

# Nomination Form - Governor's Arts & Heritage Awards- 2015

Select a category below:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Arts Award (Outstanding generative Individual artist or individual arts leader) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts Organizations or Organizations that support the arts <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Educator Award <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Heritage Award (Individual artist/practitioner) <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Organization Award <input type="checkbox"/> Young Arts Leader Award (Individual between the ages of 18 to 35)		
Name of Nominee- Individual or Organization: <b>Northwest Sinfonietta</b>		
Name of Contact if Organization: [REDACTED]	Home Phone: [REDACTED]	Business Phone: [REDACTED]
Address: <b>1019 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1011</b>	City: <b>Tacoma</b>	Zip: <b>98402</b>
Email: [REDACTED]	Website: <b>www.northwestsinfonietta.org</b>	
Your Name: [REDACTED]	Email: [REDACTED]	Phone: [REDACTED]

Submit this form with a nomination letter. Type or print legibly the significant accomplishments and contribution of the person or organization you are nominating. Be specific about the nominee's achievements and document their impact. Include: why the efforts, achievements, and accomplishments of this nominee are noteworthy; how their efforts have been recognized by their community; and a brief biography detailing the career and/or the history of the nominee. For Heritage nominees also include how their actions preserve and promote ethnic and/or cultural heritage.

In addition, gather and submit supporting materials in digital format, including PDF formatted documents, jpeg files and links to websites such as YouTube. You may also upload video and audio files, and send them via email or DropBox. Letters of support (up to three letters only) may be emailed separately but must be submitted by the deadline.

Supporting material may include:

- Additional letters of support (up to three)
- A resume or biography of the individual or history of the organization (limit eight pages)
- Digital work samples (may include links to websites, YouTube videos, jpgs, etc.)
- PDF or linked articles written by or about the nominee
- Other material regarding nominee, etc.

Nominations must be emailed by 5:00 p.m. August 17th, 2015. Email the nomination form, nomination letter and all supporting materials to the Washington State Arts Commission, c/o [glenda.carino@arts.wa.gov](mailto:glenda.carino@arts.wa.gov). Please type **GAHA Application** in your email subject line. If you have questions please call Glenda at (360) 586-8093.



August 14, 2015

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager  
Washington State Arts Commission  
711 Capitol Way S., Suite 600  
Olympia, WA 98504-2675

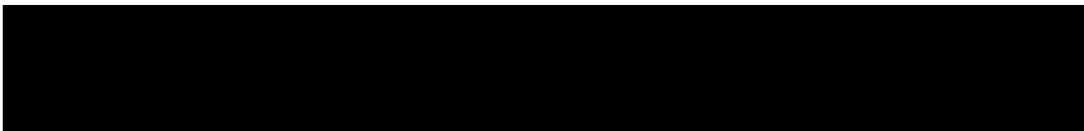
Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am delighted to nominate the Northwest Sinfonietta for the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards. The Northwest Sinfonietta is a truly distinctive arts organization in our state, this year celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A consummate regional ensemble rooted in a passionate commitment to classical music, the Sinfonietta annually performs a full-season program before enthusiastic audiences in Seattle, Tacoma, and Puyallup. Composed of the most gifted and professionally accomplished artists in our region, the organization also contributes dramatically to the fabric of the Puget Sound community through educational outreach and collaboration with other organizations.

Over its 25-year existence, the Northwest Sinfonietta has developed a reputation for innovation and excellence and has matured into a nationally recognized chamber orchestra. The Sinfonietta's position in the cultural vanguard was firmly established when the ensemble toured Cuba in 2012, only the third US orchestra since the 1959 revolution to do so, serving effectively, according to Governor Gregoire as "Washington State's cultural ambassador." What is more, the Sinfonietta then brought Cuba's Orquesta de Cámara Concierto Sur to visit our state, performing together with the Sinfonietta in an unprecedented musical collaboration that riveted audiences in a unique cross-cultural artistic experience.

In this, its silver anniversary year, the Sinfonietta has adopted an exciting and forward-looking new artistic model, only the fifth orchestra in the world to do so. Rather than depending on a permanent resident conductor, the ensemble will bring a set of internationally renowned conductors to direct the concerts, working in collaboration with the Sinfonietta's own gifted performers. In this model, debuted to rave reviews this spring with Eric Jacobson's conducting of Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony, the musicians become central to artistic leadership, vested with control over their artistic future and responsibility for the artistic quality of the performances.

Pioneered by England's renowned Academy of St Martin in the Fields and in this country by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the model as deployed by the Northwest Sinfonietta offers an outstanding musical opportunity for the citizens of Washington and the region, and will dramatically enhance the Puget Sound region's growing artistic profile.



As president of one of only two national liberal arts colleges in our state—one with a highly regarded School of Music—I am a devoted patron of the Sinfonietta and deeply proud of its accomplishments as an arts organization in this region. Thanks to the Northwest Sinfonietta, the state of Washington has the opportunity to be known not only as the birthplace of American glass art and of garage rock and roll, but as one of the premier contemporary and classical musical organizations in the world. The Northwest Sinfonietta is deeply deserving of this recognition by the Washington State Arts Commission and I offer this nomination with pride and confidence.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering the title or affiliation area.

