

August 26, 2020

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Dear Symphony Patrons,

I trust that you are well and safe during this pandemic. As much as I have missed live performances these past five months, I've enjoyed the innovative music programming available online, including the interactive weekly recitals with Wichita Symphony Concertmaster Holly Mulcahy, and I hope you've been able to do the same. The music must be heard!

To those who responded to our survey earlier this summer affirming the value that concerts have in your lives, thank you. We appreciate the patience afforded us as we continue to evaluate and develop our approach to the upcoming season. It should come as no surprise that given the circumstances and uncertainties related to COVID-19, this will not be a "normal" season, but the good news is that we WILL have a reimagined season!

As one colleague so aptly put it, "Smaller is better than gone." And so it will be for the Wichita Symphony's 2020 – 2021 season where we will start small and "grow" as conditions allow.

We will begin our season on October 24. Large orchestras cannot convene right now; instead, we will present ensembles of socially-distanced musicians onstage. The alternative repertoire Maestro Hege is planning is exciting and promises a season of great discovery!

The programs and guest artists announced last spring will be deferred to future seasons as schedules allow. We will not open the season with a Pops concert on September 26. Masterwork concerts during the fall will be single performances.

There is no time like a crisis to be innovative. Presently, performing before a limited live audience is possible. Given that this could change on a moment's notice and that many of you are currently restricted to home activities, we are developing opportunities for you to remain connected to and enjoy the Symphony either live or virtually. Information regarding options for engagement, concert tickets, and season tickets will be communicated mid-September.

If you attend a performance, what can you expect? We are collaborating with the management of Century II to develop health and safety guidelines, subject to County and City approval. Concert attendance will be limited to about 300 on the main floor to maintain proper distancing. Face masks will be required. Concerts will last about an hour. Pre-concert talks and program book information will be offered online only. There will be no intermission and no refreshments at the concerts. The concert experience will be different, but, there will be music!

Thank you to all who support the Wichita Symphony with generous donations. This is a challenging time and your support is both greatly needed and deeply appreciated. Please make a gift online today or use the return envelope enclosed with this letter.

Stay healthy and safe. Let's beat this coronavirus! My staff and I will be in touch soon.

Don Reinhold, CEO