Esq.) and I began attending Reno Phil concerts. I would joke that Dennis was our entertainment director. He was a huge music lover. We'd go all over the country to hear different artists. My husband decided that it was important for us to experience culture in Reno. I was resistant at first and didn't think I'd enjoy going. He explained that we have to support the art and culture that is here to ensure it remains.



We started going a year or so before Laura Jackson became the conductor. When they did the conductor search one season, Laura was the only one that made the hair on the back of my neck stand up. Dennis and I liked to think our vote was the one that sealed it for her. Once we picked Laura I was in 1000%.

After she won, I got a picture taken with Laura. Dennis thought the world of Laura and he kept that picture of Laura and me on his work desk. After that picture was taken, Dennis was diagnosed with cancer. Whenever he'd have to spend time away from home receiving cancer treatment, he'd ask me to bring flowers and some of his photos from his work desk to his hospital room. That picture of Laura and I was there with him until the end when he passed away in February 2016.

There was a concert soon after Dennis died. I was a mess, but I went as I knew Dennis would want me to be there and I wanted to honor his legacy. I wept the whole time. I still feel Dennis is with me when I attend a Reno Phil concert. I've kept both our seats as I knew he'd want me to. I invite friends and other acquaintances to join me.

**Do you have favorite composers or particular works?** I'm a huge fan of Sergei Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. It was used in the movie *Somewhere In Time* with Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour. The piece would

play during moments of time travel and seemed exactly what it would sound like if you were moving through time.

And like many, Ravel's Bolero was the first piece of music that actually hooked me. Bolero empowers me and makes me feel strong.

Those two pieces are the ones I would write if I was a composer.

**What was your reaction when approached to become a member of the Reno Phil's Board of Trustees?** I was honored to be considered. The Reno Phil asking me meant something as it was a way to honor Dennis's legacy and an organization he admired.

It came at a good time as I had to stop grieving and turn that energy into service. This was a way to dab my tears, and this is a way to honor his legacy in a real way and give me something constructive to do.

I find everybody to be delightful and the staff to be very hard working. It's a good fit.

**Has your time on the Board changed your view of the Reno Phil?** I was surprised to find out how much work it is to plan ahead – to pick the artists, pieces, sponsors, and so on. All of the logistics are a lot more daunting than I thought and there's more behind-the-scenes work than most people would think. At the end of the day, the musicians have to translate Laura's vision to reach a big audience. I sometimes just sit there in the audience and shake my head and say "How did they do it?"

**You support the Reno Phil both by volunteering your time on the Board and financially as a donor. Why is giving to the Reno Phil important for you?** I think it's important to make the investment in our community. You can't grow something that doesn't exist. If we give you beautiful music, whatever genre it is, why wouldn't you invest your time and money into something that strengthens the culture? The Reno Phil, in my mind, is one of the things that gives this city class. People will ask "What do you do in Reno?" as if there is nothing to do. One of the first things out of mouth is the Reno Phil. I have part of my personal identity tied into what I think gives Reno class.

As a spiritual person, I consider the money to the Reno Phil as part of my tithing. There's a line in the Bible that reads "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It seems like being a good steward in life means putting whatever money and time you can comfortably into those things important to you. It makes you feel like you're more a part of the thing. It truly feels like my Reno Phil.

# THE NEW SEASON 52

We just aren't the kind of people that don't follow through with our plans. We set our sights high and we push ourselves to reach new limits. The 2020-21 season that was announced in February of 2020 had taken almost a year to craft and finalize, we had so many wonderful performances in store to captivate our audiences. As we all know, the world changed quickly in the Spring.

We made the decision to pursue a new course for our 52nd season so that we can continue making music for our beloved community. After cancelling our summer concert schedule, we began to look ahead at the Classix season and our performances in August and September. With the uncertainty of when the government will allow our orchestra to assemble and our audiences to gather, we made the decision to rebuild our season so that we program only what we know we can deliver, safely, to our audiences. We truly value the commitment you make when you purchase a ticket to one of our events, and especially during this challenging time. We promise to be your trusted partner as we navigate the 2020-2021 season together.

The wonderful season that Music Director Laura Jackson and our artistic committee spent so many months creating for you will not be lost. We will move those programs, along with any tickets sold, into the 2021-22 season as intact as possible. Building a season is a complicated puzzle, based on numerous factors. We've started inviting our soloists to join us in 2021-22 and making adjustments to bring this music to you in the following year. Our

cherished subscribers are encouraged to keep the value of their subscriptions on-account in order to preserve seating preference for 2021-22. For those subscribers in 2019-20 who have yet to renew your seats, we will hold those seats open until the spring of 2021.

The new season 52 is built on the intention of following through- no matter what stage we find ourselves in. Each program will be announced six weeks before the concert, to allow us the time to be flexible and scale the programs up or down as permitted. We will ticket each concert on an individual basis, with pre-sales for our subscribers. All subscribers from the 2019-20 season will be given FREE access to our virtual concert hall.

Our first concert of the season will take place on October 3 & 4, 2020 and will be a livestream concert event.

