THE GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

61st SEASON

Grant Harville
MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

WITH WORLD ARTIST

Béla Fleck

SEASON SPONSORED BY

DAVIDSON
Dear friends,

As I look forward to my third year with the GFSA, I’m struck by how thoroughly the notion of collaboration pervades our 61st season. This starts with a slate of guest artists that should have you counting down the days with anticipation: a pair of brilliant sopranos (long-time friend of the Symphony Stephanie Jennings and long-time friend of mine Caitlin Cisler); silky-smooth cellist Inbal Segev; and, of course, the latest performer in the GFSA's World Artist Series, legendary banjoist Béla Fleck.

We’ve also reserved a featured spot for our most frequent collaborator: our own Symphonic Choir. Celebrating its 60th anniversary (having started a year later than the orchestra), the Choir will premiere a new work in December with a text specially commissioned for the occasion from local poet Paul Zarzyski, one of the leading voices in western poetry, as well as presenting Jubilee, a stand-alone program in March. Finally, our resident chamber ensembles, the Cascade Quartet and Chinook Winds, will finish the year by welcoming a larger-than-usual contingent of performers to join them on a diverse program of works for chamber orchestra.

The last piece of the puzzle, as always, is you. I remain deeply gratified by the enthusiastic and generous support this community provides its orchestra, and we hope to continue to earn and reward that support next year and beyond. It’s a cliché, but it’s no less true for being so: we couldn’t do it without you.

See you at the Symphony!
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Paintings and brochure design by Pam Lemelin, Renaissance Creative
Legends, Myth & Antiquity

Once heard, never forgotten.
That’s what makes a piece of music legendary.

Our 61st Season opens with a concert celebrating the music of legendary myths past and present, plus a performance by a potential legend-in-the-making.

Soar with the dynamic music from two award-winning film scores: John Powell’s *How to Train Your Dragon* and Howard Shore’s iconic *The Lighting of the Beacons* from *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. The classically trained Powell’s credits include scores for *Happy Feet*, *Kung Fu Panda*, and *Solo: A Star Wars Story*. Shore’s work on the final installment of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Ring series that captured the hearts of moviegoers everywhere, is the most expansive of the three scores. We highlight the dramatic and emotional music from one of the movie’s best-known scenes.

When Richard Wagner, the composer of the original “Ring” series, first conceived *Der Ring das Nibelungen* in the 1840s, he envisioned it as a single opera called *Siegfried’s Death*. Although his concept grew to become a legendary cycle of four operas, the moment of Siegfried’s death brings the strands of the plot together, combining epic grandeur and poignant humanity.

Soviet composer Dmitry Kabalevsky spent much of his career in efforts to connect children to music. He wrote, “Children have always held a special place in my musical life. For me, there can be neither music nor life without children.” It is fitting then, that we feature Benjamin Hodson, a 2019 winner of the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestra’s statewide competition. This talented Great Falls youth will perform Kabalevsky’s *Piano Concerto No. 3*.

The tragic tale of the Greek mythological lovers Medea and Jason is the basis for American composer Samuel Barber’s *Medea’s Dance of Vengeance*. Cinematic in texture, the music conjures up all the emotion of two people caught in nets of jealousy and destructive love.

Italian composer Ottorino Respighi’s *Pines of Rome* is a suite of four movements depicting nature and the iconic pine trees located throughout Rome at various times of day: *Pines of the Villa Borghese*, *The Pines Near a Catacomb*, *The Pines of the Janiculum*, and *The Pines of the Appian Way*. The orchestra, especially our brass section, will be expansive for this exceptional piece. A nightingale graces one of the movements.

GFSYMPHONY.ORG
LEGENDS

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

7:30 SATURDAY
October 5
2019
Old as the hills,
as young as a dream.

Living in the Promised Land

American composers Bernstein, Howe, Copland, and Fleck; Billy the Kid, gunfights, a card game, and the open prairie—it’s all here in the music of America.

We’re proud to present Béla Fleck, winner of numerous awards, including a Grammy for Best Classical Crossover Album.

The evening opens with the music of Leonard Bernstein’s sprightly Overture to Candide, followed by American composer Mary Carlisle Howe’s impressionistic Stars.

Aaron Copland, the “Dean of American Composers,” evokes the vast American landscape and pioneer spirit in his Suite from Billy the Kid. It begins with a song of the sweeping open prairie, then shifts to a gunfight in a small frontier town, a card game, and ends in the ultimate demise of the young gunslinger.

