A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Enrich. Educate. Entertain.

With a renewed focus on the three central tenants of our mission statement, the Erie Philharmonic launched an aggressive, vibrant and exciting 2016-17 season.

With everything from mac n’ cheese and the Nutcracker to Casablanca and Emanuel Ax, the orchestra reached across the community like never before, reaching an unprecedented number of people of all ages.

Here is our story.
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The 2016-17 Season was yet another artistic triumph for the Erie Philharmonic. This success is due in large part to your continued passion for and support of the Erie Philharmonic. From the initial plans made over two years in advance, to the tuning-A on the Warner stage, to the warm and generous response from our Symphonic, Pops, Youth, and community concert audiences, it all comes back to the power of great music to transform our lives. I, for one, feel deeply grateful and humbled to be the artistic steward of this vital Erie institution, and it is always a pleasure to look back on the season’s highlights that now make up the musical history of our Philharmonic.

Particular standouts for me included the Philharmonic debut of one of the finest living pianists on the planet, Emanuel Ax. In a five-day residency, Mr. Ax dazzled the community with his wit, warmth, generosity, and incredible musicianship. To collaborate with him in Beethoven’s ‘Emperor’ Concerto alongside Mahler’s 4th Symphony was a personal career highlight for me, and a delight for our musicians. The Erie Philharmonic Chorus sang a searing Dona Nobis Pacem by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and we welcomed world-class guest soloists including flutist Demarre McGill performing Mozart and pianist Kate Soyeon Lee playing Bartok. In the Pops series, I was so happy to bring back violinist Jenny Oaks Baker in an all-Disney tribute as well as an evening highlighting the creative (and sometimes ghastly) music of Danny Elfman as written for Tim Burton’s films. And who can forget our live, synchronized performance of Casablanca, hearkening back to the glory film days of the Warner Theatre?

The Erie Philharmonic family includes the voices of the Erie Philharmonic Chorus and the young instrumentalists of the Jr. Philharmonic, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the many volunteers and participants who make these ensembles thrive and contribute to the musical life of our community. Special thanks to directors C. Thomas Brooks, Bob Dolwick, and Jonathan Moser, without whom we would certainly not have enjoyed the high quality programming these groups continue to bring year after year. The musicians of the Erie Philharmonic deserve special mention. Through their tireless dedication and their commitment to excellence each and every time they take the stage, they make our concerts come alive for so many in Erie. Thank you for your incredible work.

Sincerely,

Daniel Meyer
Music Director, Erie Philharmonic
As I reflect on the past two years serving as President of the Board of Directors of our Erie Philharmonic, I am amazed by the enthusiasm and support of our community, sponsors and donors. The community has filled the house at sold-out concerts and attended events at record levels. Our sponsors and donors have stepped up to allow us to broaden our programming and community outreach. Without the support of these constituents, what we do would not be possible.

And “what we do” is nothing short of amazing! Led by our beloved Music Director Daniel Meyer, our gifted musicians bring beautiful orchestral music to life on stage and in our community. Our Executive Director, Steve Weiser, and a very talented and energetic staff bring everything together and continue to push us forward to reach new heights and new audiences.

This has truly been a special time to be a part of the Erie Philharmonic. I look forward to continuing my service on the Board as I hand over the baton of the Presidency to our new President, John Knox. While there is much to celebrate from the past, the future of the Erie Philharmonic is even more exciting. We are truly blessed to have such a jewel in our community, which includes the voices of the Erie Philharmonic Chorus and the young musicians of the Jr. Philharmonic.

As with any organization, success is based on people. On behalf of the Erie Philharmonic family, thank you to everyone involved in helping us continue to provide the highest quality live orchestra concerts and programs that enrich, entertain and educate people of all ages. You truly do make a difference in our community!

Sincerely,

Daniel Zimmerman
President, Board of Directors (2015-17)

Since 1913, the Erie Philharmonic has been supported by volunteers, philanthropists, musicians, dedicated staff and numerous community leaders. The level of support and backing we have received from the Erie community is and continues to be priceless. We have created a platform in which to share quality musical experiences with thousands of people every year in hopes to enrich, entertain and educate people of all ages; without people like you, this would be impossible.

