

Madison Symphony Orchestra League Report to the MSO, January 2021

This is what we ask of you:

- Join our “**MSOL Connect**” – **The Evolution of the MSO Education Programs Thursday, January 28th at 7 pm featuring John DeMain, Kyle Knox, and Kathryn Schwarzmann.**
- Remind your friends of our **MSOL events** to keep our Concert on the Green, Parties of Note, and the Symphony Gala alive in the hearts and minds of our members and guests with your positive influence.
- Share any ideas for “virtual events and fundraisers” you may find interesting with Beth Rahko.
- Encourage membership of the MSOL to get our latest information and tell others about the League.

MSOL Updates

- **MSOL Receives \$1,000 Donation:** As part of their 25th-anniversary celebration, **Capitol Bank** is giving out 25 \$1,000 donations to various organizations in the Madison area -- each of their 25 longest-serving employees selected an organization as a recipient.

Paige Janquart, Accounting Associate, selected MSOL as her charity of choice. The money will go to support MSOL Connect and other programs for our members, as well as MSO's Community and Education programs. Thanks to Paige and Capital Bank for the generous donation!

- The “**MSOL Connect**” zoom events are ongoing with planned programs for John DeMain in January and Leatha Stanley in March. We have an enthusiastic and creative team of MSOL members, MSO staff, and Steve Kurr, teacher, orchestra director, and musicologist at Middleton High School and UW Madison Continuing Education. We produced two MSOL Connect June events but realized that one per month was best. Every month we are learning more about hosting live events on what I call “Model T Zoom” which gives us new twists at our every turn. It is a bit like “writing the score while our batons are in the air”. These past events are recorded and can be viewed on our MSOL website: <https://madisonsymphony.org/support-volunteer/madison-symphony-orchestra-league/>

June 20, 2020: Beethoven 250: Celebrate Beethoven: the person he was, the times he experienced, the music he composed, and the legacy he left for us.

June 29, 2020: Humor & Classical Music featuring the amusing aspects of classical music and how comedy is expressed in music.

July 23, 2020: Michael Wu Bolz Young Artist Competition participant and winner of The Finale Forte 2020 shared a piano performance from his home this summer. This two-minute work — ‘Country Gardens’ is followed by a Q&A with Kathryn Schwarzmann, MSO Director of Education & Community Development.

August 20, 2020: A Brief History of Music: A Review of The 6 Periods in Classical Music, and what defines each period and how each contributed to the music we listen to today.

September 24, 2020: Music and the Brain: Music has some fascinating effects on the brain, and we are just starting to explore and utilize these responses. Learn about music and its relationship to brain development, memory, and learning.

October 22, 2020: Music and Humor Part 2 The Parodists Musical parody has been around for centuries, and about 100 years ago musicians began to make entire careers from that special brand of musical humor, having fun with pop and classical music alike. Characters such as Victor Borge, Spike Jones, Anna Russell, Weird Al Yankovic, Tom Lehrer, and Peter Schickele will tickle your funny bones.

November 19, 2020: The Development of the Modern Orchestra and its Instruments Part 1. We trace the development of our modern orchestra: from its roots in ancient music a thousand years ago, through

the evolution of the instruments themselves, and to the (somewhat) standardized group of instruments we have seen on the Overture Center stage.

Our next MSOL Connect will be– The Evolution of the MSO Education Programs Thursday, January 28th at 7 pm featuring John DeMain, Kyle Knox, and Kathryn Schwarzmann. MSOL Members will receive email invitations to register for the Zoom link to attend.

- **The League of American Orchestras National Conference** was changed to a free virtual format from May 4 through June 12, 2020. They now offer three new Volunteer Council Conference sessions in 2021. In January on Traditions Reimagined: Resiliency Unveiled on Flexibility and Adaptability. In April on Membership. And in June on how to be an Effective Leader. The 2021 Conference will also be in the virtual format from June 7 - 17. **Our MSOL has been notified that we will be given a Spotlight award for our MSOL Connect at this 2021 national convention.**

- **MSOL created musical-themed fabric face masks.** If interested contact Beth Rahko 608-798-1999.

