

25th Anniversary Season

Our Mission

Enrich the lives of the residents of the Upstate region of South Carolina through quality performances of fine orchestral literature.

Our Vision

Educate—Enrich—Entertain

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Roggenkamp

Jack Stewart

25 years: Still going strong, and still absolutely free!

Have you noticed some new things about Foothills Philharmonic this year? Our 25th Anniversary Season is a milestone, and we are celebrating with new initiatives, new logos, new signs, and new concerts. We are several concerts into our season and we are just getting started.

So many things cannot be missed during the Christmas season: home decorating, caroling, ugly Christmas sweaters, and, of course, the Foothills Philharmonic annual Christmas Pops concert. Nothing heralds the season like a concert of your holiday favorites, so this concert is a must see. It's so popular, we will perform this concert in a larger hall, so please note the **location change for Christmas Pops to Fairview Baptist Church** on December 14 at 7pm.

I have a riddle for you: What is educational, musical, and fun for all ages? If you said the brand-new Family Concert, you're right! Bring the whole family, and come to hear some of the great standards and to learn a little something about how music impacts us. Although this concert is kid-friendly, it is designed for children, parents, grandparents — and all who are young at heart. We are starting this concert earlier. Mark your calendars: **Family Concert: February 8 at 6:00pm.** We don't want you to be late!

Have you attended our Chamber Concerts at the Greer Cultural Arts Center? I think these concerts are a special treat. They are in a smaller hall, a more intimate setting where you can be "up close and personal" with the musicians, while enjoying great music. Our **String Quartet returns on November 16** at 7pm with some of your requested favorite composers.

You are a vital part of our community, and I want to take a moment to thank you. Not only does your support make what we do possible, but you also make it rewarding and fun. Together we are making great music!

Kory Vrieze,
Artistic Director



Coming Events

**November 16: String Quartet, 7pm
at the Edward R. Driggers Center for the Arts, 804 Trade St, Greer**

2 violins, viola and cello—a smooth blend of sound that is as delicious as a café latte on a cold morning. You will hear music written for the popular Danish String Quartet!

**December 14: Christmas Pops, 7pm
at Fairview Baptist Church - new location!
1300 Locust Hill Rd, Greer**

Our holiday concert is in a new location. Last year had an overflow crowd. This year we'll perform in a larger hall. Same spirited music - same toys for tots Drive - new address. Please bring a new toy for the collection.

January 1: Deadline for applications to the Foothills Future Stars competition

Open to high school sophomores and juniors residing in the Upstate, auditions will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2025. For details and application, go to our website. foothillsphilharmonic.org/the-future-stars

**February 7: Family concert, 6pm - new time
Riverside Baptist Church
1249 S. Suber Rd, Greer**

Foothills concerts are known for being family-friendly. This year—for the first time—the February concert will showcase music that will delight all those who are young at heart. **Look for more details on our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date.**

Read the Program Notes before the show

They will be posted on our website two weeks before each concert. Find out what's playing before you go!



It takes many hands to put on a concert! If you would like to help, contact us at: **inquiry@foothillsphil.org** or tick the box on the envelope, and we'll call you.

Foothills Philharmonic 2000-2025

The Story continues . . .

Although Foothills Philharmonic has been in existence for 25 years, it still is a hidden gem in the cultural fabric of the Upstate — but once people find it, they keep coming back. Whether players or audience, people come, and they stay. As a result, both the orchestra and audience have grown.

Today, the orchestra is a full symphony and draws its audience from all over the Upstate. It remains a group of talented, dedicated musicians who love to create harmony together to share with you, our Foothills Community. In 2011, Kory Vrieze was chosen as Artistic Director. He would maintain the quality standard that had existed since the beginning — but would also chart a new course for the group.

From the beginning, Kory assessed the ability of the players and chose music to challenge them to expand their capabilities. For his first concert in 2011, he ambitiously programmed *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Mozart's Symphony No. 40. Under his leadership the players rose to the occasion.

Soon he was programming works like *Symphonie Fantastique*, *The Planets*, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5. The year before the Pandemic hit, Foothills performed Brahms' Symphony No. 3 and *Danse Macabre*. *Scheherazade* was supposed to be on the concert when Covid cancelled the rest of the season. It was finally performed in September this year.

Recently, he has been challenging both the audience and the players with works by lesser-known composers. Few in the audience and the orchestra had ever heard the works of Joseph Suk, but that concert turned out to be an emotional outpouring rarely experienced. At a Foothills concert, the community has a chance to hear for free, not only blockbuster classical music — but also music you just don't hear anywhere else.

Kory has built both the orchestra and the audience by making sure that there is something in each concert for everyone. Some orchestra instruments are featured most of the time, like the strings. In some works, the tuba or the triangle often spend a lot of time counting rests, or don't play at all. Kory makes sure they are featured on other works.

