



08 August 2020

Dear Friends:

We are grateful for your patience while we took the time to plan and collaborate on a safe and enriching season. We are pleased to announce the Fort Smith Symphony's socially distanced 2020 – 2021 concert season! This season was approved by the Arkansas Department of Health and is modeled after successful socially distanced orchestral concerts abroad.

Please see the revised schedule and programming. We have worked to maintain the dates and repertoire as we announced them in March, but current guidelines required some necessary changes. The most notable are as follows:

- **There will be two performances of each concert program.** The first beginning at 5:00 PM, the second at 7:30 PM. Concerts will be approximately one hour in length with no intermission. Please note that the season opening concert on October 17 is outdoors at 4:00 and 6:00 PM.
- **Concerts will have limited audience capacity.** Audience seating capacity will need to be limited to a maximum of 400 per performance for all indoor concerts. By having two performances of each concert program, all of our subscribers and sponsors will be able to attend. Families, couples, etc. can sit together, however, there needs to be 6 feet distance between family groups.
- **Audience members must keep a distance of 6 feet** from people not in their immediate party.
- Per the Arkansas Department of Health, **audience members must wear masks** upon entering the venue and for the entire length of the concert.
- Upon arrival at the concert hall, **audience members will be asked to answer a few health questions and have their temperature taken.**
- **There will be no intermission or intermission receptions.** However, we will be working with The Bakery District Beer Garden (located next to the concert hall) for socially distanced post-concert gatherings.



- **There will be designated pathways throughout the lobby and concert hall** and posted COVID-19 safety information. Hand sanitizing stations will be located at all entrance and exit points.
- **The orchestra must also social distance.** This includes a 6-foot distance between each musician on stage, social distancing measures backstage and mandatory masks, excluding wind players when performing. Musicians will also be screened upon arrival.
- **Digital tickets and programs will be distributed.** These can be printed or shown on a mobile device. Physical tickets or programs will not be available.
- Due to staging limitations and concert length, the previously rescheduled ***Sounds of Hitchcock*** concert has changed to Charlie Chaplin's classic first film, ***The Kid***, with the incredible original score performed live.
- **Social distancing requirements may limit specific seating choices for this season.** We appreciate your understanding while we do our best to fulfill subscriber requests as well as 6-foot separations. This will be a temporary inconvenience.
- **If any concerts are cancelled due to changing/growing COVID-19 concerns, we hope you will consider returning your tickets as a tax-deductible donation to the Symphony during this challenging time. You may also receive credit for tickets to another concert or request a refund.**

In spite of the many current obstacles, the Symphony is energized and fully committed to presenting a socially distanced, safety-conscious 2020 – 2021 concert season. We will continue to closely monitor city, state and national COVID-19 developments and adjust Symphony plans as needed. We ask for your flexibility, patience and understanding during this season and are planning for the best.

Fort Smith Symphony Board of Directors
John Jeter, Music Director, Fort Smith Symphony