

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra will present inspiring experiences that welcome all members of our community to discover and cultivate a profound, personal connection with live orchestral music.

Excellence: Be recognized as a cultural leader, a community asset, and vital to Lincoln's quality of life.

Engagement: Create powerful connections between and among performers and audiences through music.

Community: Cultivate a collaborative, respectful environment that promotes positive working relationships and meaningful cultural and social interactions.

Generosity: Inspire audience and community members to support LSO's commitment to accessibility.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Michelsen, *President*
Nancy Hove Graul, *Secretary*
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Beth Smith
Eric Sullivan
Manuel de la Torre
Richard Vautravers
Reg Kuhn, *LSO Foundation President*
Karen Becker, *Orchestra Committee Chair*

LSO 2019-20 BUDGET \$1,120,000

Annual Fund - \$728

Individual \$142
Major Gifts \$282
Board Fundraising \$50
Corporate \$114
Grants \$105
Government \$35

Other - \$15

Ticket Revenue - \$211
Other Earned Income - \$23

Endowment - \$142

EXPENSES

Artistic - \$571
Administrative Personnel - \$302
Production - \$98
Development & Marketing - \$68
Other - \$79



LSO Music Director Edward Polochick resides in Baltimore and is on faculty at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. He has been Music Director of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra since 1998, and under his direction LSO has moved to the Lied Center as Orchestra in Residence and have increased their artistic profile. Polochick is the founder and artistic director of Concert Artists of Baltimore, and is highly sought after as a guest conductor.

The musicians of the orchestra are professional musicians who have won a position with LSO through a screened audition process. Most of our musicians make a living playing and teaching music in the Lincoln and Omaha areas. Many of our musicians play in other orchestras and ensembles throughout the Midwest. Twenty percent of our musicians make financial contributions to LSO's Annual Fund.



Since May 2005, **Executive Director Barbara Zach** has led a talented administrative team to implement LSO's artistic vision. She is a graduate of the League of American Orchestras' Executive Leadership Program, received a 2010 Governor's Arts Award for Emerging Leaders, and received the 2015 Alumni Achievement Award from UNL's Hixson-Lied College of Fine & Performing Arts. During her tenure LSO has added six concerts to their performance season, and the annual budget has tripled.

Concertmaster Anton Miller has appeared throughout the United States and abroad as a soloist, chamber musician, recitalist and pedagogue. He has released several recordings and is on the faculty at The Hartt School at the University of Connecticut.

Community service: As a group, we serve on more than 30 nonprofit boards, including Friendship Home, Rotary International, Food Bank of Lincoln, and many other arts organizations. More than half of our musicians donate their time each month to volunteer in a non-musical capacity (for organizations such as TeamMates and the Nebraska Community Blood Bank) and more than half also volunteer their musical talent at churches and schools.

LIED CENTER RESIDENT ORCHESTRA

Our lower ticket prices make it affordable for more than 13,000 diverse audience members to enjoy LSO concerts each year, with the support of donors such as Rhonda Seacrest and our annual fund donors.

Since moving to the Lied Center in 2011, our audience has more than doubled and the total number of households served has more than tripled. In addition, 7% of our audience has a household income of less than \$25,000; 15% come from outside of Lincoln; and 20% are in the young professional age range (18-40).

GROWTH OF CONCERT SEASON

With the support of the Nebraska Arts Council, LSO was able to take the orchestra on the road for concerts in Beatrice, NE for two consecutive years.

In 2016, we added a third Young People's Concert (5,400 fourth-graders attend a daytime field trip to hear LSO), and we added a second holiday concert.

LSO partnered with the Lied Center in 2016 for "Welcome Home Hannah Huston."

In 2017, we added a sixth classical concert, with expanded subscription packages.

ARTISTIC GROWTH

Thanks to the generosity of the MarySue Harris and Anabeth Hormel Cox Charitable Lead Trusts, we increased the size of our strings sections for our classical concerts, which enabled us to perform more diverse repertoire and engage superstar soloists like Joshua Bell, Ben Folds, and Midori.

One of the pieces we performed in 2016, sponsored by Ted & Anabeth Cox, was chosen to be aired on American Public Media's *Performance Today*.

STUDENT TICKETS

Each year, 2,000 students attend LSO's classical concerts for only \$5 each through the Lienemann Charitable Foundation Student Ticket Program.

