

## June 2020

This June is the beginning of my second year as president of the Madison Symphony Orchestra League. A former president and friend, **Pat Bernhardt**, said my second year would be easier. That was before what I am calling “**The Pandemic Pause**” with all the current changes in the world.

The MSOL did not “skip a beat.” We immediately transitioned all our meetings to Zoom and have canceled many in-person events. We now are creating a new “**Pandemic Plan**” which will keep our membership engaged and entertained during this Pandemic Pause. We have a new Zoom event called “**MSOL Connect.**” **June 15th** was our 1st — **Beethoven 250** and our 2nd is **Humor and Classical Music** on June 29th. We are also seeking members interested in sewing MSOL themed face masks (contact [bethrahko@hotmail.com](mailto:bethrahko@hotmail.com)). Please become part of our plan. We change with the times as needed.

For those of you unfamiliar with our MSOL history, the league was begun in 1956, starting small and by invitation. In the Presidency of Marion Bolz from 1977–1980, the League membership was opened to everyone and rose to a high of 500 members. We currently have 380 members who share **our mission to support the artistic, educational, financial, and community engagement goals of the Madison Symphony Orchestra.** We ask all of you who love music to invite others to join our MSOL. Tell your friends, everyone is welcome.

You should have received our MSOL 2019–20 Annual report that describes everything we have done for the past 12 months. The author of this colorful report is **Janet Cabot**, a recent MSOL president and presently a member of the National Volunteer Council of the League of American Orchestras. Our MSOL received two awards from the National League of American Orchestras this year. The *Gold Award* was for our MSOL E-News which is created and designed by **Susan Lee** who volunteers her expertise every month, The *Spotlight Award* was for our Volunteer Recognition Party which we plan to hold as soon as large groups can gather again.

Our financial support of the MSO is a result of our generous sponsors, our members, and their guests who attend our major and minor events: The Concert on the Green and the Symphony Gala both raised over 65,000 in 2019. The Parties of Note with 15 smaller events over 2019 raised \$25,000. The 2020 Concert on the Green, would have been June 15, 2020 — in beautiful weather. Just imagine . . . **400 guests** listening to our **orchestra** with **John DeMain** conducting, on the shore at **Bishops Bay** after a day of golf. Our **honorary golf chair would have been Mike Lekrone.** Hold that in your imagination because our **Pandemic Plan** is also to move these in-person large events forward to a time when it is safe to meet again. We ask you to mark your calendars now for the next **Concert on the Green on June 21, 2021.** We hate to cancel any event but we need to keep you safe. Our events are where friendship and music meet! We may be “paused” but we are prepared to meet this challenge with creativity and perseverance for the future.

It is with sincere pleasure that the MSOL presented a check for \$100,000 to our Madison Symphony Orchestra on June 16, 2020, at the annual MSO meeting. This money is a result of your membership and participation in all the MSOL has to offer. Thank you for being a member, you are greatly appreciated!

Your MSOL president,

**Beth Rahko**