

Become Part of Musical History: Make a “Sound Investment”

The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra has inaugurated its “Sound Investment” program offering members of the public an opportunity to invest in the creation of new music to be performed by the orchestra. While the public commissioning of music – paying a composer to write a new piece of music for a specific purpose or event – is a relatively new concept, private commissioning by the church or wealthy patrons is a tradition that goes back to at least the Middle Ages. Although the JSO has privately commissioned works in the past, this will be the first time that individuals will have a chance to support new music and become part of the composer’s creative process.

According to JSO Executive Director Mike Walther: “Public commissioning allows individuals and businesses an opportunity to become an active participant in the creation of a legacy of music for the future. You don’t have to be a musician, play an instrument or be able to carry a tune. All you need is a love of music.”

The JSO has selected Matthew Browne, winner of the 2017 ASCAP Foundation Nissim Prize, as its 2017-18 “Sound Investment” composer. The commissioned work will be premiered on November 11, 2017, as part of the JSO’s “All American Program in Honor of Veteran’s Day.” The cost to become a commissioner is \$250, and is tax deductible.

Although the composer retains ownership of the work, commissioners are acknowledged in many ways—on the first page of the musical score, on any official recording, in the performance program and in other written materials. In addition, commissioners will receive: a presentation copy of the completed score, autographed by the composer; an invitation for two to attend the dress rehearsal and post-rehearsal gathering featuring the composer speaking about his creative process; and an invitation for two to attend the world-premiere reception with the composer, Music Director James Blachly, and members of the orchestra.

To enroll as a commissioner or for additional information, contact the JSO business office at 814-535-6738.