Béla Fleck has taken a circuitous route to his foray into the classical field of music. A powerful creative force in bluegrass, jazz, pop, rock, and world music, Fleck premiered The Juno Concerto with the Canton Symphony Orchestra in 2016. Named for his young son, the concerto has received rave reviews. “...the interplay between banjo and orchestra—alternating at times, converging at others—falls into a groove that makes this unusual alignment feel perfectly natural,” said relix.com reviewer Jeff Tamarkin. “...you’ll be wondering why banjos and orchestras aren’t sharing stages all the time.”

Raised in New York City, Fleck first heard the sounds of bluegrass as a young boy. “It was like sparks going off in my head,” said Fleck, who could only dream of what was to come. Now called the world’s premier banjo player, he has appeared on late night TV shows with Letterman, Leno, Fallon, and O’Brian, as well as on Saturday Night Live, Sesame Street, and Austin City Limits.
AMERICANA

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

WITH WORLD ARTIST

Béla Fleck

7:30 SATURDAY
November 9
2019
Winter’s footsteps in the meadow

Music of poetry drifts into song

This year’s Holiday Concert celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Great Falls Symphonic Choir with the debut of a composition by well-known cowboy poet Paul Zarzyski and our own music director and conductor Grant Harville.

A carol sing-along and a very special guest conductor for the annual rendition of Sleigh Ride herald the start of the Yuletide Season. David Saslav, a member of our Symphonic Choir, won the unique opportunity.

Noted for his light music compositions, contemporary English composer Philip Lane’s Three Wassail Dances is themed around the Christmas seasons of Somerset, Yorkshire, and Gloucestershire.

The surviving fragments of Felix Mendelssohn’s unfinished oratorio, Christus, is based on the story of the Magi and features a recitative, a chorus There Shall a Star Come out of Jacob, and a male voice trio.

A cinematic tone poem that conveys the thrill of downhill skiing with “orchestral whirring and whooshing,” Slalom, by American composer Carter Penn, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Known for poetry that showcases his love and respect for the land, Paul Zarzyski has composed three poems to be sung by the Symphonic Choir, with music composed by Grant Harville. Zarzyski, the 2005 recipient of the Montana Governor’s Arts Award for Literature, has performed at the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada for the past 30 years, as well as done recitations at the National Book, Folk, and Storytelling Festivals, at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, and the Library of Congress. Featured on Garrison Keillor’s A Prairie Home Companion and CBS’s Sunday Morning, Zarzyski is the author of 12 books and chapbooks.

“... swans, translucent beneath noon sun, slice south before the river’s final breath against a lid of ice ...”

EXCERPT FROM The Religion of Winter
Winterscapes

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

Featuring a new work

Lyrics by

Paul Zarzyski

Music by Grant Harville

3:00 Sunday
December 8
2019

The Symphonic Choir
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was one of the most prolific and influential composers of the Classical era, with more than 600 works to his name. His one-movement Symphony No. 32 is a high-energy, light and bright start to an extraordinary evening. Written when Mozart was in his teens, Exsultate Jubilate (Rejoice, Be Glad) is a sacred composition for voice and orchestra. Soprano Caitlin Cisler’s virtuosity is further showcased in the demanding Queen of the Night aria which requires a F note above a high C in a bravura performance. Composer Gabriel Fauré described the discipline of Mozart’s work as “admirable clarity (that) exacts absolute cleanness; the slightest mistake in it stands out like black on white. It is music in which all the notes must be heard.”

The most celebrated composer of Mozart’s day, Austrian Franz Josef Haydn was known as “Father of the Symphony.” His Symphony No. 104 “London,” was his final and the last of twelve commissions written to be “blockbusters” with folksy, joyful music that let him break the mold of his previous works.

Give Mozart a fairy tale and he creates an immortal masterpiece.

—Camille Saint Saëns
QUEEN of the NIGHT

SOPRANO

Caitlin Cisler

7:30 SATURDAY
January 18
2020

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY
Shostakovich, Kabalevsky, and Milhaud—each with their own style—are united in a concert featuring cellist Inbal Segev, whose musical interpretations have been described as “unreservedly natural and insightful.”

Regarded as one of the major 20th-century composers, Dmitri Shostakovich, a Russian composer and pianist, was a polystylist who combined a variety of musical techniques in his works. His *Suite for Variety Orchestra No. 1* has been popularized in films like *Eyes Wide Shut* and *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*, and been heard in ads for Sprint, Nextel, and Lincoln Motor Company.