## **About Northwest Sinfonietta**

Northwest Sinfonietta (NWS) is the Pacific Northwest's premier professional chamber orchestra of 35 members, performing a full subscription season of concerts in Seattle, Tacoma, and Puyallup. Founded in 1991, Northwest Sinfonietta set out to fulfill a cultural need in the region by combining uncompromising artistic excellence with a collaborative spirit to bring outstanding chamber orchestra performances of classical music to regional audiences. We have consistently sought to provide valuable educational and outreach opportunities to school children, and reach out to underserved members of the community. We produce outstanding performances in Tacoma, Seattle and Puyallup, and lead innovative education and access programs: *Orchestra at Work* for students, *Music off the Record* for audience engagement, and *HeartStrings* to donate concert tickets. We also seek out and invest in partnerships with arts and music organizations in order to support the regional cultural network.



Mission Statement: To inspire people through music and invigorate the concert experience.

Vision: Rooted in classical music, Northwest Sinfonietta's vision is to serve diverse audiences, strengthen its community connections through education and collaboration, and broaden its influence in the artistic and cultural fabric of the region.

Core Values: We unite in our desire to serve and to expand our audience through innovative programming, broader venues, and increased educational opportunities while balancing artistic growth with financial soundness. We share a heritage of passion for music. We embrace our commitment to be a vigorous part of the cultural fabric of our community and to strive to reach regional and national audiences.

## **Historical Biography**

The orchestra initially came together as a one-time ensemble for a special celebratory concert in honor of Mozart's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 1991. After an overwhelmingly successful performance, co-founders Kathryn Habedank and Christophe Chagnard decided to make the ensemble permanent, and establish a nonprofit organization dedicated to innovating the concert experience. Formed of the finest professional freelance musicians in the region, the orchestra rose quickly to local acclaim and engaged audiences. Not content to limit geographic or programmatic reach, the orchestra began taking their performances into Seattle's Town Hall and the Astoria Music Festival, recorded and released a critically-acclaimed CD of Mozart symphonies, and began an annual Youth Concerto Competition that allowed young musicians to audition for cash prizes and the opportunity to perform with NWS.



Our second decade saw the establishment of our *Heartstrings* audience-building initiative to serve the less-privileged populations, the *Orchestra at Work* education program in area high schools to replace the Concerto Competition, the free pre-concert lecture series *Music off the Shelves* in Puyallup's Public Library, and a multi-year

collaboration with Tacoma City Ballet for their annual presentation of *The Nutcracker*. In 2008, we were named Resident Chamber Orchestra for Benaroya Hall in Seattle, and launched a full subscription series of concerts in that venue. Two years later, we expanded even further to the city of Puyallup, and debuted an innovative classical concert format that features cabaret-style seating and refreshments that can be enjoyed during the performance. 2011 marked the celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as one of Tacoma's finest performing arts organizations.

In 2012 we became only the third professional U.S. orchestra to visit and perform in Cuba since the 1959 Revolution, and followed up by bringing Cuban musicians from our sister-city orchestra in Cienfuegos to perform with us in a historic side-by-side concert. This historic event also marked our debut performance in Benaroya Hall's S. Mark Taper Auditorium for our largest audience yet – over 1,500 attendees. In 2014, on the eve of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Northwest Sinfonietta became the fifth professional orchestra in the world to adopt an Artistic Partner operational model. This model allows our 35 musicians to take a more active role in guiding the artistic identity of the organization, while encouraging innovative collaborations with world-renowned conductors and inspiring daring programmatic choices.

Northwest Sinfonietta looks to our next 25 years as a time to reach new artistic heights and establish ourselves nationally as a premier chamber orchestra.

## **Our Artistic Partners**

### **Eric Jacobsen**

Hailed by the *New York Times* as “an interpretive dynamo,” conductor and cellist Eric Jacobsen has built a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and collaborative projects. As co-founder and Artistic Director of the adventurous orchestra The Knights and a founding member of the genre-defying string quartet Brooklyn Rider, Jacobsen, along with his brother, violinist Colin Jacobsen, was awarded a prestigious United States Artists Fellowship in 2012. Eric Jacobsen was also recently named the Music Director of the Orlando Philharmonic beginning in the 2015-2016 season.

Jacobsen founded The Knights with his brother, Colin, to foster the intimacy and camaraderie of chamber music on the orchestral stage; as the *New Yorker* reports, “few ensembles are as adept at mixing old music with new as the dynamic



young Brooklyn orchestra.” As Music Director, Jacobsen has led the “consistently inventive, infectiously engaged indie ensemble” (*New York Times*) at New York venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the Ojai Music Festival, and international hot spots such as the Dresden Musikfestspiele and Cologne Philharmonie. Recent collaborators include cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Jan Vogler, violinists Itzhak Perlman and Gil Shaham, and soprano Dawn Upshaw.

