

The ESO-Transforming the Symphony Experience

You love music and want to explore other musical styles. You've heard that the ESO is an award-winning professional orchestra, but you hesitate based on tired stereotypes about the experience. **Why not explore a new musical world?** JOIN US this season, and get to know YOUR ESO!

The ESO presents exciting, high-quality, and affordable performances of some of the best music ever written, led by Music Director and Conductor Andrew Grams, in a casual and welcoming setting. To help dispel some myths and alleviate your fears, here are some thoughts about **what you can expect at a classical music concert. Let's start with the music.**

What makes classical music good? What do you look for? Just think of any other music you love. Say, your favorite band. What makes it good? The group is tight and creates a single unit of synchronistic sound. The soloists are prepared and hit all the right notes. But for the greatest experience, all of this combines to touch or connect with you in some way.

As with all good music, you might not "get it" at first. Some of it will hit you right away with a beautiful melody or an unforgettable rhythm. But much of **classical music is dense, rich and complicated like a seven-layer dark chocolate cake.** At first bite, you are overwhelmed with an explosion of sensations. Then, with each taste, you recognize nuances of flavor and different spices. Once again, not unlike all good music, it can take many listenings to mine all the meanings, and the interaction will be unique every time.

Yes, the symphony orchestra experience is like no other. Why? Because it combines the past and the present. **You will be transported and experience music that expressed the spirit of the times over the last several centuries.** But your personal interaction with the music makes it new, vibrant and alive.

A word about concert hall rituals and traditions. ESO Music Director Andrew Grams sets the tone and as he always says, "this is not church." Back in Mozart and Beethoven's day, the concert experience was more like a party. At some point, the more formal experience was adopted. **But today's audiences demand a relaxed atmosphere, and at the ESO that's the environment we try to create.** The ESO's goal is to provide a place where you can unwind, listen to good music, learn something new and hang-out with people who share similar interests. **Please DO NOT worry about when to clap!** Most pieces have several movements or sections. The reason for not clapping in-between movements is to help keep the mood of the piece going between sections. But it's not a bad thing if you clap between movements because it shows you were moved emotionally. It's a compliment. **The trick is to watch the conductor, who will drop his hands at the end of a piece. Or just hold back a bit to see what others do.**

Join Music Director Andrew Grams and the award-winning ESO this season as they play electrifying concerts that exemplify the power of live performance. It's all part of the ESO's desire to create programs that enrich, uplift and entertain. **The ESO - Transforming the Symphony Experience.**