

# GRANDE RONDE SYMPHONY PERFORMS ALFRESCO

**LA GRANDE** — As a part of Eastern Oregon University's Music Week, the Grande Ronde Symphony will present its first live concert in more than a year Wednesday, May 26, beginning at 4 p.m.

The Grande Ronde Symphony String Orchestra will perform outside on the steps of Loso Hall on the EOU campus in La Grande. Guests are invited to bring their lawn chairs and enjoy the last presentation in the 2020-2021 Grande Ronde Symphony Chamber Series.

The featured performer will be Sarah Plummer, violinist from Baker City, as she presents the 1st Movement of the Sietz Concerto No. 5.

Plummer is the 2021 winner of the Young Student category award from the Grande Ronde Symphony Association Concerto+Aria Competition. This will be her first solo presentation, which is always an exciting opportunity for an aspiring young musician.

The Grande Ronde Symphony String Orchestra is composed of 13 members of the full symphony and will be under the baton of GRISO music director Zachary Banks.

"To meet health guidelines we were not able to rehearse or perform pieces that have wind or brass, due to the aerosols the musicians emit to blow through their instruments," Banks said in a press release.

"So we have pivoted to just strings and selected some fun, yet challenging music that will truly light up our audience."

The repertoire for the May 26 performance will be Benjamin Britten's "Simple Symphony," "Serenade for String Orchestra" by Edward Elgar, and "Andante Festivo" by Jean Sibelius.

If you miss the live performance, the program will be recorded indoors the evening of May 26 and the video will be shared on Facebook and the Grande Ronde Symphony and EO Alive websites in early June.

To see more about the Grande Ronde Symphony String Orchestra performance and view full program notes, visit [www.GrandeRondeSymphony.org](http://www.GrandeRondeSymphony.org).

The symphony's website and Facebook page also provide links to past virtual performances, free to enjoy at any time.



Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra/  
Contributed Photo

Violinist Sarah Plummer, winner in the Young Student category of the Concerto+Aria Competition, will perform with the Grande Ronde Symphony May 26 on the Eastern Oregon University campus in La Grande.

SARAH PLUMMER of Baker City began studying the violin at age 10, when her parents finally gave in and gave her a violin for Christmas. Now a junior at Baker High School, she has studied violin for seven years and is currently studying with Viet Block from Pendleton.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sarah played in Baker City's Community Orchestra. Outside of music her interests include road cycling, mountain biking and tennis. Another of her interests is art, which she puts to use by volunteering to paint murals at her school.

Sarah has worked with the Baker School District's summer camp programs for the past two years and was an intern with the Baker Resources Coalition in 2020. She is an active member of both National Honor Society and Future Business Leaders of America at Baker High School.

Ms. Plummer is the 2021 Young Student category winner of the Concerto+Aria Competition though the Grande Ronde Symphony Association.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### ANDANTE FESTIVO

Composed by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Originally scored for string quartet in 1922, Andante Festivo was rescored for string orchestra and optional timpani in 1938. The piece was premiered on New Year's Day in 1939 as part of a live worldwide broadcast for the New York World Exhibition. Sibelius, often recognized as Finland's greatest composer, conducted that premiere performance with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra as a greeting to the world from Finland.

### SERENADE FOR STRINGS IN E MINOR, OP. 20

Composed by Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Written in three movements, Elgar's Serenade for Strings is a favorite of the standard string orchestral repertoire. The first performance of this piece was conducted by Elgar in 1892, and the piece is rumored to be his first composition with which he was truly satisfied. A prominent English composer, violinist, and conductor, Elgar wrote very friendly and idiomatic lines for this instrumentation.

### SIMPLE SYMPHONY, OP. 4

Composed by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

This work for strings, quartet or orchestra was finished in the years 1933 and 1934 when Britten was 20. The subject material for each of the four movements is made up of eight melodies (two per movement) that Britten wrote for piano between the ages of 10 and 13. The alliterative titles also point to a childlike playfulness, and the piece is dedicated to Britten's childhood viola teacher.

— PROGRAM NOTES COURTESY OF GRANDE RONDE SYMPHONY

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