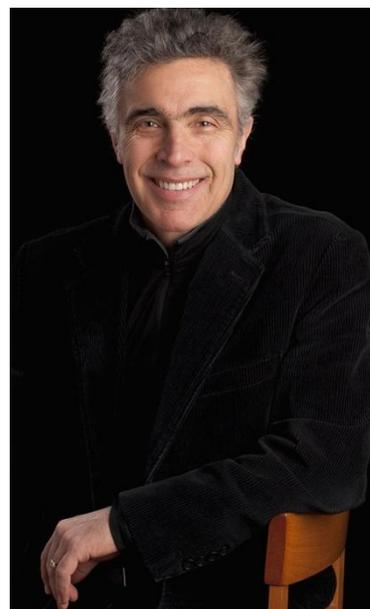
Under Jacobsen’s baton, The Knights have an extensive recording collection that includes January’s release of *the ground beneath our feet*, the ensemble’s first for Warner Classics. The Knights previously issued three albums for Sony Classical- *Jan Vogler and The Knights Experience: Live from New York, New Worlds*, and all-Beethoven album partnering the Triple Concerto and Fifth Symphony- and the “smartly programmed” (NPR) *A Second in Silence* on the Ancalagon label. *We Are The Knights*, a documentary film produced by Thirteen/WNET, premiered in September 2011.

Also in demand as a guest conductor, Jacobsen has recently led the Camerata Bern, the symphonies Detroit and Alabama and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. In the 2014-15 season Jacobsen celebrated his first season as Music Director of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and Artistic Partner with the Northwest Sinfonietta. He also looks forward to guest conducting Deutsche Philharmonie Merck, and Silk Road Ensemble, besides touring with The Knights in the U.S. and Europe. A dedicated chamber musician, Jacobsen is a member of Yo-Yo Ma’s venerated Silk Road Project and as a founding member of Brooklyn Rider, he has taken part in a wealth of world premieres and toured extensively in North America and Europe.

### **David Lockington**

Over the past thirty-five years, David Lockington has developed an impressive conducting career in the United States. A native of Great Britain, he served as the Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony from January 1999 to May 2015, and is currently the orchestra’s Conductor Laureate. He has held the position of Music Director with the Modesto Symphony since May 2007 and in March 2013, Mr. Lockington was appointed to the same position with the Pasadena Symphony. He also has a close relationship with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Principado de Asturias in Spain where he is currently the orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor, and beginning with the 15/16 season he will be one of three Artistic Partners with the Northwest Sinfonietta in Tacoma, Washington.

In addition to his current posts, since his arrival to the United States in 1978 Mr. Lockington has also held additional positions with American orchestras, including serving as Assistant Conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra and Opera Colorado and Assistant and Associate Conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. In May 1993 he accepted the position of Music Director of the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, assumed the title of Music Director of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra in September 1995 and was Music Director of the Long Island Philharmonic for the 96/97 through 99/2000 seasons.



Mr. Lockington's guest conducting engagements include appearances with the Saint Louis, Houston, Detroit, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, Oregon and Phoenix symphonies; the Rochester and Louisiana Philharmonics; and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. Internationally, he has conducted the Northern Sinfonia in Great Britain, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra in Beijing and Taiwan and led the English Chamber Orchestra on a tour in Asia.

Recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include appearances with the New Jersey, Indianapolis, Vancouver, Utah, Pacific, Colorado, Nashville, San Diego, Syracuse, Edmonton, Alabama, Columbus and Kansas City symphonies, the Florida and Louisville Orchestras, the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa and the Buffalo and Calgary Philharmonics. Mr. Lockington's summer festival activities include appearances at the Grand Teton, Colorado Music, Interlochen, Chautauqua and Eastern Music festivals.

David Lockington began his career as a cellist and was the Principal with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain for two years. After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Cambridge, Mr. Lockington came to the United States on a scholarship to Yale University where he received his Master's degree in cello performance and studied conducting with Otto Werner Mueller. He was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and served as assistant principal cellist for three years with the Denver Symphony Orchestra before turning to conducting.

### **Joseph Swensen**

Joseph Swensen currently holds the posts of Conductor Emeritus of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Professor of Music (violin) at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, and Founder/Director of Habitat4Music, and beginning with the 15/16 season he will be one of three Artistic Partners with the Northwest Sinfonietta in Tacoma, Washington. Swensen was Principal Guest Conductor & Artistic Adviser of the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris from 2009-2012. He was Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 1996-2005, and has also held positions at the Malmö Opera (2008-2011), Lahti Symphony, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Swensen is a busy guest-conductor throughout the world (from Europe, to the USA, Japan and Australia), enjoying long-established relationships with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse (with whom Swensen recently completed a Mahler cycle, spanning ten years), London Mozart Players, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música and Orchestre National de Bordeaux.



As principal conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Joseph Swensen and the orchestra toured extensively in the US, UK, Europe and the Far East. They have performed together at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York, Tanglewood and Ravinia Festivals, the BBC Proms, the Barbican and the Concertgebouw. Swensen and the orchestra have also made several recordings including a series of CDs for Linn records in which he is also featured as violin soloist. As Principal Conductor of the Malmö Opera in Sweden, Swensen was widely

recognised as the driving force behind Malmö Opera's transformation into one of the most important opera companies in Sweden. During his tenure there, he conducted highly acclaimed productions of *Salome*, *La Bohème*, *La Traviata*, *Macbeth*, *Vanessa*, *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *La Fanciulla del West*, and *Madama Butterfly*, among others.

