

The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra –
Just Call it The Phil

New Hampshire's best kept secret is now center stage in Salem

In a way, it comes down to an easy question to answer. Why spend all that ticket and parking money, deal with the traffic and all else that comes with a trek to Boston to enjoy a symphony orchestra? If you thought that was your only option, allow me to introduce you to The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra that's wowing audiences of all ages in the state-of-the-art Seifert Performing Arts Center at Salem High School. Even if you've been fortunate enough to already experience it, all I can say is, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

The New Hampshire Philharmonic was established in 1895 for area music students, adult amateurs and professionals to share their love of music with a live audience. While it has remained true to its roots, the orchestra has blossomed into an amazing musical art form with innovative educational opportunities.

It starts, of course, with the music that meets every expectation of a world class orchestra. Depending on the performance, it's an inspiring musical journey from classic to nostalgic to contemporary. Productions vary from Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and all the classics to the best of the Pops, including hits from Broadway, movies and holiday favorites. But, it's not just that. There's a unique authenticity about the musicians and the performances. Globally acclaimed conductor, Mark Latham, will often speak directly to the audience, and in his own words explain the meaning of the music. According to Executive Director, Toni DeGennaro, "When people better understand its meaning, the music is so much more enjoyable. We see it on their faces as Mark explains it to them."



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'Drawn to the Music' allows children to absorb music through ears and eyes.

Adhering to its deep belief that music is a broad and powerful educational and social medium for children and adults, and both professional and amateur musicians, The Phil (as it is affectionately known) has become so much more than just great music. Student and amateur musicians are encouraged to audition.

They sit with experienced professionals who provide learning experiences that otherwise would not be afforded to them. DeGennaro adds, "It's all about love for the music. We encourage new talent to contact us and we welcome an inquiring phone call."

A reality throughout the state is that many school districts have eliminated or reduced music and art programs in their curriculum. The Phil is stepping up with creative programs to replace some of what has been lost by introducing students to a new appreciation of music. 'Drawn to The Music' is a collaborative arts project where local students in grades K-6 listen to a piece of music and then interpret what they hear in a drawing. Selected students are invited to a live concert and the drawings are projected on a screen behind the orchestra during the performance of the specific piece.

Note from the editor: The Phil is currently accepting submissions for the March, 2020 'Drawn to the Music' program. Deadline is approaching. Schools should visit www.nhphil.org/drawn-to-the-music for information.

The 'Musical Petting Zoo' is another Phil mixed-media learning experience for young people. After a Drawn to the

Live concert and kids photos by Kathy Radford.



The 'Musical Petting Zoo' helps kids discover the magic of musical instruments.

Music concert, kids are invited onstage to learn about, and tryout, various instruments with the guidance of an orchestra musician.

By combining music with practical arts, The Phil is enhancing the way we think about orchestral music. According to DeGennaro, "Our goal is what we call 'all-age-appeal' audiences and we especially like people to think of us as family entertainment. That in of itself is a new concept."

Yes, the 'secret' is out and local music aficionados now have a philharmonic orchestra to claim as their own. Orchestral music is becoming family entertainment. Professional musicians are leading the way. Amateur musicians are gaining wonderful opportunities. Kids are learning. Tickets are selling. And the music plays on!

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**The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra
The Seifert Performing Arts Center at Salem High School
44 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH**

Tickets and Information: 603-647-6476 • www.nhphil.org

**See page 30 of this issue for upcoming concerts.
New season starts in June, 2020 so check the website for early tickets
to all concerts and other events.**



Phil stalwart and principal clarinetist, Patricia Cunningham is a professional musician and a proud example of the supreme talent level of The Phil.



Val Zanchuk's leadership, musical ability and enthusiasm are motivational examples for all members of The Phil. He is also a past president and 25-year board member.