VETERAN SERVICES

LSO provides complimentary tickets to more than 20 veterans for every LSO concert through vettix.org. Since January 2015, LSO has also provided live trumpeters to play *Taps* at the funerals of more than 300 veterans, in partnership with the American Legion.

FAMILY LITERACY PARTNERSHIP

LSO provides more than **1,400 complimentary tickets annually for underserved children and families** through partnerships with schools and community organizations.

One such organization is Family Literacy, **serving immigrant and refugee families** in LPS. They provide education for children and parents (English language, financial literacy, job-seeking skills). LSO visits all eleven sites and **provides tickets & transportation for every participant to attend LSO's family concerts.**



FAMILY CONCERTS

Geared towards families and children, LSO's Sunday afternoon one-hour family concerts are educational and entertaining. More than 1,000 patrons arrive early for face painting, an instrument petting zoo, crafts, and other educational activities prior to each concert.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

LSO's annual YPCs reach more than 5,400 students each year. Our Teachers Advisory Committee meets ahead of time to develop lesson plans to prepare students, so that their field trip to the Lied Center to attend an LSO concert is the culmination of their study of the orchestra.



SOCIAL IMPACT

Through partnerships with local organizations, LSO provides more than 1,200 complimentary tickets and transportation each season to underserved families from Title I schools, programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the immigrant and refugee community.

HARMONY IN HEALING

Beginning in 2018, LSO partnered with **hospitals, memory care facilities, and rehabilitation centers** to bring small groups of musicians to perform tailored musical presentations for their patients. Thus far, we've sent more than 33 musicians to 9 facilities in Lincoln, with plans to more than double that number this season.



SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAM

LSO implemented the Social Impact Program to expand our outreach to **human service organizations serving at-risk youth and families facing unique challenges (such as the loss of a parent, domestic violence, substance abuse, or financial hardship).**

LSO provides complimentary tickets and an educational talk (including when to clap, how to dress, and what to expect during the performance) to help attendees feel comfortable and welcome at the concert. **We have provided more than 500 subsidized tickets** to clients of Esperanza Family Services, St. Monica's Home, Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters, Easterday Recreation Center, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Winter Wind Festival participants.

PRE-CONCERT CHATS

Hosts from NET Radio interview Maestro Polochick and guest soloists at the Lied Center prior to each classical concert. The pre-concert chats are always filled to capacity in the Steinhart Room at the Lied Center.

REDUCED PRICE TICKETS

More than 2,000 students attend using the Lienemann Charitable Foundation Student Tickets for \$5, and more than 200 young professionals and music teachers use our Young Professional Patrons discount to attend for only \$10.

GOLDEN BATON DINNER

This annual dinner honors four categories: Individual, Corporate, Volunteer and Musician. All patrons are invited to the dinner, which is held in conjunction with a concert.



SCHOOL VISITS

Through our school visits and library events with our Music Director and guest artists, we have impacted more than 3,500 students, including:

- 2,801 Elementary school students
- 90 Middle school students
- 294 High school students
- 291 College students

LINCOLN YOUTH SYMPHONY SIDE-BY-SIDE

Each season, Maestro Polochick rehearses with LYS, then they join LSO musicians for a rehearsal and performance. Each musician is given a complimentary ticket for the remainder of the concert, and discounted tickets are provided for their families.

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Music students under the age of 20 are invited to compete for a cash prize, private coaching, and opportunity to solo with the orchestra. Winners of LSO's Young Artist Competition have gone on to perform with major orchestras, pursue teaching careers, and some are now members of LSO.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Last year, **13,500 students in more than 90 schools throughout Nebraska** benefitted from LSO's school residencies, artist visits, student tickets and Young People's Concerts.

LSO has a robust **annual fund campaign**; during the past 10 years, the total number of annual fund donors has doubled. We have cultivated potential donors to increase the number of \$2,500+ donors from one to 18, thirteen of whom now give at the \$5K, \$10K or \$15K level.

LSO receives **corporate support** from 20 local and national businesses, with gifts ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000 annually. We meet with each corporate sponsor annually to strengthen each partnership and to ensure that LSO is offering customizable benefits that best serve each sponsor. In addition, LSO receives support in the form of **program advertising** from 50 businesses.

LSO has secured \$750,000 in **major gift contributions** to help underwrite ten years in LSO's new home at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and \$5 million in **special support for artistic excellence** over the next 25 years.

In 2016, LSO implemented a **planned giving campaign** (The Encore Club) in collaboration with the LSO Foundation.