In addition to his conducting engagements, recently Joseph Swensen has returned to the concert platform as a violin soloist, performing the major violin concerti. Before launching his conducting career in the mid 1990s, Swensen enjoyed a highly successful career as a violin soloist appearing frequently with the world's major orchestras and important conductors. As an exclusive recording artist with BMG Classics his recordings of the Beethoven and Sibelius concerti in particular (with André Previn and Jukka-Pekka Saraste respectively) were well-received and influential. Future concerti plans include performances with the Colorado Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Haifa Symphony, amongst others. Chamber music has always been an essential part of Swensen's music-making. He is a member of a violin-piano duo with the American pianist and conductor, Jeffrey Kahane, and a new piano trio with cellist Carter Brey: KahaneSwensenBrey.

Joseph Swensen has a keen interest in developing the art of play-directing, and regularly directs from the violin with orchestras such as the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, London Mozart Players and Scottish Chamber Orchestra. His series of recordings for Linn Records with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, where he directed the Brahms, Mendelssohn, Sibelius and Prokofiev's 2nd Violin Concerti from the violin, were internationally acclaimed. With the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Swensen created the first 'Paris Play-Direct Academy' in May 2011, and this week-long course for talented young soloists was repeated in June 2013, once again under Swensen's guidance.

As a composer, Joseph Swensen's works include *Mantram* (1998) for string orchestra, *Latif* (1999) for solo cello with chamber ensemble, *Shizue* (2001) for solo shakuhachi and orchestra, and the *Sinfonia-Concertante for Horn and Orchestra (The Fire and the Rose)* (2008). Swensen's orchestration of the rarely performed 1854 version of Brahms' Trio Op. 8, a work he has entitled *Sinfonia in B*, has been performed by orchestras in Europe and the US since its première in 2007. In 2012, the world première recording of *Sinfonia in B* was released on Signum records, along with orchestrations by Swensen of works originally for violin and piano by Robert Schumann, Clara Schumann and Brahms.

Joseph Swensen and Victoria Eisen are co-founders and co-directors of Habitat4Music. Habitat4Music connects highly qualified, passionate young American-trained classical musicians with children living in challenged areas across the world. Their goal is to use the power of long-term, committed, participatory music education and classical music programs to inspire and bring together individuals and communities.

Joseph Swensen was born on 4 August 1960 in Hoboken, New Jersey and grew up in Harlem, New York City, (an American, of Norwegian and Japanese descent). He maintains residences in Copenhagen (Denmark), Bloomington (Indiana) and Vermont (USA).



**PASSIONATE**  
**WORLD-CLASS**  
**INTIMATE**

**NORTHWEST SINFONIETTA**

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**SEASON 2015-2016**

Classical Masterpieces. Contemporary Works.  
Renowned Conductors.  
Subscribe today and save your seat!

# MOZART & BEETHOVEN

October 16, 17, 18 – 2015

David Lockington, conductor

Copland *Music for Theater*  
 Mozart Piano Concerto No. 20  
 Gabriela Martínez, piano  
 Beethoven Symphony No. 8



# VERDI & SCHUBERT

November 13, 14, 15 – 2015

Eric Jacobsen, conductor

Rossini *La camniale di matriomonio: Overture*  
 Morton Feldman *Madame Press Died Last Week at 90*  
 Osvaldo Golijov *She was Here*  
 Jennifer Bromagen, soprano  
 Verdi *La Traviata: Prelude to Act III*  
 Schubert Symphony No. 3



# MASS IN TIME OF WAR

March 11, 12, 13 – 2016

David Lockington, conductor

Aaron Jay Kernis *Musica Celestis*  
 Mendelssohn Sinfonia in D min No. 7  
 Haydn Mass in Time of War  
 Seattle Choral Company  
 Megan Chenovick, soprano; Melina Pyron; mezzo-soprano;  
 Ross Hauck, tenor; Charles Robert Stephens, baritone



# BRAHMS & BEETHOVEN

April 15, 16, 17 – 2016

Joseph Swensen, conductor/violin

Brahms Violin Concerto  
 Beethoven Symphony No. 4



# RAVEL & STRAUSS

May 13, 14, 15 – 2016

Eric Jacobsen, conductor

Ravel *Mother Goose Suite*  
 Ravel Piano Concerto in G  
 Lise de la Salle, piano  
 Strauss *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*

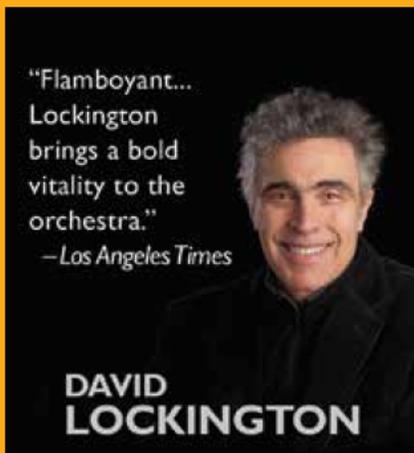
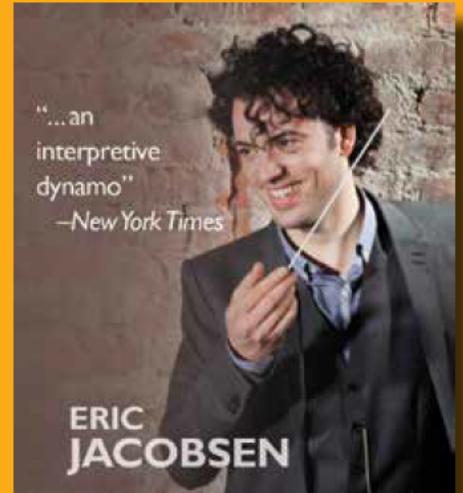


