



Waterbury Symphony Orchestra

LEIF BJALAND, MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR



Waterbury Symphony Orchestra
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Music, undeterred in its ability to bring us together!

On Saturday, September 26th, we came together in Hollow Park, spread out across lawn chairs and picnic blankets, and bid farewell to summer. It had been more than six long months since our musicians had last gathered to make music. The familiar sounds of Vivaldi filled the air on what turned out to be a picture-perfect autumn day. But on that day we experienced this masterpiece as never before, and for many of us, it was as if we were hearing Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* for the first time. Perhaps what we were hearing was the unison sigh of relief that washed over us, artists and audience joined together in a shared bond of hope, and a collective belief that music had brought us together again.

Violin soloist, Sirena Huang, was particularly grateful to be on stage again, and she had Isabelle Curtiss to thank. A long-time supporter and former Board member of the WSO, Isabelle's gift represented her larger commitment to fostering opportunities for youth through music. Following the concert, Sirena wrote a letter to Isabelle expressing her gratitude:

"I want to sincerely thank you for your incredible generosity in making Saturday's concert possible. As a musician, having the opportunity to connect and share music with a live audience is one of our greatest joys, which has been extremely challenging for us during the pandemic. While I am very grateful for the technologies we have today to enable virtual concerts, nothing beats a live concert for me. Saturday felt truly uplifting. Sharing this experience with musicians and audiences during times of such uncertainty felt so rejuvenating and meaningful. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be back on stage – our home – and to experience the beauty of live music together again."



This is a letter that Isabelle will always cherish, and it is a letter that belongs to all of you. Thanks to you, the WSO has not only survived the last eight months, but is thriving amidst unprecedented circumstances, providing invaluable music education and performance programs.

"One may ask, 'Why give during one's lifetime?'" This experience says it all.—Isabelle Curtiss

As the curtain falls on 2020, we are asking once more for your support. Whether virtually, or in person, the WSO is here for you during a time when we need music more than ever. As we face prolonged uncertainty, your ongoing generosity ensures the continuation of an 83-year-old legacy of bringing people together and creating community through the shared experience of music.

Thank you,

Robert Cinnante

Robert Cinnante, Executive Director