

Classical music adapts amid pandemic

By **JERAD WALKER**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Members of the Recording Academy nominated the Oregon Symphony for multiple Grammy Awards late last year. For outgoing music director Carlos Kalmar, it was a fitting swansong, and it was yet another feather in the cap of the ensemble, which is Oregon's largest arts organization and one of the oldest classical music organizations in the country.

An event like that would normally be cause for celebration, but, at the time, the orchestra was concerned with a much more pressing issue: survival.

"Each year about half of our revenue comes through ticket sales and the other half through annual donations," Oregon Symphony CEO Scott Showalter said.

With the orchestra on a pandemic-enforced performance hiatus for the past 18 months, Showalter estimates that his organization has lost \$15 million in expected earned revenue. The effects of that shortfall have trickled down to staff and the orchestra's roughly 80 full-time musicians.

"You know that old adage — 'the show must go on' — which is how we're all trained and brought up to be? It was just not possible," says tim-

pani player and percussionist Sergio Carreno.

While emergency government funding helped considerably during the pandemic, individual musicians like Carreno faced tremendous economic pressure. During the past year and a half, they've weathered layoffs, furloughs and wage cuts. But Carreno believes the measures were necessary.

"That's the only way to survive," he said. "We had to take a hit on all levels. If we wanted the institution to continue."

Violinist Shanshan Zeng is a native of Chengdu, China, but she's called the United States home for over a decade. "My great-grandma is a violin professor at our local conservatory. So I started learning with her until the year I left for high school here in the United States," the Portland-based musician recalls.

International artists, who make up a significant part of the classical music talent pool in Oregon, have had their own unique stress points. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, Zeng noticed a rise in anti-Asian hate across the country. The disturbing news reports deeply concerned her family in China and put Zeng and her husband on edge.

"I see so many people's stories and I think — I think some emotions just got inten-

sified during this year," she said.

Foreign-born musicians working in the United States have also faced travel restrictions and concerns regarding their immigration status. Because of that, Zeng, who is not a U.S. citizen, elected to avoid travel abroad during the past two years.

"My (immigration) lawyers suggested I don't risk not being able to come back," she said. "I think the immigration officers were also like 'Maybe you don't get paid enough. You don't have enough work. Then why are you staying here?'"

When musicians like Zeng can't travel freely, it causes other problems in the classical music ecosystem. Chamber music organizations rely heavily on small groups of these touring artists to fill out their live programs.

"We're dealing with a much higher level of risk," says Peter Bilotta, executive director of Chamber Music Northwest. "In planning to bring national and international artists to Portland, we're stepping out on a high wire right now and hoping that we'll actually be able to bring them here in September and that they'll be able to do concerts."

With uncertainty about upcoming venue capacity restrictions, Bilotta said there

is also industrywide pressure to innovate using technology. That means providing high-quality digital content. Chamber Music Northwest streamed its 2021 summer concert series online and those

who bought tickets can watch the archived shows on-demand anytime.

But that solution has a drawback.

"You have to invest in recording, producing, com-

pensating the artist for the recording and the future streaming of the work," Bilotta said. "So now you have a performance that's both live and online but has cost twice as much to produce."

DEGREES, CERTIFICATES, CLASSES, & MORE

JULIA MABRY
BIOLOGY & SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR

In my classes you learn how the natural world and the human body works. Get the science foundation you need with me at CCC.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN



Clatsop Community College

www.clatsopcc.edu

Clatsop Community College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. ADA accessible. For the complete Non-Discrimination and Accommodations statements, please visit www.clatsopcc.edu/ada.

Clatsop Community College es una institución de igualdad de oportunidades y de discriminación positiva. Para las declaraciones completas de No-discriminación y de Ayuda a las personas discapacitadas, por favor visite www.clatsopcc.edu/ada.



Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

You can help shape Oregon's future.

Share your opinion. Earn money.
Join the OVBC Panel.

panel.oregonvbc.org



the Astorian Classifieds

Searching for Employees?

PLACE YOUR JOB POSTING HERE

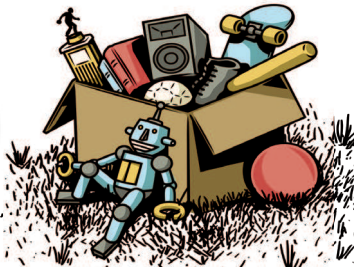
Special Includes:

- 2 Weeks in Print & Online
- Logo Included
- Facebook Boost
- Featured Advertising

Call the Astorian at 503-325-3211 or email: classifieds@dailyastorian.com

GARAGE SALE SEASON IS HERE!

ONLY \$25 for 3 days



Call 800.781.3214 to advertise today!
classifieds@dailyastorian.com

SELL YOUR VEHICLE HERE!

If it Drives or Floats...



\$49.95

ADVERTISE TODAY
800.781.3214

classifieds@dailyastorian.com

If it doesn't sell in two weeks We will give you two weeks for FREE!

110 Announcements

Looking for a full time small engine mechanic to join our team. Wheeled Mechanic is preferred but small engine repair experience is required. We offer healthcare medical and dental, paid vacation and holidays, with a starting pay range of 18-\$22hr DOE (503)325-0792

SPECIALTY SERVICES

WE URGE YOU TO PATRONIZE THE LOCAL PROFESSIONALS ADVERTISING IN THE ASTORIAN SPECIALTY SERVICES. TO PLACE YOUR SPECIALTY SERVICES AD, CALL 325-3211.

www.DailyAstorian.com

201 Antique & Classic Vehicles

1968 GMC Panel Delivery
Original Clatsop County survey truck, second owner, 86,000 miles, 327 HP, 4 speed. Very good shape. In primer & ready for paint. Great for delivery, advertising, camping. \$5,000. Must sell. 503-861-0522

Reach the entire North Oregon and Southwest Washington coasts with our classified package options!
Call 503-325-3211 for more information.

Classified Ads work hard for you!

251 Boats for Sale

1992 Farallon 25
Commercial salmon troll permit. 350 Crusader gas engine. Fully loaded electronics, fishing gear, and safety equipment. Honda 20 outboard aux. Located Slip B15, Warrenton, OR. \$29,000 Call 503-791-1650

Sell your children's outgrown clothes and toys with a classified ad in The Astorian. Call 503-325-3211 to place your ad today!

Planning to move? Sell those items you can't take with you with a classified ad in The Astorian!

504 Homes for Sale



FSBO . 2 bedroom, 2 bath custom manufactured home, 1,160 s.f. Front, rear enclosed porches. ADA ramp. Spacious, nice yard. Resident owned senior park. \$68,800. 503-861-0702.

SOCIAL ANXIETY?
Send an email to: classifieds@dailyastorian.com to place a classified ad without picking up a phone!

651 Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

Family Farm Manager: Part time or Full time. Working with cattle, operating farm equipment. Farming experience required. Health Insurance. Paid Vacation. Warrenton, OR. Jodie 503-791-4876; Bryan 503-407-9035

Have you seen our **FEATURED ADS?** Only viewable on our website, www.dailyastorian.com. Call 503-325-3211 for more information!

651 Help Wanted

Small, busy kitchen needs help!
Day and evening shifts available. Job involves preparing food on flat top grill, flame grill, smoking meat and sauteeing (no fryer). As well as plating, prep and dish washing. Pay \$15-\$22/hr based on experience, insurance benefits offered. Apply in person or through Facebook, call or text Anna at (503)-807-1287 or email warrenhousepub@gmail.com

Have an extra room to rent? A classified ad will find a tenant fast!
Call 503-325-3211 today!