



MID-COLUMBIA SYMPHONY

Newsletter

July 21, 2024

Bill Kuhn, President

In this newsletter:

1. New office location
2. Mid-Columbia Youth Orchestra concert report
3. IMPORTANT! Our needs and your opportunities to volunteer your time. Our existence depends on volunteers stepping forward, as others have for some 80 years. Please read the explanation below. Information contacts are listed at the very end.

News!

1. *New Office Location!* The Mid-Columbia Symphony moved its office from the old location on Jadwin to our new, current office at 1407A Goethals Drive, Richland WA 99354. We now share a considerably larger space with the Mid-

Columbia Mastersingers. This gives our staff more room, co-locates storage of percussion instruments with offices for our Business Manager and Music Librarian, provides free space for storing items for MCAF fundraisers, and generally is a more inviting office in which to receive visitors. This office is also essentially adjacent to those of the Arts Center Task Force, so there are new opportunities to share staff at times with these other organizations. Feel free to visit our office between 11AM and 2:00PM (we recommend you call first – 509-943-6602).

2. *Mid-Columbia Youth Orchestra Concert:* I reported earlier about our last concert on May 18, and now I can add our last Mid-Columbia Youth Orchestra concert on June 3. The highlight of the program was their performance of Dvorak’s famous Symphony No. 9, “From The New World”—they aced it! I found myself enjoying the music while not hearing individual musicians—very impressive for a young orchestra.

The parents, relatives, and friends who came to encourage their favorite musicians glimpsed the bright future of live classical music here in the Tri-Cities. I am proud of the Mid-Columbia Symphony’s youth orchestra, and I congratulate our youth

director, Adrienne Fletcher, for the quality and significance of her program.



I came across this great “tee-shirt” that reminds me of Adrienne’s explanation of the significance of her Youth Program:

“The symphony orchestra is a special kind of ensemble. It is truly amazing what so many different kinds of instruments and people can create together. The literature of the symphony is prolific with a long-standing tradition. We strive to keep that tradition alive by providing young musicians with an opportunity to learn and master these great works of art, but this is merely a portion of what we do.

“A diverse and multifaceted arts education gives students skills to be open minded, empathetic, innovative, and discerning members of society. Through performing arts, we foster environments where students can learn and grow graciously. Collaborative arts teach us how to make mistakes, acknowledge them, and correct them in a team environment. We learn how to do better in collaboration with those around us. We look forward to the bright, beautiful future that these students will create.”

3. Please Volunteer! What has kept the Mid-Columbia Symphony alive for 80 years? You have—our ticket-holders, donors, and volunteers. We have four part-time paid staff and a professional orchestra, but our organization is held together by our Board of Trustees and a number of non-Board members who volunteer their time, their experience, and their ideas. Together, we keep classical music alive in the Tri-Cities.

In this newsletter we occasionally ask for donations to supplement ticket sales, like all nonprofits, but not this time. This time it’s about your time, and the great difference you can make by donating just some of it. Remember: “Someone else” rarely takes care of important needs. We need you to step up. About your salary: **“Volunteers are unpaid not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless!”**

How much time? And for what? Those are up to you. We have a “menu” of possible tasks, some small and some larger, through which you can affect the life of this symphony, and through us, affect our community. Please look at the list below to see if any of the topics interest you enough to learn more, and then learn more by finding more details further below. In each case we try to give you a sense of what you might do if you stepped in to help us. If the details are not to your liking, remember that we are interested in alternative ideas, so always feel free to explore them with us.

Volunteer Opportunities: Summary

To inquire about anything below, contact me at william.l.kuhn@gmail.com or our Business Manager, Pam Kizito, at adm@midcolumbiasymphony.org or 509-943-6602. Our office is at 1407A Goethals Drive in Richland (near Goethals and Symons).

Some notes on time:

- Our fiscal year begins and ends in mid-August.
- Our concert year is about 8 months: October to May.
- A “concert cycle: is our three on-site rehearsals and our concert performance, usually spanning 3-4 days.
- We perform up to 5 concerts per season.

Here's our list. Interested? Curious? The details are available below. If you have additional ideas, please let us know.

- The Board of Trustees – I know this sounds intimidating; please read the details anyway. If you're willing to try it, dive in. No one is bound to continue if they find they made a mistake.
- Social media – VERY IMPORTANT - integrate and update our social media and our “brand” across several platforms
- Audio/Video Recording – Preserve and promote our concert performances by video recording with clear audio – edit and publish concert recordings
- Newsletter – edit, write, or contribute to our (approximately) monthly newsletter – increase readership – integrate a “brand” with our social media and website - write and edit all or separate features of the newsletter.
- Website – improve our design and establish and integrate a “brand” with our social media
- Stagehand – support our concert rehearsals and concerts as a “stagehand” – move chairs, music stands, instruments, troubleshoot for musicians - clear our venue stage after concerts.

