

New Leadership at the LSO Continues a Commitment to Music and the Arts in Lynchburg

Handing off the baton is a very familiar activity in track and field competition. Victory for the team requires focus and agility, while maintaining determination and a steady pace for the runners.

That action is also a fitting metaphor for organizations as they transition from one leader to another. This summer, Linda Edwards concludes a three-year term as president of the LSO board, while Hugh Ballou begins a one-year appointment to that position.

Ballou likens his work to a symphony that represents diverse skills. "The art is putting them together," he says. "Building a high performance culture in a board is like an ensemble."

The incoming board president is no stranger to the LSO. Since 2017, Ballou has assisted the organization

with staff procedures, strategic planning, and leadership skills. He also was conductor of the LSO's sold-out holiday concert at the Academy Center of the Arts in December 2018.

Ballou brings a combination of conducting and consulting for charitable organizations to the LSO. During 40 years, he directed large church choirs and symphony musicians, and also served as guest conductor for university ensembles. In recent years, he has used his knowledge and skills as a professional musician to help organizations understand and apply leadership principles to their particular situations and needs.

The LSO will soon name its new conductor, and ensuring a smooth transition for that person is essential. "One of my goals as board president is to fully integrate the new

conductor into the community," says Ballou.

Another of Ballou's goals for the upcoming year relates to the orchestra's board and advisory council. "It is important to engage every member of the board and advisors with their level of passion," he says. "We are working on systems that will help the work of the board. We guide the process and enable

continued on page 2



Linda Edwards
President, LSO Board

LSO Board President Recaps Three Years of Service to the Orchestra

As the final days of my presidency approach, some of the highlights of the past three years come to mind – a time of renewal for the LSO. The Academy Center of the Arts Riverfront Concert series and the LSO's American Music concert in June, 2017, was a turning point for the orchestra with 2,000 people attending. The Richmond Ballet II concert, spring of 2017, is another beautiful highlight.

In Season 35, we welcomed Dr. Yevgeniy Dovgalyuk as Concertmaster. We celebrated the LSO's proud history and honored charter musicians at a reception in the Academy Center of the Arts Warehouse Theatre. LSO Board member and local artist Barbara Mayer presented Bruce Habitzruther, original LSO Maestro, a portrait, and the LSO

continued on page 3



people to perform at their highest level.”

For Ballou, strategic planning is an essential foundation for being creative. “Without a map, everyone is attempting to move forward based on each person’s ideas,” he says. “People don’t know how to contribute time, talent and money without defined outcomes.”

Part of the strategic plan includes several specific goals for the next year. One goal is to enhance awareness of the LSO in this region. “We want to let everyone in Lynchburg know how good the

concerts are,” says Ballou.

A second goal involves connections with organizations in the community. “We want to build larger collaborations with the other local fine arts groups,” says Ballou. “Strength is all of us, not just one of us.”

Ballou says another important goal relates to the LSO’s outreach through its performances. “We want to increase what was started this season with programming,” he says. During Season 36, concert attendees were treated to a combination of classical and contemporary music. In addition, performances featured both instrumental and vocal soloists, as well as choirs and small singing groups. “For Season 37, we also are looking at sponsoring small events,” says Ballou.

Planning helps the community to better understand the value of the LSO for Lynchburg. “It’s more than people attending concerts,” said Ballou. “Instead, it lets the community understand how diversity creates harmony, the same way it happens in an orchestra.”

Hugh Ballou Career Highlights

- Served 40 years in small to mega churches leading music and fine arts ministries.
- Worked with world renowned orchestras and choruses for concerts and individual study.
- Conducted world premieres of new and classic masterworks for chorus and orchestra in FL, GA, AL and Ukraine.
- Currently works with corporations on leadership, organizational development, and culture upgrades.
- Founded SynerVision Leadership Foundation and has gifted strategy, coaching and board development to the LSO since September 2017.
- Authored four books, 10 online programs, and four podcasts/blogs.
- Featured on Forbes online as a thought leader and expert.

International Organist Dr. Carol Williams in Concert with the LSO: April 6, 2019



Photos: Property One Photography

revealed a brand new logo to the community. As charter members retired, we auditioned new musicians to the LSO.

Season 36 has required hard work on the part of the board of directors, staff and musicians, but it has been so worth the effort. We presented five concerts, two Masterworks programs and three pops/contemporary music programs, and accompanied the Charlottesville Ballet's Nutcracker performances, showcasing six different guest conductors. The response has been exciting and rewarding. Thank you to all who bought tickets and came to these outstanding programs!

As I reflect on the work we have done, I am grateful for outstanding board members who have served and worked together to achieve our goals. Our Advisory Council has provided excellent advice and leadership. I am particularly grateful to recent past presidents Jim Boniface, Tulane Patterson, Dr. Cary Roberts, Rick Edwards, Margie Callahan and all past board members for your years of service.

