

THE RENO PHIL Quarter Note

Dear Friends of the Phil,

Welcome to the Quarter Note – keeping you in rhythm with all things Reno Phil!

I hope you were able to join us this fall as we embarked on a journey into the world of virtual concerts. Following our successful debut in October with *Out of the Silence*, the Reno Phil's most recent online concert *Dare We Dance?* received rave reviews, and has been enjoyed by over 1,800 happy music-lovers! These concerts are performed without an audience using the new technology we've installed in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, and produced so that we could find a way to fulfill our mission and continue sharing the music with you. It is a fantastic up-close and personal concert experience that I know you will enjoy if you have not experienced one yet.

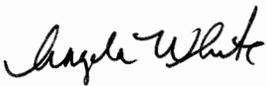
I have had so many inspiring conversations with individuals that have given gifts to the symphony in recent months – whether they were gifts of \$5 or \$1,000 – I have been incredibly impressed by our community's commitment to keeping music alive. Every gift has made a meaningful impact and supported the Herculean efforts made by the staff, musicians, and Board of Directors to keep the organization moving forward.

Our next performance will be our annual holiday concert, Spirit of the Season "Home for the Holidays." If you haven't already done so, please purchase a virtual ticket for Spirit of the Season. I'd also encourage you to send the On-Demand version to your friends and family for a one-of-a-kind holiday gift.

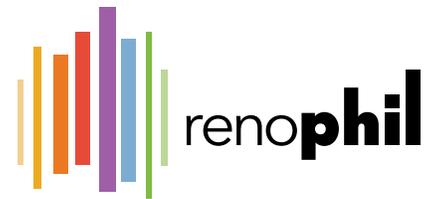
We are all so excited to take one step closer towards live performances. Our musicians have missed performing for you as much as you have missed hearing them. If you enjoyed our performances and would like to support the Reno Phil's efforts to bring audiences live recordings during this unprecedented time, please consider making a gift with the form included in this newsletter, or on our website.

As we look to the future and to what 2021 will bring, we ask for your continued support.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Reno Phil –
And to a better 2021!



Angela White
Chair of the Board of Trustees



Ring in the holidays and let dynamic conductor Jason Altieri, along with the Reno Phil Orchestra, whisk you away to a winter wonderland for this year's Spirit of the Season. Even if we cannot all celebrate together in person this year, the Reno Phil will still bring the festive cheer by offering a special virtual concert experience celebrating being Home For the Holidays.

LIVE STREAMING

December 5, 2020 at 7:00PM
December 6, 2020 at 2:00PM
\$25

ON DEMAND

December 7 - 25, 2020
\$30

TICKETS RENOPHIL.COM

PANDEMIC CONCERTS: WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

Continued

On the morning of every rehearsal or performance, each musician has to submit a short, on-line questionnaire declaring that we don't have Covid symptoms and that we haven't knowingly been in contact with anyone who is contagious. When we enter the stage door, masks on faces, our temperature is taken. These two safety steps are important, but can cause a heightened level of musical risk. Let's say you're a principal (first-chair) player and have a big solo, but you show up with a fever and are sent home. The next person in line better be prepared, as the show must go on.

Once in the building, the back-stage area has been sectioned off so each person has their own six-foot area for cases and coat storage. There are no snacks or coffee, greatly appreciated and sorely missed generosity provided by the Phil's wonderful team of volunteers. The cramped dressing rooms are closed, so musician bathroom runs are to the more spacious accommodations in the lobby.

Now we walk on stage to play. Acoustically, the biggest adjustment is around being so far apart from each other. This extra space translates to a lack of immediacy of sound, and can cause the tempos to deflate and ensemble playing to blur.

Masks are a real barrier to normal music-making. Classical musicians have always been the nerdy kids who wear glasses. With masks, our glasses fog up (especially when cold outside air is being circulated onto the heated stage). It's an odd distraction to have to inhale or hold your breath as a tricky passage approaches so that you can see the notes. With masks on, we have to be really expressive with our eyebrows and eyes because that's all we've got to work with. Since Laura is also masked, she wears a microphone in rehearsal so we can hear her comments and instruction.

