



**NEW  
WESTMINSTER  
SYMPHONY  
SOCIETY**  
Box 832, New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada V3L 4Z8

## Annual Report for the 2018-19 Season

The New Westminster Symphony Orchestra celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in style by expanding its offerings to five concerts from four with its first ever collaboration with the Royal City Musical Theatre company. They also backed up the Chinese Cultural Choir at the Chan Centre on their major project in June, a performance of the Yellow River Cantata.

### **December 6, 2018**

#### **Dance into Christmas**

The Society rebranded its very successful collaboration with the Richmond Academy of Dance under the new title *Dance into Christmas* to emphasize that the concert is much more than just Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. To that end the Symphony added tenor Thomas Lamont with two seasonal selections to the traditional medleys of Christmas songs and Carols by the orchestra, readings by celebrated Shakespearian actor Russell Roberts and various dance forms by RAD.

### **June 2, 2019**

#### **Kismet in Concert Style**

The Symphony brought the season to a close with its first ever collaboration with the Royal City Musical Theatre Society on a "book in hand" production of the 1954 Broadway musical classic *Kismet*. With the help of the Massey Theatre Society's *Massey Helps* program the two principal resident companies of the Massey put on a show unlike any seen in New Westminster; or even Vancouver for that matter. Book in hands traditionally employ a piano, and in very rare instances a musical orchestra of around 18 musicians. In this instance the performers on stage had the backing of a full symphony orchestra of 39 musicians. Many singers were introduced for the first time to a musical based on the compositions of Russian classical composer Alexander Borodin - featuring such well known songs as Stranger in Paradise, Baubles, Bangles and Beads, and This Is My Beloved - giving them an opportunity to shine on such memorable numbers. An appreciative audience of 500 gave the show a standing ovation, leaving the Symphony and RCMT looking forward to another collaboration in the not too distant future.

#### **Admission by Donation Concerts**

The Symphony continued its long-standing commitment towards making live classical music available to everyone, no matter what their financial situation, by holding "admission by donation" concerts on November 4, 2018, March 3, 2019 and May 5, 2019, as well as the June 2, 2019 *Kismet in Concert Style*. The November 4<sup>th</sup> concert featured popular classical numbers while the May 5<sup>th</sup> had a Spanish theme. The March 3<sup>rd</sup> was dedicated to the memory of long-time arts promoter Tony Antonias who was instrumental to the success of the Symphony over a great many years.

The Symphony is always on the lookout for enthusiastic fans of classical music to augment its Board and list of volunteers. So if anyone has a desire to be involved in perpetuating this long-standing New Westminster treasure feel free to contact us.

John Davies  
President  
New Westminster Symphony Society