All concert programs and artists subject to change

# MEET OUR ARTISTIC PARTNERS

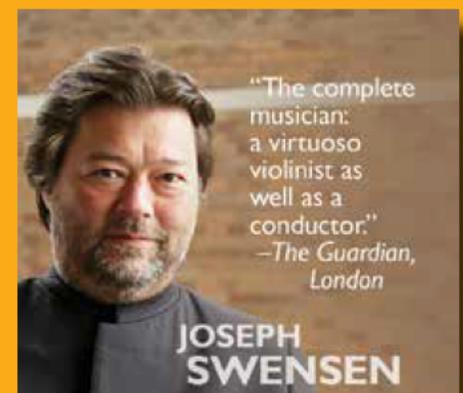
We're transforming our chamber orchestra experience with the talent and vision of these musical innovators. Together they'll bring vibrant, intimate, and distinct experiences from the world's greatest concert halls right here to you.

**I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD** to starting a new relationship with the Northwest Sinfonietta! I've always been excited about both the Puget Sound area and your NWS and I'm honored to begin this journey together. There are few things better than a place with great food, culture, and coffee! I co-founded an orchestra called The Knights that shares many core values with NWS. Both ensembles have a collaborative mindset that invites the possibilities of rich artistic and cultural growth through relationships with guests and friends stemming from a thriving internal community. Next year our programs are set around the genius songsmith Schubert, and the brilliant palate of Strauss. I look forward to meeting you all!



**WELCOME TO A NEW ERA!** Live music is most vibrant when every musician owns every intimate gesture. That's what I love about working with chamber orchestras and that's why I applaud Northwest Sinfonietta for taking a bold step into this new partnering model. It is a great opportunity for everybody to share the best of their skill and passion and it's an honor to be asked to work with the musicians of the Sinfonietta. I am excited to bring Variety, Intimacy, Vitality and an "Alive" experience to the audience. VIVA NWS!

**I AM SO EXCITED** about the concert with your Northwest Sinfonietta! Next April's program is a very special one for me because it opens with one of my favorite pieces to play and concludes with one of my favorite pieces to conduct. This new model for orchestral music-making undertaken by the Northwest Sinfonietta has become a hot topic of conversation in the international music world. I am thrilled to be part in this innovative, inspiring, and quintessentially American venture. Enjoy!



# ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIP



Here are some answers to the most common questions we've gotten about the new Artistic Partner Model.

We hope you will be as excited as we are after you read about the future we have planned, and if you want to know more about the new model we encourage you to contact us!

## **Q: WHAT IS THE ARTISTIC PARTNER MODEL?**

**A:** The Artistic Partner model is used successfully by some of the top chamber orchestras in the world; including Academy of St. Martin in the Field, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. The two key components of the model are 1) engaging a small group of rotating Artistic Partners; and 2) sharing artistic decision-making with our musicians. Artistic Partners are not just guest conductors – they will be with us for multiple seasons on a rotating basis, and will collaborate with NWS musicians on both programming and artistic quality. We want to provide our audiences with a closer, more personal connection to the music and to the orchestra, so you will have many opportunities to interact with these remarkable artistic partners when they are with us!

## **Q: WHY IS NORTHWEST SINFONIETTA CHANGING TO THIS ARTISTIC MODEL?**

**A:** We believe this innovative new format is the best way for us to carry on the vision of our co-founders and achieve our goal to become one of the country's pre-eminent chamber orchestras, based right here in the Puget Sound. This model will help us continue to provide the very best musical experiences for our audiences and enrich the cultural quality of life in our region. The change to our artistic operational model was not undertaken to cut our artistic budget; rather, our goal was to raise our artistic quality to the highest possible levels and deliver brilliant performances and distinct experiences. The decision to adopt an Artistic Partner operational model, and its impact on NWS' artistic operations, was discussed with our orchestra members and their feedback was strongly in favor of making this change. They are enthusiastic about taking a more direct role in the artistic development of the organization, and collaborating with artists and conductors that would otherwise be unavailable in a traditional, full-time leadership capacity.

## **Q: SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**A:** To begin our journey down this new and exciting path we have engaged extraordinary, world-renowned Artistic Partners for the next two seasons—Eric Jacobsen, David Lockington, and Joseph Swensen. Each Artistic Partner has significant chamber orchestra credentials, having led ensembles such as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Paris, London Sinfonietta, Israel Chamber Orchestra, The Knights, and Silk Road Project. They will each lead 3 – 4 concert cycles over the next two years. We hope you will accept this sincere invitation to join us, and become part of this exciting new direction next season by renewing your subscription. You'll be able to see for yourself what the excitement is about, hear how this new approach will elevate your experience in the music hall, and be part of the audience that plays an important role in the continued success of the orchestra. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Seattle

Friday 7:30 pm; Benaroya Hall

Section B, C, D .....\$160  
 Section A .....\$100



## Tacoma

Saturday 7:30 pm; Rialto Theater

Loge Section .....\$240  
 Section A.....\$220  
 Section B .....\$160  
 Section C.....\$100



## Puyallup

Sunday 2:00 pm; Pioneer Park Pavilion

General Admission.....\$160



# NORTHWEST Sinfonietta

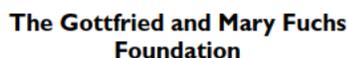
## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2015-2016

# SUBSCRIBER PERKS

- Pride in supporting a great orchestra
- One complimentary companion ticket voucher for every subscription purchased
- Invitation to attend one dress rehearsal
- Exchange Privileges for:
  - Other NWS concerts (any venue)
  - Tacoma Symphony concerts

## Thank you to our Sponsors!

Northwest Sinfonietta gratefully recognizes the following corporations for their generous support and sponsorship of the 2015-2016 season. Thank you for your support—you make it all possible!



# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Sinfonietta, the state's only professional chamber orchestra, was founded in 1991, and will launch its 2012-2013 season of performances in Seattle's Benaroya Hall, Tacoma's Rialto Theater and Puyallup's Pioneer Park Pavilion; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Sinfonietta has enriched the cultural landscape of the Puget Sound region and the state by reinventing the concert experience with accessible, affordable, and intimate performances of great music; and

**WHEREAS**, Northwest Sinfonietta's musical achievements demonstrate the power of the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, accomplished musicians, under the innovative leadership of Maestro Christophe Chagnard, have built Northwest Sinfonietta into a nationally renowned orchestra, treating local audiences to the highest level of musical artistry; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, Northwest Sinfonietta became an international cultural ambassador for Washington State as the first American orchestra to perform side-by-side with a Cuban orchestra in Cuba; and

**WHEREAS**, that unprecedented cultural exchange brought talented musicians from Cienfuegos, Cuba, to perform with Northwest Sinfonietta as it opens its new season; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State is proud of Northwest Sinfonietta and thanks them for their commitment to present quality music to the citizens of our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 5, 2012, as

### *Northwest Sinfonietta Day*

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Gregoire".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire



FROM THE DESK OF

---

HEATHER BENTLEY

August 15, 2015

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager  
Washington State Arts Commission  
711 Capitol Way S., Suite 600  
Olympia, WA 98504-2675

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I'm delighted to be writing today in support of Northwest Sinfonietta's nomination for a Governor's Arts and Heritage Award. I am an orchestra member: with the exception of several years in the 90's when I moved down to California, I have served as Principal Violist since the group's inception in 1991.

I have enjoyed a career-long view into the birth and maturing of this arts organization. At its founding, the Northwest Sinfonietta was an upstart dream - a group of like-minded soloists, chamber musicians and orchestral players who united around our love of Mozart for a special concert at the bicentennial of his death. The outpouring of support from supporters in our city of origin, Tacoma, allowed the orchestra to make the almost insurmountable leap from passion project to permanent arts organization. I am constantly reminded of and amazed by the enormous effort made by so many of our patrons and volunteers that allows this professional orchestra to endure and thrive.

Over its 25 year existence, NW Sinfonietta has transformed from by-invitation participation to fully professionally contracted and auditioned membership. This process has put us in league with the Seattle Symphony, Opera and Pacific Northwest Ballet, the only other fully professional orchestras in Western Washington. Our mission is somewhat different, and has won us the hearts of our audience. Since the beginning, the orchestra has had the feel of a group of enthusiastically collaborating friends, much as one would find in the passion of a much smaller chamber ensemble. Our enthusiasm and commitment to our performances is palpable to our audience.

Time and again, I have felt the magic of performing with Sinfonietta. It is nearly indescribable what happens when an audience gathers together to experience a musical performance. I have seen over and over how our audience's commitment to



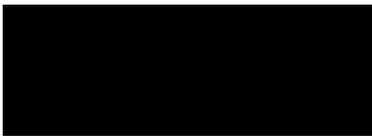
convening together and sharing a musical experience has yielded not only enrichment, but ennobling of the spirit and a miraculous respite from our too-present divisions. It is indescribable in part because it seems to take all of us on stage and in the audience by surprise every time, as if it's impossible to really recall just what a phenomenally moving experience sharing a live orchestral concert is. The combination of sound moving physically in the acoustic space, the communing with the greatest composer minds of our musical history, through distant time and geography, the palpable energy of individuals focusing collectively and breathing as one, the sheer beauty of the various orchestral instruments, and the fact that listeners are sitting in close proximity breathing the same air and sharing the same sounds - it is an experience of uncommon beauty.

We are privileged to have been able to fulfill and expand our mission of being a regional orchestra with the addition of series in Puyallup and Seattle. We have worked with living composers to premiere new works. We have reached out to specific international communities like the Northwest Taiwanese community by offering special concerts focused on the contribution of Taiwanese musicians. We have established an ongoing relationship with our Cuban musical counterparts, having visited and performed in Cienfuegos and Havana, historically only the third orchestra to have done so since the embargo. We have developed significant educational outreach opportunities for youth throughout the region.

The core of all our successes, though, is our great and lasting passion for this art form of live musical performance, and our deep and abiding regard for one another as collaborators and friends. It is in this spirit that we have very recently embarked on our next great endeavor: in embracing the Artistic Partner model, we are committing, as ensemble members, to a much higher level of responsibility for running the orchestra. So far, our transition has been marked by a high level of mutual regard in all of our communications between committees, orchestra members and our board of directors. It is beautiful to behold our chamber music sensibilities extending to the next step in our history as we work with our Artistic Partners and expand the scope of our musical sharing to include their deep insights as well.

