**Christmas Pops Spectacular**

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra:

On Saturday December 3rd AND Sunday December 4th, both at 4:00pm, we will continue our 2016-17 Season, *A Musical Journey Through Time*, with our annual **Christmas Pops Spectacular**. Due to the overwhelming popularity of this annual event, this year, for the first time, we have expanded to two performances. If anyone you know might have been turned away from sold out concerts in the past, please let them know about the extra performance this year. The program, suitable for the whole family, represents a blend of tradition and innovation. On one hand, the orchestra and chorus will perform all of your favorite Christmas classics from Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* to Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” from the *Messiah*. On the other hand, each year we include fresh new music and present a different guest group to join the orchestra and chorus. This year, we will be joined by the Yakima Jazz Sextet led by Doug Ramsey. There will be a swinging jazz twist to several of the selections on this year’s program. If you have young kids or grandkids, they might be interested to know that we will also be playing music from *Frozen*! Finally, make sure to warm up your vocal cords and be ready to join the entire cast at the end of the concert for our traditional sing-along that includes family favorites from *Joy to the World* to *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*!

We look forward to seeing you on December 3rd OR 4th at the Capitol Theatre for our annual **Christmas Pops Spectacular**!

Sincerely,

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

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**GUEST CONDUCTORS**

You can look forward to special guest conductors on each of our next two programs! Those who attended the April 2016 *Raise the Baton* gala will recall the fast-paced bidding for “Conduct the YSO” an opportunity to conduct the Yakima Symphony Orchestra for one selection on a concert. Each performance of the *Christmas Pops Spectacular* will feature a very special guest selected by the winning bidders; come to the concerts to see who they are!

For our February 4th *Classical Series* concert, *The Romantics*, Maestro Golan will conduct Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony; but when he picks up his violin to join cellist John Marshall as soloist for the Brahms Double Concerto, podium duties will fall to none other than YSO Music Director Emeritus Brooke Creswell. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime event!
From the Executive Director

After another astonishing performance with guest pianist Alexander Kobrin in Classical Classics, the musicians of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra are gearing up to bring you our annual Christmas Pops Spectacular! Since a number of you were caught off guard by our family-friendly matinee starting time for Halloween, I would like to draw attention to a couple of important points:

Since last year’s Christmas Pops program sold out a week in advance, we have added a second performance this year: a Saturday afternoon performance, to complement our usual Sunday afternoon show. Please check your tickets to be sure which performance they are for – if you are a subscriber and did not indicate a preference on your order form, you were automatically placed in the Sunday show. Since the Saturday performance is new, it may be easier to move into that show than to move from Saturday to Sunday; but both performances are selling briskly even prior to Thanksgiving, so please make any adjustments as soon as possible! Also, note that both performances are at 4pm at the Capitol Theatre. If you’re coming Sunday, there will be a parade in front of the theater at the end of the show, so if you need to make a quick exit be sure to plan your parking accordingly.

As December 31st approaches, along with best wishes for the entire holiday season, I offer a brief mention of our annual fund campaign, which launched during the week of our last concert – many thanks to so many of you who have already responded! Additionally, for those who have attained a certain degree of wisdom and experience, I add a reminder that Congress one year ago made permanent the tax benefit for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from individual retirement accounts. Beginning at age 70½, up to $100,000 may be transferred each year directly from your IRA to a not-for-profit entity to reduce or avoid a variety of tax burdens, and to satisfy the required minimum distribution. We have been encouraged to make this opportunity more widely known – as one patron put it earlier this year, “It’s so easy!” We would be delighted to have a conversation if you think this could be of interest to you; just give me or Betsy a call at the YSO office.

Meanwhile, I hope you’ll bring all your friends, neighbors and family to help us celebrate the Christmas season with our Symphony Chorus, along with special guests the Yakima Jazz Sextet and the Yakima Valley College Choir, at our Christmas Pops Spectacular. See you there!

David Rogers, Executive Director
Yakima Symphony Orchestra

YSO! Share the experience of live symphonic music with others in our community—bring friends and acquaintances to our concerts, give your tickets to others when you can’t attend and help us tell all of the Yakima Valley what a remarkable treasure we have in our symphony.

RBC Wealth Management is a proud sponsor of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra

Celebrating 22 years of volunteer and financial support to Yakima Valley organizations who share our commitment to making the Yakima Valley a better place to live and work.