The **LSO Foundation**, a separate 501(c)(3), manages an endowment with a value of \$3.1M. LSO receives a quarterly distribution of 4.25% of the market value calculated over a 12-quarter rolling average.

LINCOLN'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



"Symphony orchestras across the country are struggling to maintain audiences, to grow the next generation of audiences, and to stay financially sound. Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra is succeeding all of these efforts: audiences are growing, young people and families are a part of those growing audiences, and the organization is financially healthy. This is not an accident, and it's not the result of good luck. It's the result of commitment to excellence, commitment to accessibility, and intentional and determined effort by everyone in LSO. It is indeed an organization that has demonstrated remarkable achievement – and one that makes beautiful music every time the musicians take the stage."

Dr. Marilyn S. Moore, LSO Past President

"My administration was so impressed with the field trip that we have made it an annual trip for our fourth- and fifth-grade students. Most of my students had never attended a symphony before, and it is a memory that they still talk about months later.

By teaching composers and instruments that were involved in the concert, it allowed the students to make real-life connections to our music curriculum."

Zach Weir, Bertrand Community School Director of Music



"Students' favorite part of the Young People's Concert at the Lied Center is the up-close and personal connection with the musicians and their music. For many children, it is a once in a lifetime experience. It is magical, and parents thank us for this experience and tell us that their children love listening to the music at home!"

Laura Keller, Sheridan Elementary Music Instructor



"The Family Literacy families have the opportunity to attend two orchestra concerts each year. We feel this has become a valuable part of the learning experience for families that connects literacy to performing arts.

This experience allows families to see what is happening within the community while providing an opportunity for families to enjoy each other and a new experience that they can build from."

Monica Asher, LPS Family Literacy Program Coordinator



"On behalf of all the members of the Post 3 American Legion Honor Guard, 'Blue Team 6,' I would like to thank Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra and the Seacrest family for making this happen. The support of LSO and the 'grunt' work of your trumpeters who play Taps in all kinds of Nebraska weather makes this a team effort that we can all take pride in."

Fred Chrastil, American Legion Blue Team 6 Commander

"I honestly believe that the main reason my daughter keeps taking violin lessons is so she can participate in the LSO Holiday concert with the other Suzuki students. It's a magical experience, and it's so inspiring for her to play on the same stage as her teachers and other professional musicians who she looks up to."

Parent of Suzuki Violin Student



"The Side By Side concert performed last night was outstanding! The fact that the professional musicians of LSO and Maestro Polochick are willing to allow the young musicians of LYS to sit and perform among them is just one of the many things that make Lincoln such a wonderful musical community. As a parent of one of the LYS musicians, I definitely appreciate the opportunity this affords my daughter to interact with musicians of the highest caliber. Maestro Polochick's enthusiasm and interest in the young musicians in Lincoln is inspiring and is certainly not lost on the students (or their parents!)"

Anthony Dresbach, Lincoln Youth Symphony Board President

Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to present an unforgettable 2020-21 season, with everything from legendary soprano **Renée Fleming** to a thunderous celebration of **Beethoven's 250th birthday** featuring his Ninth Symphony. Together, we'll experience iconic works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Strauss, and Sibelius, as well as new music by Daniel Dorff, Michael Abels, and LSO Composer-in-Residence **Dr. Tyler G. White**. We'll celebrate soloists who are members of our LSO family, such as **John Bailey** and **Anton Miller**, along with beloved Lincoln pianist **Ann Chang**. Music lovers of all ages will enjoy the Family Series, featuring Leo Lionni's *Frederick the Mouse* and a birthday party for Beethoven, while Pops concerts will celebrate the holidays with guest conductor **Lucas Waldin** and bring music from the big screen to life. Season tickets offer premium seating and range from \$60-\$245 (adults) and \$20-\$35 (youth), with special discounted passes for music students and young professionals.

As we embark on this season, the health and safety of our musicians and audience members will be of the highest priority, and to honor this, we may need to make changes to repertoire, artists, seating configurations, and concert dates and/or times. Our promise to you is that we will keep you informed and allow flexibility as we strive to create an environment where we can all share this art form together.

DECK THE HALLS (POPS)

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 2:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

Get into the holiday spirit with your symphony! Special guest conductor **Lucas Waldin** rejoins LSO to celebrate the season with everything from traditional favorites like *The Nutcracker* and *The First Noel* to modern hits like *Sleigh Ride*. Tenor **Drew Duncan** will bring beloved holiday songs to life, and audiences of all ages can celebrate the joy and camaraderie of the holiday season. Join us for an afternoon or evening performance!

