

Review: Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra presents exciting concert

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“The Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Sarah Ioannides presented a varied, yet well-integrated program on Nov. 14.”

“*With careful control of musical dynamics, Ioannides and the orchestra allowed the soloist (violinist Kristin Lee) to shine through.*”

“Elgar's "Enigma Variations, Op. 36" were exciting, delicate, beautiful, subdued or intense as called for in the score. Small individual solo contributions by clarinet, viola and cello added to a polished and passionate performance. The Philharmonic's trumpets, trombones, and tuba were especially incisive and well balanced while displaying a wide dynamic range.”

“Ioannides will be stepping down as music director after next season. She *introduced a high standard of musicianship and professionalism* to our regional orchestra. She *brought new and challenging repertoire to our community and is a champion of new music*, proving that typical concertgoers can enjoy the unfamiliar. I hope her successor can maintain and improve the quality of her efforts and that Spartanburg art lovers will step up and increase the support of our orchestra.”