



The Presidents Message... Hello FASO Members!!



I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and well. We have found ourselves in an unprecedented time, unlike anything I have certainly lived through. I am confident that these issues will pass and we will persevere and be better for it.

There are so many things going on at the moment, it's hard to decide where to start! Let's start with some GREAT NEWS, I think we all can use it! FASO hosted our first ever "Virtual Wine Dinner" Fundraiser on Sunday, July 19th in conjunction with Luna Blu & Stoller wines. It was AMAZING...a three-course dinner and a bottle of Stoller wine with each course!! More details below. It was such a success that we will be doing more of these types of dinners with local restaurants in the Annapolis area!

The ASO also has a new Executive Director, Edgar Herrera! He has been a pleasure to work with and I know the ASO is in great hands with him at the helm!! Welcome to the Family!! Here is the link to the ASO site announcing Edgar's arrival: <https://annapolissymphony.org/news/annapolis-symphony-orchestra-appoints-edgar-herrera-executive-director/>

It's also Membership renewal time for FASO as well as subscription renewals for the ASO Concert series. Please renew your membership and purchase your ASO season subscriptions at your earliest convenience if you haven't done so already!! Lynn Maichle is our new membership chair so you might be getting a letter or e-mail from her as she up-dates our database.

While these certainly aren't "normal" times, I want you all to know that FASO & the ASO are 100% committed to doing everything that we can to bring you the fun events and fantastic music that you have come to expect from our beloved symphony. While we may have to pivot to non-traditional methods, we hope that you will adapt with us and continue your support for our organizations. After all, "the show must go on" and we can't do it without you!!

As you can see, this quarter's publication is characterized by rests! That's to remind everyone to stop for a moment to make sure we all remember to wear masks, stay socially distant and be thankful for all those who are on the front lines of health care for our safety and benefit. Our most sincere thanks to all of them!

Stephen Holt,
FASO President



feature article

Looking ahead with the ASO

by Carol R. Richards

Imagine being in the shoes of José-Luis Novo, music director of our acclaimed Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, or in those of ASO's new executive director Edgar Herrera. They are enthusiastically preparing to start the 2020-2021 season with an opening concert in late September. Also eager are the more than 60 musicians who make up the symphony.BUT!

And it's a big but, there's a nasty virus out there. Thanks to Covid-19, our nation is in the midst of a pandemic. Starting last March, Maryland worked hard to get the epidemic under control with rules limiting the size of gatherings, moving events outside, insisting on social distancing and requiring the wearing of face masks. These rules have been effective. But what will the rules be at the end of September? And how comfortable will musicians and audience members be about returning to Maryland Hall? Will we fans be thrilling to the ASO's music in person or sitting at home with friends streaming the concert on our TV or computer screens?

We do not know the answer to those questions yet, but Maestro Novo and Executive Director Herrera have wrestled with many issues since early March when the pandemic was nationally recognized and restrictions began.

"Despite all the sorrow and distress this situation is bringing to our daily lives, one thing this pandemic has reminded all of us is how valuable the arts are to keep us centered and to bring some level of desperately needed spirituality while surviving in different modes of confinement," said Maestro Novo in an email to Quarter Notes.

"At the Annapolis Symphony, we are doing all we can to keep bringing great music and educational experiences to our community, even if we cannot always be physically together," Novo said.

By the time you read this issue of Quarter Notes, the ASO will have announced (July 21) the cancellation of its Pops in the Park concert that would have taken place on Sunday, September 6. This free event, which annually attracts thousands of families to Quiet Waters Park, marks for Annapolis the official end of summer. It was canceled because the City of Annapolis Recreation and Parks has canceled its entire summer series.

"We will truly miss kicking off our season on Labor Day weekend," Herrera and Novo said in a joint statement. "At this time, we are not considering a secondary outdoor location for our Pops in the Park concert. Unfortunately, there are just too many factors to pull together and publicize in a short amount of time before Labor Day weekend."

They continued: “The Annapolis Symphony is committed to performing in spite of today's obstacles. At this point, we intend to perform five Masterworks programs, one Family concert, and a Holiday Pops performance. Nevertheless, we are actively exploring outdoor concert sites for the fall. Our top priority is the safety of our musicians, staff, and patrons. We will follow federal and state guidelines for social distancing and sanitation practices, and we have established a COVID Safety Task Force that will help us maintain these protocols. Performing arts organizations across the globe are all struggling with the same situation.”

