



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

The past eighteen months have been challenging ones for the New Westminster Symphony Society. We were not only faced with finding a way in which our musicians could still contribute to the performing arts scene in New Westminster during a lengthy lockdown on social gatherings due to COVID, but also addressing the loss of access to percussion instruments as a result of the New Westminster Secondary School moving theirs from our traditional home for rehearsals and concerts at the Massey to their new Band Room. Fortunately, we were able to come up with solutions for both problems.

The Symphony was able to use zoom technology to create two mini-concerts that aired on our You Tube site. We were quite fortunate in that our Musical Director Jin Zhang is quite skilled in using this technology to enable us to reach our supporters online. The first was on December 13th of 2020 and saw our orchestra performing Mozart's Impresario Overture. The second mini concert on March 14th, 2021 highlighted our strings on Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile and our woodwinds on the First Movement of Charles Gounod's Petite Symphony. They can be viewed at the following site:

[New Westminster Symphony Orchestra - YouTube](#)

We also participated in a performance of the Highland Cathedral with the Delta Police Pipe Band and Huayi Choir. This was an event that due to its complexity and time commitment would not have been possible for us as a live event.

[Delta Police Pipe Band - Highland Cathedral - YouTube](#)

On the percussion front we endeavoured to reach an instrument sharing arrangement with two local bands but to no avail. As our concert expenses have been minimal over the past two years we were able to set aside sufficient funding to purchase our own percussion instruments which with the support of the Massey Theatre will be housed there so that we will be able to continue our ability to both rehearse and perform at the theatre we have called home for more than 30 years.

We have once again started rehearsing at the Massey in the new Studio B (Black Box Theatre) and are aiming for a live performance of the Symphony that will culminate with an hour long concert on December 12th that will employ a film and sound crew that will provide us with a finished product that will air on You Tube.

It is our hope that with newer relaxed COVID protocols and steady improvement in the numbers of people impacted that we will be able to return to our program of "admission by donation" concerts at The Massey for our patrons to attend.

However, we are not without new obstacles to overcome. The long pandemic break has seen a number of our musicians drift away and we either have to lure them back or hope to find replacements. We are also in need of people to fill some key roles on our Committee. So if there are those in the membership of the Arts Council that a particular affection to keeping classical music alive in New Westminster either as performers or in pivotal roles as Board members we would like to hear from you.

John Davies
President
New Westminster Symphony Society