

Rainier Symphony

Welcome to our 34th season!

1. Welcome

- Introduce members of the Board of Directors
 - Eric Tishkoff, President (clarinet)
 - Susan Reynolds, Vice President (flute)
 - Nancy Hall, Treasurer (violin II)
 - Annette Fanslow, Secretary (violin II)
 - Bryce Ferguson, webmaster (trombone)
 - Matt Robshaw (violin I)
 - Michael Zachary (cellist who recently moved to California)
 - We need some non-orchestra Board members; help us find good people!

2. The 2014-15 Season

- We'll have 5 guest conductors, one for each concert series; see details on the rehearsal schedule. Except for tonight, each conductor is scheduled to conduct all of the rehearsals for his series.
- John Welsh, who has been our Resident Conductor for the last 2 seasons, will assist us with repertoire, on-boarding the guest conductors, working with principals on auditions and personnel, and other artistic tasks normally handled by the Music Director. John will help provide continuity on the artistic side over the next two seasons of transition.
- The Tukwila School District would like to have a collaboration concert with Foster students and Rainier Symphony. This will not be a concerto competition or student musicians playing in the orchestra. Rather it will be something innovative such as students creating and presenting art which is inspired by our music. The event will likely be on a Tuesday night in February or March, and may or may not require full orchestra. We've had some great conversations with the school over the summer to toss around ideas, so now the school needs a little time to start the school year and get ideas from the student participants. This will be a fun event for the orchestra as well as the students, and will introduce classical music to a lot of students and families who haven't had much exposure to Western classical music. Stay tuned for more info!

3. Music Director Search

- We've been busy over the summer getting this season organized, so now it's time to turn our attention to the MD search
- The high-level process:
 1. Fall 2014: Form a committee; we'll provide committee 'job descriptions' and solicit volunteers from across the orchestra. This won't be a small time commitment, but it's very exciting work to play a direct role in shaping our future!
 2. Winter 2014: Finalize details of the process, and open the application process before the end of the year (ideally before Thanksgiving)
 3. January 2015: Application window closes
 4. January – April 2015: Committee reviews the applications, watches videos, holds interviews, and talks with references
 5. May 2015: Five finalists are selected; ideally announced by the May concert
 6. Over the 2015-16 season, orchestra rehearses and performs with the 5 finalists
 7. The new MD is selected after the May 2016 concert. Orchestra member feedback will be a very large part of the selection process, and we will also take into

consideration feedback from soloists as well as non-podium qualities such as ability to work with others, artistic vision, communication skills, follow-through, etc.

4. Tickets

- We increased our ticket prices slightly this year. General admission went up from \$15 to \$17, and student/senior increased from \$10 to \$12. Children 12 and under are still free. Advance tickets sold to orchestra members will still receive the \$2 discount.
- **Jean Coy** (violin II) will be the orchestra ticket coordinator. This includes your comp ticket, free child tickets, and \$2 discounted tickets. Please obtain your tickets from Jean no later than the dress rehearsal, rather than send people to the Box Office on concert days.
- If you are a teacher and would like free student tickets, please make a request to **Annette Fanslow** (violin II) so we can give you the tickets to distribute; please don't send the students or parents to the Box Office.
- Also contact Annette if you have any special ticket requests, such as tickets to donate to a charity event, a block of tickets to introduce the Symphony to a home school group, etc.

5. Personnel: absences, additional musicians, etc

- Principals will be on point to coordinate absences, subs, and additional musicians (bass clarinet, 6th horn, etc)
- Principals will check with you on your availability for rehearsals and concerts, and then we'll track this in a spreadsheet so we know if there are any gaps to be filled
- If things come up during the season, notify your Principal + attendance@rainiersymphony.org as soon as you are aware of an absence
- If you haven't done so already, trade email and phone #s with your Principal and stand partner / neighbor so you can stay in touch if something comes up
- Please refer to the additional handout, and keep it for future reference