Parties of Note

The Parties of Note committee chaired by Judy Topitzes planned 15 parties for 2020 featuring music, art, historic homes, gardens, museums, the Arboretum, and more. Registration for **Parties of Note** was a huge success with many parties completely sold out. Two parties took place in February, but the remaining parties were postponed due to the social distancing restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic pause. We are incorporating 11 of these postponed parties into the new 2021 year.

Normally a new slate of parties would be announced in January of 2021 with a Passport of descriptions mailed. This year the committee has a new plan of action that is flexible called a "rolling registration". A postal flier with all the proposed parties listed will be mailed in March of 2021. A full description of the parties will be on our MSOL Website when the flier is mailed and will be updated as needed with changes as each party is "rolled out". Currently, 11 of the 2020 Parties will be rescheduled and 6 new parties will be added for 2021.

Those guests who were registered for specific 2020 parties will have the opportunity to confirm their registration for that party. Liaisons will be contacting guests for each party. After that, the party will be opened to new guests to register. We are calling this a "rolling registration" since each party will be filled within the 6 weeks before the party date. The website will show all the changes and when to allow registrants to fill the parties.

To view the events after the new slate of 2021 Parties of Note is updated guests will be guided to go to this website: <https://madisonsymphony.org/concerts-events/special-events/msol-parties-of-note/>

Concert on the Green

The 26th **Concert on the Green** was to be held Monday, June 15 was canceled due to the social distancing restrictions. Many of our generous sponsors have given from their hearts knowing we can not enjoy the event but we still need to support our MSOL's mission. The final 2020 COG (net after expenses) for the 2020 year is \$22,387. The proceeds benefit the **Symphony's Education and Community Engagement** programs, which make an immediate and lasting impact for people of all ages, from primary school to over 90 years old. The programs reach 25,000 people annually through 60+ schools in South

Central Wisconsin and over 10 centers for adults with disabilities and long-term illnesses.

We remain hopeful that a vaccine will be effective. Our new date for 2021 will be **Monday, June 21, 2021**. Our dynamic duo Co-chairs Bob Dinndorf and Nick Mischler and the COG committee are planning a fun day of golf, followed by a symphony concert and dinner at Bishops Bay Country Club. They are aware of all the precautions and are thinking of innovations for 2021. **Mike Lekrone** has consented to be our Honorary Golf Chair and will conduct one piece with our orchestra. We are extending our guest list to **include UW Band Alumni**. Bishop Bay has a newly renovated golf course. Also, six of our generous sponsors have given early commitments of \$17,704 for June 21, 2021. We are actively seeking new sponsors. If you know anyone who is interested please contact Beth Rahko at 608-798-1999. Bob says, "21 has just begun!"

Symphony Gala 2021

We regret that hosting a safe and joyous event of over 200 guests with social distancing was not possible this fall But we are beginning to plan for our new date of **September 10, 2021**. Our **Symphony Gala** co-chairs, Barbara Mittelstaedt Berven and Kathryn Belaire will plan the Gala to be an elegant evening with live music and the presentation of the **John DeMain Award for Outstanding Commitment to Music to Judith Topitzes** on **Friday, September 10, 2021**. Please save the date and tell your friends!

- The MSOL under COVID 19 restrictions is functioning well under ZOOM meeting formats since March.
- The MSOL has not hosted in-person events during this "Pandemic Pause" to keep our members safe.
- We are presently hosting ZOOM events as a way for our members to remain connected and engaged.

Social Activities

Upcoming Dates:

January 28, 2021 MSOL Connect: **The Evolution of the MSO Education Programs**

Canceled Events Rescheduled:

June 15, 2020 Concert on the Green moved to **June 21, 2021**

Sept. 11, 2020 Symphony Gala to be moved to **September 10, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Rahko, MSOL President
January 6, 2021