Volunteer Opportunities: Details

Board of Trustees: consider joining us! – I know this sounds intimidating; please read this anyway. Our Board is an all-volunteer, working board. There are needs and

opportunities to work on a wide range of tasks and try out a wide range of ideas. The best reason to join is a desire to “give back”—that’s why I joined 4 years ago starting with no experience with nonprofit organizations or special knowledge of music or musicians. If you think you might like to try it, dive in. No one is bound to continue if they find they made a mistake. On the Board you will learn about the symphony and its musicians (very rewarding), and your time will be a direct contribution to the present and future success of the Mid-Columbia Symphony. You can utilize any experience you may have in education fundraising, marketing, management, strategy, event planning, collaborating with public schools (who provide our performance venues), finances and budgeting, communications, policy, personnel, and more. It starts with talking with an existing or past Board member, so please do, and see where it might lead. Our current Board members are listed at the end of this newsletter. Our working Board is as important to the success of our symphony as the conductor and musicians, so please be willing to help out. *Thanks!*

Social Media – Duration: Ideally one year (August to August), otherwise at least one concert cycle; Time – our wild guess is 4-8 hours/week – You will be given access to our social media pages; you will take responsibility for any alterations to the current design (we hope you can improve it) – collaborate with volunteers working on our website to establish and integrate a “brand” across our digital platforms (social media, website). This is an opportunity for students who are refining digital media skills to work on “real world” challenges and build their resumes.

Audio/Video Recording - Duration: At least two months or one concert, and ideally one concert season (~8 months); Time: 8 hours/week (depends on number of volunteers helping you) – varies greatly during a concert season: probably 12-16 hours during concert rehearsals and performance (3-4 days) – This is a technical job; we do not have a lot of expertise yet, so no one is expected to join without starting out with “on-the-job-training”. Fortunately, we have A/V equipment including digital recorders available on loan from someone who can advise us, albeit with limited time. You will set up microphones on stands and lay cable to connect them to mixing boards and recorders. You will position video cameras and connect them to video control accessories to record multiple channels for mixing later. You will collaborate with the music director, musicians, or Board members to take both full-width and close up videos of musicians to enhance artistic editing and to anticipate use of edited versions for specific marketing purposes. If we have a few interested people, we hope to assign the recording process per se to one and editing and finishing to another. This is an opportunity for students studying video journalism to apply their skills to “real world” challenges and to build their resumes.

Newsletter – Duration: ideally one concert season; minimally ad hoc contributions of special features or reports in a newsletter; Time: about 4 hours per week, skewed heavily toward the publication date of the newsletter, which is nominally monthly. Since you subscribe to this newsletter, presumably you have a sense of what we do. This is an opportunity for students of digital journalism to take on “real-world” challenges and build their resumes.

Website: Updating – Duration: Ideally one concert season; minimally, a few months; Time: varies during a concert season, more intense a few weeks leading to a concert, less intense the few weeks following. You may want to put in 4-8 hours per week at the very beginning to learn how to use the editor (“Elementor” editor, used within the “WordPress” platform) if you don’t happen to know already. Later, the time varies over a concert cycle: it intensifies leading up to the concert as you use new information to update the website.

Website: Design – Duration: Ideally one or more concert seasons; minimally the first two concert cycles; Time: Perhaps 8-12 hours/week at the very beginning as you get “the lay of the land” and some experience (if needed) using the editor (“Elementor”). This part of the job is as much artistic as technical. The existing “webmaster” will remain responsible and serve as a mentor for as long as necessary, but he needs to focus on other needs. This is an opportunity for students who are refining their digital media skills to take on “real world” challenges and build their resumes.

Stagehand - Duration: One or more concerts in a season, ideally all concerts; Time: about 30 minutes before and again after the first rehearsal; 30 minutes before the second rehearsal; 30-60 minutes after the concert performance. This is “hands on” – moving chairs, music stands, and some instruments, unloading some items and then storing them again. You will work under the guidance of a “stage” coordinator. We need a volunteer to replace our current coordinator; training is “on-the-job” and simple.

Board of Trustees Contacts

Here are the current officers and committee chairs of our Board of Trustees:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Office, Committee</u>
Bill Kuhn	william.l.kuhn@gmail.com	President, Chair – Fundraising
Phil Townsend	pmsmtown@earthlink.net	Vice President, Chair – Marketing
Boyce Burdick	burdick2@owt.com	Treasurer, Chair – Orchestra Relations
Zack Shaff	Zackery.Shaff@gmail.com	Secretary, Chair – Strategic Planning
Scott Ashby	sta@pnwfamilylaw.com	Chair – Bylaws and Policy
Don Baer	pakiara@aol.com	Chair – Nominating
Sheila Gephart	sheilagephart@yahoo.com	Chair – Artistic Advisory
Bill McKay	bmckay@columbiabasin.edu	Chair – Music Director Search
Christine McKinnon	atomicorbs@charter.net	Chair - Educational Outreach