



## SAVE OUR SERIES

**Chamber Music Corvallis asks your help to save our concert series.**

Fifty-four years ago, Chamber Music Corvallis began as a way to bring to Corvallis chamber music of the highest quality, played by nationally- or internationally-known ensembles. Young up-and-coming groups as well as world-famous ensembles have drawn standing ovations here in Corvallis. None of our musical and educational offerings could have happened without the support and encouragement of you, our very loyal audience.

However, in order to continue the concert series, CMC must make firm commitments, including signing contracts, one to two years in advance. Presenting a 2014-2015 season will require planning for and securing funds before the end of the 2012-2013 season. That necessitates our having your continuing firm commitment and support.

The problem faced by every organization presenting musical programs of the caliber of Chamber Music Corvallis is making ends meet. As is usual with endeavors of this sort, expenses tend to increase yearly. The prices to hear these performing ensembles (representing 2/3 of our expenses) have risen substantially while ticket sales and donations to CMC have declined over the past two years, to a point that they no longer cover our costs. The gap between costs and income may become unsustainable.

CMC is almost totally dependent on ticket sales and contributions. Yet, our core audience has been dwindling and is not being replaced by a new audience. Grant money for operating costs is nearly impossible to obtain. More and more musical organizations are appealing to the same limited pool of patrons, donors, and sponsors.

**Therefore, we are asking you, our loyal audience, to assist us in the following ways:**

Consider sponsoring a concert or co-sponsoring one with other interested parties. You can sponsor an individual performance for as little as \$1000, or co-sponsor with a friend for as little as \$500.

Donate to CMC's general operating fund in any amount or increase your current donation. We definitely encourage 100% giving on the part of our audience. Donations to CMC, a 501c3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible.

Include a donation to CMC in your estate planning.

Buy season subscriptions; pre-sold tickets are essential to our financial planning and allow us to make commitments for future seasons. Do so with the knowledge that you

will be hearing terrific music at a fraction of the price you would have to pay north or south of Corvallis.

Since word-of-mouth is our strongest sales technique,

- invite friends and new neighbors to attend concerts with you, and/or
- use social media (Facebook, Twitter) to publicize CMC concerts among your friends and contacts.

Encourage businesses that you know and patronize to sponsor concerts. Business sponsorships begin by purchasing advertisements in our season program book and continue up to full sponsorship of a performance.

Volunteer to help us produce these amazing concerts, a labor intensive process. We need people to share the responsibilities, either by serving on the board or on an ad hoc committee or volunteering with specific tasks. Note that we do not have any paid staff. If interested in volunteering, please contact me.

How we might reduce expenses - Our 2013-2014 season will have six concerts, locked in contractually prior to the recent decline in ticket sales and donations. Currently under consideration by the CMC Board, however, are the following two points, about which we would like your feedback:

1. The 2014-2015 season will have only four concerts unless more funding is available.
2. Since we must strike a balance between quality and expense, our Program Director will seek out outstanding young ensembles, with lower fees, that have the gift of talent and can bring us a fresh interpretive viewpoint of the classical masters as well as modern composers.

For more than fifty years we have enjoyed an opportunity truly rare for residents of cities the size of Corvallis: the chance to hear the world's finest musical ensembles right here in our own community. There has been no need to make the long (dark) drive to and from Eugene or Portland; Chamber Music Corvallis brings us the finest music, up close and personal, conveniently and at a reasonable cost. Please help us continue a long-standing Corvallis tradition by responding to this appeal.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you.

Robert Verhoogen  
CMC Board Chair

Please respond to: by email to [robertverhoogen@yahoo.com](mailto:robertverhoogen@yahoo.com), by letter to Robert Verhoogen, 6565 NW Vineyard Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330, or by phone at 541 745-5185.

