



2020 - 2021 ANNUAL

REPORT

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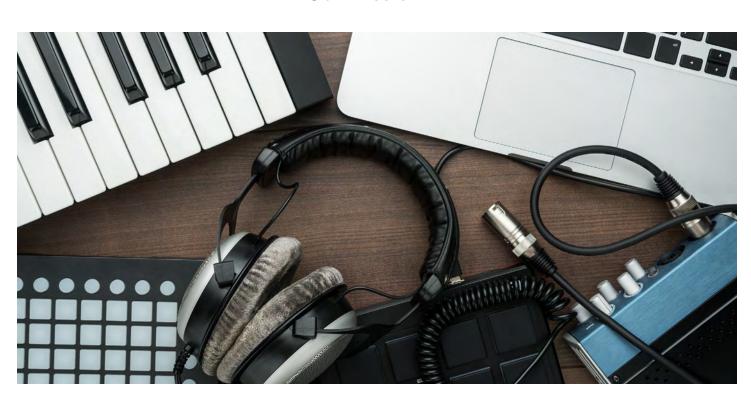
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Our Mission





CONDUCTOR

MARCIN PĄCZKOWSKI

As we are navigating the tricky logistics of putting together a performance in front of the live audiences for the first time in two years, I wanted to share with you some reflections on the past year with ECO.

In the report last year I wrote about our virtual rehearsals and keeping the music going, even as we were not able to gather in person. Since then we have not only rehearsed over the internet, but also published virtual concerts and we even welcomed some new members. While "back to normal" is an ongoing process, we stayed active and kept our musicians engaged.

At this point I wanted to make a technical remark about our virtual concerts this past year: they were recorded from members' homes, in close-to-real-time, using specialized low-latency software. What that means is that more than half of the ensemble played together for these concerts, with only a few of the members recording their parts separately. This is different, more technically challenging, but also more gratifying, than a more common approach, where everyone records their part individually while listening to a click track or just the accompaniment. We are certainly not the only group that used specialized low-latency software to record concerts, but this approach is much less common and I'm not aware of any other community orchestra doing that for their virtual performances. Congratulations, ECO!

Now, we are still facing challenges, trying to put together concerts while keeping our members and audiences safe. However, I am so grateful that we are able to play music in the same room again and I hope that sooner than later we will be able to have the full ensemble on stage, playing for the broad audience again.

At this point I would like to thank a number of people for their work for the orchestra. First, I want to thank Michael Coats for being the Board President during this past year. Thank you Michael for your tremendous work in navigating through all the difficulties we have encountered, your help publishing online concerts, and for your enthusiastic trombone playing! Next I would like to give special thanks to our Executive Director, Gwen Parker, whose tireless efforts allowed us to find a place to rehearse, perform, and secure funding for our operations in this difficult time. Thank you, Gwen! I also want to thank Mark Wick for taking over as the President and for continuing to be part of the orchestra even from afar, as well as our Librarian, Don Wilson, who constantly deals with certain conductor's last minute music distribution requests. Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Board, past and present, who served the orchestra during this year: Roberta Crosby, ReAna Hansen, Chris Hartzog, Karen Wenzel, and Roy Wenzel. Thank you for everything you've done! I'm looking forward to our next year!





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GWEN PARKER

Vaccines, Variants and Venues. Oh my!

No yellow brick road to follow, no great and powerful Oz. Instead, the dual wizardry of Maestro Marcin Pączkowski's conducting wand and his technical prowess carved a path forward and ECO made music during the pandemic-filled perils of the 2020-2021 season.

Using online software tools developed by Marcin last season, we continued weekly virtual rehearsals and produced two video concerts.



- "A Low Latency Holiday" premiered in December. Sixteen musicians were recorded playing together live, virtually. Another six recorded their parts separately which were then incorporated into the final video.
- Four months later a second video premiered. "Popping the Pandemic" was ECO's online
 offering in lieu of our customary fall pops series. Appropriately, one of the medleys included "I
 Will Survive"!

Instead of hundreds of smiling faces in audiences at multiple venues across Snohomish County, hundreds viewed our premieres at their homes across the country -- from Pacific Northwest to Virginia and multiple states in between.

Following the Pops video premiere, one viewer wrote, "...the effort you mustered up to give the local and global community the purity of music so that, just for a little while, we can let go and feel good again is so beautiful and giving...I loved "Low Rider!" I actually laughed out loud."

As the end of the season approached, vaccines were available, but the Delta variant was on the rise. The Board debated: How to move forward, balancing member safety while respecting privacy and diversity of beliefs? It was decided that ECO would diligently follow the Governor's Performing Arts guidelines for unvaccinated individuals, using masking and distancing.

