



March 16, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters of the PEI Symphony Orchestra:

Like all of you, the PEI Symphony Orchestra board, Music Director and staff have been wrestling with heart-wrenching decisions amid our ongoing public health emergency. As you know from the recent government announcements it now appears clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will last for weeks if not months into the future. With the wellbeing of our community foremost in our minds, we believe that we must, alongside our peer organizations all over the world, heed official advisories to forego large public gatherings for now.

It is with deep regret, but also the most profound concern for our community that we have decided to postpone the two remaining events in our 2019-2020 season: our annual “Double or Nothing” fundraising dinner at the Red Shores Racetrack and Casino that was scheduled for March 28, and our “Copland and Rachmaninoff” concert featuring guest soloist Sarah Hagen that was scheduled for April 19. **It is our intention to reschedule both events in our next season.**

This health emergency will pass, and next season we will be back, stronger and more vibrant than ever! Already our hearts are lifted up at the prospect of reconnecting with you in the latter half of 2020. Our first two subscription concerts include an exhilarating juxtaposition of musical storytellings in October, featuring Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherazade* and Tara Maclean’s *Atlantic Blue*; and an inspirational pairing in November of Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* (with its life-affirming *Ode to Joy*) with a captivating recent work by the terrific Canadian composer Vincent Ho.

The current spate of cancellations will be economically devastating to performing groups across Canada and beyond our borders. **We encourage our patrons to generously consider donating any unused tickets as a way of helping everyone in our cultural ecosystem – including the PEISO – to survive financially. If you choose to donate your unused tickets to the PEISO, you will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full value of the ticket and receive our warmest thanks.** This option is displayed on our [2020-2021 season subscription form](#) to donate the proceeds of your April 19 ticket back to the PEISO, just check the appropriate box on the form. It’s that simple!

Other options are also available:

- Of course, we recognize that the donation option may not be viable for everyone. As an alternative, you may exchange your April 19 tickets (whether you purchased them separately or they were part of your 2019-20 subscription) for a credit toward a 2020-21 PEISO season subscription. This is also displayed as an



option on our 2020-2021 subscription form, available here [April 19 Concert Refund & 2020-21 Season Subscription Form](#).

- If you are a season subscription holder and would prefer to have a refund rather than a credit toward the cost of next year's concert series, please email us as admin@peisymphony.com
- If you are not a season subscriber and have purchased individual tickets only for the April 19th concert and would like a refund, please contact the Confederation Centre Box Office directly as the Centre will process your refund.

Please note that unless you are requesting a refund for individual tickets to our April 19 concert, it is necessary to contact our PEISO office and not the Confederation Centre Box Office and that although it may take a few weeks, staff will respond as quickly as possible.

Our internal deliberations have led us to appreciate with renewed force what we already knew: making tremendous music together, and sharing that music-making with you, holds the deepest possible significance for each of us. It is what gives our lives meaning.

On behalf of our symphony family of musicians, staff, friends and supporters, we wish you all the best of health and wellness in the coming weeks and months. We will see you soon!

Bruce Craig
Board President

Mark Shapiro
Music Director

Marlee Saulnier
Executive Director