

Bemidji's Paths to Dignity Activities

November 12—16, 2025

Starting November 12, 2025 and concluding with a concert discussion on Sunday, November 16, the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra (BSO) will be hosting the *Paths to Dignity Project*, a series of events inspired by the work of concert violinist and advocate for the unsheltered, Mitchell Newman, and his colleague, composer/conductor Lucas Richman. Known nationally in the world of classical music, these two have collaborated to create the *Paths to Dignity Project* in an effort to "...empower the unsheltered through arts and advocacy." Joined by other organizations who already provide services to the unsheltered (Bemidji Community Table, Evergreen Youth Shelter, Nameless Coalition for the Homeless, Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter, Peoples Church, and the Village of Hope) the BSO hopes to inspire the growth of a relationships between musical institutions and homeless advocacy organizations in the Bemidji area.

List of Activities (revised 11-5-2025)

W
11/12



Bemidji Community Table meal with music

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Where: United Methodist Church, 924 Beltrami Ave. NW

Violinist Mitchell Newman is joined by Beverly Everett on keyboard as they engage Community Table guests through music and conversation. Other musicians may also join at casual, informal event. Anyone can attend this event at no charge.

Th
11/13



Coffee with Mitch and Peoples Church at the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra Office

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Where: 521 Minnesota Ave. NW

Mitch shares his music and conversation over coffee with the folks housed at Peoples Church, an indigenous ministry.

Th
11/13



Music for families & children at the Boys & Girls Club

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Boys & Girls Club, 824 Ameruca Ave. NW

Beverly Everett again joins violinist Mitchell Newman they and other musicians meet children for music and discussion, followed by a family night activity with more music.

The BSO wishes to thank Beltrami Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up and the Bemidji Area Arts Endowment for helping to support these activities.

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November 12—16, 2025, continued

Sa
11/15



Concert and meal at the New Day Center

Where: New Day Center, 722 15th Street NW

Music starts at 1:30 p.m., followed by a light supper.

Mitch, Beverly, and others bring music and conversation to the unhoused at this welcoming space that offers free laundry services, showers, warm meals, and a mailing address. Here they can gather together with each other to engage socially.



BSO Pathway to Dignity Concert

Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Bemidji High School Auditorium,
2900 Division Street W, Bemidji



Guest artist Mitchell Newman, a passionate advocate for bringing music to underserved communities and violinist for the Los Angeles Philharmonic for more than 34 years, solos for Lucas Richman's *Concerto for Orchestra: Paths to Dignity*, the featured piece on Sunday's program. Richman wrote this work especially for Mr. Newman to use as a musical cornerstone of the Paths to Dignity Project.

All are invited to stay for a discussion immediately following this concert with Mr. Newman, Maestra Everett, and leaders of organizations that offer support to those who are experiencing homelessness.

And finally,



At Sunday's concert the Bemidji Symphony will be collecting donations of new or gently used gloves, socks, winter hats, and scarves for adults and children. Those collected will be distributed to the various organizations participating in the Paths to Dignity Project. They are Evergreen Youth Shelter, Nameless Coalition for the Homeless, Northwoods Battered Women's Shelter, Peoples Church and the Village of Hope.

Contributors of ideas, inspiration, passion, time, energy, moral support, and so much else to these activities include Laurie Buehler, Ann Campbell, Michelle Carlson, Nicole Deeter, Beverly Everett, Gabriella Feldt, Peaches Griffin, Brian Horner, Andrea Kent, Jane Killgore, Katey Lutz, Jessie Marianiello, Morgan Morgenstern, Mitchell Newman, Reed Olson, Birgitte Simpson, Mary Thoreson, Ebony Warren, Shelby Weckwerth, and the many musicians of the BSO. My apologies if I have inadvertently left out anyone. My sincere thanks to all of you. *Stu Rosselet, Project Coordinator*