I am thrilled to be stepping in as the new President of the Board of Directors for 2017-2019, to continue upholding the standards of the community. On behalf of the Erie Philharmonic, I extend my deepest sense of gratitude to our musicians, volunteers, staff, audience members and you. Without your loyal support, we could not fulfill our mission. Thank you for your commitment and the pride you have for your Erie Philharmonic. Join me in celebrating the upcoming 2018-2019 season and all it has to offer!

Sincerely,

John Knox
President, Board of Directors (2017-19)

Perspective can often serve as a powerful source of motivation. This holds true for everyone here in the Philharmonic office, especially when we look back on our 2016-17 season. When we started as basically an entire new staff in 2015, we never really knew just how far we would grow as an organization in just one season. We were still dealing with creating a new look for the orchestra, on top of relocating to a new office space and building a new website, and knew that we had to find a way to start connecting back to the community.

Fast forward 20 months; we have done just that. Piano donations, record attendance numbers, a 60-day preschool residency, free youth concerts for over 4,000 children, national recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, sold-out concerts, a community-wide residency from legendary pianist Emanuel Ax... the list goes on and on.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Erie community as well as our team here in the office. As we have stated since the beginning of our time here, we are a family. Between Music Director Daniel Meyer, the musicians, the staff, all donors, sponsors, ticket buyers and season pass holders, we are on this journey together. I cannot thank you enough for supporting the orchestra, and I look forward to many more successful seasons!

Sincerely,

Steve Weiser
Executive Director
CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Attendance

<table>
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Subscriptions

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Pops Series</td>
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<td>142</td>
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<td>Flex 4 Punchcard</td>
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<td><strong>1,111</strong></td>
<td><strong>496</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,607</strong></td>
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### 2016-17 Earned Revenue

- **Subscriptions**: $287,282
- **Single Tickets**: $175,518
- **Ad Sales & Other Programs**: $64,454
- **Other Artistic Programs**: $2,000
- **Investment Income**: $82,219
- **Fee Engagements**: $32,000

### 2016-17 Contributed Revenue

- **Individuals**: $356,117
- **Corporations**: $200,143
- **Government & Foundations**: $131,385
- **ECGRA**: $69,146
- **Local Arts Organizations**: $24,017
- **Events**: $118,939

### 2016-17 Expenses

- **General & Administrative**: $165,367
- **Education & Outreach**: $70,512
- **Events**: $32,736
- **Fundraising**: $100,458

### 2016-17 Earned vs. Contributed Revenue

- **Earned**: $687,638
- **Contributed**: $899,747
FOUR STRAIGHT SOLD OUT CONCERTS

Casablanca  February 4

Emanuel Ax  March 11

Disney Favorites  April 1

The ‘Organ’ Symphony  April 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Zimmerman  President
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Sandra Jarecki  At-Large
Julia Nene  At-Large
EMANUEL AX RESIDENCY

In March 2017, the legendary pianist Emanuel Ax spent four days in Erie, presenting concerts, recitals, lectures, master classes and more.

This residency, which was offered by Mr. Ax at no cost to the Philharmonic, served as a catalyst for the orchestra. Our SOLD OUT Symphonic Series concert March 11 was the first symphonic sell out in over 20 years. Additionally, the orchestra received a $100,000 gift from Thomas Hagen matching all new and increased donations received towards Mr. Ax’s residency.

Events included school visits to Emerson Gridley Elementary School and Walnut Creek Middle School, a piano donation, a free college-level master class at Mercyhurst University, a free recital broadcast on WQLN, a lecture/recital at the Jefferson Educational Society, a free open rehearsal and a SOLD OUT concert at the Warner Theatre.
MAJOR CORPORATE DONORS

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Erie Community Foundation
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Dramashop, Inc.
Elderkin Law Firm
Erie Community Foundation
ErieBank +
Firebirds Wood Fired Grill
Gannon University
Glass Growers Gallery
Cloud 9 Wine Bar
Dramashop, Inc.

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Hines Printing
Hamot Health Foundation

GOVERNMENT & FOUNDATION SUPPORT

J. Boyd & Joan Bert Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
The Britton Family Foundation
Dwyer Family Fund of the Erie Community Foundation
Erie Arts & Culture
Erie Arts Endowment
Erie Community Foundation
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GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program
GETTY Foundation

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