

# THE RENO PHIL *Quarter Note*

## Dear Friends of the Phil,

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

As we watch the light at the end of the Coronavirus tunnel grow just a little brighter, I want to extend my thanks to everyone who has supported the Reno Phil and all of our performing artists over the last 12 months.

Because of the restrictions on gatherings, the live performances that are such a vibrant part of Reno’s cultural life have been missing for a year, causing disruption and heartbreak for our musicians and devoted audiences. Despite the difficulty, however, the Phil has continued to make music, provide musical instruction, and inspire with musical performances thanks to outstanding support from the whole community.

The board, staff and musicians of the Phil have worked to find new ways to connect with our community. We have kept the music playing with pop-up concerts, online performances, and virtual rehearsals for our Youth Orchestras and student musicians. We have created this newsletter, invested in equipment at the Pioneer Center, learned how to stream concerts, and we have rebroadcast concerts with KNCJ public radio and PBS Reno.

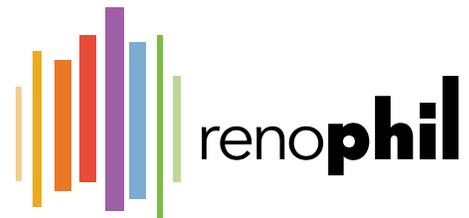
Many local groups and individuals including Artown, Sierra Arts, and the City of Reno have worked to make projects and funding available to individual artists who have lost income as a result of the restrictions on gatherings and performance, and many foundations and individuals have supported the Phil and our artists during a year in which we were not able to sell a ticket for live performances.

The Phil is ready to take the stage again as soon as conditions allow. My deepest thanks to everybody who has supported the performing arts this year. Because of your love and appreciation for music, and your unwavering support, we will be gathered together to enjoy a performance soon.



Tim Young  
Reno Phil President & CEO

MUSIC FINDS A WAY



FROM  
OUR  
**STAGE**  
TO YOUR  
**HOME**

A standing ovation and heartfelt thank you to the northern Nevada community for your overwhelming support of the Reno Phil this year. Music has found a way to thrive because of your passion, love, and generosity. **Bravo!**

# YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS: REIMAGINED

By Heather Gage, Director of Education and Community Engagement

Typically at this time of year the Phil would be preparing to welcome thousands of children to our Young People's Concerts in the Pioneer Center. These concerts are specifically designed to introduce students in grades 3-5 to the orchestra, and we showcase the four musical families of the orchestra.

This year, we wanted to ensure students still have a rich orchestral experience, but knowing we could not invite them to be together in the concert hall just yet, we redesigned the program to fit into a series of episodes that can be used in their classrooms. The episodes were developed in collaboration with Washoe County School District elementary music teachers, and tie in to other concepts students learn at these ages, like identifying melody and accompaniment in a piece.

We recorded material for these episodes at the end of February, including introductions from Laura, musical excerpts, and a composer interview with Julie Spencer, who offers her view on the important question of "Who can be a Composer?" We blended this with other music from our season so far, and the episodes are now available for teachers to use. Each episode also comes with lesson plans and activities that teachers can use to creatively engage their students, both in-person and virtually.

Although we will miss seeing bright-eyed children coming to the concert hall this year, we are thrilled to share these episodes with a larger audience than we have ever been able to host. Any student, regardless of distance or income level, will be able to access and enjoy these concerts.



Reno Phil Music Director Laura Jackson

## INTRODUCING "CASE FILES"

By Heather Gage, Director of Education and Community Engagement

Case Files, a new collection of videos from the Reno Phil, offers a rare chance to see more about each instrument of the orchestra than people typically can. These videos were designed for elementary school teachers to use but can be enjoyed by anyone! Each of the 13 videos is 6-10 minutes long, and introduces an ambassador for the featured instrument, who shows how the instrument makes its sound, along with what else they keep in their case. For example, principal harpist Marina carries a full spare set of strings, everyone has a pencil, and at least one player carries a screwdriver! All the videos are now available through our YouTube channel, and teachers will be able to use them to enhance the classroom experience for both in-person and virtual learners. In a typical year, Washoe County 5th grade teachers demonstrate as many instruments as possible for their students to help them select what to pursue in 6th grade when they can choose band, orchestra, or choir. This year, no outside guests are allowed in classrooms, and these videos are one way we are meeting the changing needs of our community this year. We hope Case Files will be shared widely and enjoyed by teachers as a high-quality resource for years to come.



Marina Roznitovsky Oster demonstrates how to tune her harp.

Watch on YouTube or at [www.renophil.com/case-files/](http://www.renophil.com/case-files/)



Reno Phil Music Director Laura Jackson

# PBS RENO PARTNERSHIP

The Reno Phil is thrilled to have partnered with PBS Reno (Channel 5) to rebroadcast the virtual concerts being produced in the 2020-21 season. If you missed one of our performances this season keep a lookout in the PBS Reno Program Guide for rebroadcasts. "I am so happy that we are able to bring the music created by Music Director Laura Jackson and the musicians of the Reno Phil to every household in northern Nevada with PBS Reno," said Tim Young, Reno Phil President and CEO. "There has never been a greater need for people to connect, yet it is not safe for large groups to gather at this time. I hope these programs will help provide connection to people who are missing the opportunity to spend time with friends and enjoy performances at the Pioneer Center, and also introduce new audiences to the Reno Phil, as we look forward to returning to live performances as soon as possible."

On behalf of the Reno Phil, its musicians, chorus, Board of Directors, staff past and present - and a grateful city,

**YOU WILL BE MISSED, KRISTELL.  
REST IN PEACE.  
KRISTELL MOLLER  
FEB. 7, 1956 - FEB. 25, 2021**

Chorus tenor Kristell Moller was an amazing musician, playing bass and other string instruments in the bluegrass group Sierra Sweethearts and singing for years in the Reno Phil Chorus, including traveling with us to NYC to sing at Carnegie Hall a few years ago. She was a well known figure in WCSD administration, with several high level posts, including as principal of Double Diamond Elementary School, and as sub principal at several schools. We will miss her delightful spirit immensely.



Kristell Moller singing with The Sierra Sweethearts. Photo by Bruce McDaniel, Enlightened-Photographer.com.

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Johnny Lenz

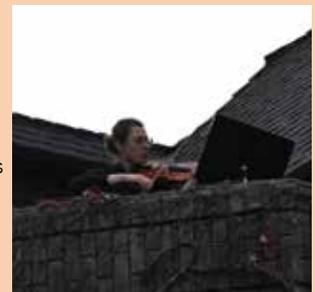
## A TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO THE STAGE

Sgt Johnny Lenz of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, who is also a cellist in the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, was shot in the line of duty in December of 2020. In honor of Johnny's recovery and the heroic work of those that saved his life, the Reno Phil offered free virtual streaming access to all first responders and healthcare workers for the virtual concert, *Flirting with Melodies*. Over 175 first responders, healthcare workers and their families were able to enjoy the concert free of charge. The Reno Phil also hosted 45 friends, colleagues and family members of Johnny at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts for the performance to welcome him back to the stage.

## OSCAR J FOX SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

### CONGRATULATIONS BENJAMIN VANDEVERT

The Reno Philharmonic is excited to award the \$1,500 Oscar J Fox Scholarship to YSO violinist Benjamin Vandevent. The goal of this scholarship, founded by former Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, is to help an outstanding student attend a summer music program each year. The scholarship was named to honor Cashell's grandfather, Oscar J Fox, who was a composer. Summer programs were cancelled nationwide last year due to the pandemic, so we are thrilled that Ben will be able to attend Idyllwild Arts music intensive this summer! Idyllwild Arts is a renowned performing arts institution in Southern California that hosts both a full-time arts boarding school and exceptional summer programs. During Ben's several years in the RPYO program he has placed in the RPYO Concerto Competition, earned the Concertmaster position, and has actively volunteered to help with other RPYO ensembles.



Ben performing at a socially distanced recital in 2021.