Then the labor-intensive search for a suitable venue began. Doors at venues which had been open to us in the past were closed, indefinitely. Finally, with the gracious help of the City of Everett Parks Department and the advocacy of Everett's Cultural Arts Commission, we took a step toward normalcy: Mid-June -- for the first time in 15 months -- twenty of us gathered together at Forest Park's Floral Hall under the excellent and humor-filled direction of ECO's Rehearsal Conductor, Dr. Nse' Ekpo.

Marcin's wizardry has given ECO an incredible gift, enabling us to make music together, remotely, for more than a year. Even so, there's no substitute for the magic that happens when lovely melodies are played with the rich textures that different instruments bring to the party -- together, in the same room.

As we move into 2022 and the hope of returning to full strength and offering in-person performances, there's still something missing, something worth clicking my ruby red slippers for: you!

We long to see many smiling faces of our neighbors and friends in our audience. Soon.



PRESIDENT

MARK WICK

To borrow from one of my generation's favorite music hits, "The Beat Goes On" in Evergreen Community Orchestra. The year 2021, like 2020, has not been what we hoped, but we have been, and will continue to work together to produce music performances.

Many ECO musicians, current and former, some now as far away at the East Coast, participated in a holiday concert, the first ECO concert provided virtually through YouTube and evergreencommunityorchestra.org. It was special and meaningful for some former members who had moved away to get to connect with and perform again with this special group of musicians.

June brought the first in-person rehearsals and the last month of last season alternated between virtual and in-person sessions. The current season opened with a return to virtual rehearsals until mid-October when in-person began again. Our hope is that by the time you are reading this ECO will have entertained two in-person audiences. The overriding concern is to produce performances with as little risk to orchestra members and audience members as possible.

Members of the ECO Board have worked together very well, and with great levels of understanding for the individual and collective challenges being faced by everyone, even in the face of unexpected twists and turns.

With input from the musicians and hard work by board members, ECO now has official polo shirts for members to wear while out in the community, and for informal performances. This is one more step in increasing community visibility and awareness.

Thanks to financial grants, and generous contributions from those who believe in the mission of ECO, we remain financially sound, although our Treasurer and Executive Director still need to navigate carefully.

In the nearly two years of social isolation brought about by the global pandemic, the need for the experience of sharing music within a community of people has been made abundantly clear. Along with that is the knowledge that investment in nourishing the Evergreen Community Orchestra through financial means is an ongoing necessity.

The members of ECO and the supporters of ECO have continued to work together to continue the mission to provide an opportunity for musicians of all levels to experience the joys and benefits of making music together and sharing that experience with those who benefit from listening.

Community may be our middle name, but it describes what we truly are.



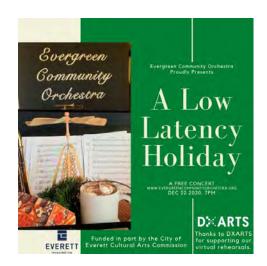


SEASON REPERTOIRE

A Low Latency Holiday¹

Premiered on YouTube December 22, 2020

- Joy To The World, George F. Handel and Issac Watts, Arranged by Marcin Paczkowski
- God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Traditional, Arranged by Marcin Pączkowski
- What Child is This, Traditional, Arranged by Marcin Pączkowski
- O Holy Night, Adolphe Adam, Arranged by Marcin Paczkowski
- Christmas Eve in Sarajevo², Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel; Bob Phillips
- We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Traditional, Arranged by Marcin Paczkowski



¹ The A Low Latency Holiday You Tube video is available on the "Performances" page of ECO's website. (www.evergreencommunityorchestra.org/performances)

² Unfortunately, ECO's performance of "Christmas Eve at Sarajevo," featuring an electrifying, head-banging, electric violin solo by Marcin is not included in the current version of the video. Thanks to a generous donation from Thrivent Project Action Team, ECO was able to purchase performances rights to air this piece on the premiere and for only one month following.