Dmitri Kabalevsky was a leading figure in the Union of Soviet Composers in Moscow who embraced the ideas of socialist realism and wrote his music for the people. His *Cello Concerto No. 1* was one of his best-known “youth works.” Israeli-born cellist Inbal Segev was 16 when a recommendation by Isaac Stern brought her to the United States to continue her studies. Segev, who debuted with the Israel Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic under the direction of Zubin Mehta, has performed with symphonies worldwide.

French composer and conductor Darius Milhaud was one of the most prolific composers of the last century. Considered one of the key modernists, his works were influenced by the jazz and Brazilian music he learned while living in South America. *Le boeuf sur le toit* (*The Ox on the Roof: The Nothing-Doing Bar*) recalls the smoky jazz haunts where he first heard the sensuous Carnaval rhythms that inspired one of his best-known compositions.
CAFÉ NOIR

FEATURING

Inbal Segev

7:30 SATURDAY
February 8
2020

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY
If I cannot fly, let me sing.
–Stephen Sondheim

We conclude our celebration of the Symphonic Choir’s 60th year with a glorious performance of one of the world’s most beloved choral works. Our own bassoonist Dorian Antipa completes a joyful evening of colorful music and song.

French composer and virtuoso pianist Louise Farrenc wrote two overtures that were considered to be inspired by Beethoven’s models of German absolute music. Her Overture No. 2 begins dramatically and leads quickly into a song-like theme.

Gabriel Fauré, another French composer whose musical style influenced many 20th-century composers, is best known for his Requiem, Après un rêve, and the Cantique de Jean Racine. Written when Fauré was 19 for a composition competition, the prizewinning sacred work is for mixed choir and orchestra.

Gioacchino Rossini, an Italian composer of 39 operas, also wrote chamber music, sacred music and concertos, including the virtuosic, showy Bassoon Concerto. Performing it is Dorian Antipa, principal bassoonist with the Great Falls Symphony and a member of the Chinook Winds, who has performed extensively with orchestras in California, Connecticut and Illinois. He has also performed with the Helena and Billings Symphonies and enjoys playing his 17th-century baroque bassoon replica. Antipa is a passionate teacher and is bassoon professor at MSU-Bozeman.

As part of the notorious group of young French composers “Les Six,” Francis Poulenc wanted to break away from Germanic formality and French Impressionism. His first sacred work, the Gloria, is a large-scale work for soprano, four-part mixed chorus and orchestra, and consists of the words of the Mass set to music. Featured is soprano Stephanie Jennings. She has sung with the Houston Grand Opera and Dallas Opera for more than a decade, in operas that include Carmen, Madame Butterfly and La Bohème. She last appeared with the Great Falls Symphony on Carmina Burana in 2016.
GLORIA
GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY
the symphonic choir
Dorian Antipa
performing Rossini’s bassoon concerto
7:30 SATURDAY
April 25
2020
GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY
THE SYMPHONIC CHOIR
And
Stephanie Jennings
With its depth of sound, insightful interpretations, and genre-bending performances, the Cascade Quartet has enriched communities across Montana and the Northwest for more than three decades. They are praised for their cross-discipline collaborations and have worked closely with multi-media artists, dancers, choirs, world percussionists and jazz artists. Noted past collaborations include Yo Yo Ma, the Ying Quartet, and Philip Aaberg.

The Cascade Quartet is the resident string quartet of the Great Falls Symphony and its personnel serve as principal players in the orchestra. Each quartet member is a strong advocate for music education and outreach. They tour extensively throughout the year providing concerts, multi-day residencies and interactive school activities for communities large and small.
Friday, November 1 | Sunday, November 3
The Cascade Quartet is thrilled to open the series with Phil Aaberg in Concert. Together they’ll present Aaberg’s gorgeous Piano Quintet No. 1. Commissioned in 2007 for the Quartet, it’s a musical depiction of life on the high plains and the Hi Line. This soundscape includes a railroad train and the big open spaces of northern Montana.

Friday, January 24 | Sunday, January 26
For January’s concert, Cozy Classics, we invite you to wear your cuddliest sweaters and fuzziest socks as you settle in with a blanket of warm and lush harmonies of a Brahms string quartet. We’ll also take a musical journey through Danish folk tunes, beautifully arranged by the Danish String Quartet. It’s playful music spanning the emotional spectrum—emotional, joyful and heartfelt. Visit Nordic hamlets for local versions of polkas and jigs. You can’t help but go to your happy place with this concert.

