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| **Mid-Columbia Symphony Notes**Welcome to our new Mid-Columbia Symphony newsletter. Our goal is to keep you informed about what the Symphony has been up to since COVID-19 abruptly shortened our current and future plans.**2020-21 Season**In these difficult times we are working hard to restore our mission to provide quality live orchestral music here in the Tri-Cities. Because of renovation under way at our usual venue, the Richland High School Auditorium, as well as uncertainty about recovery from the pandemic, we are not preparing for a 2020-2021 season.We will resume live concerts as soon as restrictions and available venues allow, and we’re exploring the possibility of earlier performances to smaller audiences.**Options, We Have Options**During this forced hiatus from live performances, we’re creating alternatives to entertain and educate lovers of classical music. Although we could not perform Braham’s Requiem, our final concert of our 2019-2020 season, we used Zoom technology to hold a panel discussion led by our Maestro Nicholas Wallin and Justin Raffa, Music Director for the Mastersingers, attended by more than 80 people.**First Ever Virtual MCAF a Success**On June 20th, the Mid-Columbia Arts Fundraiser (MCAF) used Zoom and Facebook to host a live-streamed event that included filmed performances by artists from each of the four Mid-Columbia arts organizations in the Tri-Cities. An online auction was held with items ranging from wine and beautiful prints of local scenery to dinners hosted at private homes of patrons. The event raised more than $100,000 as our community showed its support for the arts.We are grateful that our Symphony is one of the four beneficiaries. This past Spring, our Board graciously donated $90,000 to help sustain our organization through the end of our season and has allowed us to maintain our business as we navigate our next steps. We want to thank all of our donors for their continued support! We want you to know that it is your donations that give us the chance to continue our mission. Donations are accepted through our website at [www.midcolumbiasymphony.org](http://midcolumbiasymphony.org/), or by sending a check to PO Box 606, Richland, WA 99352.**Find Us on Facebook and Check Our Website**Check out and like our Facebook page to see what people are saying or to share your thoughts about the Symphony, orchestral music, or perhaps what you hope to see as we slowly emerge from our “quarantine”.In lieu of live performances, we are expanding our website to bring you several new features. We are installing a blog that will continue this newsletter in interactive form, where you can post comments and converse with other music patrons.We’ll continue to send you short emails to announce events and musical offerings described fully in our blog, on Facebook, or on our website. For now, we recommend Maestro Wallin’s notes for theconcerts we performed before “sheltering” ended our season. See<https://www.facebook.com/MidColumbiaSymphony/videos>.More than anyone, our musicians are anxious to return to performing for you live. But while we wait for that, we’re arranging for them to reach you in video messages, including performances, educational, or personal notes. We’ll begin with several by our educational and entertaining Maestro. Soon you’ll find them posted on a video messaging page we are adding to our website. Look for announcements in more emails like this.**A Treasure Trove of Concert Recordings Unearthed**Did you know there are excellent audio recordings of performances of the Mid-Columbia Symphony going back to the 1960s? We are digitizing these and will be listing them on an “Archives” page on our website. The diverse performances cover a range of tastes, and include performances by Young Artists Competition winners, many of whom remain as music educators in the Tri-Cities today. We’ll give you a pointer to our archives when they're ready.Finally, we’re adding a feature to our webpage for posting playlists of favorite music, mostly classical but not exclusively, with links to recordings. We’ll be interested if you have your own lists you’d like to add.**We Appreciate Your Support**Thank you for your interest in classical and orchestral music. We look forward to seeing you again in live concerts, and hope you’ll enjoy our new website features coming your way soon. Our symphony is part of a musical family across southeast Washington—The Yakima Valley, the Tri-Cities, and the Walla Walla Valley. Look for musical entertainment and education brought to you also by our sibling orchestras, the Yakima Symphony Orchestra ([http://www.ysomusic.org](http://www.ysomusic.org/)/) and the Walla Walla Symphony (<https://www.wwsymphony.org/>).We'd love to hear from you! If you have comments or questions, please email them to midcolumbiasymphony@gmail.com.Thank you! |

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