



from the PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Spartanburg is flourishing! This is no surprise to anyone who has visited downtown or perused the Spartanburg Herald Journal of late. In addition to experiencing extraordinary economic growth, our city is celebrating its impressive and deepening artistic culture, and the SPO is proud to be a part of it all. South Carolina recently declared Spartanburg one of the first Cultural Arts Districts in the state, and our city recently received a prestigious Bloomberg Grant for "Seeing Spartanburg in a New Light" - an award given to only 4 cities in the nation.

With the considerable development in Spartanburg, we are reminded that a symphony orchestra plays a major role in the growth and health of a community. National studies show that, "Orchestras contribute to healthy societies through their increasingly active participation in civic life. The presence of an orchestra is often an indicator of a community's economic and cultural strength" (League of American Orchestras). The SPO takes this to heart as we work to increase our outreach and connect with our community, advancing exceptional music throughout Spartanburg.

Next season will mark the twelfth and final year that Sarah Ioannides, Music Director & Conductor of the SPO, will lead the orchestra. While we are sad to see Sarah leave, we are also looking forward to the fresh ideas and new opportunities that will arise as the SPO transitions under new leadership. We invite you, our audience, to play an active role in the growth and development of the organization during this time. Candidates vying for the position will audition throughout the 2017-2018 season, and we want your help in selecting the artistic leader that will shape the future of the SPO.

Experiencing live, classical music performed by a symphony of this caliber, is transformational. We encourage you to invite your friends and colleagues to join you at SPO performances and to use the SPO as a resource for entertaining clients, out-of-town guests, and visiting family - they will no doubt be impressed.

The SPO is your orchestra. Support it!

Ray Dunleavy

BOARD PRESIDENT
MUSIC FOUNDATION OF SPARTANBURG

SARAH IOANNIDES

MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Maestra Ioannides is in her fifth season as the Music Director of the Spartanburg Philharmonic. For more details about Sarah's busy concert, travel and family life, you can interact with Sarah on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/sarahioannides.conductor

or visit her website:
www.sarahioannides.net

When Maestra Sarah Ioannides takes to the stage on concert night, one might be forgiven for assuming her seemingly effortless command of the music stems only from her enviable wealth of natural talent. But her journey from her home to Twichell Auditorium - or as guest conductor in far off countries like Dominican Republic, Austria and Scandinavia - is equal parts study, rehearsal and life management. To not acknowledge the 'business' side of managing an international career is akin to admiring the sporting style of a Harley Davidson motorcycle without a nod to its high performance engine.

Married to Yale University professor of trombone Scott Hartman, their approach to a busy performing, teaching and family life is intrinsically creative. Thinking outside the box to achieve a harmonious balance at their

homes (Converse Heights, Stafford Springs, and now also Tacoma) allows for an imaginative approach to their lives which may be complex but is rarely unmanageable. Educating their three children in three different states adds another dimension that Ioannides takes in stride. This approach extends to the podium as well. Extensive study begins with internalizing the score before the hours required to interpret the notes to music, months before the first rehearsal with orchestra. By approaching each step of her process creatively, Sarah brings the most fulfilling, meaningful interpretation she possibly can for the audience. Her ultimate goal is to connect the audience with the music whether they are seasoned or first time listeners. For Ioannides music is a metaphor for life and as Sibelius said "Music begins where the possibilities of languages end."

Maestra Ioannides received Masters degrees from Oxford University and the Juilliard School of Music. A recipient of numerous national and international awards, Sarah is a prize-winner of the Leeds Conducting Competition and was awarded the JoAnn Falletta award for the most promising female conductor. In her eleventh season as Music Director for the Spartanburg Philharmonic and newly appointed Music Director with the Tacoma Symphony, Ioannides made her Tonkünstler Orchestra debut in Vienna this past October - staying true to her passion of discovering, learning and sharing classical music.

Sarah's artistic contributions to the Spartanburg region are impossible to quantify. When pressed about program considerations for Spartanburg, Maestra Ioannides shared "I like to make meaningful connections in every direction; from arts collaborations, to schools, programs that create a wonderful palette and menu for the listener of every age, offering them a good balance of new and old, and a variety in style and flavor within our offerings." But Sarah is quick to point out she does not work alone. Gifted with a stage of the region's finest musicians, the musical conversation between conductor and orchestra is key to the success of the performance.

Sarah Ioannides has little time for pursuits outside of family and music. So how does a busy professional musician relax? These days Sarah takes great comfort in domestic pleasures, cooking for family and friends, as well as from quick bursts of physical fun: ice skating and "ping-pong" with her family. It seems that even her downtime is creative! In the future Sarah can imagine a day when she has time to paint or garden, perhaps pursue her serious interests in languages or math. But for now, Sarah is most happy when she with her husband Scott are building their family's uniquely creative approach to fulfilling all their artistic dreams.

- Louise Fagan

4 | HEAR HERE NOW

