

## Idaho State-Civic Symphony Announces Changes for Upcoming Season

After months of planning during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Idaho State-Civic Symphony (ISCS) is announcing a free, fully virtual season for Fall 2020 - *Metamorphosis*. These changes are based on the ISU recommended safety precautions for the academic year 2020/2021 and will be implemented immediately.

Among the changes are as follows:

- no Symphony concerts with live audiences in Jensen Grand Concert Hall for the remainder of the Fall 2020 performances
- on-stage ensembles limited to 25-30 physically-distanced musicians, instead of the regular 75-80 member orchestra.
- observation of health safety measures recommended for ensembles, including physical distancing guidelines and the wearing of face coverings

Concerts of the reduced Symphony ensembles will be recorded and released during live broadcasts. In addition, the Symphony is preparing related online content, including pre-concert talks by ISCS Artistic Director and Conductor, Dr. Julie Sorensen, interviews with musicians, and more. Subscriptions to the online broadcasts and all virtual content are being offered free of charge, but audiences must request access via the Symphony website: [www.thesymphony.us](http://www.thesymphony.us).

“Change is never easy and yet it is through change that we have the greatest opportunity to grow and strengthen ourselves, ISCS Artistic Director and Conductor Julie Sorensen states. “Music is an essential extension of the human experience and the symphony serves our community by providing these experiences. I am thrilled to be able to continue to serve our community by bringing free digital concerts to our audiences this fall. We now have an extraordinary opportunity to reach beyond the concert stage and interact with our community in ways we have not yet done.”

“Without being able to bring live audiences to the Symphony, we are proudly going online to bring the Symphony to our audience,” explains Executive Director Heather Clarke. “We have always looked for ways to reach new patrons, especially those who face barriers to attending live concerts, and now we have that opportunity. The online offerings won’t replace live music forever, but right now we are learning how to use the digital platform to expand the reach of our organization so the community can still enjoy music by our beloved local musicians.”

The previously-announced concert dates and repertoire have been modified to meet the new guidelines. The first concert will be aired on Friday, September 18, at 7:30 pm. Details of subsequent concerts, tentatively planned for October, November and December, will be provided on the Symphony website.

The Symphony's Board of Directors, in conjunction with Dr. Sorensen, selected these options to help ensure the safety of Symphony patrons, musicians, volunteers, ISU students, and staff. The ISCS Board will reconvene at the end of 2020 to assess the safety conditions for moving forward into 2021.

Audiences are encouraged to visit the Symphony website to register for upcoming broadcasts and for updated details in the coming days and weeks at [www.thesymphony.us](http://www.thesymphony.us)

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