Feelin’ Groovy!

Dear Friends and Supporters of the YSO:

You may recall that, two years ago, we performed a great concert called The Piano Men: Music of Billy Joel & Elton John starring Jim Witter. You may also recall that, due to the incredibly positive response from the audience, right there on the stage I invited Mr. Witter and his band to return to Yakima in two years to play with us again. Well, that return engagement is now upon us. Jim Witter and his band are returning on April 25th for our next Memorial Pops Series concert: Feelin’ Groovy: The Music of Simon & Garfunkel! Backed up by the wonderful Yakima Symphony Orchestra, Jim and company will sing all of Simon & Garfunkel’s greatest hits including Mrs. Robinson, Scarborough Fair, I Am a Rock, The Sound of Silence, Homeward Bound, 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover, Slip Sliding Away and Bridge Over Troubled Water.

I would also like to personally invite you to our annual fundraiser on April 10th, this year entitled Starry Night. This is sure to be a beautiful, enjoyable gala evening complete with great food, live music and terrific auction items.

Finally, I should mention that our 2015-16 season, The World of Shakespeare, is now on sale. I am really excited about performing some of the incredible music written over the last few centuries that has been inspired by the genius of the greatest playwright the world has ever known. I sincerely hope you will join us for each and every one of our concerts next season. If you are not already a subscriber, this would be a great time to become one!

We look forward to seeing you on April 10th and 25th as we continue along with our 2014-15 season, Heavenly Thoughts!

Sincerely,

Lawrence Golan
The Helen N. Jewett Music Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra

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Stay in touch for music, podcasts and concert information. www.ysomusic.org
Prelude: Email vs. Snail Mail

In addition to our hard copy version of the Prelude, we produce a full-color, online version that includes program notes and artist bios. If you would prefer to save paper and postage by accessing only the electronic version of Prelude, please send a note to development@ysomusic.org and we will make this change.

YSO and BEAD & BODY’S

Creative Community Collaboration

Beard & Body’s next BEAD CHALLENGE is a little different for March/April. Beard & Body has teamed up with the YSO and the Raise the Baton Annual Gala Fundraiser for a little friendly competition! Rules: Using the colors/feelings of Van Gogh’s Starry Night painting, create a piece of jewelry to be entered into the competition and placed on the Bead Board through April 4th. The winning piece will be selected by members of YSO and donated for auction at Raise the Baton on April 10th. The winner will receive a pair of tickets to the YSO’s Pops Concert on April 25th and Classical Concert on May 16th. Deadline for contest is April 4th.

ANNOUNCING THE 2015-16 YSO SEASON:
THE WORLD OF SHAKESPEARE!

Next season features programs celebrating the life and work of the most influential playwright in history, alongside a variety of programs featuring amazing acrobatics, local songwriting talent, traditional Christmas favorites and a tribute to New Orleans jazz. In an effort to open subscriptions to a broader audience, subscription packages for the 2015-16 season have been priced to start as low as $32, and all handling and event fees have been eliminated! To order subscriptions or request a season brochure, call the YSO office at (509) 248-1414. For the online brochure, visit www.ysomusic.org.

EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE OF MAY 18!

YSO Ovation Award
Presented February 26, 2015

The YSO Ovation Award is given annually at our Ovation Reception & Recital event. It honors the important support of our volunteers and sponsors, the nature of which varies from person to person but the essence of which deepens our capacity to provide the beautiful and magical gift of live orchestral music in the Yakima Valley community.

The first Ovation Award was given to Sue Chirico-Coontz, whose work touches literally everyone connected with the YSO. Equal parts matchmaker and troubleshooter, there is no challenge she cannot overcome on behalf of the symphony.

This year’s Ovation Award was presented to an individual who, after a full and extraordinary work career, has created a full and extraordinary niche for himself in the YSO family. One sees this person at every concert and most YSO events. As often as you see him, he’s probably also looking at you, albeit through his own unique lens.

If you've been able to look at our photo albums or our regular images of the orchestra posted on Facebook, you are benefiting from the passion of Gary Miller. Gary offered his services as a volunteer several years ago and we have had a beautiful relationship ever since. His images help us keep the moments of a live performance alive in our memories. They show us the candor of rehearsals and the elegance of a polished performance. Because he knows us so well, his images reach in and pull out the best parts of ourselves. We are grateful.

RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE YAKIMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

We are celebrating our 20th Year serving the Yakima Area and glad to provide volunteer and financial support to worthy causes that make the Yakima area a better place to live and work.

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925 Triple Crown Way | Yakima, WA 98908
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Affiliate & Partnership Updates

Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra (YYSO) & Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!) www.yyso.org  
Bruce Walker, YYSO Conductor and YSO Cover Conductor  
Christy Baisinger, YES! Conductor

Please join the YYSO and YES for the following performances.

