

# Around Moab Events

## GJ Symphony Orchestra & Western Colorado Chorale Collaborate in Upcoming Holiday Concert

By Sharon Sullivan

The Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra will perform along with the Western Colorado Chorale its “Holiday Horizons” concert, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14 and 15, at Colorado Mesa University’s (CMU) new Astoria Performing Arts Theatre in Grand Junction.

Concertgoers can expect a great medley of Christmas waltz music, including songs like *We Three Kings*, *The Skaters Waltz*, and *Greensleeves*, as well as a mashup of the songs *Bolero* by French composer Maurice Ravel, and the Christmas classic *Little Drummer Boy*, said Conductor and Music Director Charles Latshaw.

“What’s interesting about the Christmas show is that we want to do lots of familiar things, while also showing off the orchestra and choir and how great we can be,” Latshaw said.

The choir will sing favorite Christmas songs like *Silver Bells*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, as well as *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson. Plus, audience members will have an opportunity to participate with both the choir and orchestra during a sing-a-long, said Latshaw.

The holiday concert will be the second time that the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra has performed in CMU’s new theatre, located at 844 Bunting Ave.



“It’s a really beautiful theater,” said Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra marketing director Robyn Miley. “It has amazing acoustics. The stage is huge.”

It’s a great space to perform, with great visibility and sound throughout the theatre, Latshaw said.

The symphony orchestra will perform half of this season’s concerts at the new venue, while continuing to also hold concerts at downtown Grand Junction’s historic Avalon Theatre.

The “Holiday Horizons” concert is one of two pops concerts the symphony orchestra will perform this season, said Miley. Pops concerts include more popular, mainstream music that appeals to a wider audience, with those concerts typically selling out, she said.

The semiprofessional Western Colorado Chorale is in its 39th season and falls under the nonprofit umbrella of the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, which is in its 46th season. The choir includes professionals in the music industry, Miley said.

“They take the music seriously,” she said. “It’s elevated work and challenging; it’s a very serious choir. They do great work.”

Tickets for the two-hour holiday concert range from \$35 to \$85. Saturday’s show starts at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday’s concert at 3 p.m. Tickets are available here: <https://gjsso.org/event/pops-1-holiday-horizons>.



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