From Don Reinhold, Wichita Symphony Society CEO



Friday the 13th in March certainly lived up to its superstitious reputation when County health officials shut down public gatherings in the face of the spreading coronavirus. All of us deeply missed being with you for the postponed concerts of that weekend and since. Since the County closed Century II entirely, my staff and I have been working from home, maintaining business, and communicating with each other, the Board of Directors, and the musicians with the help of Zoom meetings.

We simply don't know how long it will be before we gather again to enjoy the life-affirming performances of the Wichita Symphony. Your safety and health, as well as that of our musicians and staff, are our priority. One thing I do know:

The Wichita Symphony will be back!

With our eye on a return to making music, we are developing several scenarios. Scenario A, and our most optimistic one, is that we can reconvene at the end of August for a special SummerFest, August 15 – 29 where postponed concert productions from this spring can take place. Once we have a sense of whether this can happen, we'll announce specific dates and details. For now, we wait for more clarity of health conditions.

In Scenario B, we wait and start our 2020 – 2021 Season as announced. Here, the three weeks of The Lion King's residency that moved the Masterworks to late October could be a blessing. We'll develop additional scenarios that could be driven by additional delays and interruptions.



MAESTRO DANIEL HEGE PRESENTS WEEKLY "MOMENTS WITH THE MAESTRO" VIDEOS ON OUR FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM PAGES.

In the meantime, there are several ways to deepen your relationship with your Symphony. Through April, and possibly beyond, Radio Kansas is broadcasting concerts from our archives on Fridays at 7 p.m. Tune in for this <u>Symphony at Home broadcast</u> <u>series</u> on your radio (90.1 FM in Wichita/Hutchinson) or online at <u>RadioKansas.com</u>. Listen to the live pre-concert talks at 6:30 p.m. with Daniel Hege and Katelyn Mattson-Levy on the Symphony's Facebook page. Also, catch Moments with Daniel, a weekly series of brief encounters with the Maestro that takes you inside the music. Links can be found on <u>Facebook</u> and in our weekly <u>emails</u>.



MAESTRO DANIEL HEGE AND RADIO KANSAS ON-AIR HOST KATELYN MATTSON LEVY HOST LIVE-STREAMED CONCERT TALKS ON FACEBOOK BEFORE A "SYMPHONY AT HOME" BROADCAST.

Online is where everything is happening for now. Concertmaster Holly Mulcahy is performing a series of recitals from her home in Chicago to those living at Larksfield Place. Our Youth Symphony students are benefiting from masterclasses (see photo below) and will shortly begin to audition for next season online, as well. Many of our Symphony musicians continue to teach their classes online.



ASSOCIATE CONCERTMASTER DR. TIMOTHY JONES LEADS A MASTERCLASS FOR YOUTH ORCHESTRAS STUDENTS VIA ZOOM.

The music must and will be heard! Creative opportunities abound and there's no time like the present to explore new models of delivery and engagement.

Please invest in your Symphony's present and future! During this challenging time, your support is especially vital! Sustain the orchestra by renewing <u>season tickets</u> and with your generous <u>contributions</u>. You can do both online at <u>wichitasymphony.org</u> or by calling the <u>Box Office</u>, which remains open remotely, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, at (316) 267-7658. Or, mail your check to the Wichita Symphony, 225 W. Douglas, Ste. 207, Wichita, KS 67202. Our mail is being forwarded.

Until we meet again to experience the live symphonic music that Wichita is known for, stay safe, stay well, and keep in touch by the various means available to us today. With best wishes for good health and appreciation for your continuing interest and support,

Sincerely,

Don Reinhold

Don Reinhold Chief Executive Officer Wichita Symphony