SEASON REPERTOIRE

Popping the Pandemic¹

Premiered on YouTube April 17, 2021

- Celebration, Ronald Bell, Claydes Smith, George Brown, James Taylor, Robert Mickens, Earl Toon, Dennnis Thomas, Robert Bell, and Eumir Deodato, Arranged by Ralph Ford
- Low Rider, Sylvester Allen, Harold R. Brown, Morris Dickerson, Jerry Goldstein, Leroy Jordan, Lee Oskar, Charles W. Miller, and Howard Scott, Arranged by Michael Brown
- Disco Lives, Stayin' Alive: Barry Gibb, Robin Gibb and Maurice Gibb; I Will Survive: Dino Fekaris and Frederick J. Perren; Y.M.C.A.: Jacques Morali, Henri Belolo and Victor Willis, Arranged by Johnnie Vinson
- The Never Ending Story, Georgio Moroder and Keith Forsey, Arranged by Patrick Roszell
- What's Up at the Symphony?, This Is It: Mack David and Jerry Livingston; William Tell Overture: Gioachino Rossini ("Looney Tunes" adaptation by Milton J. Franklyn); The Barber of Seville: Gioachino Rossini ("Looney Tunes" adaptation by Carl Stalling); The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down: Cliff Friend and Dave Franklin; Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2: Franz Liszt ("Looney Tunes" adaptation by Carl Stalling); Hungarian Dance No. 5: Johannes Brahms ("Looney Tunes" adaptation by Carl Stalling); The Ride of the Valkyries: Richard Wagner ("Looney Tunes" adaptation by Milton J. Franklyn); Merrily We Roll Along: Eddie Cantor, Charlie Tobias and Murray Mencher
- Star Trek through the Years, Theme from "Star Trek": Gene Roddenberry and
 Alexander Courage; Theme from "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine": Dennis McCarthy; Star
 Trek The Inner Light: Jay Chattaway; Theme from "Star Trek Generations": Dennis
 McCarthy; Theme from "Star Trek: Voyager": Jerry Goldsmith; Theme from "Star Trek The Motion Picture": Jerry Goldsmith

1 The Popping the Pandemic YouTube video is available on the homepage of ECO's website.

POPPING April 17
7 pm
YouTube

"Star Trek through the Years" soloists are pictured below. (Not pictured: Marcin's nose-whistle solo.)



Jean DeWitt plays the original Star Trek theme on the eerie-sounding theremin.



Michael Coats narrates the sacred words: "Space: the Final Frontier"



\$5,170

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING RESULTS: FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021

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Member Dues	\$3,760
Government Grants	3,064
Fundraising	2,228
Corporate Grants and Donations	1,349
In-Kind Donations	733
Unrestricted Gifts	525
Restricted Gifts	305
Total Operating Revenue	\$11,964
Expenses	
Payroll and Contracted Services	\$7,149
Insurance	1,567
Artistic / Concert Production	1,175
Accounting	763
Other Operating Costs	690
Advertising & Promotional	415
Music Purchases	233
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,992
Net Results	-\$28

BALANCE SHEET: AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash - Unrestricted	\$2,330
Cash - Restricted	185
Total Current Assets	\$2,515
Long Term Assets	
Timpani/Percussion	\$3,600
Sound System	1,000
Music Library	2,500
Total Long Term Assets	\$7,100
Total Assets	\$9,615
Liabilities	
Current Liabilties	\$2,545*
Long-term Liabilties	1,900**
Total Liabilities	\$4.445

* Includes COVID relief forgivable loans. These have been forgiven in full as of December 2021.

^{**} Includes percussion loan which was paid in full in November 2021.





HOW TO SUPPORT ECO

Donations received at ECO concerts provide only a fraction of the revenue needed to produce ECO's concerts. Our orchestra members and supporters provide the rest through membership dues, tax-deductible donations and corporate sponsorships.

With your contribution you can help bring talented guest artists to the stage, purchase or rent musical instruments, purchase sheet music for our library and assist with rental of facilities for performances.

Consider making a contribution today and by doing so you will play an important part in helping us to continue our mission to provide inspiring performances of beautiful music.

There are several ways to donate, for example:

- Make a gift in honor, tribute or memorial to a person of your choosing.
- Give your time or expertise for a deductible in-kind donation.
- Leave a musical legacy with a gift to ECO in your will.
- For other options scan the QR code to the right to go directly to ECO's web site.



Evergreen Community Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID 30-0844072. Your contribution is tax deductible. We hope you will support the Orchestra and the arts in our community.

Contributions can be made online on the "Support ECO" page at <u>evergreencommunityorchestra.org</u> or mailed to: Evergreen Community Orchestra
P.O. Box 2812, Everett, WA 98213.

Here are some very easy ways you can send additional support ECO's way at no cost to you:

- Look for us on Amazon Smile. (https://smile.amazon.com/)
- If you shop at Fred Meyer, link your Rewards card to ECO. (https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards)
- If you're a member of Thrivent Financial Services, you may be eligible to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant dollars through the Thrivent Choice program.
- If you have your vehicle serviced at Fleet Service Auto & Truck Repair, www.fleetserviceauto.com, and designate ECO as your charity of choice they'll donate 3% of what you spend to ECO!















COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank You!

The Board of Directors and every member of Evergreen Community Orchestra wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many individuals and businesses that have made generous donations during our 2020-2021 season. Our music, our performances and our mission to bring music to the City of Everett and throughout Snohomish County would not be possible without you.

Season Donors

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Individuals

Susan Cole

Roberta Crosby

Dallas Crow

Kimberly Aitkins Dailey

Duane Herzig & Penni Marvel

Toni and Gene Mineo

Laurie Ware

Margot Wolcott

Business Sponsors

Banner Bank

CHRQ Consulting

Fleet Service Auto and Truck Repair

Holly Kopra, CPA, in kind donation

McClain Insurance

Thrivent Financial Donor Choice Program

Thrivent Project Action Team

Walker Assessment & Consulting

Valla Walker, PsyD Clinical Psychologist

Funded in part by grants from:

City of Everett Cultural Arts

Commission



Snohomish County Arts
Commission





Thank you to many anonymous donors of gifts ranging from \$5 to \$250!



Thank you to Everett Parks for giving us access to Forest Park's Floral Hall for summer rehearsals.



Many thanks to Banner Bank for their ongoing support in the form of generous annual donations & help with COVID relief forgivable loans.



Thank you to the City of Everett Cultural Arts Commission for their advocacy and support of ECO's search for summer and fall rehearsal venues!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Looking Forward

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

As we start the new fiscal year, the pandemic still presents unprecedented challenges. Without the support of those below, ECO would not have been able to provide in-person rehearsals this fall and two holiday performances:

- Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for their first-ever grant to ECO to kick off the new fiscal year!
- Everett School District and Evergreen Middle School for giving us access to a wonderful fall rehearsal venue.
- Cascadian Place retirement community for hosting an ECO concert for their residents and staff!
- Lamoureux Real Estate for a generous donation which helped defray expenses for ECO's December performances!
- And, many thanks to the anonymous donor whose generous gift paid the remaining balance on ECO's percussion loan after the close of last fiscal year!











Cascadian Place Retirement Community





Board of Directors & Officers

As of June 30, 2021

President:Mark WickTreasurer:Chris HartzogRecording Secretary:Karen WenzelLibrarian:Don WilsonMember-at-large:Roberta CrosbyMember-at-large:Roy Wenzel

Executive Director: Gwen Parker

Principal Concert Conductor



Marcin Pączkowski is a composer, conductor and digital artist, working with both traditional and electronic media. As a conductor, he leads the Evergreen Community Orchestra and Seattle-based new music collective Inverted Space. He has also led premieres of numerous works in Poland and the United States. Marcin received his PhD from the Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS) at the University of Washington. He has received masters' degrees from the Academy of Music in Krakow, Poland (composition and conducting) and from the University of Washington (composition). He was a grant and commission recipient from Seattle Symphony, Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Polish Institute of Music and Dance and from Lesser Poland Scholarship Foundation Sapere Auso.

Rehearsal Conductor

Nse' Ekpo enjoys a varied career as a performer, educator and content creator throughout the U.S. and abroad. He received his Doctor of Music Arts in Orchestral Conducting from the University of South Carolina in 2015 upon completion of his document, "Expanding the American Canon: The Orchestral Music of Black American Composers." He currently is the Concert Band Director/Co-Orchestra Director at Lakeside School in Seattle. When not conducting, creating, or collaborating, Dr. Ekpo enjoys performing as a stand-up comic at Seattle area venues and living the dream with his wife and three children.



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2020 - 2021 ANNUAL **REPORT**



ABOUT ECO

Evergreen Community Orchestra (ECO) is an ensemble that provides an opportunity for musicians of all ages, backgrounds, and ability levels to participate in the joy of making and sharing music.

Since our founding in 2014, ECO has been actively engaged in presenting free concerts throughout Snohomish County. We believe that everyone in our region should be able to access and enjoy live orchestral music as part of an appreciation of the arts. In the 2020-2021 season ECO produced two YouTube videos, reaching a much broader online audience.

ECO's initial membership consisted of 25 musicians. In the four years prior to the pandemic, over 50 musicians had played in at least one ECO performance each season. During the pandemic about half of our ensemble participated remotely in live virtual weekly rehearsals using specialized software for low-latency communication*, others recorded their parts separately. Some were more remote than others. Former and new members joined in from their respective homes in Arizona, California, Utah, and Virginia.

