

Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra

Formally known as

Minnehaha Music

Date: September 18, 2021

Dear Orchestra Musician,

Thank you for your previous participation and support of the Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra (MRO), formerly known as Minnehaha Music. Due to the past 18 months of the Coronavirus Pandemic, a time of uncertainty and unknowns, the MRO curtailed the 2020 season and cancelled the 2020-2021 season. During these difficult times, like you, we listened, researched, and learned from others. As a result, our finances could certainly look better but we are moving forward.

The Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra is starting up again in September 18, 2021 with rehearsals at Edina High School and a concert is planned for spring 2022. During the upcoming months, we will provide updates on the status of our orchestra, our 2021-22 season, and orchestra “nice to knows.”

The MRO is here to stay!

To fulfill this commitment to the community, we need your support now more than ever. Please read for ways that you can donate to the Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra.

Please consider making a sponsoring donation to the Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra. **Your donation of any amount would be wonderful and would make a difference in the operation of this community asset and our 2021-22 season. There are three ways to donate:**

1. To donate online, visit our website: Minnehaharepitoryorchestra.org Donate Page
2. To donate online; visit the Edina Community Foundation website,
 - Donate button
 - Click on “Community Impact Programs”
 - Scroll down and click on the Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra Icon, and follow instructions
3. To donate by check and mail.
 - Make check payable to Edina Community Foundation and
 - PLEASE write Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra on the note/for line
 - Mail to: Edina Community Foundation, 6750 France Avenue South, Suite 220, Edina, Minnesota 55435

Now in its eighth season, the Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra is dedicated to the performance, preservation and promulgation of music by classical composers. As a repertory orchestra, musicians play through and interpret significant works from the classical music repertoire, several of which are then performed and presented to the

public. This process enables musicians to refine their technique, learn music new to them, and further enhance their skills. The MRO makes the creation of new performance opportunities for highly skilled amateurs, semi-professional, professional, and retired musicians a central purpose. In addition to its annual concert, the MRO also provides a range of additional educational and professional development activities, include opportunities for members to perform a major concerto in a rehearsal format, and reading newly composed works by local composers.

Educating future musicians and musician development has been at the core of MRO's mission since its founding in 2012. The MRO identifies today's highly trained musicians, champions local composers and increase awareness of the infinite variety of orchestral music, reflecting geographic, stylistic, and cultural diversity. Young musicians are invited and encouraged to sit in on rehearsals. MRO also serves as an incubator of ideas and as a catalyst for growth and change among musicians.

To date the MRO has rehearsed more than 120 orchestral and opera works and has performed more than 25 works by a wide variety of composers. We have played a concert for El Sistema at North High School in Minneapolis, have co-sponsored two Finnish-related concerts, and have hosted Master classes. The orchestra's innovative programming has included concerts with instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and even dancers. The complete listing of works rehearsed and performed the MRO is available on the website: minnehaharepitoryorchestra.org

The Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra is not a typical community orchestra made up of amateur musicians. You must be highly recommended and/or invited by the conductor to participate. Yes, we have some amateur musicians but the orchestra is primarily composed of professional, semi-professional, and retired musicians. Many have been professional players performing in orchestras in the United States and internationally. Many have performed with the Minnesota Opera, the Guthrie Theatre, and other professional venues in the upper Midwest. Members have master and doctoral degrees, and teach at local colleges and universities. This high level of professional skills, instrument expertise, and knowledge of orchestral literature by the majority of musicians results in shorter, compact, more intense rehearsal schedules, and superior-professional performances.

Our mission to probe into the symphonic repertoire and engage musicians is definitely succeeding!

Your continued participation and financial support for this valued community resource are valued and greatly needed at this time. Your donation will help us restart after this unfortunate pandemic. The Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra is a member organization organized under the Edina Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3). Your donation will be tax deductible. If you have any questions regarding your donation, feel free to contact one of us. More information is also available at our website: Minnehaharepitoryorchestra.org, or visit the Edina Community Foundation Website.

Sincerely,

Craig Randal Johnson, Founder, Conductor and Artistic Director 612-804-9679

John Bulger, General Manager 651-246-3654

P.S. The Minnehaha Repertory Orchestra also has small ensembles to play for receptions, parties, and other social events. Give your event some class! Please contact us for additional information.