



RENO PHIL FACT SHEET

ABOUT: The Reno Philharmonic was founded in 1969 and is the largest performing arts organization in the Reno-Tahoe region with more than 60 professional musicians under the leadership of Music Director Laura Jackson. The Reno Phil Orchestra regularly performs in Reno, Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe in various outdoor and indoor venues. Reaching more than 70,000 people each year, the orchestra presents more than 25 concert performances annually with several offered at no cost to the community. The popular Classix Series is presented from October through April. The Reno Phil is a resident company of the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: In Laura Jackson's five seasons as music director and conductor, she has lead the creation of an original piece and three compositions. Her successes include the Composer-in-Residence program that has so far featured Sean Shepherd, composer of *"Desert Garden,"* a piece commissioned to highlight the Nevada landscape, and Michael Gandolfi, composer of *"Chesapeake: Summer of 1814,"* a piece commissioned to celebrate the 200th anniversary of *"The Star-Spangled Banner."*

Jackson came to Reno after completing three years as Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under Robert Spano, while maintaining an active guest-conducting career with ensembles throughout the world, including Baltimore, Cape Cod, Philippines and Winnipeg. She studied conducting at the University of Michigan with Ken Kiesler and attended the Tanglewood Music Center in 2003 as the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellow.

RENO PHIL MANAGEMENT: The Reno Phil and Chorus are supported by the board of trustees and administrative staff members, volunteers and a technical crew.

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CLASSIX SIX SERIES: In its 47th season, the six-concert Classix series is the keystone of the Reno Phil performance schedule. The Classix concerts are performed from October to April on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno, Nevada. Prior to each concert, Music Director and Conductor Laura Jackson holds a concert preview, an informative discussion of the evening's program that is extremely popular with patrons.

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

CHESAPEAKE: Sept. 14, 1814, "*The Star-Spangled Banner*" was penned by Francis Scott Key following the raising of the American flag during a crucial victory of the War of 1812. Two hundred years later to the exact date, the Reno Phil opened its 2014-15 Classix Series Sept. 14, 2014 with a reprise performance of the original composition by Michael Gandolfi, "*Chesapeake: Summer of 1814.*"

The Reno Phil commissioned "*Chesapeake*" especially for the bicentennial and premiered it in March 2013 receiving an overwhelming positive response and national attention. Composer Michael Gandolfi and visual artist Anne Patterson teamed up to create a compelling new multi-media composition. Under the direction of Jackson and backed by the Reno Phil Orchestra and Chorus, the original piece combines a symphonic score, historical melodies, choral songs, timed lighting, supertitles and projected imagery to pay homage to the anthem by depicting the story of its creation through the performance.

HOME MEANS NEVADA:

The Reno Phil celebrated Nevada's sesquicentennial with a Nevada 150th signature event dedicating the entire performance to the state during its Classix Two concert, Oct. 11, 12 and 14, 2014. This milestone performance marked the first full orchestral and choral arrangement of the state's song, "*Home Means Nevada.*"

Classix Two features the David Bugli arrangement of "*Home Means Nevada,*" originally composed by Bertha Raffetto. This piece was commissioned by the Reno Phil and made possible through a grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation.

SPECIALTY PERFORMANCES:

- May: Reno Phil Gala, the orchestra's annual fundraiser
- December: Spirit Of The Season, the annual holiday music celebration for families featuring classic holiday and Christmas arrangements and special guest artists and performers
- November: Family Concert, a family-friendly introduction to the orchestral concert experience
- July: Fourth of July at Wingfield Park

- July: Pops On The River, a summer outdoor concert highlighted by a community-wide, themed-dress celebration of music and popular cultural themes
- July: Broadway On The Beach, a summer concert on the beach in Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe which features Broadway and pop pieces
- July: Pops At The Ranch, a Boston Pops-inspired performance that features the artistry and range of the Reno Phil

EDUCATION: The Reno Phil boasts a diverse education department, which includes three youth orchestras, a series of 10 Young People’s Concerts (YPCs) performed throughout the school year, Reno Phil Kids (RPAK), an after-school violin instruction program, the Discover Music program, which brings music ensembles into schools and a free Family Concert. The education programs reach more than 35,000 school-aged children per year and works in tandem with the Washoe County School District to cover many areas of music and arts education.

YOUTH ORCHESTRAS: The mission of the Reno Phil Youth Orchestras (RPYO) is to provide an exceptional orchestral experience where students in grades fourth to twelfth learn, share and experience the performance of music to the benefit of the community. RPYO represents more than 220 young musicians selected by open regional auditions. Many RPYO members regularly travel 100 miles or more to attend weekly rehearsals and training. All three orchestras, symphony, concert and strings, perform at the annual fall and spring concerts at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. Student members benefit from full orchestral rehearsals, sectional coaching from professional musicians and high-level guest conductors. Additionally opportunities for youth include a Concerto Competition, Young Musicians Showcase, tuition scholarships, competition winner scholarships and senior scholarships.

INFORMATION:

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