Thank you for considering Northwest Sinfonietta for this honor.

Sincerely yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A smaller black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the signatory.

August 15, 2015

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager  
Washington State Arts Commission  
711 Capitol Way S., Suite 600  
Olympia, WA 98504-2675

Governor's Arts & Heritage Award Committee,

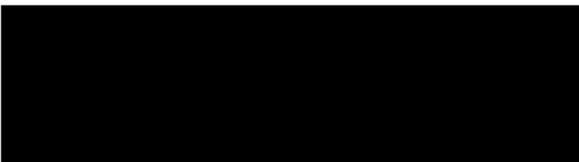
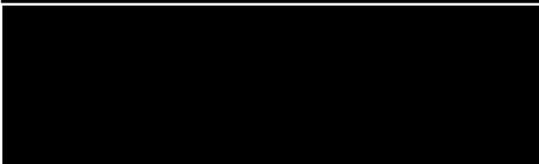
Northwest Sinfonietta shows both its staying power as an arts organization as it celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and its creative innovation as it moves into a new artistic partnership model. The Sinfonietta is a boon to the fine arts in not just one city, but three because of its regular practice of performing each concert in Seattle, Tacoma and Puyallup. No other arts organization that I know of does as much to take every event does to such a broad area.

In addition to their general role of producing excellent concerts in three communities, I have been able to see firsthand their efforts to partner with and support arts education. I teach music classes at Pierce College Puyallup. The Sinfonietta recently started to hold one of the rehearsals for each concert in the Pierce College Puyallup theatre. This has created an extraordinary opportunity for community college students. The rehearsals are open for students and many of the students who come have never seen or heard a live professional orchestra. The demographic of community colleges makes it difficult to facilitate some students purchasing tickets and attending a regular concert. However, these rehearsals are held during class time on campus and students attend as part of music classes. In addition to the rehearsal, Northwest Sinfonietta makes free concert tickets available to these students providing a local and free concert experience for students, many of whom would otherwise never be able to attend any fine arts event.

The new artistic partnership model has brought an even more extraordinary opportunity to the community and especially to our students. As students attending music classes during the 2015-2016 season attend these rehearsals they will watch three different internationally renowned conductors lead the orchestra through a rehearsal. Students will see different modes of leadership and collaboration, hear difference in artistic and creative interpretation, and will have a small connection to a much larger world of the fine arts. We already had the opportunity to see Eric Jacobsen at work, which sparked wonderfully engaging class discussions.

As a professor who serves and cares about the education of students, including many who are underprivileged, I have greatly appreciated Northwest Sinfonietta for their efforts which have greatly enriched and expanded the education and life of students and members of our community. I highly recommend them and ask that you consider them for the Governor's Award.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A large black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information area.

---

# NORTHWEST Sinfonietta

---

Neil Birnbaum  
*Chief Executive Officer*

## Artistic Partners

Eric Jacobsen  
David Lockington  
Joseph Swensen

## Board of Directors

Bruce Mann  
*President*  
Bill Ryberg  
*Vice President*  
Wren Nettle Buck  
*Treasurer*  
Christine Anderson  
*Secretary*  
James Sorensen  
*Past President*  
Judy Ramey, *At Large*  
Mary Thomas, *At Large*  
Phil Yates, *At Large*

Christopher Borland  
Choi Halladay  
Amy Johnson  
Natalie Mayer  
Stephanie Miller  
Naomi Minegishi  
Justin Morrill  
Kevin Morton  
Karyn Osborne  
Thomas Platt  
Ingeborg Maria Rieder  
Judson Scott  
Tanya Seligman  
Marnie Sheeran  
Daniel W. Smith  
Cheryl Trivison  
Kathy Turner  
Patricia Wooster, *Emerita*  
James Wooster, *Emeritus*

## Seattle Advisory Board

Christopher Borland  
Maria Durham  
Naomi Minegishi  
Judy Ramey  
Tanya Seligman  
Cheryl Trivison

## Tacoma Advisory Board

Natalie Mayer, *Chair*  
Stephanie Miller  
Marnie Sheeran

## Puyallup Advisory Board

Amy Johnson, *Chair*  
Magda Cockerline  
Mary Holdeman  
Kimberly Lintott  
Meg Penalver  
Daniel W. Smith  
Kerry Yanasak

August 17, 2015

Glenda Carino, Communications Manager  
Washington State Arts Commission  
711 Capitol Way S., Suite 600  
Olympia, WA 98504-2675

Dear Members of the Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards Committee:

I write to offer the strongest possible endorsement for the nomination of Northwest Sinfonietta (NWS) to receive the Governor's Arts and Heritage Award. I'd like to tell you, from my perspective as the organization's CEO, why NWS is deserving of this honor.

NWS' Board of Directors has seriously evaluated the future of the orchestra after conducting surveys, focus groups, musicians' reviews and sales research. From that protracted effort three options for the future were considered – maintain the status quo; shut down the organization; or do something radically different. Maintaining the status quo was undesirable for both artistic and financial reasons, and there was also no consensus to close the organization. Guided by our mission to invigorate the concert experience, the board concluded that innovation—a bold new initiative—was necessary to bring fresh vitality to NWS and help us grow for the next 25 years.