And what about the musicians? Heroically, the ASO has managed to pay them for the concerts canceled due to Covid-19.

“This spring, we were saddened to cancel nearly a dozen exciting concerts and events, including four of our Masterworks concerts. Our beloved musicians were forced out of work. The ASO Board and staff felt it was important to take care of our symphony family during such an unprecedented time,” said Herrera and Novo.

So, the Annapolis Symphony Musician Fund was created, and the box office offered ticket holders the opportunity to receive a refund or donate the cost of their tickets to the Musician Fund. “The response from our patrons was absolutely incredible, receiving about 75 percent in ticket donations,” they said. “Thanks to our outstanding audience along with a Paycheck Protection Program Loan, the symphony was able to pay all of our musicians their full salary for the canceled concerts.”

Last month, the ASO sent letters to season ticketholders, asking for renewals and spelling out the dates of upcoming 2020-2021 concerts, which are scheduled to start Sept. 25 and 26 with the theme “Harmony in Nature.” Music ranges widely, from Copland’s “Billy the Kid” (Feb. 26-27) through Tchaikovsky’s “Piano Concerto No. 1” and Stravinsky’s “Rite of Spring” (both on March 19-20). The letter promised that there would be live streaming of each performance so that patrons could watch a virtual concert from home if they wished.

“Until this pandemic is over, we cannot return to business as usual, so we will make tough decisions one by one as they approach,” said Herrera and Novo.

They added: “We believe our mission is now more important than ever: to produce, present, and promote memorable symphonic music that increases awareness, enjoyment, and appreciation of music for all ages throughout the region. We will do everything in our power to make this a reality and share music with our symphony family somehow during this unconventional time.”

In other words, they will make this work.

To renew your season subscription to ASO and to get the latest and most accurate information on ASO activities, upcoming events and news, be sure to visit the ASO website at: www.annapolissymphony.org

HOW FASO MAKES YOU SMILE

By Paula Abernethy



The July 19 Virtual Wine Dinner Fundraiser with Luna Blu Ristorante Italiano was a huge success! The virtual event was sold out with 105 happy diners enjoying a 3-course meal and 3 bottles of excellent wine, all the while enjoying an online zoom presentation about the beautiful Stoller vineyards. How clever these FASO supporters are! Each wine was carefully paired with the delicious meal - starting with a crisp rosé to complement the cold and sumptuous entre, followed by wonderful scallops enhanced by Stoller's bright chardonnay, and finishing with mouth-watering braised short ribs held in perfect harmony with Stoller's smooth and fruity pinot noir. It was a brilliant and tasty evening for all!

In addition to the meal, Luna Blu sponsored a wine raffle! For \$5/ticket diners contributed additionally to the fundraising in hopes of winning additional wines - and some lucky winners did just that! Not all the numbers are totaled as of this newsletter but estimates for the wine raffle alone are between \$500-\$700 dollars.

FASO extends many thanks to Erin Dryden, owner of Luna Blu, and her staff for creating a lovely meal and providing very efficient pick up service. And special thanks to FASO volunteers Stephen Holt, Rick Sullivan, and Lynn Maichle who braved the heat to hand out the meals at the Visitors Center. [The editor must add, Ms. Abernethy as well.]

**FASO NEVER RESTS FOR LONG...
WHAT'S NEXT??!!**

SAVE THESE DATES

YES! Another Zoom and Dine! Broadneck Grill is our host this time - **Monday, August 24!** Details to come but experience shows this will be another fun and delicious fundraising event!

FASO is also working to provide an outdoor fundraiser currently scheduled for September 13. Plans are underway for a musical experience in the large open area behind Park Place condos. Live music, a picnic box of food and champagne await! All of this will be socially distanced! Watch for more information coming soon.

FASO is also looking into an outdoor dine to donate dinner at Killarney House in October. No date has been set yet. This and all FASO events will strictly adhere to directives for social distancing and wearing of masks.

...and speaking of making things work...

We're not  and nothin's  it's really 
to renew your **FASO MEMBERSHP!!** Membership Chair Lynn Maichle will soon email your renewal notice. SO, be wise as an  take  and  your inbox for Lynn's message!OH!
and invite  your friends!!!!

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You can also renew online at:
https://annapolissymphony.secure.force.com/ticket/patronticket_publicticketapp#/instances/a0F1R00000cOic5UAC
\$75/year - couple
\$50/year - individual

Or, you can mail a check to:

FASO Membership
801 Chase Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Membership year is Jun1 - May 31st