

Hello Friends!

Welcome to March, where daylight has sprung forward, the earth is slowly starting to stir and the flowers are warming up for their big spring debut. And all of us with the Mid-Columbia Symphony are preparing for the big finale for our 81st Season: Resound—Together in Action, United in Sound!

OUR SEASON FINALE!

This season has been a whirlwind, and I can't believe it is almost coming to a close! Our interim conductor Adrienne Fletcher has programmed an amazing finale that musicians are excited to play and you won't want to miss!

Young Artist Winners: As you know, this concert will feature the winners from our young artist competition held in January. Be swept away by our extraordinary soloists performing Elgar's Cello Concerto and Bruch's Violin Concerto No. One.

Dvorak's Carnival Overture: A piece of music that completely encapsulates the experience of stumbling upon a street carnival. Colorful swirls of music and festive flourishes invite musicians and audience members alike to join the celebration!

Florence Price's 4th Symphony: The same year the MCS was founded, 1945, Florence Price wrote her 4th Symphony. Unfortunately, it was never performed during her lifetime and was abandoned and forgotten in her home for decades. Fortunately, it was rediscovered in 2009, first performed in 2018 and is a wonderful addition to the American symphonic canon.

Price evokes musical themes from spirituals, contemporary harmonies & textures, and the rich auditory tapestry of the late romantic era. She replaces the traditional third movement scherzo with the rhythms and structure found in the Juba dance, an African-American plantation dance that featured rhythmic body percussion and footwork. The Juba dance was one important method enslaved people had to preserve their African culture and identity. The lively dance is heard throughout the movement, which leads to a finale that is best described as a "cloudburst of triplets." A perfect ending for our 81st season!

When: March 26, 2026 at 7:30pm

Where: Richland High School Auditorium

Tickets: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=mcsym>

MID-COLUMBIA YOUTH SYMPHONY

What's a Fledermaus? As a direct translation, it means "bat," (the animal, not the sports equipment). But in the music world, Die Fledermaus refers to a comic operetta by Johann Strauss II that features pranks, disguises and chaos. The overture features

sweeping melodies, wonderful waltzes and popular polkas. Our MCYO members have been diligently preparing this overture and are excited to share it with you!

The upcoming concert on March 22 will feature all THREE groups: the Cadets, Philharmonia and the Youth Symphony. Other works featured on the program include Evening Dusk by Yukiko Nishimura, Alis Volat by Soon Hee Newbold and Tales from the Aviary by Jordan Jinosko. It promises to be a wonderful evening of music from some of the finest young musicians in our area!

Date: Sunday Afternoon, March 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Place: Richland High School Auditorium

Tickets: FREE (donations gladly accepted)

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Our orchestra wouldn't exist without the incredible musicians who bring the music to life. In our Musician Spotlight, we're introducing the people behind the music. This month, we're spotlighting our harpist, Chelsea Spence!



How long have you been playing harp? 31 years! 🎊

How long have you played with MCS? Since 2010

Favorite place you've performed? Playing in Weird Al Yankovic's back up orchestra in Spokane was a pretty epic experience.

Piece you've always wanted to perform? I need to update my list at this point. For a long time Holst's Planets was on my list, but I've gotten to play it twice now with MCS and Walla Walla Symphony. :) I love impressionistic music, so anything from that era is fun.

Favorite non-music hobby? Hiking, sewing and reading.

Quick piece of advice? Be kind.

Favorite book? *The Housewitch* by Demelhach

Who's your favorite Avenger? Isn't that someone from Paw Patrol?

Thank you, Chelsea, for being featured in our newsletter and for being a member of the MCS! Make sure to cheer for her at our upcoming concert! Stay tuned for our next Musician Spotlight. Who would you like to meet next?

Think Chelsea is pretty great? Or perhaps you have another favorite musician? Send them some love with an **Ovation!** in our program! Or send some love to someone else, or even yourself. You're worth it! Applause is great, but everyone loves an *Ovation!* Email office@midcolumbiasymphony.org to order.

THE GREAT MAESTRO SEARCH:

MCS's Journey to Find Our Next Music Director

The search for our next Music Director is well underway! After a national search led by a committee of board members and musicians, five outstanding candidates will visit the Tri-Cities this spring to meet with MCS musicians, board members & members of the community, and lead a brief rehearsal with a small ensemble from the orchestra. Three finalists will then each lead a concert during the 2026–2027 season before a final decision is made. We're excited about the exceptional musicians we've met. Who will ultimately take up the baton? You'll have to stay tuned to find out!

BE PART OF WHAT'S NEXT!

It's been a fantastic season, and we're so grateful for everyone who helps make it possible. If you're interested in volunteering, serving on a committee, or even joining our Board of Directors, we'd love to hear from you—no musical background required, just enthusiasm for supporting the arts in our community. And while our concert season wraps up this month, the fun isn't over yet. Keep an eye out for summer activities, a new campaign, and a few exciting surprises coming soon!

As always, thank you for being part of our musical family!
We cannot wait to celebrate our season finale with you!!

Yours in Music & Friendship,
Marella McGreal
MCS Board Member & Principal Bass