



Photo Credit Ann Thomas



KEYNOTES

June, 2021 LETTER FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear Friends:



Marty & Carol photographed at the TOH

Did you know that the Charleston Symphony Orchestra League is one of the very few symphony orchestra leagues which continued with in-person events throughout the last year? CSOL members, working with the Charleston Symphony

and the community, have functioned in new, creative ways to provide financial support to the CSO.

Our latest events: On May 22 and 23, the Tour of Homes (TOH) in Historic Charleston, led by Jane Miller and Claudia Porter, welcomed 900+ visitors. They were greeted by more than 90 volunteer docents, who capably shared select history, architecture and home décor details.

The TOH culminated with Yuriy Becker pulling Terry Moore's winning ticket for the 2021 Car Raffle, the

BMW X3 sDrive 30i. Both of these fundraisers were wildly successful, with record-breaking ticket sales.

Heartfelt thanks to Jane, Claudia, Ron Schildge and their teams for their ingenuity and hard work.

The Summer Fête, scheduled for June 27, will close out the 2020-21 CSOL fiscal year. These three fundraisers will allow the CSOL to make another significant donation to the CSO in 2021.

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Buy your Fête tickets online now at csolinc.org—there are a limited number of seats and they're going fast.

If you're unable to attend the Fête, consider making a gift to Fund the Need that will directly benefit the CSO. The CSO's music was a gift to many of us this past year. Now it's our turn to give back and generously support the CSO.

The CSOL wants to Count You In!

By increasing the number of Fund the Need donations, the CSOL can make an even greater impact on the CSO's programs and education initiatives.

The Symphony has recognized a one million dollar revenue shortfall as a result of lost ticket sales and grants during this unprecedented time. They need our help.

With your generosity, we can surpass our \$25,000 goal. Go to csolinc.org to make a donation. Your gift will help ensure the CSO's future for many years to come.



The CSOL annual membership drive has begun. The number one reason people join the CSOL is to make new friendships. If meeting people in the Charleston area while supporting the CSO sounds enjoyable, consider becoming a CSOL member. Currently, we are 240 members strong and we offer a variety of member benefits, including discounts on select CSOL events, invitations to musical experiences featuring CSO musicians, a monthly newsletter and more.

The CSOL has been raising funds for the Charleston Symphony for over 50 years and is the largest institutional donor to the Charleston Symphony. We also provide music scholarships to the next generation of musicians. We invite you to become a valued partner. *Please play your part* in helping our Charleston Symphony maintain its legacy of musical excellence. You can find out more about membership at CSOLinc.org.

**BE BENEVOLENT.
BE BODACIOUS.
BELONG.
JOIN THE CSOL TODAY.**

Remember to take a look at the upcoming Charleston Symphony season line-up at charlestonsymphony.org.

Be on the lookout for an eblast with the link to our virtual Student Scholarship Winner Recital, premiering on June 18 at 7:00 pm or check the website at csolinc.org.

Life in the Lowcountry is always fun and busy during the spring and summer. We hope you enjoy all that Charleston has to offer over the next few months. The CSOL has a lot planned for the late summer and fall months. Look for your next *Keynotes* around August 15.

Warm regards,
Carol and Marty

Carol Cronk and Marty Penkhus,
CSOL Co-Presidents

PARTY AND FUND THE NEED Summer

Fête

If you're unable to attend the Fête but want to contribute, make your Fund the Need donations online at csolinc.org.

Count Me In!

What is **Fund the Need**? It's an easy way to make an unrestricted gift to the CSO. CSOL members and friends have the opportunity to make a gift online from June 1 through 27 at csolinc.org. Fund the Need will be completed auction-style at the Summer Fête on June 27, three days before the fiscal year closes.

Here are a few examples of how you can help the CSO thrive by addressing the costs associated

with keeping the music playing in Charleston. Your gift will assist with operating expenses while directly benefiting the Charleston Symphony.

- Rental of the Gaillard for a two day concert weekend costs \$10,000;
- Salaries for five guest musicians to play a concert costs \$5,000;
- Salary for a core musician for one month costs \$3,500;



- Sending a CSO ensemble to a school for a performance costs \$1,000;
- Gifts of \$100 advances the CSO's mission to inspire and connect with the community through exceptional performances and music education programs.

These are illustrations *only* of how your gift can help the CSO defray its operating costs.

**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING YOUR GIFT
TODAY @ CSOLINC.ORG**

Fund the Need donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor for further information.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Update on Elliott Weeks

After graduating from the Charleston County School of the Arts, Elliott Weeks began studying violin performance at Florida State University.

In 2020, Elliott won the university's Solo Violin competition, attended the inaugural season of the Josef Gingold Chamber Music Festival, gained the rank of concertmaster at the University Philharmonia and won his first professional orchestra position in the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra.

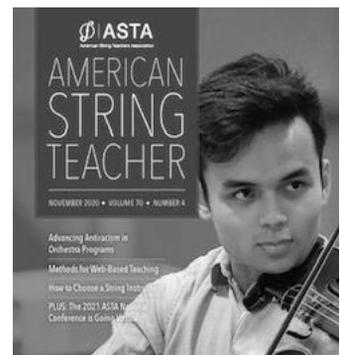
At Florida State, Elliott began taking conducting lessons and conducted a rehearsal of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1* with the University Philharmonia.

