Our Goal

The Summer Music Festival is a vital part of the enhanced Colorado College summer offerings, and is supported and hosted by the college in the context of a “summer in the arts.” Our goal is to secure up to $5 million to fully endow the Summer Music Festival, including:

- Program Directorship ($2,000,000)
- Symphony Conductor ($1,000,000)
- Orchestra Series of five orchestra concerts each season ($500,000)
- Artist Series of five faculty artist concerts each season ($250,000)
- Faculty and Scholarship for 25 faculty artists ($875,000) and 50 students ($75,000)

By supporting the endowment campaign, you help secure the Colorado College Summer Music Festival as one of our community’s strongest cultural assets, and one of the finest classical music festivals in the country for generations to come.

How to Give

Giving options include:

- A one-time cash gift
- A contribution payable over a number of months or years
- Publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds, or mutual funds)
- Gift of a charitable bequest through your will or other estate provision

Donor Recognition

All gifts will be acknowledged, receipted, and recognized. Leadership gifts will receive special recognition in accordance with the wishes of the donor. Named funds recognizing a donor or a donor’s loved ones represent a wonderful opportunity to honor family and friends. We would be pleased to discuss recognition opportunities with you.

How to Reach Us

- Phone: (719) 389-6552
- Email: festival@coloradocollege.edu
- In-person: 830 N. Tejon St., Suite 301C
- By mail: 14 E. Cache La Poudre St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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“The Children’s Orchestra concert helped introduce my three-year-old daughter to so many instruments and so much about music. We loved sitting so close to the musicians and seeing the children get a chance to be guest conductors. A wonderful opportunity for parents in this community to introduce their children to a rich educational program.”

— Jenny Chapman, community member

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What is the Colorado College Summer Music Festival?

Founded in 1984, the Colorado College Summer Music Festival is one of the premier musical events in Colorado with 26 performances attended by approximately 5,000 audience members of all ages. During the three weeks of the festival, students, faculty artists, and audience members of all ages participate in a musical experience that is unlike any other in the nation.

Coming largely from top conservatories and music schools, the students are drawn to the program because of the reputation of the faculty and the low student/faculty ratio. The faculty consists of professional artists of rare ability and international reputation. Festival participants work closely with the faculty artists, who spend many hours coaching small ensembles, private lessons, and master classes. Concert programming includes audience favorites as well as works by lesser-known and contemporary composers.

In short, this is much more than just a festival.

The Colorado College Summer Music Festival is a versatile, vibrant, and vital cultural treasure in our community and our state. This festival truly provides something different and unique for each participant, whether they are faculty, student, music lover, or first-time attendee.

Our Commitment

Committed to Artistic Excellence

Because the festival is committed to providing full scholarships to all 52 accepted students, we are able to attract the best students. Twenty-five internationally recognized faculty members teach three-week intensive classes at the Summer Music Festival. In addition to teaching, the faculty members participate in five concert artist series.

Committed to Education

We not only teach our students to give their best in rehearsals and performances, but also offer sessions that are particularly valuable for pre-professional students, including courses that discuss mental toughness, strategies for practice, how to perform and talk about music, and how to audition for professional positions.

A key component of the Summer Music Festival’s mission is to foster and encourage music education for Colorado Springs’ young people. Through our outreach programs, more than 1,200 local youth have the chance to engage with orchestra members in a dynamic, low-barrier, hands-on environment each season.

Committed to Our Community

All students participate in an enormously popular concert series open to the public that includes formal and informal chamber music concerts, five orchestra performances, (including two free children’s concerts) master classes open to community members, and off-campus outreach concerts. The festival regularly performs in Woodland Park, The Village at Skyline Senior Center, Fort Carson, Hillsides Community Center, and local art galleries. Over the years, the orchestra has also performed in venues in the Denver metro area. Many of our programs are offered at no charge or at a very reasonable rate.

Committed to Lifelong Learning

In our free, pre-concert lectures, Colorado College Professor of Music Michael Grace gives concertgoers the inside scoop on performers, repertoire, composers, and music appreciation. The Children’s Orchestra Concerts are a great introduction to orchestral music to people of all ages. All the instruments are introduced so the audience understands what they can do and how they work together. Also, our faculty members often share information about the piece or composer from the stage during concerts.

Committed to Music Appreciation

The festival is known for its adventurous programming of well-loved audience favorites and lesser-known contemporary composers. During the festival, you may hear works by Beethoven and Mozart alongside an introduction to tango music and a “meet the composer” event featuring a newly composed piece. The musical offerings are intended to expand musical horizons beyond the traditional repertoire — honoring the old masters, while exploring new talent.

“I feel very privileged to have been working with the Colorado College Summer Music Festival since 2002. It has become one of the premier training programs for young orchestral musicians.”

— SCOTT YOO, conductor

“What transpired was as close to musical perfection as one is likely to hear in live performance.”

— DAVID SCHOENIK, music critic

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