



January 6, 2023

David O'Dell
Executive Director
Missoula Symphony Association
320 E Main Street
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Long-Range Planning Committee,

I am submitting written testimonies supporting our Cultural Trust application.

I am happy to answer any questions via phone or email.

Thank you for your consideration of our application and for all you do for the arts in Montana.

Sincerely,
David O'Dell

David O'Dell, Executive Director
Missoula Symphony Association



P.O. Box 8301 Missoula, MT 59807
406.721.3194 (Office) 406.541.3194 (Fax)
david@missoulasympphony.org

 [Missoula Symphony](#)



Missoula's art and Culture Agency Since 1993

Heather Adams
Executive Director
PO Box 7662
Missoula, Montana 59807
Heather@ArtsMissoula.org
406-541-0680

To Whom it May Concern,

Imagine walking into the beautiful and newly renovated United Methodist Church in downtown Missoula and hearing the sublime sounds of the Missoula Symphony. The backdrop is the Sanctuary and a giant mosaic; a stained glass window with brilliant blues, greens, yellows and tones of jeweled red. It happened to be sunny New Year's Eve, so the rays of sun shone down on members of the Symphony and the energetic and inspiring new conductor, Julia Tai.

The Symphony agreed to join us for the 29th Annual New Year's Eve celebrating Arts and Cultures in Missoula called Missoula on Main (formerly called First Night). Including them in this format meant that members of the Missoula community could slip into the subtle sounds of strings and organ for a very low cost of \$7.50 for 50% of tickets sold.

The Missoula Symphony has of mission providing a symphonic musical experience to all and their involvement in this event only illustrated their dedication to this mission. Organizing musicians, the music, the staff and rehearsals around a holiday event is a large ask for most and our partnerships with artists and other organizations requires 100% commitment to the mission of this celebration.

Peter, Julia the musicians and the staff at the Symphony exceeded all expectations with their class and professionalism to our sold out house that sunny New Year's in Missoula.

The Symphony is a priceless partnership that Arts Missoula will continue to value for years to come.

Most Sincerely,
Heather Adams
Executive Director
Arts Missoula



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

Dr. Monte C. Grisé
Arts Education Director
mgrise@mcpsmt.org

January 6, 2023

The Missoula Symphony Orchestra has been a wonderful community partner in public school education. Together, with leadership from Julia Tai, the new Music Director, we have collaborated on several exciting projects including visiting music students in their classrooms, inviting and welcoming these students to dress rehearsals of the MSO, and opening the door of understanding to them at their level. Another vital connection is the annual youth concert, which is attended by all MCPS students in the 4th grade.

Maestro Tai, and other members of the MSO, often attend, coach, and rehearse the students involved with the Missoula Youth Symphony. These moments of access to high level music making and instruction are tremendously impactful to our students, and are an important investment in the richness and development of our artistic community.

This year the MSO generously included the Missoula Youth Symphony in a side-by-side performance at their November concert. This was an inspiring and unforgettable event for our students and we look forward to more wonderful opportunities to expand upon this amazing experience in the future.

Sincerely

Monte C. Grisé

Monte C. Grise, D.M.A.
Arts Education Director
Missoula County Public Schools
mgrise@mcpsmt.org

January 5, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

It is a pleasure to write in support of the Missoula Symphony Association's grant application to the Montana Arts Council. The Symphony and Chorale are beloved by Missoula residents young and old. It's hard to imagine this city without them!

We have had the opportunity to volunteer our help in several ways over the years, both in the office and on site at indoor and outdoor events. We see the MSA board, staff, directors, musicians and volunteers working tirelessly to produce quality musical experiences for all ages, in both theater and casual settings. The Holiday Pops program in early December kicks off the season's cultural offerings, and in recent years a third performance has been added to accommodate the ever-growing audiences.

We're especially impressed with the extent of MSA's educational outreach to Missoula's youth through family and elementary school concerts, sessions at the public library, and partnership with Suzuki instructors — helping to cultivate future generations of musicians.

Throughout all the challenges presented by the recent pandemic, MSA staff and musicians managed to bring beautiful concerts to loyal subscribers via Zoom, then later in person with responsible precautions in place for rehearsals and performances. These offerings came at extraordinary expense to the organization. Their success was due to the enormous effort, talent, creativity, teamwork — and love — of everyone involved.

The organization and the community are very pleased with the recent selection of a dynamic new Executive Director and are thrilled with the expertise and enthusiasm Julia Tai brings to her conducting, her programming, and her new hometown. As members of the Symphony Chorale for many years, we enjoy this collegial and dedicated group of auditioned, volunteer singers and the capable leadership of director Dean Peterson. We look forward to the rest of this exciting season.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. A generous grant to the MSA from the Montana Arts Council would be a gift to all of us!

Mary Ann and Bob Albee

111 Rimrock Way
Missoula MT 59803
albeema111@gmail.com
406.370-0065



Additional Community Testimonies

Student email – after November 2022 side-by-side performance with the Missoula Youth Symphony:

Dear Missoula Symphony,

My name is Reasa McCollum, and I play the viola in the Missoula Youth Symphony. I personally wanted to thank you for the opportunity to play in the production of Superheroes this last weekend. I learned so much from the musicians and lots about how the symphony runs. It was an extremely positive experience for me and my fellow musicians. I appreciate you putting the time and effort into making it possible for us to work with you. I look forward to more opportunities like this. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Reasa McCollum

Missoulian - Letter to the Editor, April 2022:

Missoula has many great things to do: skiing, fishing, river floating. But there is yet another great activity gem in the Treasure State: The Missoula Symphony, a real cultural treat. The Symphony, under the direction of Julia Tai, has a wonderful assembly of talented musicians of which we should be proud. Parents should take their children to expose them to the beautiful sound of classical music on a par with many other with symphonies such as the Boston Pops or the Baltimore Philharmonic Orchestra. Both the Christmas show and the most recent, "Remembrance" also featured the Chorale, beautiful voices that demonstrate the talent of dedicated people that increase the variety of things to do and see in Missoula! So, after floating the river, one should support the Symphony by floating on the notes of the Missoula Symphony and Chorale.

**Harry Croft,
Missoula**