

GRACE NOTES

Oakland Symphony | Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra | Oakland Symphony Chorus

Dear Friends

Welcome to *Grace Notes*! In this newsletter, you'll find poignant reminders of the difference you continue to make in our community. A glimpse of your tenacity, of music passing from one generation to the next, and music-making during hard times.

Because of your belief in Oakland Symphony, you are still making music with us. You are a participant in the long story of symphonic music in the Bay.

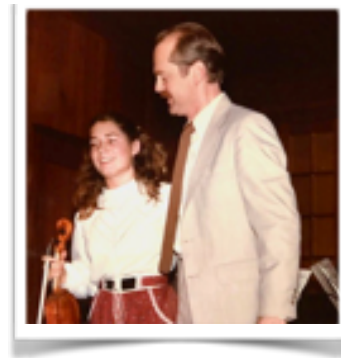
Thank you for being an indispensable part of that story.

Warmly,




Mieko Hatano
Executive Director

You Bring Families to the Stage



Daughter and Father musicians in recital

"I distinctly remember going to the Symphony and seeing Dad play," Oakland Symphony violinist **Ellen Gronningen** recalls.

Her father, Stuart Gronningen, joined the Symphony as a French Horn player in 1962. "As a little girl, everything is so big...seeing Dad play was so impressive!"

In 1993, Ellen joined the Symphony. She and her father played together under Maestro Michael Morgan until 2015, when Stuart retired.

Your long-standing belief in Oakland Symphony is a force that makes intergenerational music possible. Sharing Maestro Morgan's stage with her father, Ellen reflects, "I would always listen for him. He would always position his chair so he could look at me." "It really is a family, this orchestra."

Your passion for symphonic music creates more than concerts. You create a path for music to pass from generation to generation. From community to community. And from father to daughter.

Youth Orchestra Performers Persevere



Youth Orchestra Violinist Andrew Chan

Our next generation of symphonic musicians, **Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra (OSYO)**, continues to rehearse. Violinist **Andrew Chan** reflects on virtual rehearsal with OS musician coaches during COVID-19:

“In these uncertain times, the perseverance of music and virtual rehearsals, however, have been my constant. The nature of orchestra itself is based greatly on listening to others and reacting. But continuing to play in orchestra reminds me that **OSYO will always be there to support us and bring us together**, even if we are miles apart.”

These rehearsals represent a partnership. Between the next generation of symphonic musicians and you—someone who believes in them.

On Quiet Nights, The Chorus Conjures Joy

Every Wednesday, **Oakland Symphony Chorus** member **Mary-Jo Knight** logs onto Zoom. With a click, a musical community bursts into view.

“I am so grateful that we can share a couple of hours with each other every week. A laugh, a familiar measure that resonates...trusting that we can all do it together.”

Directed by Dr. Lynne Morrow, choristers rehearse beloved repertoire, such as “Mass for Freedom” a cancelled oratorio “Sanctuary Road.” **Your support lifts voices scattered across the East Bay.** “We believe in the energy we all share and that we will share in person again!”



Chorister Mary-Jo Knight

Virtual MUSE Lessons Educate Students



MUSE Fairyland Concert 2019

You are keeping music education in MUSE students' lives.

Oakland Symphony Double Bass player and MUSE Mentor Andy Butler reports, “The [online] lessons are going very well, and the students, parents, and OUSD music faculty are extremely grateful for the MUSE MENTOR support...**The kids have been really grateful to have this continuing connection and musical inspiration/education**, especially because they are feeling very isolated and somewhat depressed... **It is my sincere hope that we can continue to support them, and keep them practicing through the next few months...**”

Your support has created MUSE mentorships that can persist.