FAVORITES OLD & NEW (CLASSICAL)

Saturday, February 6, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

The virtuosity and versatility of the flute will be on full display as LSO's Principal Flute **John Bailey** begins the evening with works by Daniel Dorff and Kent Kennan. LSO is also thrilled to present its first Composer-in-Residence, **Dr. Tyler G. White**, with a performance of *A Brand-New Summer*, originally composed for LSO in 2006. After intermission, enjoy the orchestral favorites you know and love, including a special side-by-side performance of Smetana's *Moldau* with the **Lincoln Youth Symphony**, followed by Johann Strauss' overture to *Die Fledermaus* and Stravinsky's *Firebird*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEETHOVEN (FAMILY)

Sunday, February 7, 2021, 2:00 PM

O'Donnell Auditorium, NE Wesleyan University

You're invited to Beethoven's birthday party! LSO's Emcee, actor **William Shomos**, wants to celebrate his favorite composer in a big way. While giving his toast, the Emcee explores the ways Beethoven captures emotion in music—emotion that connects audiences of all ages. Arrive an hour before the concert for complimentary face painting, an instrument petting zoo, crafts, and other family activities.

ANN CHANG PLAYS MOZART (CLASSICAL)

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

Join LSO for an evening of works by cherished composers Mozart and Sibelius. After the playful overture from Mozart's opera, *Così fan tutte*, Lincoln's own **Ann Chang** joins LSO on the Lied Center stage for a riveting performance of Mozart's turbulent *Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor*. After intermission, audiences will be swept away to the landscapes of Finland by the victorious melodies of Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*.

LSO GOES TO HOLLYWOOD (POPS)

Friday, March 12, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

Grab the popcorn and enjoy a night of movie music. LSO presents your favorite melodies from the big screen, live and in-person! In addition to favorites like *E.T.*, *Star Wars*, and *Indiana Jones*, we'll celebrate classics like *Gone with the Wind*, *The Pink Panther*, and *Rocky*, along with a tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein. Dress up as your favorite character and join us at the photo booth before the concert!



BEETHOVEN'S NINTH (CLASSICAL)

Friday, April 9, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

In celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday in 2020, LSO triumphantly concludes its five-year journey to perform all nine of his symphonies with none other than the monumental *Symphony No. 9* (Choral). Joining LSO onstage are **Gwenna Fairchild-Taylor**, **Rebecca Kouma Shane**, **Ariel Merivil**, **Nicholas Davis**, and the full forces of a choir comprising the **Abendmusik Chorus**, **Doane University Choir**, **Doane Collegiate Chorale**, and **Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir**. Paired with the Ninth Symphony will be the Nebraska premiere of Jake Runestad's new work, *A Silence Haunts Me*, a poignant choral piece with text based on Beethoven's Helligenstein Testament.

RENÉE FLEMING IN CONCERT (CLASSICAL)

Friday, April 23, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

For the first time in 30 years, treasured operatic soprano **Renée Fleming** joins Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra in an extraordinary gala night of iconic repertoire for voice and orchestra. One of the most acclaimed international soloists of her generation, she will first lend her passion and artistry to Richard Strauss' achingly beautiful *Vier letzte Lieder* (Four Last Songs). After intermission, Ms. Fleming retakes the stage to present a set of familiar favorites from opera and musical theatre.

FREDERICK'S FABLES (FAMILY)

Sunday, April 25, 2021, 2:00 PM

O'Donnell Auditorium, NE Wesleyan University

Fall in love with Frederick and friends for a series of whimsical tales featuring mice, music, and talking mushrooms! LSO is excited to introduce the whole family to *Frederick's Fables*, set to music by composer Michael Abels and with text by beloved children's author/illustrator Leo Lionni. Join us one hour before the concert for face painting, an instrument petting zoo, crafts, and other family activities.

WHEREFORE ART THOU ANTON? (CLASSICAL)

Friday, May 7, 2021, 7:30 PM

Lied Center for Performing Arts

A violinist by any other name couldn't possibly sound as sweet! LSO concertmaster **Anton Miller** takes the stage with Tchaikovsky's mesmerizing (and fiendishly virtuosic) *Violin Concerto*. After intermission, LSO brings Shakespeare's tragic romance to life with excerpts from Prokofiev's ballet, *Romeo and Juliet*, and Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy*. Two Russian composers, alike in dignity; one fabulous night of music!