One of the big challenges we face is that a long-time music director can become the very embodiment of an orchestra. After a quarter-century under a single artistic leadership, NWS was guided by our mission—to invigorate the concert experience for our audience and community. By adopting the Artistic Partner model as a strategic plan that guides artistic, administrative, development, and operational practices, we are renewing our commitment to our mission. We have stepped out of a comfortable box and into a whole new and challenging paradigm.

Similar to the leadership models of Vienna Philharmonic, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, this leadership model will give the orchestra a way to collaborate with exceptional artists. We put together our plan with the assistance of Bruce Coppock, executive director of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. SPCO is the only other American orchestra operating under this model, and NWS will be only the fifth orchestra in the world to adopt the Artistic Partner model.

### NWS' Artistic Partner Model Guiding Principles:

- A chamber orchestra is unique and different from a symphony orchestra
- Musicians should be central to the orchestra's artistic vision and profile
- A single music director lacks the artistic strength to cover the vast repertoire our audience and musicians desire
- Collaborative artistic leadership will have a positive effect on artistic quality and musician job satisfaction

---

# NORTHWEST Sinfonietta

---

Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards Committee  
August 17, 2015  
Page Two

NWS' Artistic Partner Model Advantages:

- Provides access to conductors who would otherwise be unavailable in a traditional, full-time leadership capacity
- Allows Artistic Partners great latitude to experiment, stretch, and take risks
- Increases NWS' artistic profile by bringing variety, depth, and creativity to the organization and the audience on a revolving and cumulative basis
- Lifts NWS toward its goal of distinctive experience and brilliant performance

We are often asked how Northwest Sinfonietta is different from Seattle Symphony or Tacoma Symphony. This new model is a tremendous opportunity for us to re-articulate who we are, and who we are NOT. We are not just a smaller orchestra—we are a chamber orchestra. Our competition is not other local symphonies, but the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and Academy of St. Martin in the Fields. We understand achieving that level will take time, but that is the goal we have set. We are serious and committed to raising our level of artistry and giving our audiences the fresh, vibrant, and intimate performance they would experience in the world's greatest concert halls.

We understood that change to the status quo would not be welcomed by all. At the heart of this resistance is the mindset that NWS' current artistic quality is "good enough for Tacoma" or, that we are "already world-class" and don't need to change anything. Since our focus for the next 25 years is to become one of this country's pre-eminent chamber orchestras, we can no longer accept being merely competent. By changing our artistic operations, we are embarking on an innovative path to achieve our vision.

As a final piece of information, I want to share that a key component of the new operational model is the transfer of significant artistic decision-making authority to musicians, vesting them with control over their artistic future and responsibility for continued improvements in NWS' artistic quality. Together with management and the two artistic committees, musicians will have input in balancing a number of strategies: programming musician-led concerts that provide a broad platform for individual musicians to take responsibility for a performance; providing sufficient rehearsal time in response to program complexity and increased expectations; focusing on core chamber orchestra repertoire; and most importantly, upholding our commitment to inspired and innovative concert experiences.

---

# NORTHWEST Sinfonietta

---

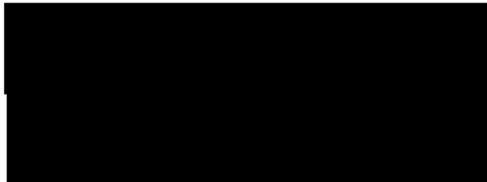
Governor's Arts and Heritage Awards Committee  
August 17, 2015  
Page Three

Northwest Sinfonietta recognizes that the changes to its artistic operations are not without risk, but believes it would have been even riskier to do nothing about the artistic challenges we faced. We are excited to bring this kind of innovation to our community, but we need strong support since innovation is always met with resistance.

It is vitally important to us that the community's leaders send a message to the hesitant factions that NWS is important to the fabric of the community and that this new model has support. You can send this message by awarding Northwest Sinfonietta the Governor's Arts and Heritage Award and commend NWS for daring to innovate and take risks instead of accepting the status quo.

We are very grateful to Washington State Arts Commission for this opportunity to provide information in support of Northwest Sinfonietta.

Sincerely,



## **Northwest Sinfonietta Work Samples and Other Background Material**

### **Links:**

Work sample #1 (Beethoven: Symphony No. 7—first movement)

<https://youtu.be/nU1U84GBpe0>

Work sample #2 (Dvořák: Czech Suite—Furiant: Presto)

[https://youtu.be/kvTUDIndh\\_A](https://youtu.be/kvTUDIndh_A)

Work sample #3 (Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto—third movement)

<http://youtu.be/LsHMlDdBly>

### **Other Materials Regarding the Nominee**

Meet the Artistic Partners : <https://youtu.be/gSjkKGc7rPI>

Musicians comments on the new model <https://youtu.be/VsrVfcJq-Ws>

Musicians comments on working with Eric Jacobsen <https://youtu.be/GxnmlKqasZ8>

Recent articles written about nominee (Seattle Times & The News Tribune)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BweQGL3UBK1BcHNZcGc1T3dCMjg/view?usp=sharing>