



Dear PTSO Friends and Supporters,

As many of you know, the upcoming April marks my final concert with the orchestra. When I joined the Port Townsend Symphony Orchestra in 2017, I was newly married; today, my wife and I are outnumbered. It has been a fantastic nine years, and I am grateful for the way this community has embraced both my musical contribution as well as my family.

Together, we have navigated a period of transformative growth. I am proud of our 2019 rebranding, a move that reflected the growth of this fantastic group. PTSO and the board of directors gave me the freedom to introduce new programs/projects, conduct music by underrepresented composers, and perform a vast range of standard and new repertoire.

**Some highlights from our journey include:**

**Collaborations:** We worked with the talented musicians of PTSO and our local community, including Anne Krabill, Dave Krabill, Otto Smith, Pamela Roberts, Kevin Fay, Bruce Kelley, and guest conductors Miles Vokurka and Phil Andrus. If I missed your name, I apologize. We also welcomed guests from across the Northwest and beyond, such as Saro Babikian, Myroslava Khomik, Jovino Santos Neto, Ben Thomas, Michael Nicolella, Matthew Daline, Gwen Franz, John DiCesare, and Arin Sarkissian, among many others.

**Diverse Programming:** We performed regional premieres and featured works by underrepresented composers, including Keith Jarrett, Brenno Blauth, Karl Bach, Adriana Figueroa Mañas, James Cohn, Fanny Mendelssohn, Florence Price, and William Grant Still. The PTSO accompanied a diverse range of instruments rarely spotlighted as soloists, including the timpani, concertina, bandoneon, tuba, and guitar. I am thankful to the orchestra for joining me on exploration of new pieces and to all of you for being open to listening.

**New Initiatives:** We launched our successful Young Artist Competition, the Chamber Music Series, and our chamber orchestra concerts at Finnrivier Farm & Cidery.

**Community Connection:** It was an amazing experience to produce and host a show on KPTZ for two years, sharing our music with the wider peninsula and strengthening our bond with the community. Thank you to my KPTZ friends and my mentor, Phil Andrus.

The best part of this experience has always been preparing music with the orchestra and sharing it with all of you. Thank you for your unwavering support over the years. I look forward to seeing you at our final performances this season!

With gratitude,

Tigran Arakelyan  
Artistic Director & Conductor