The "concerts" have not been played to packed houses, they have effectively been two video recording sessions on Wednesday and Thursday. That material is then skillfully produced for the wonderful productions streamed the following Saturday and Sunday. Oddly, instead of donning our tuxes at concert time and heading downtown to play for you, we musicians put on our sweats, pour a glass of

wine and watch the concert at the same time you do. We might talk back to our computer screens more than you do, since we know what's going to happen and where we screwed up. Orchestra musicians rarely get to hear their own orchestra play, so it is a wonderful side-effect of these less than ideal circumstances that we get to.

Finally, orchestras around the country are navigating the rocky shoals of how-to put-on concerts during a pandemic, and the Reno Phil is doing an exemplary job. The operations team has been thorough and thoughtful in keeping us safe. (A special shout-out to Virginia Evans and the Pioneer crew!) Laura, Jason Altieri, and the artistic planning folks have given a great deal of thought to what music can and should be played. And the video team has put together productions we can all be proud of.

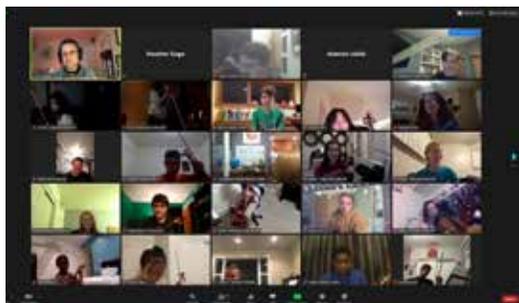
Hopefully soon we can go back to crowded stages playing for crowded audiences, but until then, the Phil is doing a wonderful job of helping music find a way.



From Top to Bottom: Reno Phil Principal Bassist Scott Faulkner, Assistant Principal Cellist Robin Bonnell, and Principal Cellist Peter Lenz play while socially distanced.

EMBRACING VIRTUAL LEARNING

David Haskins, Youth Ensembles Manager



Members of the Youth Concert Orchestra (YCO) rehearse via Zoom.

The Reno Phil Youth Orchestras have been working hard towards a concert collaboration video all semester. Normally the season would culminate in a Fall Showcase concert featuring

all four ensembles, but this year they will each be featured in a concert video that will be recorded individually at home, premiered as a livestream, and later available on YouTube for anybody to watch. The Youth Symphony Orchestra is performing a few works that will

each showcase a different section of the orchestra, whereas the other ensembles will be performing as a whole with a variety of fun repertoire. In preparation for the virtual performance, students have been recording homework excerpts each week and participating in guest master classes over Zoom. Master classes feature guests from the Reno Phil, including conductor Laura Jackson and concertmaster Ruth Lenz, and focused on specific topics like practicing, orchestral style, and recording. We cannot wait to see the final product, and we hope you'll tune in for the livestream of the video! Stay tuned to our social media and email updates for more information.

Reno Philharmonic Kids (RPAK) has also been going strong, with returning students still applying and picking up violins each week. Their fully virtual after school instruction takes place three days a week, and includes weekly group classes on Zoom, as well as individual music theory and violin playing lessons and assignments. At some schools, socially distanced in-person violin maintenance, tuning, and individual private Zoom lessons are also offered. At the beginning of the school year, returning students received a violin to take home, but beginners have been learning music theory with rhythm sticks made by one of our own teachers. Soon, beginners will start making homemade violins out of cereal boxes! The RPAK teachers have been incredibly creative in engaging their students virtually, and are using several different platforms to teach theory and violin. Though these times have their challenges, the Reno Phil can still teach kids the joy of music!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Porter

Born and raised in Reno-Sparks, Sarah Porter is the principal and owner of Porterhouse Marketing and a longtime supporter of the Reno Phil. She played an integral role in the success of the Phil's biggest fundraiser, Pops on the River. The concert, featuring the orchestra with guest vocalists from Broadway, wows audiences with a mix of musical numbers and pop and rock favorites.

