

Conductor's Report October 23, 2018

Thank you to all of the board members and volunteers who make this fine organization possible. With out all of you, arts groups such as ours would not be possible and our society would be dreary indeed. When I think back to last year it is hard to believe we accomplished so much in one season. It is through challenging ourselves in these programs that we become aware of new abilities and are presented with ever more exciting opportunities.

The 2017/2018 season began with a fantastic joint concert together with the Chorus featuring music by Korngold and Vaughan Williams. Again we continued the season with a fund raising concert for the Richmond Food Bank, a concert with concerto winners chosen by the Richmond Music Festival and a concert featuring our very own Bernard Blary performing the Ibert Flute concerto. The season concluded with the chorus and orchestra celebrating the great American composer John Williams. I would especially like to thank Brigid and the Chorus for giving us the opportunity to perform together at our November and June concerts! The orchestra members thoroughly enjoy making such a wonderful sound together and it is very gratifying being part of such a successful season.

Looking forward, the 2018/2019 season will also begin with a concert featuring the Orchestra and Chorus. This time we will have internationally renowned piano soloist Sasha Starcevich perform the Beethoven Choral Fantasy and the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto. Christmas will be another joint concert feature excerpts from the Messiah as well as other Christmas Favourites. The new year will again feature young soloist chosen from the Richmond Music Festival and a return of our audience favourite Nancy DiNovo performing the Dvorak Violin Concerto. The season will conclude with another joint concert featuring the spectacular Dee Daniels!

I believe one of the Richmond Orchestras greatest strengths is its engagement with youth. Each year members of the Richmond Orchestra perform 6 school concerts featuring a young soloist as well as music from Saint Saens' Carnival of the Animals. Over many years it is very possible that we have performed for over 5000 Richmond elementary school students. We also try to feature as many young talented soloists during our regular season as well as our Richmond Music Festival collaboration concert in February. We have possibly had up to 50 amazing young soloists have the once in a lifetime opportunity to perform a solo with an orchestra.

It is through challenging ourselves in these programs that we become aware of new abilities and are presented with ever more exciting opportunities. I believe the orchestra has come a long way in the past several years. We have grown in membership and have become recognized as one of the leading amateur orchestras in the lower mainland. Thank you to Cathy and the Board for all of the support and encouragement that you have provided the orchestra. Each season we grow and become stronger in numbers and ability.

And finally I would like to thank Meghan for all of the hard work she does to keep us organized, book rehearsal and performance venues, contact sponsors and supporters and all the other jobs that are done so efficiently.

When we look at this organization and what it has accomplished in the last year it is truly remarkable. We perform music covering over 200 years of history and in a great diversity of styles and cultures. We include members that are enthusiastic amateurs to aspiring students to dedicated professionals. We perform great concerts of fabulous music to appreciative audience and we also take this music out to the community to people who are not able to come to our concerts. We also support many community events and organizations beyond the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus. For all of these things we can be truly proud that we have enriched our society in such a positive way.

James Malmberg