At concerts, the audience is part of the experience. It's the energy between orchestra and audience that makes live music special. Foothills programs are always a balance between music that demands your concentration and music you just can't stop tapping our toe to.

To be continued . . .

I first played flute and piccolo for Foothills in the second season. Then I played strictly in symphonic bands. In 2010, Jane Bauer asked me to sub for a few rehearsals. I loved the experience, and I've been a regular ever since! I love playing with excellent musicians who have the skills to meet Kory's challenge. Together we make music that none of us can do on our own.

Carri Burgess, flute/piccolo



Since middle-school, I played in school, youth, and all-state orchestras. When I went to Greenville Tech for engineering, I missed playing music with others. In 2012, I heard Foothills perform *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Wow! I couldn't wait to join. I love how music connects a community — the camaraderie of the musicians, the fellowship we feel with the audience, and the symphonic experience we provide for the Upstate.

Yogi Rana, violin



A friend invited us to a Foothills concert in Kory's first year as conductor. We are classical music lovers and were impressed with the quality of performance back then. But my how it has grown ever since! Kory chooses music that appeals to us and also to those experiencing classical music for the first time. His humor and remarks about the music make everyone feel welcome.

June and Joe Yanick



Bob and I came to see a friend who plays in the orchestra. We had not been to Foothills before, but now we are regular fans! As a visual artist I observe the people around me. One man intently absorbed in listening to *Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4*, didn't move the whole time, then exhaled ...

"I love Tchaikovsky."

Susanne Abrams



Foothills Philharmonic

Victor Vallo, conductor
Len Clayton, founder

2000

Gary Robinson,
artistic director

2001

Nutcracker
Peace Center

2003

Prelude to
Midnight

2006

Artisphere

2008

Kory Vrieze,
artistic director

2011

Evan Duke,
president

2012



FOOTHILLS PHILHARMONIC CELEBRATES



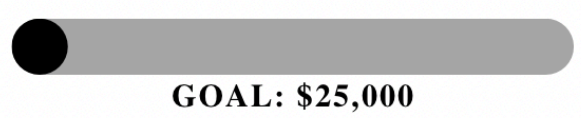
of “educating, enriching, and entertaining” our community

Our passion is making a difference through the power of music and togetherness. Over the last 25 years, Foothills Philharmonic has connected with our community, met needs through partnerships, and enlightened our audiences through **FREE**, engaging musical experiences.

Foothills has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years! With these changes come additional expenses.

In celebration of 25 years, Foothills has launched an ambitious goal to raise an *additional* \$25,000.

Will you join us in meeting this goal? Your gift makes a difference!



With help from friends like you, Foothills Philharmonic will continue to grow and impact our community by expanding our reach, creating new programming, and inspiring the next generation of musicians and music lovers.

To partner with Foothills Philharmonic, simply return your gift with the enclosed envelope, or visit our website at www.foothillsphilharmonic.org.

Your gift may be used to:

- Purchase needed transportation for orchestra instruments/equipment
- Purchase and maintain instruments/equipment
- Purchase/Rent music for concerts
- Provide Future Stars Scholarships, inspiring the next generation of musicians
- And more...



Scan the QR code to give today!

*Foothills Philharmonic is a 501(c)3 organization, and all gifts are tax-deductible.

Additional ways to support Foothills Philharmonic:

- Tell your friends.
- Follow us on social media.
- Share this newsletter with a friend.
- Join the volunteers.



2000-2025

Pictures at an Exhibition	Toys for tots	Symphony Fantastique	Scholarship Competition	Shostakovich No.5	Petting zoo	Chamber concerts	Covid years online	25th year anniversary
2012	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017	2018	2020-21	2024-25



Foothills Philharmonic brings a fantastic musical experience to our community.

Foothills Philharmonic - Classically Casual Concerts - All FREE



Orchestra Concerts

***** New Location**
Fairview Baptist Church
1300 Locust Hill Rd, Greer 29651

Sat, Dec 14, 7pm Christmas Pops

Riverside Baptist Church
1249 S. Suber Rd, Greer, SC 29650

Sat, Feb 8, **6pm** Family Concert *****new time**
Sat, Mar 29, 7pm Spring Orchestral Concert
Sat, May 3, 7pm Pops Celebration

Spotlight Chamber Concerts

The Edward R. Driggers
City of Greer Center for the Arts
804 Trade St, Greer, SC 29651

Sat, Nov 16, 7pm String Quartet



Sat, Feb 15, 7pm Brass Concert
Sat, Mar 15, 7pm Woodwind Quintet
Sat, Apr 12 7pm Chamber Selections

June and July Summer Pops
Dates to be announced

You're invited!

