



OQUIRRH MOUNTAIN SYMPHONY

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History

The Oquirrh Mountain Symphony (OMS) is an ensemble of musical excellence and versatility. Founded in December 1999 as the Riverton Metropolitan Orchestra (RMO), the Oquirrh Mountain Symphony (OMS) is comprised of 60 volunteer musicians from Salt Lake, Utah, and Davis counties. Maestro Benjamin K. Winkler, a professional with 30+ years of experience is the musical director and conductor. The OMS annually performs four season concerts, as well as participating in civic arts and cultural festivals, patriotic events, meet-and-greet receptions, energetic musical discussions and educational activities for families and children as requested and funded. Because of the grants, contributions, donations, program advertising, and box office receipts, the OMS continues to remain financially sound.

The focus of the orchestra during the last decade has been to increase musicality and the playing level of the members and to establish and build an audience base. The name was legally changed from Riverton Metropolitan Orchestra to Oquirrh Mountain Symphony in March 2010, to emphasize the shift from a single-community based orchestra to a multi-community based regional symphony. The Oquirrh Mountain Symphony takes its name from the range of mountains on the southwest corridor of the Salt Lake and Utah county valleys. The new logo and colors are indicative of the music, mining, and massive growth that are an integral part of the area. This restated organization will enable municipalities without an orchestral presence to host fine arts performances with educational components through a well-developed symphony without the burden of overhead costs required to maintain a local fine arts organization.

An annual statewide Concerto Competition with contestants from all over the state – St. George to Logan and Vernal to Tooele - is the crown jewel of the Oquirrh Mountain Symphony. Forty to seventy contestants competed in each of the past six years and the winners of the competition performed as soloists with the orchestra in a “Spotlight Spectacular” concert. This is the only statewide competition open to musicians of all ages and stages. Teachers throughout the state of Utah readily embrace this competition as an important opportunity towards the performance preparation of their students. The well-attended “Spotlight Spectacular” concert provides an opportunity for local citizens to hear professional-level artists perform and gives the soloists impetus to their individual motivation and education. It also promotes arts education and awareness in smaller urban and rural communities. The performing soloists are provided an avenue to develop their performance skills and the orchestra members further develop their accompanying skills.

The OMS provides wholesome entertainment and creative experiences the entire family enjoys through the medium of music and promises to be a vital part of the fabric of the communities it serves. Many of the members perform as soloists or with other area ensembles throughout the Salt Lake valley. Their expertise allows the symphony to perform challenging repertoire in many distinctive variations and artistic moods. The Oquirrh Mountain Symphony is establishing itself as a cultural presence significant to the region by enabling communities to share resources for cultural and performing fine arts. We invite you to join us as we provide wholesome entertainment and a creative experience the entire family will enjoy through the medium of music!