



Maestro & Mother LEAVES IMPRINT ON EASTSIDE

When the 2016-2017 season concludes, the Spartanburg Philharmonic will bid adieu to its Music Director of 12 seasons, Sarah Ioannides. Described by the *New York Times* as a conductor with “unquestionable strength and authority” and by Tacoma Tribune as a conductor with “magic”, the eastside resident splits her time between Spartanburg, Washington state, where she is the Music Director of the *Symphony Tacoma* Connecticut, and various international concert halls.

Under her baton, the SPO has seen significant artistic growth and increased community engagement which is important for the future of a premier

musical establishment. In 2012 Ioannides and the SPO began the Link Up program a partnership with Carnegie Hall which reaches thousands of Spartanburg elementary school students. In 2014 the SPO was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for its educational outreach. Ever passionate about education, Ioannides has visited many of the orchestra programs in Spartanburg, collaborated with teachers on new arts projects involving both music and visual arts and has been Founding Director of the Strings Program at the Spartanburg Day School.

Reflecting on her tenure here, Ioannides says “Spartanburg is and always will be an important and very special part of my life – not only for me but for my family as well.” Leaving Spartanburg is bittersweet for Ioannides and her family. She and Scott Hartman, her husband

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Spartanburg High School orchestra

of eleven years have three children, Audrey, Elsa, and Karl. The children often travel with Ioannides and in 2014 started tri-city schooling, attending school in CT, WA, and the Spartanburg Day School. “The teachers here in Spartanburg have been very accommodating to our children and we will be forever grateful”, she says.

While all of this seems rather chaotic to mere mortals, Sarah Ioannides is somewhat of a modern mom, with literally, a high-flying career and what she considers a devoted parent who will go extremes for the kids’ sake. Orchestrating work, travel, schooling and parenting for her family and a helpful *au pair* is no small feat but Sarah manages it with the same grace that she wields her baton. What strikes one most about Ms. Ioannides is the sense of genuine gratitude and warmth she feels towards the Spartanburg community and the generosity of the SPO, Converse College, and the Spartanburg Day School in allowing her to share her talents with us the last twelve years.

When the SPO baton passes, we may feel a sense of loss, but a sense of great pride too for the journey with Maestro Sarah.



Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra



Sarah and her children