



We sincerely appreciate and thank YOU for all the ways you support the RSO. YOU are a patron, concert attendee, advertiser, sponsor, musician, foundation, volunteers, Board Director, or community partner, who helped make 2016-17 one of our most successful years! When YOU read what we accomplished this past year, please know you are a part of making us 86 years strong!

Highlights from the 2016-17 Season.....

Summer Lakeside Pops

We kicked off our season by commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor with a patriotic tribute at our June Lakeside Pops concert. Guest Artist Doug Clemons joined the Orchestra for a performance of patriotic favorites including *American Salute*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and many selections of John Phillip Sousa, including *Liberty Fanfare* and *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The *Armed Forces Salute* honored those in the audience who have served; a slide show of our past and present heroes accompanied the Concert.

The August concert marked our official 85th Anniversary celebration! The concert was sponsored by our dear friends at O&H Bakery; they generously provided birthday cake for everyone in attendance. Maestro Laurino wasn't quite able to fit 85 songs on the program but we clocked in at a respectable 65, including long time Lakeside Pops favorites such as selections from *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma*, *E.T.*, *On Golden Pond* and *Soundtrack Highlights of John Williams*.

Fall and Winter Concerts

The October concert brought our 2016 Artist in Residence (AIR) to the stage. Last year's AIR was the fabulous Kelsey Molinari, long time harpist of the RSO and a sought after performer across the country. She joined the Orchestra for the Handel's *Harp Concerto in B-flat, Op. 4 no. 6* and *Danse sacrée et Danse*

profane by Debussy. The Orchestra rounded out the Concert with Haydn's *Symphony No. 85* (to mark our 85th season!) and Purcell's *Fairy Queen Suite*. Kelsey's performance with the Orchestra was only a small part of her residency as she performed for a wide variety of audiences throughout Racine County.

Our Holiday concert was once again SOLD OUT, cementing it's presence as a Racine community tradition. Bob Benson joined us as we celebrated the holiday with a *Christmas on Broadway* medley and stand by classics like *Sleigh Ride*, *O Holy Night* and *Joy to the World*. Our High School Choral Invitational included students from the Prairie School and Washington Park High School; we once again welcomed the Gifford Elementary School Choir directed by RSO Board member, Timothy Keith Griffin, Jr..

The Season concluded with the Masterworks Season Finale and Side-by-Side Youth Invitational on April 8. The Orchestra welcomed high school students from a variety of cities and schools to perform alongside RSO musicians on Haydn's *Symphony No. 94 "Surprise"* and concertmaster Alexander Mandl performed Wieniawski's *Légende*. Our featured soloist was 2017 Young Artist Competition Winner, Matthew Udry, who brought down the house with Dvořák *Cello Concerto in B Minor*. Both the audience and Orchestra were thrilled to have him and the feeling was mutual. When asked to reflect upon his experience, Matthew said, "Being able to work and perform with an orchestra was an absolutely amazing experience, and I'm so glad that I was able to do it with a talented group like the Racine Symphony. I learned so much from working with Maestro Laurino and members of the Orchestra, who were all extremely friendly and supportive. I'm incredibly thankful that they gave me the opportunity to do this."

Educational Programs

We continued our mission to Educate, Enrich, and Entertain through the power of music with our seven educational programs. The annual Fifth Grade concert was held on Tuesday, March 14. In spite of the surprise lake effect blizzard, the Orchestra performed for 1400 students, teachers and parent chaperones. Our Middle School Mentor Program found enormous success at Karcher Middle School in Burlington and we continued our presence in RUSD at Gilmore and Starbuck middle schools. We also

reinstated the beloved Third Grade Intro to Strings program and sent a quintet of string players for a tour of highly successful performances at West Ridge, Goodland, Fratt, Julian Thomas and Wadewitz elementary schools.

The RSO education programs received an exciting boost in December when we were one of the lucky winners of Potawatomi Casino's Heart of Canal Street drawing. Every year Potawatomi shares a portion of their bingo proceeds with twenty children's charities chosen by a random drawing. This year we happened to be one of the lucky winners! The funds have enabled us to expand our many education programs for the 2017-18 school year, allowing us to serve more students throughout Racine County.

Community Support

Our 85th season was a landmark year in terms of the community support we received. In addition to the previously mentioned sponsorship of O&H Danish Bakery, we also partnered with several other institutions to commemorate the milestone. In honor of our 85th Season, the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread hosted our fundraising event "Music For A Summer Evening" in August.

Our community support continues to grow with four new advertisers! We also continue to receive support from the Racine Community Foundation, SC Johnson, United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF), Runzheimer, CNHi, and many more.

The 85th Anniversary Committee sponsored a poster contest for school age children in Racine County; the winners were Amelia Redlin from Union Grove Elementary (First Place) and Akash Patel from The Real School (Second Place). The posters were displayed at the Waterford Library during the month of October and the Racine Library helped wrap up our season by hosting an exhibit of the posters during the month of May 2017.

Perhaps the most exciting part of our 85th season was the generous matching donation we received from an anonymous donor. YOU rose to the challenge by contributing more than \$42,500 new donation dollars to our general operations while the match contributed the same to the RSO

Endowment Fund. This amazing gift will ensure the financial stability of the Orchestra for generations to come and we have YOU to thank!

The end of the season also brought changes to our Board of Directors. This year ended the service of Sue Cawley, Nancy DeKraay, Kay Shalbrack and Roberta Stark. These women have worked tirelessly in service of the RSO for years and we thank them for their efforts and devotion. Moving forward, we welcome Shelly Wruck, Doug Johnson, Erwin Lackner and Lori Ann Karls as new members. We look forward to having their perspectives, talent and wisdom as part of our organization. As always, we welcome applications from community members interested in serving on our active Board and committees. If you are interested, please contact the RSO office at 262-636-9285 or Beth@racinesymphony.org.

While the past year has marked both the expansion of our music education programs and community support, it is YOU, our loyal patrons of the Racine Symphony that allow us to continue to fulfill our mission to Enrich, Educate, and Entertain our communities through the power of music. We salute and welcome you to the 86th season of YOUR Racine Symphony!

