



RACINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Pasquale Laurino, Artistic Director

December 2017

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"I know it's not a lot," was the notation on a recent patron donation. Just a couple of dollar bills and that small note, written in an unsteady hand, were the entire contents of the envelope. I couldn't help but wonder the circumstances behind this donation, such as if this person could even afford to donate. That led me to question if our patrons really do understand how much we value them, no matter how much they give. So, let me say now, THANK YOU for supporting the RSO!

On that note, and you knew this was coming, I urge you to consider a donation the RSO as part of our Annual Patron Drive.

When we say that we maximize the impact of every dollar, we mean it. Yes, we have multiple streams of income, but, like families and for-profit businesses, we never know what the next year will bring, financially or otherwise. That's why we keep overhead low and strategize years in advance on how to most efficiently meet audience and community need. Really, it's a lot of work in and of itself.

Putting on our Pops concerts requires significant financial resources. And ticket sales don't cover it. Concert costs rise every year, but we have not raised our ticket prices in over 10 years. Why? A steadfast commitment we have to you, our community supporters, to keep our culturally-rich concerts as accessible as possible. Please help us honor that commitment.

Know what else? We want people of all ages to take advantage of our music education programs – that's why, except for the Young Artists' Competition, every single one is offered without charge. Yes, grants provide much of the funding, but the balance comes from the generosity of patrons like you.

We rely on patron donations, primarily from this, our Annual Patron Drive, to make everything that we do possible. Yes, ticket sales, fundraisers, advertising, grants and corporate donations also support our mission. Yours financial support is different – it comes from a place without agenda or an expectation of quid pro quo.

Remember that two-dollar donation? We processed it like any other, even though it wasn't like any other. It was more. "I know it's not a lot." No, it's a fortune.

On behalf of the musicians, Board, staff of the RSO and everyone who enjoys our productions, I want to thank you for whatever support you are comfortable giving. Please give today at www.racinesymphony.org, calling our office at 262-636-9285 or returning the enclosed card with your gift.

Sincerely

Beth Bender
Executive Director

Tammy Leverich
President, Board of Directors