The Bohoskey Group
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Affiliate & Partnership Updates

Yakima Symphony Chorus (YSC)
Justin Raffa, Chorusmaster

The Symphony Chorus is busily preparing for our part in the upcoming Christmas Pops Spectacular on December 3rd and 4th, where we’ll be joined by singers from the Yakima Valley College Choir. Be sure to warm up your vocal cords to sing along at the end of the show!

In January, we will begin preparation for our non-orchestral program early in the spring, followed by participation in YSO’s production of Die Fledermaus and the season finale, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. If you’d like to join us for one or more of these programs, please contact Justin Raffa at chorusmaster@ysomusic.org. We rehearse Monday nights at 7pm at St. Paul’s Cathedral, and new members are always welcome!

Yakima Youth Symphony Orchestra (YYSO) & Yakima Ensemble for Strings (YES!) YYSO.ORG
Bruce Walker, YYSO Conductor / Christy Baisinger, YES! Conductor

The YYSO and YES are preparing for two beautiful concerts in December. On Saturday, December 3 at 11:00am, the YYSO will open the traditional Yakima Valley Museum Holiday Open House. On Sunday, December 11 at 3:00pm, the YYSO and YES will present the Winter Concert in this, their 51st season. Both concerts are FREE. We look forward to seeing you in the audiences!

- **December 3**, Saturday, 11:00am at the Yakima Valley Museum: Holiday Performance @ the Yakima Valley Museum Holiday Open House – FREE!
- **December 11**, Sunday, 3:00pm at the Capitol Theatre: Winter Concert – FREE!
- **February 26**, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Capitol Theatre: KinderKoncert – FREE!
- **March 17**, Friday at 7:00pm at the Harman Center: Waltzing With the Youth Symphony Fundraiser - $15 per ticket
- **April 23**, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Capitol Theatre: Spring Concert – FREE!

Spring semester auditions for aspiring YYSO and YES students: **Saturday, January 7**. For information and/or to request an audition spot, please visit www.yyso.org.

Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA)
Stephanie Hsu, Director

YAMA would like to invite you to their Winter Concert, which will be on **December 17th at 2pm** at the Seasons Performance Hall. It will showcase all three of YAMA’s orchestras: the beginning Preludio Orchestra, the intermediate Chamber Orchestra, and the public debut of YAMA Philharmonia from Davis High School. The event is free and open to the public, and donations are welcome. Special thanks to the Seasons for their incredible generosity in supporting this event!

Meet The Orchestra!

Children learn what they live…
The YSO joins the Yakima Valley Museum on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am at their children’s story hour. **FREE!**

**Wednesday, December 7th**

**Wednesday, January 4th**

Meet the Orchestra Memory & Matching Game (Beta Edition)

Available at “Meet the Orchestra” on the first Wednesday of each month!

- Have fun!
- Build vocabulary!
- Learn the instruments of the orchestra!
- Learn the composers!
- Enjoyable for all ages!

Subscriptions Make Wonderful Gifts!

Yakima Symphony Orchestra 16-17 Season, February – May 2017

- **CAPITOL SERIES** (6 concerts)
- **CLASSICAL SERIES** (4 concerts)
- **POPS SERIES** (2 concerts)

Call the YSO office (509) 248-1414 for information. Order by December 20 — Pick up by December 22
Yakima Jazz Sextet

Years ago, a rotating group of Yakima Valley musicians began getting together for weekly jam sessions. They still do. For this Christmas celebration with the YSO, some of them became the Yakima Jazz Sextet. They are Josh Yohe and Derek Gore, saxophones; Doug Ramsey, trumpet; Bart Roderick, piano; Bob Waldbauer, bass; and Don Kinney, drums.

Yakima Symphony Chorus

The Yakima Symphony Chorus was formed in the spring of 1971 by the Yakima Symphony Orchestra’s founding music director, Brooke Creswell, as the official choral ensemble of the symphony. Dr. Scott Peterson led the chorus for 38 years from 1977-2015, during which time the chorus toured Europe and Asia and performed at Carnegie Hall. Justin Raffa has served as chorusmaster since 2015, and the current season marks Steven Slusher’s debut as assistant chorusmaster. The chorus rehearses on Monday evenings from September to May and is open to all singers in the community. For audition information, contact Mr. Raffa at chorusmaster@ysomusic.org.