

### Our Mission

To provide accessible quality performances of fine musical literature for the benefit of its musicians and the enrichment of the community.

### Our Vision

Educate—Enrich—Entertain

### Board of Directors

Paul Pendell, President  
Randy Lee, Vice President  
Ruthie Pilgrim, Secretary  
Sally Potosky, Treasurer  
Amanda Barrett  
Riley Henderson  
Mark Hopper  
Gina League  
Randy Lee  
Jessica Morgan  
Liz Stachelek  
Mary Margaret St. John  
Suzette Wood

### Staff

Kory Vrieze,  
Artistic Director  
Bobby Powell,  
Personnel Manager  
Andrew Kearns, Ph.D  
Historian  
Terry Davidson, Librarian  
Randy Lee, Webmaster  
Gina League, Data Base

### Volunteers

Don Barrett  
Carri Burgess  
Nancy Criss  
Lynn Fisher  
Sara Glogowski  
Adam Hawthorne  
Gwen Johnson  
Cindy Joyce  
Lori Lagerhof  
Caroline McIntyre  
Kary Newsome  
Dona Styron  
Debbie Pendell  
Tom Roesch  
Sarah & Gary Roggenkamp  
Shari Schick  
Chelsea Shepherd  
Jack Stewart

## Kory's Korner

Whew! It is hot out there this summer. But there is a silver lining—it means the Foothills Philharmonic Season is about to begin! Get out your calendars and start marking in the dates because the only thing hotter than the thermometer is what we have in store for you this season.

Is there a tune that you have heard but you don't remember where you know it from? Classical melodies have entered into movie scores and even some commercials. A couple of such tunes appear in our Opening concert with Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, Op. 72, a piece full of that Bohemian charm and vigor. You may not know what a dumky or furiant is, but I promise you will know after this concert. For some lighthearted fun, we will perform the overture to Strauss' Der Fledermaus from his operetta that has its origins from Vaudeville. Die Fledermaus means "the bat" but I promise that none of those nocturnal mammals will be flying about during the performance.

As fall sets in, Foothills is traveling to old Russia. Rimsky Korsakov (of Scheherazade fame) delved into the melodies of the Russian Orthodox church to compose his Russian Easter Overture. Equal parts reverence and celebration make up this work that celebrates what the Russian's call "the Bright Holiday" and I assure you, that it is as fun to play as it is to listen.

Like our opening concert, this performance will also feature tunes you know from "somewhere." Borodin's Polovtsian Dances describe the people that came from the Eurasian Steppe area, encompassing a vast swath between Hungary and Mongolia. BUT, you may know the version sung by Tony Bennett and Andrea Bocelli. Which song? Come out to the concert to find out!

Kory Vrieze,  
Artistic Director



## What's Happening?

### A New Venue

After many wonderful years onstage at Riverside Baptist, this season Foothills Philharmonic will perform at a new venue. Covenant Church, with its recently refurbished stage, is welcoming the orchestra to their sanctuary. We are excited to make music in this new hall, and we look forward to seeing you there. Our after-concert receptions will take place in the Welcome Center. There is ample parking around the property, and there is a portico for those who need to be dropped off close to the building.



### The Season Opener

The program for this season's opening Masterworks concert includes Antonín Dvořák's Slavonic Dances, Op. 72, the Overture to Der Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II, and other exciting music. It promises to be a concert you don't want to miss!

### A Foothills Tradition

Our after-concert reception (a tradition that began before Kory's tenure) is a great place to enjoy some refreshments and meet the maestro and the orchestra members. Whether you want just a dessert or you'd like a sandwich and salty snack along with a cup of soda, we will have it. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



## Foothills Philharmonic

### Who Makes It Run?

When you find your seat at a Foothills Concert, most of the orchestra is probably already on the platform warming up or practicing a tricky run that takes only a few seconds to play but has required many minutes (hours) of practice time to learn. The 60+ musicians along with Maestro Kory Vrieze constitute the visible (and audible) part of Foothills Philharmonic. But behind the scenes before, during, and after the concert there is a village of people who make it possible for the show to go on.

Before the first rehearsal for each concert, Bobby Powell, the personnel manager, contacts the orchestra members to see who is available to play the upcoming concert and if needed, finds subs to fill in for regular musicians who cannot play that concert. Librarian Terry Davidson spends hours organizing the music into folders and distributes the folders to the individual players. Before the day of the concert Drew Kearns thoroughly researches the repertoire and writes the notes that you find in the concert program. Program designer Don Barrett works to get the program ready for the printer so that it will be in your hands the evening of the performance.

Without the conductor and musicians, there would be no concert. Kory is the maestro—and the MC. But on the day of the concert, before he ascends the stage dressed in tuxedo and tie, he spends a good deal of time loading and driving the orchestra equipment to the performance venue. He and a group of orchestra members arrive early before the morning rehearsal to set up stands, chairs, percussion equipment, and podium. That evening, before the doors open, Caroline McIntyre and a crew of ushers organize the lobby and set up any special displays that are needed for that evening's concert. Board President Paul Pendell helps his wife with the initial reception preparations, makes sure rooms are open for instrument case storage, and walks around to check for any unexpected problems. After the concert, Bobby and several percussionists remove the percussion instruments from the stage and reload them into the orchestra van. Meanwhile, other musicians stack music stands and rearrange chairs to be in the position they were before the orchestra invasion.