In May, he helped lead the FSU Studio Orchestra as assistant conductor in a program of gaming music.

This summer, Elliott will be preparing for graduate school auditions at, among others, Yale, University of Miami and the Royal College of Music. He noted: "A musician must be relevant to the music community from which he comes and from which he obtains inspiration, talent and curiosity."

Elliott thanked the CSOL for its financial support through high school and college. He also feels gratitude for the musical community that the CSOL has

assembled, including past scholarship recipients Jonathon Heyward, Nicholas Bentz and Shannon Fitzhenry.



Support the next generation of musicians at csolinc.org by donating to student music scholarships



TOUR OF HOMES PROVIDES INSIDER ACCESS

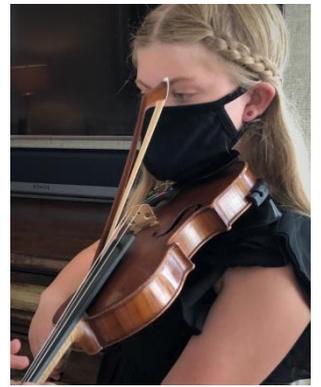
New fundraising projects don't happen overnight and not by themselves. This year's Symphony Tour of Homes in Historic Charleston replaced the traditional month-long Designer Showhouse (DSH) and took the combined efforts of many people to make it a huge triumph. The DSH House Search Committee did an about-face and stepped up the search to find homeowners and designers willing to open up their homes. Despite rejections and challenges, six unique and diverse homes were found. The ages, architecture, decors and sizes represented a wide range, making for a Tour that absolutely wowed attendees. Thanks to the homeowners, designers, volunteers who helped this new, downtown Tour appear effortless and financially successful. Everyone *played their part!*



The best protection any woman can have is ... courage.

-- Elizabeth Cady Stanton

TOUR OF HOMES PROVIDES INSIDER ACCESS, continued



Emma Joyce

Dear CSOL Members:

Thank you for awarding the David Stahl scholarship to me! It will be a great help in paying for my musical studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory. Thank you for your support over the years, both financial and personal. I consider myself fortunate to have become friends with many of you. Thanks again for everything!

Emma

HAPPY RAFFLE WINNER!



Congratulations to Terry Moore of Charleston, the winner of the CSOL's 2021 Car Sponsorship. Terry is pictured with his wife, Millie, beside their new 2021 BMW X3 sDrive 30i at Hendrick BMW of Charleston.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? NEEDS YOUR HELP



Since 1991, the CSOL has awarded \$421,318 in scholarships to young musicians for college, private lessons and summer study. Good work should be its own reward. Except that life doesn't work that way.

In order to maintain or enhance the pool of money available for CSOL scholarships, members of the Education Committee, a cadre of super sleuths, are working to track down former music scholars to share their success stories.

Where are they now, how did their scholarship awards advance their futures, and what accolades have they received?

Here's an example. Julie Fenimore tracked down the violinist Shannon Fitzhenry (one of four Fitzhenrys who received CSOL scholarships). Shannon was on vacation in Alaska with her sister Lauren (scholarship winner in 2004 in piano). Seen with Shannon and Lauren are Lauren's six children, ranging in ages from 2-12.

Shannon, who graduated from Peabody, lives in Baltimore and says that things are beginning to open up for musicians. She was the concert master for the El Paso Symphony until COVID hit. Meanwhile, she plays in a chamber music group, the Candlelight Series, performing in Washington, DC.

Shannon provided updates on

her siblings: Before moving to Alaska with her husband, Lauren, the eldest, managed the Fitzhenry Coastal Chamber Musicians quartet (Shannon and Leslie on violin; Lauren on viola; Austin on cello) which played at parties and events in Charleston.

Leslie now lives with her husband in Italy and still plays violin as a hobby. Austin is playing the cello professionally, heading up a musical quartet. Their youngest sister, Katelyn, plays piano and is following in her sibs' footsteps.

How do you *Play Your Part*?

- When you have information about scholarship winners, contact Jodie-Beth Galos at jodie-beth@jbgalos.com.
- Ask friends, family and random strangers to support the next generation of musicians at csolinc.org by donating to student music scholarships.

Q & A

Spotlight on Ryan Leveille

A native of Wallingford, CT, Ryan Leveille has served as the Principal Percussionist of the CSO for 20 years. He began his studies at the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, CT, taking lessons with members of the New Haven Symphony and the faculty of the Yale School of Music. In 1990, he moved to Philadelphia to attend the Curtis Institute of Music, receiving a Bachelor of Music in 1994 and then a Master of Music from Temple University in 1996.

Q: How do you pronounce your last name?

A: Not with a French inflection. But my family comes from French Canada, dating back to the 1700s. My several-times over great grandmother was a King's Daughter—women sent over to the new world to become wives of the lonely fur traders and trappers. She married several times.

