



**Celebrating 35 Years of Bringing Music and Minnesotans Together!
2023-2024 Winter and Concert Season – A Note from Our Conductor**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My greetings. I am very pleased to report that we concluded another great year – outstanding concerts, incredible soloists, great audiences and a very good run with our Music in the Schools.

Our Winter Concert programs included music by some of my favorites – Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Brahms, and Mozart – and the soloists, who are all good friends - Rodney Marsalis, Helen Chang Haerten, Inna Falicks, Amit Peled, and Yevgeny Kutik were absolutely amazing!

Our Music in the Schools was back in full force, working with eighteen schools. The program was *Music Tells a Story*, with the academic emphasis on literature. Music and stories included Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*, Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and (African) Chevalier de Saint-Georges' overture to *L'Amant Anonyme*. And of course, there were stimulating activities to help students meet academic literature standards, songs for them to sing, and music for the orchestra students to play with the Sinfonia, all as part of the in-school performances. In the spring we made a full in-studio video production of this program! Later in the spring we held our Young Artist Competition. The summer included a full slate of concerts, including both classical and "lighter side" faire. Our Youth Outreach Week featured 48 of the region's very talented instrumental students who joined us in late July, concluded with our summer's grand finale performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony at the Lake Harriet bandstand.

Our October 18 and 20 Farewell Concerts marked a different milestone- the end of Sinfonia public performances. This was a difficult decision for the Board and me to make but given the shifting corporate and foundation priorities away from supporting the arts, we recognized we could no longer garner the necessary financial support to continue our community outreach and retain our free admission/bring the kids policies. We will continue to work with Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools through our Music in the Schools.

35 years is indeed a very important achievement. We thank you for your continued and enthusiastic support.

Jay Fishman
Artistic Director