Friday, April 17 | Sunday, April 19
Three Native Views will be presented in April. Raven Chacon, a Diné (Navajo) composer, created The Journey of the Horizontal People for the Kronos Quartet. You’ll want to get up and dance! Another Kronos-commissioned work invokes a similar impulse. According to South African composer Kevin Volans, “The title White Man Sleeps comes from a moment in nyanga panpipe music where the performers leave off playing their loud pipes ... and dance only to the sound of their ankle rattles, to let the white landowner sleep—for a minute or two.” Michael Foumai’s Flare Up is a breathlessly energetic work inspired by Samoan fire knife dancing. It’s a five-minute musical inferno!

Friday, May 15 | Sunday, May 17
Don’t miss Synthesis, our first chamber orchestra collaboration featuring the members of both the Cascade Quartet and Chinook Winds, plus a score of other talented players. We’ll present works by Stravinsky and Beethoven in this unique experience.
As the resident wind quintet of the Great Falls Symphony, members of the Chinook Winds serve as principal players in the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra. In addition to their Chamber Music Series concerts performed in Great Falls, they also perform and present interactive school shows throughout Montana and the Northwest. They create programs of classic wind quintet literature, collaborate with local composers and artists, and present unique arrangements of popular songs—all with a captivating sense of energy that keeps audiences of all ages riveted.

*Whether the group is playing an overture to a Rossini opera, exploring the textures and colors of Ravel, or bringing down the house with Queen’s *Bohemian Rhapsody*, this quintet delivers their art with sincere, joyous enthusiasm and with energy and precision that astounds the ear.*

The Chinook Winds has been performing throughout the region since 1992. Their performances have been praised for their excellent choice of literature, technical proficiency, and impressive artistry. In 2016, the Chinook Winds was featured on the Montana PBS music showcase *11th & Grant With Erick Funk*. The program is the premiere outlet for music performance in Montana, seeking out the state’s most acclaimed, accomplished, and pioneering talent.
Friday, September 27 | Sunday, September 29

Guitarist Sungmin Shin joins the Chinook Winds for a spicy season opener, ¡Ole! The integration of wind quintet sounds juxtaposed against plucked strings is premiered in a commissioned work by Shin and a new transcription of Luigi Boccherini’s Fandango evokes the blood and sensuality of old Spain. Mario Tedesco’s Eclogue, a trio for flute, English horn, and guitar, and Astor Piazzolla’s Oblivion, a melancholy tango for horn, bassoon, and guitar, add even more Latin flavor and flair.

Friday, November 22 | Sunday, November 24

In our Kammermusik Konzert, we present traditional wind quintets by German composers. Hanns Eisler immigrated to the U.S. in the 1930s. Though he missed his native soil, the bitterness he felt is not reflected in his music. His Divertimento is a tasty dish of modernist chamber music. Theodor Blumer puts the horn at center stage in one of the four wind quintets he produced while a successful composer and conductor in Dresden.

Friday, March 13 | Sunday, March 15

Talented women composers feature in our Independent Spirits concert. Amy Beach was a prodigy, playing piano and composing at age four. Pastoral for wind quintet reflects her love of nature. The Suite for Wind Quintet by Ruth Seeger is lively, buoyant, conversational music. Joan Tower wrote Island Prelude inspired by an oboist’s exceptionally lyrical playing. It is a rare example of a woodwind quintet that features one instrument as the soloist throughout the piece. Valerie Coleman is the resident composer and founder of Imani Winds. We’ll perform her Tzigane, an imaginative blend of gypsy jazz and indie classical with intricately shifting voices for the entire ensemble. In an homage to Samuel Barber, Jennifer Higdon’s Autumn Music portrays the colors of the season.

Friday, May 15 | Sunday, May 17

Synthesis Chamber Orchestra Concert
DESCRIBED AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 17.
Deepen your knowledge and appreciation of music with Maestro Grant Harville’s Symphony Previews—a series of fun, informative, (and free!) discussions about each concert in the Silver Series. Join us at Great Falls College MSU Thursday noon the week of the concert and feel free to bring your lunch.

Get ALL SIX Silver Series Symphony concerts ... INCLUDING AMERICANA WITH Béla Fleck! PLUS a 7-concert season pass to the Chamber Music Series with the Cascade Quartet and Chinook Winds PLUS Jubilee Special 60th Anniversary Choir Concert PLUS Platinum Perks: Get recognition in the program, first-priority seat upgrades (upon request), and exclusive invitations to meet symphony artists and the Maestro at 2019-2020 Platinum Events.

