

MUSICAL LEGACY FUNDS

Overture for a Life Full of Music

For the last five years, the Susquehanna Symphony Society has been building upon this region's rich musical heritage. Music in the mountains has a history as diverse as the native people and pioneers who settled here. Old-timers remember the bandstand concerts of Maurice Taylor on the Montrose Green. Artist and musician Joe Weldon charmed us for decades sitting in his living room among his paintings while his fingers danced over a keyboard ringing out breezy jazz riffs. We tapped toes to country tunes at the Harford Fair. We sat on the grass at Salt Springs Park humming to homegrown front porch folk and bluegrass players, heard Barber Shop harmonies peeling over the hills, organ crescendos by Mark Laubach swirling within St. Paul's nave, and choirs that gave us Alleluia chills in our church pews. Until recently, nearly every school child in this county played an instrument and our library loaned out instruments to support that.

Upon this grand stage, Charles Casaretti of New Milford established the Susquehanna Symphony Society. He and his dynamic board and volunteers have cast a large net to bring live musical performances to our towns. He has scheduled them (Sundays 3-5 PM), priced (approximately \$17 for adults, many are free for kids), and located these events close to home to make them safely accessible. They are often contemporary

and are always entertaining. Charles has invited the very best from a talented network of musical neighbors in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton and Binghamton to showcase Spiritual Americana, Madrigal Singers from Wyoming Seminary, a Viola Quartet, the Binghamton High School Steel Drum Percussion Band, a String Quartet, Chamber Music, and more. Besides being accessible, what's new for many students attending these events is the experience of intimate immersion in the moment of a living performance. For a young generation increasingly exposed only to processed sound, the feel of a cello's song vibrating in one's body has been a revelation.

The Susquehanna Symphony Society is composing the next vivace stanzas of Endless Mountains musical history. This Foundation is delighted to support Charles and his team in creating fresh beginnings, The Overture Fund—designed to quicken the step of our young musicians toward musical studies and performances that will become a joyful part of their lives forever.

To learn more about The Overture Fund or make a contribution, visit community-foundation.org/fund/the-overture-fund/. Gifts of any size help ensure that this fund will continue to support our community for generations to come.

Musicians, Taylor States, Rachael Sherwood, Zoe Jane Handler, Elyssia Jerauld, Rachael Sherwood, William Field, Colin Harris, Taylor States and Madeline Dorval.