Sarah has over 15 years of marketing experience and works with small to mid-size clients, specializing in digital marketing, branding, and production. She has a BA in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno. She was named a 20 Under 40 in 2019 and delivered a TedX talk through UNR in early 2020. In addition to the work she does with the Reno Phil's marketing team, she is on the Board of Directors for The Discovery Museum.

When not helping clients with marketing needs, Sarah loves spending time with her husband and two young boys. She hosts friends and family - cooking, entertaining, and keeping strong connections with all those around her. She enjoys traveling with her husband, reading, and watching stand-up comedy specials.



Sarah Porter with her husband, Brett, and their sons Jackson, 8 and Hudson, 6.

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

My mom is a big fan of musicals and she started taking me at a young age. Annie was my first live theatre experience, and I've been involved with arts and culture since. I attended musicals growing up and performed my junior and senior years of high school. Then, I got more into the behind-the-scenes aspect of it, which included finding a variety of ways to support the arts.

I was working at another agency in 2008 and met a guy named Peter Parker. He knew I was looking to donate time to help a non-profit with my marketing expertise. Peter was on the Reno Phil's Pops on the River Committee and asked me to join to help with marketing. I went to my first Pops on the River concert that summer and my mind was blown!

Tell me a little more about your involvement with Pops on the River?

I ended up serving on the committee for six years. The final three I served as the

co-chair of the committee with Angela White (the Reno Phil's current Board Chair). I am so proud of how we were able to grow that event over the years. It's now this Reno tradition that sells out each year.

To those that have never been, I tell them to pretend Burning Man is a fundraiser that features wonderful live music. The sense of community at Pops is great. There's such generosity in the park - from the people buying raffle tickets to the hundreds of attendees that invite you to stop by their table for food and drink. It's also a great showcase for the breadth of talent at the Reno Phil, and it introduces us to new and diverse audiences. The energy is great.

Do you still attend Pops on the River?

Yes - I never miss it. I have some friends that join my table each year. I usually leave a couple spots open and invite newbies. They are so impressed with event that they get their own table the next year.

What motivates you to keep supporting the Phil?

I think that classical and live music are vital to the community and the fabric of the region. I want to see arts and culture continue to grow. This year has only reinforced the importance of art as it's a good reminder what a fantastic break from life the arts can be. We are realizing its place to help us enjoy life.

I've been proud of how the Reno Phil has responded this year. The success of the virtual concerts has been great and I like that the Phil is still giving people musical experiences. The Reno Phil is a cornerstone of this community and I'm happy to be a part of it.

Sarah and her husband are members of our planned giving Lenz Legacy Society. If you'd like to learn more about creating a legacy at the Reno Phil and building the future, please contact Michael Hicks at 775.323.6393

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Please send me an email verification from the Reno Phil to: _____

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!

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925 Riverside Drive Ste. 3
Reno, NV 89503

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THE RENO PHIL *Quarter Note*

PANDEMIC CONCERTS: WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

By Scott Faulkner, Reno Phil Principal Bassist

Playing concerts the past couple of months has been really different. Don't get me wrong. It's fantastic to be back on-stage making music with colleagues, but almost every step of the process has been modified due to pandemic policies and protocols. We still have to put our fingers in the right places at the right times, but here are some of the ways making music ain't what it used to be.

First, the repertoire. The music selected for the October and November concerts has been for strings only, to avoid the aerosols emitted by winds and brass. Typically, the Reno Phil is an ensemble of 70 or more musicians. This fall we have been an intimate string orchestra of about 20 players.

Usually two string players share a music stand, and the inside player is responsible for turning pages. Now, everyone has their own stand, placed at least six feet part. This might not seem so problematic, except that if an entire section has to turn the page at the same time, the sound can get pretty thin for a second. Planning around these moments is crucial.

continued...



Reno Phil violinist Olga Archdekin



NOTEABLE NEWS

The Reno Phil participated in the City of Reno's virtual Veterans Day celebration with a moving performance of Taps performed by Principal Trumpet, Paul Lenz.

The City Song project has been featured nationwide and is the subject of a new episode of Arteffects on PBS Reno. You can see it on their website!



AN EASY WAY TO GIVE

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