While the concert is going on, Debbie Pendell and granddaughter Ella Pendell organize the reception food that is

### Pete and Sally Potosky Award

Mike Criss has played clarinet with Foothills since 2007. As a switch hitter he plays whatever clarinet that's needed: bass, alto, soprano, A or Bb clarinet. He is one of the few contra bass clarinetists in the area. Nancy Criss has been a valued volunteer, whether greeting the audience, managing the mailing list sign-up, or serving at receptions. They have also been generous donors.



### Volunteer of the Year

Bobby Powell has been our volunteer Personnel Manager since 2014. He makes audiences swoon with his trombone solos and makes us laugh with his witty humor. He goes above and beyond, moving equipment, driving trailers, conducting rehearsals and setting up keyboards, tables, and petting zoos.

### Future Stars Scholarship Winner

Olivia Lee is an accomplished violinist who is a rising senior at James F. Byrnes High School in Duncan, South Carolina. A dedicated musician and scholar, she has studied both violin and piano for over 13 years. Olivia plans to pursue a double major in Accounting and Violin Performance in college.



(Continued on p.3)

(From p.2 – Who Makes It Run?)

provided by the orchestra members. During the reception, they are on hand to serve drinks, remove empty dishes and make certain that this social time runs smoothly. Afterwards, they and a few other helpers return the Welcome Center to its pre-concert condition so that it is tidy and clean for the church members on Sunday morning.

Though only the conductor and musicians appear on the stage, you can see that it takes more than just those people to make the concert a success. So, the next time you applaud the performers and conductor, throw a few extra claps in there for the village!

## Next Up Fall 2025

The next event in the Foothills Philharmonic calendar is the **Spotlight: Soloists** concert on **October 11 at 7:00 pm**. Various orchestra musicians will present some of their favorite pieces in the recital hall at the **Edward R. Driggers City of Greer Center for the Arts**. Join us at **804 Trade St. Greer** for a lovely evening of music in this more intimate setting.

Back at **Covenant Church**, the **November 1 Masterworks Concert** will feature Rimsky-Korsakov's Russian Easter Overture and Polovtsian Dances by Borodin.

Foothills will return to the **Driggers Center** on **November 15** for the String Quartet Concert featuring a lovely selection of pieces written for two violins, viola, and cello—a group that is predominant in the genre of chamber music. While you're there, don't forget to visit the Center's Art Gallery before or after the concert!

## In Case You Missed It

This past June and July Foothills Philharmonic presented Summer Pops Concerts at the Driggers Center for the Arts. The orchestra played tunes from the patriotic and pop music repertoire. These concerts are not only fun for the orchestra to play, but they are becoming favorites with the audience as well. If you missed them in '25, be sure to put June 13 and July 11, 2026 on your calendar so that you won't miss the next ones. Better arrive early to make sure you get a seat!

## Orchestra Trivia

This season's Masterworks Concerts include pieces by some of the great Romantic composers. As is the case with most composers, these men not only wrote music; they learned to play one or more instruments before they became composers. Antonin Dvorak played the violin, viola, piano and organ. Like Dvorak, Johann Strauss II and Reinhold Gliere played the violin. Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov played piano, and he also learned much about woodwinds and brass while serving as Inspector of Naval Bands. Alexander Borodin, a chemist as well as a composer, played both the piano and cello.



## We support Foothills Philharmonic.

Won't you join us?

the Hutchinson family: Hanna, Eva, Luca, Gary

- Tell your friends — follow us on social media.
- Share this newsletter with a friend.
- Make a gift to Foothills Philharmonic, online or with the enclosed envelope.

## It costs a lot to put on a free show!

We can't do it without you!

Your donation will help keep our events free and open to everyone. If you haven't already contributed to Foothills Philharmonic, please do so today!

Your tax-deductible contribution shows you care about Foothills and want us to continue to present high quality music. Your support keeps our free shows ... FREE!

This QR code will take you to  
our online donation page >>>



*Since Foothills began in 2000, people like you have helped bring a fabulous musical experience to thousands of people of all ages in our community... absolutely free. Thank you for helping us continue that tradition. Last year, your contributions totaled over \$29,000!*

*If you enjoy Foothills Philharmonic concerts as much as we do, please help us keep our concerts free and accessible to the entire community.*

Paul Pendell, president



## Introducing Our New Season



Foothills Philharmonic brings a fantastic musical experience to our community.

### Foothills Philharmonic - Classically Casual Concerts - All FREE



**You're invited! -  
Carolyn Hutchinson**

#### Orchestra Concerts

**Covenant Church**  
**1310 Old Spartanburg Rd Greer, SC 29650**

Saturday, Sept. 20, 7pm Opening Night  
Saturday, Nov. 1, 7pm Fall Concert

Saturday, Dec. 13, 7pm Christmas Pops

Saturday, Feb. 7, TBA Family Concert  
Saturday, March 14, 7pm Spring concert  
Saturday, May 2, 7pm Pops Celebration

#### Spotlight Chamber Concerts

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

Saturday, Oct. 11, 7pm  
Soloists Recital  
Saturday, Nov. 15, 7pm  
String Quartet



Saturday, Feb. 21, 7pm  
Brass Concert  
Saturday, March 28, 7pm  
Woodwind Quintet  
Saturday, April 11 7pm  
Chamber Selections

June 13 and July 11 Summer Pops