



VSO  
c/o Eleanor Long  
2 Church Street, Suite 3B  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: (802) 864-5741 x10  
Fax: (802) 864-5109

November 11, 2020

Dear Town of Charleston Select Board,

The North Country Friends Group of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra appreciates the Town of Charleston for supporting *SymphonyKids* programs for the children in your town. *SymphonyKids* is an outreach program with a mission to engage children in classical music through audience participation and encourage students to develop a lifelong enthusiasm for music.

It is our understanding that the Select Board can make the decision to add our request for an appropriation of \$100.00 to the 2021 Town Meeting Warning. We hope that you will consider sharing this letter and Article with town voters.

**Article: Shall the Town of Charleston voters approve the sum of \$100.00 as an appropriation to the SymphonyKids program of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra?**

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra (VSO) has a long history of bringing *SymphonyKids* programs to the Northeast Kingdom. Small ensembles from the VSO performed for students in their local communities. Between March 2019 and March 2020, *SymphonyKids* reached 3623 school children in 33 presentations, serving 27 schools in Northeast Kingdom communities. The VSO Fanfare program performed for 100 students 11/22/2019 at Charleston Elementary School.

The 2021 appropriation from your town will go towards a new *SymphonyKids* program called *Musical Chairs* for the students in your town and will help us reach the greatest possible audience in the Northeast Kingdom. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the VSO education team started the *Musical Chairs* program in October 2020, a weekly online program aimed at children in kindergarten through sixth grade who love music. Host Toby Aronson travels to a different fun, kid-friendly location for each episode of *Musical Chairs* to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra, teach them how they can make musical instruments with everyday household items, and to explore instruments from around the world. *Musical Chairs* is a free 45-minute program available on VSO's YouTube channel (VermontSymphony) with a new show each Tuesday.

Your support in providing access to classical music for ALL children is greatly appreciated! Should you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 802-673-2447 or raamarq@hotmail.com.

Thank you!

Ruth Marquette, on behalf of the North Country Friends of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra  
15 Taylor Street, Newport, VT 05855

APPROVED 11/12



**VERMONT  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA**

Jaime Laredo, Music Director

2 Church Street, Suite 3B | Burlington, Vermont 05401 | 802-864-5741 ~ 800-VSO-9293 | vso.org

December 8, 2020

Town Manager  
Town of Charleston  
5063 VT-105  
West Charleston, VT 05872

Dear Town Manager,

Thank you for your support in uniting our communities through music! We are grateful for your gift to the Vermont Symphony Orchestra of \$100 on 12/7/2020 for our *SymphonyKids* music education program.

It's because of supporters like you that we are able to offer innovative and exceptional programs that are essential to Vermont's cultural health. Together, we are building and contributing to a stronger creative economy and investing in a true Vermont treasure around which families build tradition.

Thank you for helping us enrich Vermont's beauty through music. I hope to have the chance to thank you in person at a future performance when the day comes that we can gather again. Until then, please accept our deepest gratitude and feel free to contact to me at [sasha@vso.org](mailto:sasha@vso.org) or (802) 864-5741 ext. 125.

With thanks,

Sasha Vaut  
Director of Philanthropy

*Thank you so  
very much!*

*Please retain this letter for your tax records. No goods or services have been provided by the VSO in exchange for this contribution. Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. (VSO Federal Tax ID# 03-0222134)*