

ORCHESTRA IN OGDEN – WHAT’S HAPPENING?

In April of 2017 I wrote a bit about Chamber Orchestra Ogden-COO

<http://chamberorchestraogden.org>. This is a subject near and dear to me since I started the group, and I have the privilege of being the music director. I also “get” to be the principal grant writer, since ticket sales don’t even come close to paying the bills. Writing grants is pretty much a necessity to fund the orchestra, and the Board of Directors and I are in agreement that musicians should not play for free, even though that is the case with most community orchestra groups.

I wrote about the genesis of the orchestra last April, so today I’m going to write about what a typical season of concerts looks like, using our upcoming season as an example.

We perform three concerts during the regular season, all at Peery’s Egyptian Theater, which is our co-presenter. This season we will open on September 29 with Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, which will feature four professional vocal soloists, the WSU Concert Choir, and the WSU Alumni Choir. Then we are dark until January 26, when we again partner with Ogden Regional Medical Center for the annual Red Dress Event, in honor of American Heart Month, which is February. As well as music for orchestra alone, this concert will feature two orchestra musicians, assistant concertmaster Elissa Krebs, and the orchestra’s principal oboe Karen Hastings, as soloists.

March 30 is the final concert of the regular season. The music for this will be drawn from fairy tales from all over the world, from Cinderella, to Hansel and Gretel. We will also have a silent auction, where we auction off donated artworks, and use the money to send underserved children to music camp. We are lining up artists for this, and are very excited about both the concert and the auction!

April 26 and 27, and June 15 will find the orchestra in the pit at Peery’s Egyptian Theater, where we will provide music for Imagine Ballet Theatre’s productions of *A Secret Garden*, and an as-yet-to-be-named Bournonville ballet choreographed by staff from the Royal Danish Ballet.

June 7 is going to be a special night for Ogden. The orchestra will be performing at the Ogden Amphitheater as a part of Ogden UnCon. If you don’t know about UnCon yet go to <http://www.ogdenuncon.com/> and see what it’s all about. The music for the concert will be music from movies, from Star Trek to Star Wars, to Batman, and everything in between. And it’s a free concert! Oh, and that night is also the First Friday Art Stroll, so there will be plenty to see, do, and hear.

So here you have a short version of what a typical season with the orchestra is like. We have a great group of musicians in the orchestra, and we are fortunate that Ogden is a great place for the arts of all kinds to thrive.

Michael Palumbo
Ogden City Arts Advisory Committee