- **April 11, 7:00pm @ Davis High School Auditorium. Carmen Redux:** a community opera education and performance event sponsored by the YSO Opera Committee, coordinated by YSO Founding Music Director Emeritus Brooke Creswell and conducted by the YSO’s Maestro Lawrence Golan. This project will feature the YYSO, YES! and YAMA with opera vocalists Sarah Mattox (Carmen), Ross Hauck (Don Jose) and Charles Robert Stephens (Escamillo) and Nancy Beier, Narrator, Host and international opera performer. **FREE!**

- **April 26, 3:00pm @ The Capitol Theatre. Spring Concert. YYSO and YES! in concert with YAMA.** This is our culminating concert showcasing the 49th season and honoring graduating seniors. The senior division winner of the 2015 YYSO Concerto Competition will perform with the orchestra on this concert. **FREE!**

- **2015-16 Youth Orchestra Auditions:** Mondays on April 27 and May 11; Saturdays on May 2 and May 9. For information and to sign up, please visit www.yyso.org and click the “Students” and then “Auditions” tabs or call (509) 930-3324.

Yakima Symphony Chorus (YSC) / Dr. Scott Peterson, Chorusmaster

The YSC is in the midst of preparation for a concert on **Sunday, May 3rd** in conjunction with the Eisenhower High School Chorus, directed by Laurel Moore. We’re also looking forward to our May performance of Mahler Symphony No. 2 with the YSO. Stay tuned for details!

Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA) / Stephanie Hsu, Director

March was a full month for the YAMA program! YAMA generated a lot of excitement and buzz at its First Friday Benefit Show at Gilbert Cellars, featuring local Latin musical group La Cantina; and performances at the Light Project Gallery at the Seasons and the Upbeats Series at Englewood Christian Church drew enthusiastic crowds. YAMA students and faculty are eagerly gearing up for the **Carmen Redux production on Saturday, April 11 at 7:00pm at the Davis High School Auditorium.** Hosted by the YSO Opera Committee, this performance will be conducted by Maestro Lawrence Golan and will include also students from the YYSO and YES!

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From Misfit to Maestro: How Classical Music Changed My Life  
TEDxYakimaSalon — **Transformation**

Lawrence Golan  
Presented February 7, 2015 in Yakima, WA  
Published on March 4, 2015 on YouTube

Professional orchestra conductor Lawrence Golan talks about life lessons learned through classical music: courage, discipline, perseverance and being inspired by greatness. He also discusses how by pursuing perfection, even when we can’t attain it, we achieve greater heights than we otherwise would.

To listen to the talk, please visit: www.ysomusic.org/about/conductor/
Whether it be his country music, contemporary Christian, or the music of Billy Joel and Elton John, Jim Witter’s versatility as an artist has allowed him the opportunity to reach out and share his music and his infectious personality with audiences of all ages across Canada and the United States. His unique approach and comfortable rapport makes each member of his audience feel as though they are a part of a private concert in the comfort of their own living room. This, along with his rich, powerful voice and ease of manner at the piano, make him a favorite with theatregoers everywhere.

It all started at a very early age, as Jim began performing in the comfort of his own living room. His mother would play piano, and Jim would belt out the hits, everything from the Beatles to Broadway musicals. Not bad for a four-year-old! All through his school years, Jim knew that he was destined to have a career in the music business. “I never really thought of doing anything else,” he says, “and neither did my parents because they always encouraged me to follow my dream.” And follow it he did. Jim paid his dues, playing in the clubs and bars around Southern Ontario for years. He would write songs and record demos during the day, and play in the clubs at night to pay the bills. Jim met his wife Rebecca in 1985. Together, they worked tirelessly to promote Jim’s talent and music in hopes that one day their efforts would be recognized. Finally in 1990, one of Jim’s demos came to the attention of a Sony Music Canada executive, which really got Jim’s recording career rolling. A record deal with a smaller independent label in Canada soon gave way to a multi-record deal with Curb Records of Nashville, home of Tim McGraw, Leanne Rimes and Wynonna Judd. From his first self-titled record to All My Life and Forgiveness, Jim has had 10 top-ten radio hits in Canada, 7 hit videos on CMT, and impressive chart action in the U.S. on Billboard and R&R.

Jim’s music and songwriting have been recognized on both sides of the border, earning him multiple awards and nominations from the Canadian Country Music Association, the Juno Awards, and most recently the Dove Awards in Nashville, where Jim’s album Forgiveness was nominated for Inspirational Album of the year. “Songwriting has always been a real love of mine,” says Jim. “I feel very fortunate to have been able to work with so many incredible song-writers over the past years, like Steve Wariner for instance. Not only have the collaborations produced songs that I am very proud of, but I have gained an invaluable education and created lifelong friendships along the way.”

A few years ago, Jim came up with the concept for the show “The Piano Men,” a musical journey through the ’70s featuring the songs of Billy Joel and Elton John. “I was always a big fan of acoustic music – especially the folk of the ’70s: James Taylor, Harry Chapin,” he reveals, “but my real mentors were Billy Joel and Elton John.” This multi-media rock musical has turned out to be a hit, receiving rave reviews from music critics all across North America.

Jim still lives in Southern Ontario with his wife, Rebecca, and their four children, James, Roslyn, Ryan and Luke. A devoted family man, Jim is also very active in his community, supporting numerous charities and organizations, especially those which benefit children and their families. “All I’ve ever wanted from this business is to be able to support my family and to make people feel a little better when they hear my music. To help them forget about their troubles for a while and enjoy the moment,” he concludes. “If I can continue doing this 5, 10, 15 years down the road, I’ll be perfectly happy.”