



LINCOLN'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

EDWARD POLOCHICK, MUSIC DIRECTOR

2022-23
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.

(402) 476-2211
lincolnsymphony.com



In addition to bringing the highest level of artistic excellence to the stage, LSO's 73 professional musicians are the heart and soul of LSO's community outreach, and they particularly understand the value of all of LSO's educational programming as the vast majority of them are music educators themselves. In addition, 20% of them make financial contributions to LSO's annual fund, and as a group they serve on more than 25 non-profit boards. More than 65% volunteer their musical talents at churches and schools, and more than half donate their time each month to volunteer in a non-musical capacity for organizations such as TeamMates, refugee resettlement and empowerment centers, and Boys and Girl Scouts.



Edward Polochick has served as Music Director for Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra since 1998. For 31 years, he served as Artistic Director of Concert Artists of Baltimore, an all-professional chamber orchestra and professional vocal ensemble of eighty-plus musicians which he founded in 1987. Maestro Polochick served on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore from 1979 until 2021 in a multitude of conducting positions including Associate Conductor of Orchestras, Director of Choral Ensembles, and Opera Conductor. Not only is he widely recognized as a conductor, but is an award-winning pianist and harpsichordist and has regularly conducted from the keyboard with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Concert Artists. He has also appeared as piano soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner.

Executive Director of Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra since 2005, **Barbara Zach Lee** has dedicated her professional life to ensuring that live classical music is meaningfully accessible to the Lincoln community. During her tenure, affordable ticket prices and partnerships with education and health and human service organizations have created opportunities for more than 13,000 people annually to enjoy LSO performances for free or reduced prices. She advocates for the arts in her role on the boards of Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival and Nebraskans for the Arts, and volunteered as a TeamMate mentor for more than a decade.



Barbara Zach Lee

Executive Director

Hannah Bell

Community Partnerships Manager

Jenna Ferdon

Orchestra Manager & Librarian

Grace Lamb

Marketing & Communications Director

Kevin Madden

Audience Services Manager

LSO'S 20-YEAR JOURNEY

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

LSO'S concert season has grown from 9 performances to 16, and now features:

- 6 main stage classical concerts
- 2 performances of the new chamber orchestra concert
- 2 family concerts
- 1 pops concert
- 2 performances of Deck the Halls
- 3 Young People's Concert performances

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Over the past twenty years, LSO has seen its annual operating budget triple (to \$1.2M). In 1994, LSO's total net assets were negative \$200K, prompting a "going concern" clause in the annual audit. By 1998, LSO was carrying a debt burden of \$150K (making interest payments only), and was having trouble balancing budgets. In 2005, LSO consolidated its debt and re-negotiated the collective bargaining agreement with the Lincoln Musicians' Association to ensure that its promises were aligned with the scope of the season. Since then, LSO has repaid \$85K in short-term debt and \$150K in long-term debt, and as of April 2023, is completely debt-free.

ORCHESTRA SALARIES & GUARANTEED SERVICES

One way that LSO demonstrates our commitment to the orchestra is through the salaries we offer. Since 2005, the orchestra's hourly wage has increased by more than 60%, and the number of services guaranteed to them each year has risen by 25%. LSO's peer organizations spend approximately 24.7% of their budget on orchestra salaries and benefits; LSO is very proud of the fact that our investment is 35.6%.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

LSO was one of the less than 50% of orchestras who were able to continue performing throughout the pandemic, and we adhered to safety protocols that were pre-determined according to the current Lancaster County COVID-19 Risk Dial. The 2020-21 season was available via streaming only for audiences, and the 2021-22 season was hybrid between live and streaming offerings. LSO paid every orchestra member 100% of their salary, and in 2020 and 2021, this meant that LSO paid more than \$300K in salaries to orchestra members who were not able to fit onstage due to distancing requirements.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- LSO has a robust annual fund campaign; since 2005, gifts to the annual fund have increased from \$60K to \$170K, and the total number of annual fund donor households has doubled. LSO has increased the number of \$2,500+ donors by twenty-fold, with 15 households now giving 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. In addition, LSO receives support in the form of program advertising from 50 businesses.
- LSO has secured \$1.2M in major gift contributions to help underwrite 15 years in LSO's new home at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, and \$5M in special support for artistic excellence over the next 25 years.
- The LSO Foundation, a separate 501(c)(3), manages an endowment with a value of \$3.3M. LSO receives a quarterly distribution of 4.5% of the market value calculated over a 12-quarter rolling average.
- In 2016, LSO implemented a planned giving campaign (The Encore Club) in collaboration with the LSO Foundation.

LSO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



SERVING 14,000 NEBRASKANS ANNUALLY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH 50+ ORGANIZATIONS AND THROUGH EVENTS INVOLVING 90+ SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES



AFFORDABLE TICKET PRICES

Since moving to the Lied Center and reducing ticket prices in 2011, LSO's audience size has doubled. Annually, 200+ music teachers and young professionals attend for \$10 each, and the Lienemann Charitable Foundation helps 2,000+ students to attend for only \$5.



HARMONY IN HEALING

Since 2018, LSO has partnered with hospitals, memory care facilities, and rehabilitation centers to bring small groups of musicians to perform tailored musical presentations for their patients.



SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAM

LSO has expanded 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 has provided complimentary tickets to organizations such as the LPS Community Learning Centers, Catholic Social Services, St. Monica's Life Changing Recovery for Women, Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters, CEDARS Home for Children, Esperanza Family Services, the People's City Mission, and Region V Systems.

VETERAN SERVICES

LSO provides complimentary tickets to 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.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

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



FAMILY LITERACY

For more than a decade, LSO has partnered with Family Literacy, an LPS program serving families in the immigrant and refugee community. Each year, LSO staff visits all 12 Family Literacy classes and provides free transportation and tickets to three LSO concerts.



STUDENT PERFORMERS

LSO holds an annual Young Artist Competition, and the winner performs a concerto with the orchestra. Each season, Maestro Polochick also rehearses with the Lincoln Youth Symphony, then they join LSO musicians for a side-by-side rehearsal and performance. LSO regularly features local choirs, Lincoln Suzuki studios, an adaptive dance company, and other dance studios.



COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE

LSO has the privilege of participating in the creation of new music by hosting a three-year long residency for a composer, culminating with a premiere of a new piece written for LSO.