6. Orchestra Rep & Committee elections

- Elect 2 Orchestra Reps to the Board, and 3 additional Committee members

7. Q&A

8. Closing

- Rainier Symphony exists because YOU are here!
- We hope each rehearsal and concert is an enjoyable and musically fulfilling experience

Musician/Personnel Reference Guide

Overview:

- This season we're going to switch to a more collaborative approach to keep track of musicians.
- Each musician will be part of the solution to finding qualified subs and additional musicians – leveraging their own networks to the extent possible. For example someone new to the area may not know anyone yet, while someone else in the section may know several great people. Also, collaborate across sections – trombonists often know good tubists and vice versa.
- In each section a person will be on point to coordinate personnel for the section. This point person will be the Principal, except for Violin I it will be Matt Robshaw (working in consultation with Ilkka).
- The Principal will keep track of absences and Subs, and also fill the section when additional musicians are needed such as bass clarinet or 4th flute.
- Principals and the musicians in their section should trade email addresses and phone #s so they can stay in contact. There is a space on the season Rehearsal Schedule to write in your Principal's info.
- While illnesses, business travel, and unexpected events can arise at the last minute, please plan as far ahead as possible. Good musicians' calendars fill up fast, and our concert dates sometimes conflict with other groups. It is not too early for us to be looking for musicians for the May concert in September. Please review the season's concert dates now and identify any conflicts.
- John Welsh and Matt Robshaw will work with the Principals to maintain a spreadsheet so we can keep track of our personnel comings-and-goings, and let the Conductors know of gaps at each rehearsal. The spreadsheet will also have the instrumentation needed for each piece, so for example the Principal clarinet will know how many players he needs, and if there is a special need such as alto or bass clarinet. John will handle harp and any other specialty instruments not in an orchestral section, such as saxophone.
- John/Matt will monitor a new email **Attendance@RainierSymphony.org** and respond accordingly.
- If we communicate as early as possible, and help each other both within and across sections, this should be a relatively easy process in most cases.
- Since this is new, there are bound to be bumps in the road. Your patience is appreciated, and your suggestions are welcome. We are all in this together!

Process for Absences:

1. Musician identifies the need to miss rehearsal(s) or concert(s) as far in advance as possible
2. Musician emails Principal and "Attendance@RainierSymphony.org" Even if last minute, please email so we don't wonder where you are. If the Musician is the Principal, emails Attendance@ and anyone else who needs to know such as their stand partner or Assistant/Second.
3. Principal makes the decision, based on the circumstances, whether a Sub is necessary and/or feasible. If it's a single rehearsal and a small part, or a single rehearsal for a section string player, or if it's last minute, finding a Sub may not make sense. The Principal will use his/her judgment since every situation is different.
4. If a Sub will be sought, Principal and Musician determine who will find the Sub, and details such as which rehearsals the Sub will need to attend, how to get the music to the Sub, etc
5. When the outcome is determined, Principal emails Attendance@ with the info: either no sub will be there, or sub's name, date(s) s/he will be playing, and his/her email address
6. If the Principal gets stuck (I've emailed every flautist in town and can't find anyone!), the Principal will email Attendance@ for help
7. John/Matt will update the musician spreadsheet, and add the Sub to the email distribution list for the concert series [this is used to send info on rehearsals and concerts, such as rehearsal order, call time, etc]

Process for Additional Musicians:

1. Prior to the start of rehearsals for a concert series, John will create a spreadsheet listing each piece and the required instrumentation
2. John will email the spreadsheet to the Principals
3. Principals will review, identify any gaps, and check with John on any questions (Does 6th horn need to attend every rehearsal?)
4. For any gaps, the Principal will find additional musicians as applicable
5. When an additional musician has been lined up, Principal emails Attendance @ with: musician's name, date(s) s/he will be playing, and his/her email address
6. If the Principal gets stuck, the Principal will email Attendance@ for help
7. John/Matt will update the musician spreadsheet, and add the additional musician to the email distribution list for the concert series