

Letter from the Podium
Hybrid Summer Concert 2021

Dear Friends of DMCO,

The Des Moines Community Orchestra has been eagerly anticipating another opportunity to rehearse together and perform for you. Although concern for orchestra and audience safety is still a concern, we believe we have managed to find a way to offer the options of either a live performance or a livestream to your home. By adhering to the strictest standards of masking and social distancing we will be able to present a live concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 20, 2021, in the large auditorium at Franklin Jr. H.S. The performance will be streamed using an online platform for those who prefer to experience it at home. Details for accessing this free livestream will be available on our website (www.desmoinescommunityorchestra.org).

The concert's title, "DMCO Taxes Its Files" refers to my choosing repertoire solely from the DMCO library in my basement. As part of the program, I have incorporated songs of particular meaning to us. Our beloved librarian, David Hindal, sadly passed away from COVID-19 and we will celebrate his time with us by playing three pieces in his honor.

We will begin with the brief *Creole Overture* by Jean Berger. I have been able to find out little about this piece and, although it is in our files, there is no evidence the orchestra has ever performed it. Although Berger is best known for choral and chamber pieces, this lively and rhythmic work for full orchestra is very exciting.

We will play the next three pieces for David. "The Walk to the Paradise Garden" by Frederick Delius sounds very appropriate (which is why I chose it), even though the destination is a pub. More important, the serene style of Delius perfectly captures the idea of a peaceful experience. David, a French horn player, loved the music of Richard Wagner and we will reflect that in our performance of the Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*. If he loved anything more than Wagner, it was playing in the Alumni Band for Iowa State University. We will conclude our tribute by playing *Bells of Iowa State*, the school's alma mater.

The *Celtic Concerto*, a medley of Irish folk tunes by Laura Zaerr, gives us the chance to feature Laura Erickson, who has helped us out on harp many times.

We will close the concert with a somewhat atypical work by Ottorino Respighi, his *Ancient Airs and Dances*, Suite No. 1. Known for large orchestral works, Respighi scales back significantly in his arrangements of Renaissance lute pieces, maintaining their essence, while inserting some of his own stylistic devices.

We are delighted to have the chance to again experience the joy of sharing music with you and hope you will be able to find the time to join us, either in person or at home.

Stay safe,
Carl

Carl B. Johnson
Music Director and Conductor