



May 18, 2020

Dear Patron:

Last month, we unveiled a revised calendar that moved our remaining concerts into summer. Since then, the projected trajectory of the pandemic has lengthened. The Governor's Safe Start Plan—unveiled last week—makes it clear that reopening the state will be a longer process than anyone envisioned. Accordingly, we are **suspending all live performances through August**.

However, this does not mean that we're going away! Now more than ever, people need beautiful music; and so, we are taking this opportunity to innovate—and fulfill our mission in a different way. We are currently preparing **online performances** to replace the previously scheduled live concerts. These will include a webcast with members of our string section in June; and performances with violinist Chee-Yun and trumpeter Byron Stripling in July and August. These multi-camera video concerts, featuring high fidelity audio by Blue Lake Public Radio, will be accessible from our website exclusively for current ticket holders. You will get to see the Orchestra in a whole new way—and best of all, you can do so whenever you like, from the comfort of your own living room. Watch for details in the near future.

In the interim, **Blue Lake Public Radio** is broadcasting excerpts from WMS's fall concerts at 11 a.m. Sunday mornings starting on May 24th and continuing for the following month. Go to 88.9 FM in the Grand Rapids area, and 90.3 in Muskegon.

If you want to hold out for live music while retaining the full value of your outstanding concerts, our new **WMS MusicFutures Pass** is an easy, convenient solution. Just mail your tickets to all remaining concerts in by June 10 to WMS at 360 W Western Ave Ste 200, Muskegon, MI 49440. Include a note requesting a MusicFutures Pass for the full credit of your tickets. You'll receive your Pass within several weeks.

If you prefer a refund, follow the same procedure: mail your tickets back by June 10 with a request note, and we'll take care of it. We are committed to ensuring you the full value of your ticket purchase. Call the office at 231/726-3231 if you have questions.

This time has created uncertainty for all of us. With your support, we will continue to provide life-changing music for you—however we can! We miss you, and we look forward to resuming live concerts—and in the meantime, to playing for you online.

Sincerely,

SCOTT SPECK | MUSIC DIRECTOR

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