Q: Any other drummers in your family?

A: No (although I have a brother who plays violin professionally).

But I've wanted to be a percussionist since I was 10 years old. Here's a plug for children being exposed to music early on: My mother and grandmother transformed my brother and me into devoted attendees of children's concerts. I remember hearing *The Nutcracker*. *The Firebird*.

Watching the guys playing the drums. I thought back then, "I want to do that, too."

I also want to credit the importance of practice. My mother required us to practice for at least a half an hour a day if we were going to continue with lessons. Musicianship isn't only innate talent. It's reliably doing the work. The number of kids who show up for lessons unprepared ...! And, I was lucky to link up early on with a good teacher who believed in me. Without him, my life would've turned out differently.

Q: What brought you to Charleston?

A: It was a complete relocation for me. When the CSO's then percussionist resigned right before the season's start, he recommended me because we had parallel academic backgrounds. I then formally auditioned and became part of

the core orchestra. I'm fortunate: From the beginning, in addition to liking the orchestra, I liked the city.

Q: Are you ambidextrous?

A: No, I wish I was. It's one of the great challenges of percussion: To produce the same sound with both hands. With most other instruments, you combine what you do with one hand with what you do with the other hand.

Q: What is percussion to the orchestra's music?

A: Orchestral percussion is very different from other kinds of percussion.



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**BE BENEVOLENT.
BE BODACIOUS.
BELONG.
RENEW TODAY.**

Renew Your CSOL Membership Today!

Go to CSOLinc.org →
Membership →
Renew My Membership

Invite a friend to join.
Thanks for updating your
skills and interests

Leveille Interview, continued

In an orchestra, we highlight what others are playing; it's intermittent sound. In a marching band, by contrast, the percussion provides the cadence and you're playing non-stop.

Same thing with a drummer in a rock band. It's the continuous underlying beat. As a teacher of mine used to say, orchestral percussion is the salt and pepper in the stew.

Q: I've watched you do pieces when you have a cast of thousands playing percussion—what's that like?

A: When you see a group of us running around like the proverbial headless chicken, it's fun. But being part of a large section doesn't change your approach to playing. In most percussion sections, it's rare to be playing the same instrument as another member of the section. That's different from say, the violins. When the string section is increased in size, they're still playing the same part. As the Principal, I assign who is going to play which

instrument—bass, snare, xylophone, cymbals, triangle etc. My job is also to play the most challenging part—an aspect of the professional obligation.

Q: What's been your interaction with the CSOL?

A: THE MEALS. My accolades to the chef(s). The nature of the food seems to have changed—it's more substantial and healthy. (CSOL cooks are especially skilled with salads.)

Q: How did you fare during the pandemic?

A: I was busy, both taking care of my daughter who attended school virtually as well as working on the undergirding of my playing. Being a musician is ever-evolving. You never think, "I've got this down." It's constant work or you lose the necessary level of refinement. Being a professional musician is not only what you do, it's also who you are.

A gold cross and chain was found at 108 Murray Blvd on Sunday of the TOH. Contact claudiaporter@outlook.com

CSO & CSOL 2021 CALENDAR

JUNE

18	Virtual Scholarship Winner Recital 7:00 pm
27	Summer Fête Charleston Yacht Club 5:00 pm-7:30 pm

CSOL Scholarship Winner, Robbie Burleson, first-year oboist, was the runner-up in the concerto competition at the School of Music at UNCSA



Performances by eleven finalists, selected from across the School of Music, were judged on May 2. "It was a really difficult choice to make, and we see a bright future for Robbie," said the judges in their congratulatory video.

CSOL Scholarships 2022 SPREAD THE NEWS

More information
and applications at
csolinc.org

Applications Due:
January 18, 2022

Auditions:
March 5, 7-8, 2022,
at the College of Charleston

Students may apply for ONE
of these three scholarships:

1. \$2,000 College Scholarships and \$2,500 David and Karen Stahl Memorial Scholarship

☆ **Offered to:** Graduating high school seniors who plan to major in music performance, therapy, conducting, composition or education at an accredited college with an accredited music department.

☆ **Requirements:** Application with a minimum GPA of 2.5, SAT score of 1000 (not including the Writing score) or ACT of 21, letters of recommendation, and a successful audition.

☆ **Number offered:** Up to six scholarships; applicant with highest audition score will be honored with the David and Karen Stahl Memorial Scholarship (\$2,500) and up to five additional scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded.

2. Matching Grant Awards

The CSOL offers \$500, matched by the parent or guardian, for private music study.

☆ **Offered to:** Members of the Charleston Symphony Youth Orchestra/Strings (www.cyso.org).

☆ **Requirements:** CSYO/S member, application, and successful audition.

☆ **Number offered:** Up to five scholarships.

3. Summer Study Awards

☆ **Offered to:** Tri-county music students, 10 years old – 11th grade at intermediate and advanced levels of performance.

☆ **Requirements:** Application, including music teacher reference, minimum two years of current musical study, successful audition, and proof of summer study plans.

☆ **Number offered:** As funds allow.



CHARLESTON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA LEAGUE, INC.
Playing our part