Please visit GFSYMPHONY.ORG for details.
April 25
February 8
January 18

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

GLORIA

GREAT FALLS SYMPHONY

the symphonic choir

Dorian Antipa
Stephanie Jennings
performing rossini’s
bassoon concerto

Queen of the NIGHT
Soprano Caitlin Cisler

Café Noir
Featuring Inbal Segev

Jubilee
60TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPHONIC CHOIR CONCERT
March 28

Celebrate 60 years of the Symphonic Choir with a stand-alone program of choral favorites.

September 14
March 6

LIVE MUSIC in GREAT FALLS
2019 - 2020 SYMPHONY SEASON

Free & Family Friendly  Special Events  Symphony Season  Chamber Music Series

September 14 12:00  “Chamber Fun 101” Cascade Quartet AND Chinook Winds
WITH ARTS ON FIRE, PARIS GIBSON SQUARE MUSEUM OF ART  GFSYMPHONY.ORG

September 27 7:00  “¡Olé!” WORKS FOR WINDS AND GUITAR Chinook Winds
WITH Sungmin Shin, GUITAR  19

September 29 2:00  “Legends” MUSIC OF MYTH AND ANTIQUITY
WITH MASO WINNER Benjamin Hodson, PIANO  4

October 5 7:30  “Celebrate Halloween” FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY CONCERT  GFSYMPHONY.ORG

October 26 11:00  “Phil Aaberg in Concert” Cascade Quartet
WITH Phil Aaberg, PIANO  17

November 1 7:00  “American” WITH World Artist Béla Fleck, BANJO  6

November 3 7:00  “Kammermusik Konzert” Chinook Winds
FEATURED GERMAN COMPOSERS  19

November 9 7:30  “Winterscapes” Orchestra & Symphonic Choir
FEATURING LYRICS BY POET LARIAT OF THE ROCKIES Paul Zarzyski  8

November 17 3:00  “Cozy Classics” Cascade Quartet
WITH Warm Music for Wintertime  17

November 22 7:00  “Queen of the Night” WITH Caitlin Cisler, SOPRANO  10

November 24 2:00  “Gloria” Symphony Orchestra AND Symphonic Choir
WITH Stephanie Jennings, SOPRANO; AND Dorian Antipa, BASSOON  14

December 8 3:00  “Jubilee” Great Falls Symphonic Choir SPECIAL EVENT  21

January 18 7:30  “Spring Concert” Youth Orchestra AND Sinfonia
WITH Black Tie & Blue Jeans  20

January 24 7:00  “Independent Spirits” Chinook Winds
FEATURED ALL FEMALE COMPOSERS  19

January 26 2:00  “Café Noir” WITH Inbal Segev, CELLO  12

February 8 7:30  “Café Noir” WITH Inbal Segev, CELLO  12

March 6 5:30  “Native Views” Cascade Quartet
FEATURED NATIVE AMERICAN COMPOSERS  17

March 13 7:00  “Gloria” Symphony Orchestra AND Symphonic Choir
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VENUES VARY – DETAILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE
BUY OR RENEW SYMPHONY TICKETS

HOW TO ORDER

NEW ORDERS

Complete order form and return to Symphony Office.
We will contact you after July 1 for seating options.

RENEW

Renew by June 14 TO GUARANTEE same seats.

PAYMENT

Mail payment with your order form to secure seats.

DELIVERY

Tickets will be mailed in early September.

406.453.4102

Whether you’re new or renewing seats, we can help.
Avoid box office processing fees when you purchase through the Great Falls Symphony by June 14, 2019.

GFSYMPHONY.ORG
Look inside for a year full of exciting music experiences.

Join us for our 61st season and to celebrate the Symphonic Choir’s 60th year. We love bringing live, symphonic music to you.

The orchestra, choir, and chamber ensembles will present a mix of classic and contemporary works with accomplished guest artists to inspire and thrill you, including WORLD ARTIST BÉLA FLECK.

Some say he’s the world’s premier banjo player. Others claim that Béla has virtually reinvented the image and the sound of the banjo through a remarkable performing and recording career that has taken him all over the musical map and on a range of solo projects and collaborations.

If you are familiar with Béla, you know that he just loves to play the banjo and put it into unique settings.