

Grande Ronde Symphony concert Saturday

2021 Chamber Music Series features virtual experience

LA GRANDE — The Grande Ronde Symphony Association is presenting a virtual chamber concert featuring pianist Gretchen Longwell of Ontario.

The concert will debut at 7 p.m. Saturday, February 20.

Tune in via Facebook at either www.facebook.com/GrandeRondeSymphonyOrchestra or www.facebook.com/EasternOregonAliveTV.

To begin the evening, Gretchen will perform Bach's Partita No. 1 in Bb Major, a suite of dance music. This will be followed by three pieces by Brahms: Ballade in D Minor, Intermezzo in E Major, and Intermezzo in A Major.

From the British composer Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Yellow Cake Revue*, Longwell will play the famous movement *Farewell to Stromness*. Davies wrote *Revue* to protest plans to mine uranium ore on the Orkney Islands where he lived.

Next up on the program will be David del Tredici's *Ballad in Yellow* based on a poem by the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca.

The concert will conclude with three pieces fused with Argentine folklore elements from Ginastera's *Danza's Argentinas*.

All the pieces will be performed on Longwell's refurbished 1870 Chickering Imperial Grand piano.

"This beautiful piano will be eye candy supporting the ear candy emanating from Gretchen's very talented fingers dancing on the keyboard," said Patty Sandoz, a past president of GRSA. "We are so very excited to offer this virtual concert as part of the Grande Ronde Symphony chamber concert series."



Gretchen Longwell is featured in Saturday's concert.

According to a GRSA press release, Longwell is "an exceptional musician and leader, with a broad range of experiences as a keyboard artist, choral educator, collaborative pianist, and program builder."

She currently teaches choral music in the Nyssa School District and prior to that, in the Ontario School District and Salem Keizer School District.

She has also taught at institutions of higher learning in Oregon, Massachusetts, Iowa, Illinois, and Rhode Island.

Longwell has been recognized four times as an outstanding educator. She is an active recitalist performing throughout the United States and Europe. She holds a D.M.A. in organ performance from the New England Conserva-

tory of Music and a M.A. in choral conducting from the University of Iowa.

In addition to her work in education, Longwell served as an organist and choirmaster in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and in the Boston area, both in the Episcopal Church and in Jewish synagogues. While in the field of church music, she was elected as the National Secretary for the Association of Anglican Musicians and worked in many different capacities for the American Guild of

Organists to encourage both young organists and singers, including organizing choral and organ camps, and presenting workshops and courses.

For more information, visit: www.GrandeRondeSymphony.org.

Grande Ronde Symphony Association

A recording of the Feb. 20 concert can be re-watched, and shared with friends and family, by visiting www.granderondesymphony.org.

DONATIONS WELCOME

For the 2020-2021 season, the GRSA is bringing music into homes through virtual concerts.

"We greatly appreciate your patronage in the past," a GRSA donation form states, "and look forward to your continuing support to assure our musical future. Our paramount need now is for donations to our general operating fund."

There are several options to support the GRSA: become a patron with a one-time donation, or become a member of the Sustaining Circle with recurring donations. Here are the levels:

- Platinum: \$1500 or more
- Gold Baton: \$1000 - \$1499
- Silver Baton: \$500 - \$999
- Bronze Baton: \$250 - \$499
- Friend: \$50 - \$249
- 73rd Season Supporter: \$73
- Season Associate: \$35

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grande Ronde Symphony Association is to support and promote the ongoing music programs of the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra, the Grande Ronde Student Symphony and Youth Programs, and the Grande Ronde Chamber Series, thereby enhancing the quality of life in our region.

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FRIDAY
High 42 Low 28
A snow squall



SATURDAY
High 40 Low 27
Partly sunny



SUNDAY
High 40 Low 38
Rain/snow shower