

## THE RSO – A VESTED MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY

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As Wisconsin's oldest symphony orchestra in continuous operation, the Racine Symphony holds a special place in history. This is no coincidence! A UNIQUE ORCHESTRA FOR A UNIQUE CITY.

Our Lakeside Pops Concerts provide an experience that is truly unique to Southeastern Wisconsin. In fact, very few orchestras of our size continue to have a thriving Pops series. The celebratory atmosphere of these Concerts provides friends and family a chance to socialize and together enjoy an evening of musical entertainment.



We routinely showcase local performers as soloists at our concerts. The open audition nature of "Racine Live!," featured at this and last year's August Pops Concert, allows undiscovered talent to flourish in a new setting. The Young Artists' Competition (YAC) provides high school students with the opportunity to be the featured guest artist at our Spring Masterworks Concert. Many YAC winners have gone on to study music at a collegiate level and several are current members of the RSO.

Our sold-out Holiday Pops Concert has become a tradition for many Racine families; we love sharing the festivities of the season with so many of our patrons.

A vibrant arts scene creates a vibrant economy in the form of jobs for performers and dollars spent at local businesses. We are committed to furthering the cause and development of this great City by reinvesting our financial capital whenever possible and making sure the artistic landscape stays intact, and even grows with the times. We provide evening entertainment without the necessity of travel to Milwaukee or Chicago, which also keeps money in the local economy.

### **Your Generosity Keeps Our Programs Thriving**

You have been the driving force behind our survival as the longest Wisconsin symphony orchestra in continuous operation. Eighty-eight years ago, Racine led the way in the establishment and nurturing of a vibrant performing arts culture. We ask you to continue this tradition and lend your support to help us endure into our second century. Your gift will place you among outstanding, generous peers.

Over the past several years, our production costs have continued to rise while we have increased tickets prices only a modest amount. In other words, increased ticket revenue has not kept pace with increased production expenses. We are committed to continuing to offer excellent concerts and free music education programs, including free admission for students under the age of 21. We need your help to continue to make this possible.

In the changing climate of new tax laws, our donors have continued their generosity and support of the RSO. For this, we are truly grateful. As ticket sales

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cover only 30% of concert costs, we seek funding from a variety of sources, including our generous donors. Your support will secure our financial future and help us preserve the glorious classical music tradition and cultural enrichment opportunities for generations to come.

Monthly donations create regular and predictable income for use, allowing us to budget our efforts and programs. Setting up a monthly donation is easy, quick and free with a PayPal account. We are happy to customize a giving program that works for you. Just contact Patron Services Manager, Heather Keszler, at [heather@racinesymphony.org](mailto:heather@racinesymphony.org) or call the RSO office at 262-636-9285.

Estate gifts ensure long-term stability and keep your legacy alive. We have established an endowment at the Racine Community Foundation to manage these assets. See page 6 or stop by the Box Office for more information.

With the changes in society and changes coming to Racine, the RSO looks to evolve with the times. We are still committed to the classical orchestra tradition and embrace our duty to bring this to the next generation of audiences. You can be a part of ensuring the RSO is able to provide the great orchestral tradition to the next generations of Racinians – those new to the area and those whose families go back generations.

Please give generously. Give to keep the Pops series vibrant, classical series thriving and educational programs top-notch (and free!), now and for generations to come.



*The 2018 RSO Holiday Concert. Photo credit Neil Staack.*



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