

# 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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## Happy New Year!

Foothills Philharmonic opens the second half of our 25th season with something new – a Family Concert. Designed for people of all ages to learn about music and how it impacts us, this concert will feature classical favorites, musical surprises and audience interaction. Experience familiar works like “Mars” from the “The Planets” and “In the Hall of the Mountain King” as we have fun exploring the orchestra. Great for beginners AND veterans of orchestra music.

Who doesn't love a story of failure and triumph? Sergei Rachmaninoff premiered his very first symphony in St. Petersburg in 1897. It was a total and utter disaster. Though most of the problems had to do with the conductor, Alexander Glazunov, (He was rumored to have been drunk!), Rachmaninoff took the failure to heart and was doubtful that his orchestrations were any good. Indeed, it took him another ten years to produce his Second Symphony. In March, come hear us play Rachmaninoff's triumphant symphonic return, which is as popular today as it was at its premier.

A spring tradition arrives in May with our annual Pops concert (starts at 7pm) complete with our children's Instrument Petting Zoo (starts at 6pm) and a drawing to be guest conductor that evening! There will be something for everyone from the movies to Broadway to the great American Songbook.

We know that music comes in all sizes, so don't forget about our Chamber Music Concerts spotlighting Foothills talent from the brass and woodwind sections as well as soloists. These events are held in an intimate setting so it's your chance to experience music up close and personal with the performers.

We are so happy you are part of the Foothills community, and we look forward to seeing you throughout our 25th anniversary season.

Kory Vrieze,  
Artistic Director



## Coming Events

**February 8: Family concert, 6pm--NEW TIME  
Riverside Baptist Church**

**1249 S. Suber Rd, Greer**

This year—for the first time— the February concert will showcase music that will delight all those who are young at heart.

Do you have a lonely music instrument gathering dust in the attic? The Greenville Music Club will be in the lobby to collect them, restore them, and put them in the hands of young students. Bring yours to the concert.



**February 15: Brass Concert, 7pm  
at the Edward R. Driggers Center for the Arts, 804 Trade St, Greer**

Foothills Brass players take the stage to show their musical range from bright to mellow – powerful to tender. They'll touch your heart!

**March 15: Woodwind Quintet, 7pm  
at the Edward R. Driggers Center for the Arts, 804 Trade St, Greer**

The flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn have a diversity of sound that will amuse, surprise and delight you.

**March 29: Spring Orchestral concert, 7pm  
at Riverside Baptist Church  
1249 S. Suber Rd, Greer**

Known for its emotional depth and lush melodies, Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 is one of his most popular compositions.

**April 12: Chamber Selections, 7pm  
at the Edward R. Driggers Center for the Arts, 804 Trade St, Greer**

The orchestra breaks into small groups, each with a different sound and musical style!

**May 3: Pops 7pm (Petting Zoo 6pm)**

Kids can try to play instruments in the lobby of Riverside Baptist, before the concert.

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!



# Foothills Philharmonic 2000-2025

## The rest of the Foothills story . . .

25 years have passed, and Foothills Philharmonic looks to a future brighter than ever. Under the leadership of Kory Vrieze, it has thrilled audiences who keep coming back, and it remains a group of talented, dedicated musicians who love to create harmony together to share with you, our Foothills Community.

### When did the Foothills Chamber Music Series begin?

Foothills is one of only a few community orchestras that also presents its own chamber music series. It started as one concert where small groups of the musicians presented music directly to the audience, without a conductor. However, chamber music is best when you can be “up close” to the performers. For a more intimate setting, in 2019 we partnered with the City of Greer to hold the chamber music concerts at the Edward R. Driggers Center for the Arts. It’s casual, and it’s fun. If you haven’t been, try one and see.

### What else is unique about Foothills?

The popular Instrument Petting Zoo began in 2017. Kids of all ages crowd the lobby, excited to try out orchestral instruments — their fingers guided by local teachers. And the winner of a drawing gets to conduct the final concert piece!

In 2016, the first Future Stars Competition was held. High school musicians compete annually for a scholarship and an opportunity to perform with Foothills Philharmonic. Winners have included a flutist, a clarinetist, a violinist, pianists, and a mandolin player!

### A promise to the audience and to the players

Kory made a commitment to have something for everyone in each and every concert, and he has. From symphonies to pops — from Mahler to Movies. In February 2020, the orchestra was rehearsing *Scherazade for the March* concert, and then Covid struck . . .

We were in rehearsal preparing for our next concert when suddenly, our world shut down. It was no longer safe to gather in groups for either rehearsals or concerts. We had no choice but to cancel that concert, and then another, and then the season.

When we finally felt safe enough, we rehearsed with chairs safely distanced. Concerts spread the orchestra over the entire floor space as well as the stage. What a challenge it was, to hear each other, let alone see the conductor! But we were happy to be together again!

Jessica Morgan, concertmaster



### How does an orchestra play music when you’re apart?

When Covid separated us, we missed the camaraderie. After all, philharmonic means “friends together.” With live performances suspended and no end in sight, virtual music performances gave us a new way to make music together.

**How did you create it?** Players recorded alone in their homes, using their computers or phones. Though we couldn’t see or hear each other, we listened through headphones to a designated metronome beat to keep everyone in sync. Kory chose Cole Porter’s *Night and Day*. We each recorded our own part and then sent our recordings to Kory to edit with special software.

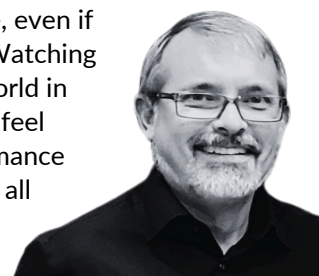
**Was it difficult?** For me, it took a few takes to get to where I was happy with it. Having the ability to go back and fix imperfections is nice to be able to do, but it meant doing the whole thing over each time. So “getting it right” became time-consuming but possible.

**What was the result?** The final recording sounded like all the musicians were in the same room, playing together. It sounds great, and it’s a thrill to watch the players on the screen. It was a nice way to fill the gap that not being able to play had created in our lives — and it was a great way to remind our audience that we were still here making music.

You can watch the video and see for yourself:  
<https://bit.ly/fp-night-and-day>

**Anything else?** It really highlighted how much fun it is to create music with other people, even if the format was a bit unusual. Watching other orchestras around the world in virtual performances made me feel really connected to the performance community at a time when we all felt so isolated.

Randy Lee, viola



## 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



# SHARING THE POWER OF MUSIC FOR 25 YEARS

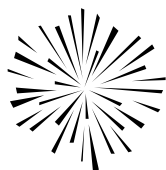
through “educating, enriching, and entertaining” our community

Our passion is making a difference through the power of music.

For 25 years, Foothills Philharmonic has connected with our community through **FREE**, engaging musical experiences.

*“I’ve been attending Foothills Philharmonic performances for 6 years! The [quality] of music is excellent. I enjoy the variety of music that is performed throughout the year.  
And, you can’t beat the price!”  
- Carol S.*

Will you help us meet our 25th Anniversary goal?  
Your gift makes a difference!



**Total Gifts and Pledges: \$6,642**  
**GOAL: \$25,000**

## YOUR GIFTS KEEP OUR CONCERTS FREE AND...



Purchase transportation for instruments/equipment



Purchase and maintain instruments/equipment



Provide Future Stars Scholarships



Rent/Purchase music



Expand and create programming



Scan the QR code to give today!

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

To partner with Foothills Philharmonic, simply return your gift with the enclosed envelope, or visit our website at [www.foothillsphilharmonic.org](http://www.foothillsphilharmonic.org).\*

## 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