While classical music is a popular staple for orchestras such as ours, we strive to showcase the amazing range of musical pieces available and diversity of interests in our area. Our concerts have included children's classics such as *Peter and the Wolf*, international carols and Hanukkah pieces, medleys from movies and science fiction, such as *Harry Potter* and *Star Trek*—even some disco! There's something for everyone in ECO's growing music library.

We also seek to expand our repertoire to celebrate cultural diversity. Recent library additions include "Arirang," a beloved Korean folk song, and *Petite Suite de Concert* composed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, a British Black composer from the late 19th / early 20th century.

ECO's library includes original pieces as well. In 2019, we debuted two compositions created specifically for us: *Evergreen Suite No.* 1 by Lou-Chuck F. Donaldson and *Mary's Gift* by our bassist, Christopher Hartzog. Our principal concert conductor, Dr. Marcin Pączkowski, regularly arranges pieces to accommodate and bolster our skill level, and to make the most of our ensemble's instrumentation. Pieces such as *Bóg się rodzi* and *Lulajże*, *Jezuniu* bring a wonderful taste of his native Poland to our region. We are proud of the creativity and dedication of our entire membership.

Evergreen Community Orchestra is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization supported by donations from the community and the monthly dues paid by the membership. No musician is ever turned away because of an inability to contribute financially. We are delighted to welcome all members of our community who appreciate music, enjoy playing, and want to share their talents.

Were it not for the many months of tireless efforts from our founding board, ECO would not exist. On behalf of current and future members and concertgoers, many thanks to ECO's Founding Board of Directors, October 2014:

President: Kimberly Aitkins Dailey Recording Secretary: Karen Wenzel Treasurer: Tudi Campbell Publicity Chair: Myrna Overstreet

Members-at-Large: Vonnie Jenkins, Randy Pedersen

^{*} None of ECO's online accomplishments would have been possible without Principal Concert Conductor Marcin Pączkowski, who donated countless hours to test systems and work with individual members to set up the low latency software. ECO is also grateful for the support of the University of Washington's Department of Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS).



2020 - 2021 ANNUAL

REPORT

MUSICIANS

VIOLINI

Dallas Crow Jean DeWitt* Beth Vickery

VIOLIN II

Kris Felt Alison Grim Fiona Knight Mary Pinckert

VIOLA

Nan Butler Kelly Kimble Karen Wenzel **CELLO**

Tudi Campbell

BASS

Chris Hartzog

FLUTE

Brenda Gonzalez ReAna Hansen CC Kuehl Ken Pinckert Margot Wolcott

OBOE

Chuck Hamilton Alicia Ochsner Utt** **CLARINET**

Susan Cole Bert Crosby

Kimberly Aitkins Dailey

Gwen Parker

ALTO SAX

Kimberly Aitkins Dailey

BASSOON

Anna Kruse

FRENCH HORN

Doreen Hamilton Don Wilson **TRUMPET**

Chris Cole Penni Marvel Steven Utt** Emma Vickery Mark Wick

TROMBONE

Michael Coats

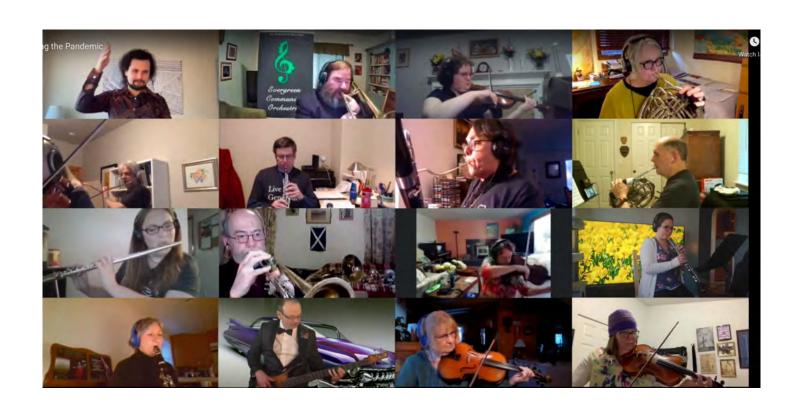
TUBA

Duane Herzig

PERCUSSION

Vernon Huffman Randy Pedersen

*Concert Master **Guest Artist





Evergreen Community Orchestra's Mission

IS TO PROVIDE A WELCOMING PLACE
FOR MUSICIANS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS
TO PLAY FOR THE LOVE OF MAKING
AND SHARING MUSIC.
ECO SHARES THE SPOTLIGHT
WITH OTHERS TO ENHANCE LIFE



Setting up for a summer in-person rehearsal at spacious Floral Hall: together, six feet apart.

