

Dear Mid-Columbia Symphony Patrons,

Here are more details about our 81st season—2025 – 2026. Our Board of Trustees recently reviewed our financial position going into next season and determined that our income will be substantially less than in recent years, while at the same time beginning with a minimal bank balance. We started last season needing to begin finding a new music director and to end with sufficient funds to fund a full concert season. Instead, we now project we need to replace about \$200,000 both by cost savings and new fundraising. To cut costs, our Board has decided to perform three concerts instead of five during next season. The planned concert dates are as follows:

- Saturday, October 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM (chamber concert format)
- Saturday, December 20, 2025 – 7:00 PM and Sunday, December 21, 2025 – 3:30 PM
- Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 7:00 PM`

We are focused on increased cost-cutting and fundraising, including ticket sales (increasing attendance), fundraising events, grants and funded tributes of honored groups, and donations from individuals and businesses. Our three concerts will be at the Richland High School Auditorium.

As you know, our original plan was to audition four finalists for music director by each having one concert to plan, rehearse, and conduct. Our new, three-concert plan does not accommodate music director auditions; therefore, we will be conducting those auditions in a similar manner but during the 2026-2027 season, by which time we expect to be able to fund a five-concert season. We are pleased to announce that our four external candidates have each agreed to postpone their audition for one year, so that our 2025-2026 auditions will occur as planned, except one year later.

Please review our website links about donating to the MCS as we rebuild toward five concert seasons. Your increased donations will “right the ship” during the 2025-2026 season, resulting in normal operations the following season. If ever you wondered how you can make a difference—how you can help keep classical music alive, how you can help educate our youth in music, how you can support our local and regional musicians—here is your chance. The MCS Board of trustees is volunteer and uncompensated. We operate with a low overhead and are working to lower it further. We have only 4 paid staff, all part-time. All of your donations go directly toward fulfilling our mission, and most of that goes to compensate our musicians. We need you! Please give generously, then enjoy our concerts, knowing you made the difference and that you are so appreciated!

Sincerely,

Bill Kuhn, President of the Board of Trustees of the Mid-Columbia Symphony