None of this is possible without the generosity of our donors, individual and corporate. Giving has increased each year since 2016. As we close Season 36, we have five outstanding candidates for our next permanent Music Director and hope to make a decision in the next weeks. We NEED YOUR HELP to bring the best candidate possible! The spring mailing has gone out. Please send your check, or you may make a donation on the LSO's website. Your generosity is crucial as we plan for Season 37.

I have loved serving as LSO president. Please join me in welcoming incoming president Hugh Ballou – he is an outstanding leader to take YOUR LSO into this NEW ERA!

Season 36 Highlights



May 3 concert photo:
Linda Edwards



All photos except May 3 concert are courtesy of Property One Photography.

Give a Tax-Smart Gift to the LSO from Your IRA



Erika Mork, Executive Director

The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra has benefited over the years from the generosity of savvy donors who periodically arrange to make qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from an individual retirement account (IRA).

Did you know that once you reach age 70½, you are eligible to make cash donations to IRS-approved charities like the LSO using the QCD privilege? The QCD privilege can be an ideal way to plan a gift for seniors with philanthropic interests who are enjoying well-funded retirements.

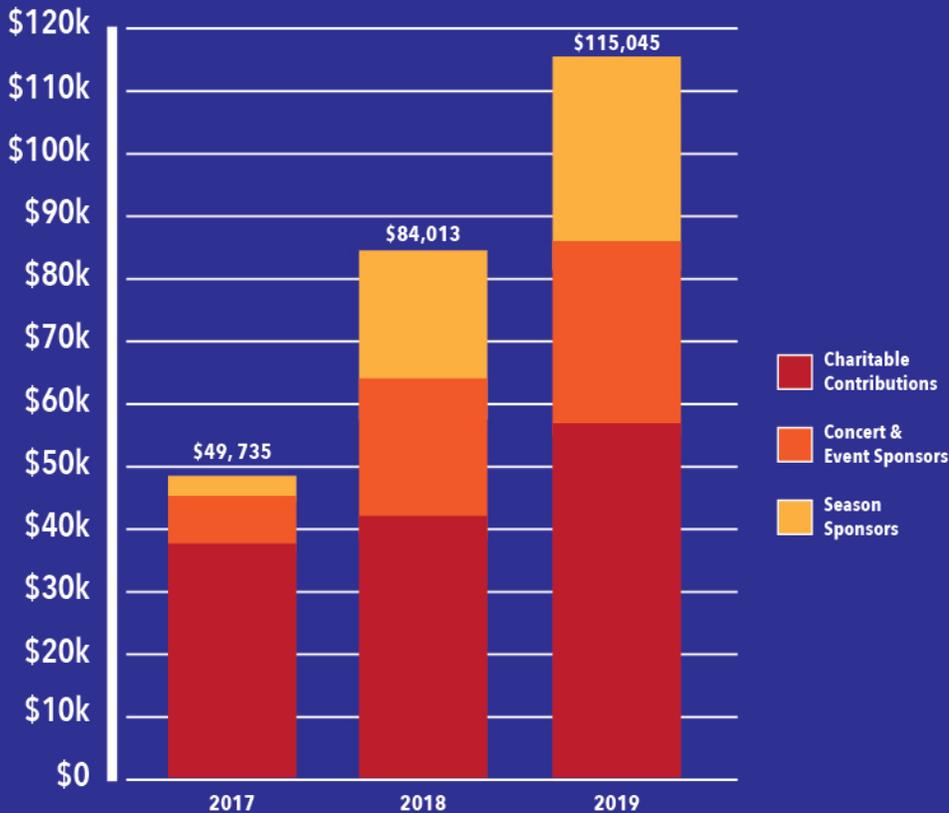
While traditional IRA distributions are taxable, QCDs count toward required minimum distributions (RMDs), but do not count as part of your adjusted gross income (AGI) and are not subject to federal income taxes. The tax-free nature of QCDs means that you will reduce your taxable income, and it doesn't even matter whether you itemize or not.

To be considered to be a QCD, an IRA distribution must meet the following requirements:

- The IRA owner or beneficiary must have reached 70½.
- The distribution must otherwise be taxable, which generally means that the distribution should come from a Traditional IRA rather than a Roth IRA.
- The distribution must go to an eligible charity, such as the LSO.
- No goods or services can be received in exchange for the distribution.

If we can help you plan your giving to the LSO in any way, please don't hesitate to contact our office. As always, we recommend also consulting your own legal and financial advisors as you make your giving decisions.

Primary LSO Income Sources Other Than Ticket Sales 2017-2019 Fiscal Years



Allegro is a bi-monthly publication of the Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra and sent via email to subscribers.

To be added to the **Allegro** email list, contact the LSO office through one of the means listed below.

Address:

621 Court Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504

Phone:

(434) 845-6604

Email:

info@lynchburgsymphony.org

© 2019 Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra