



CENTRAL OREGON ARTS SCENE

Central Oregon Symphony returns with pandemic-safe program



“The whole philosophy of it was based in the pandemic predicament of ‘We just don’t know.’ We didn’t know if we could. We didn’t know if people wanted to come. We didn’t know if musicians wanted to participate. ... So we thought we wanted to go small.”

— Michael Gesme, shown at left, will lead the Central Oregon Symphony in concert Sunday.

Submitted photo

BY DAVID JASPER • The Bulletin

It’s been nearly two years since the last Central Oregon Symphony concert, but come Sunday, the community orchestra will once more fill the Bend High Auditorium with the worldly sounds of two of Europe’s better-remembered composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Richard Wagner. That’s “fill” in the sense of the sound of music, to borrow a phrase. The Fall Concert will look a little different from concerts of years and decades past, including its last full production, the 2020 Winter Concert — held in February of that year, a few beats before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the quarantine it engendered. Things have largely been quiet since. This is why, though the audience capacity will be halved, with seating for 700 patrons per concert, it’s still an exciting development in local live music.

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