**October 3rd, 2020 at 7:30PM**

**October 4th, 2020 at 4:00PM**

**GRANT STILL:** *Out of the Silence*  
featuring James Winn, Piano

**BRITTEN:** *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*

**MOZART:** *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*



**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

*"Throughout the pandemic, we've experienced so much that is unknown and so much change. As we look towards next season, more than anything we want to offer wonderful musical experiences that we are sure we can deliver. There is so much incredible music that the Reno Phil can perform even in a socially distant environment-intimate gems for smaller ensembles. This is a unique opportunity to engage with this rich and varied repertoire and I am very much looking forward to it."* – Laura Jackson, Music Director & Conductor

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Hundreds of students in the Reno Phil's youth programs will have a different start to the season. Back in June, we listened to hundreds of virtual auditions submitted by young musicians hoping to earn a place in our youth orchestras. With advice from the conductors, they were placed into four separate ensembles, and different music was chosen for each group to challenge and connect the members. In addition to weekly rehearsals in Zoom, they will connect with their conductors through BandLab, where they can submit musical homework and get feedback for improvement. Students came to pick up their materials (in-person!) in mid-August, and on August 24 they met with each other and their conductors for the first session of the virtual Fall semester. They'll finish the semester out with a virtual concert.

Our after-school program, RPAK, usually runs during the year in three separate low-income schools. This year, to allow our teachers to keep working with the students regardless of what happens with potential school site changes and closures, we collected our fleet of violins usually stored at the school sites, and prepared to distribute them in a totally new way. This year, for the first time, each of our students will be assigned a violin that they will get to keep at home (for now.) Students will meet online for group classes



David Haskins sizing a student for a violin outdoors at McKinley Park.

once a week, and will also have access to content recorded for them by their teachers so each student can learn at their pace. Our teachers have come up with great plans for teaching virtually, and we all feel the strength of the RPAK community and connection with the teachers will inspire these young musicians to keep learning in the months ahead, no matter what challenges they face.



# POPS AT HOME

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Pops on the River moved indoors this year. Pops at Home festivities began with a photo contest on Facebook, which offered past attendees the opportunity to submit photographs of their Pops on the River table decor for prizes.

The event culminated on July 11, 2020, via a Live Facebook event, where Pops at Home offered a look back at previous years and celebrated the creativity of our community.

Reno Phil musicians, as well as past Pops on the River guest artists—including LaKisha Jones, Alli Mauzey, and Debbie Gravitte—joined local personalities Landon Miller and Arianna Bennett to share their favorite memories from past events.

**The event and photo contest raised over \$42,000 for the Reno Phil. Pops on the River is hoping to return next summer on July 10, 2021!**

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Sue Condie

**What are some of your hobbies and where do you work (if applicable)?** Reading, needlework, learning to play the piano

**How did you first get involved with the Reno Phil, and how long have you been volunteering?** We moved to Reno in 1983 and immediately became season subscribers. Our son, Jim, was a member of the YSO for 6 years, and that was my first volunteering experience with the Phil. When the adult volunteer program was initiated, I was excited and thrilled to participate. That was in 2012, I believe.

**What has been your most memorable moment with the Reno Phil?** Too many to recount. One is our many different conductors and being in on the choosing of Laura Jackson as our current conductor.

**Why do you volunteer for the Reno Phil?** I love being active, and the Phil allows me to not only be active but be learning, as well. I'm being exposed to beautiful music, musicians, patrons, staff and able to participate in an, often, meaningful way.

**What kind of things do you do as a volunteer?** I'm very fortunate! I fill in at the office during the weekly staff meeting, so I answer the phone, greet patrons, shred material, often address envelopes, and am available to do whatever a staff member would like done. Will call during the concerts is a favorite of mine, but I also enjoy attending rehearsals to help with having good access for musicians who choose to not brave the back stairs and to put out

refreshments. The treat of a preview of the concert being rehearsed is an added bonus! Also, I have the privilege of helping with audition sign-ins, seating, and concert sign-ins for the Youth Orchestras. My cup truly runneth over. Sounds corny, but it couldn't be more true. I love what I'm able to do for and with the Phil Orchestras.



**What would you tell people thinking about volunteering with the Reno Phil?** Do it! It's fun working with other volunteers on various projects, and I've made great friendships!

**What has been the biggest surprise about working up close & personal with the Reno Phil?** The variety and personal gratification that I have received from this experience just keeps growing.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** For 30 years it was New Orleans with my husband, but now, it's Lake Tahoe- closer to home

**What genre of music is your favorite & why?** Anything the Philharmonic plays. They do it so beautifully. They have introduced me to new worlds! Aaron Copland was not a favorite, but now is.

**What are you looking forward to?** The Phil playing again and being back in the office. I miss it something terrible!! I was sad to miss the San Francisco trip, but missing the season is so much more tragic. Our musicians are so special, and our office and staff really support them in a wonderful way. Time to get up and running!! Go Team!!

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The Reno Phil is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and the Federal Tax ID is #94-2762076. Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Our success is dependent on individual, business, and foundation donations. Thanks for your support!

### OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

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#### By Phone

To make your gift by phone call 775.323.6393

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