

Annual Report of the President

2010 – 2011



As we approach the end of this difficult year for the Stockton Symphony, I am impressed with the resiliency of this venerable organization. I am impressed with the dedication and teamwork of the staff, led by Jane Kenworthy. I am impressed by the quality of the musical productions that Music Director Peter Jaffe is able to create with the musicians of our orchestra. As many have observed, this community is fortunate indeed to have a symphony orchestra as good as this one. I am impressed by the efforts of your Board of Directors as they raise the funds necessary to keep the music playing. I am impressed by the many volunteers who regularly step forward when the need arises. As your President for the last two years, I am honored to have served.

As a measure of the community support for the orchestra and the diligent efforts of staff and board, we achieved total revenue of over \$1,283,000 (or almost 10% over budget). This increase in revenue has allowed us to reduce our operating deficit by almost 50% from what we projected a year ago! I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our staff and every board member, volunteer, donor and audience member who made this possible. Finally, I would like to personally thank the anonymous donors who gave the Symphony a \$1,000,000 unrestricted gift five years ago. Without the ability to draw on these reserves during these difficult economic times, the Stockton Symphony might not be here today. I am happy to also report that, thanks to a steady investment policy, our cash reserves continue to stand ready to provide future support should it become necessary.

Just let me summarize a few other highlights of the past year:

We secured a second round of funding from the James Irvine Foundation to continue our audience broadening efforts and our goal of becoming financially sustainable.

The Symphony's proposal to offer musical education to low income primary grade students was accepted by Pacific President Pamela Eibeck as one of the first "Beyond Our Gates" initiatives. This program has initial funding from United Way and hopes to renew music and arts education in Stockton schools.

We moved into new offices on Robinhood Drive. I believe that it is important for our staff to work in pleasant surroundings in a safe neighborhood.

In our second year at Spanos Center, over 3,000 patrons enjoyed a fabulous tribute to the Beatles called Classical Mystery Tour.

We performed 10 classical symphony concerts in front of more than 10,000 classical music fans.

In partnership with the Stockton Record and with funding from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, we offered a free concert as part of *The Records* Literacy and Book Fair Family Day at the Park.

We sold out our Holiday Pops and Valentine Pops concerts.

We signed a 12-month agreement with the Central Valley Youth Symphony to provide orchestra management and marketing support.

At our first Sponsorship Breakfast, we secured sponsorship for a fourth Pops concert as well as sponsorship for our upcoming Avner Dorman commission.

In addition to their concert performances, several of our guest artists graciously donated their time and talent to special in-home private recitals. We thank Elena Urioste, Viviana Guzman and Chu Fang Huang, as well as our recital hosts Maureen and Bob Klinger, Phil and Anne Berolzheimer and Dr. Tom and Virginia Chen for their support.

In spite of the financial difficulty, not a bad year.

Finally, let me welcome as your new president, Pat Catania. Over the past three years Pat has worked tirelessly on a number of governance policy and procedure items including a revision of our by-laws. In addition, he has lead the nominations process and actively sought out, contacted and recruited several new board members. Pat's low-key, but no-nonsense style, will keep the Symphony on its upward path. Please give him the support and help that he deserves.

Let me conclude by saying that after 84 years of existence, the Stockton Symphony is very much alive and well. I fully expect this wonderful organization to persevere, thrive and grow in the coming years. Those of us who have had the opportunity to serve in a leadership role today, are just the latest in a long line of arts supporters who have stepped forward when it was their turn. I have no doubt that the Symphony will be in good hands in the future as well.

Michael R. Whelan
Board President