

PRESS RELEASE

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Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes Ends 2019 with Several Recognition and New Grant Awards

[The Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes](#) has received several recognition awards for its 25th anniversary, as well as several grant awards for programming and operations in the new year. These award notifications follow November's announcement of a 4-year award from the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) and finishing the 2019 fiscal year with a positive net income for the first time in five years.



In December, the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce recognized OSFL for "25 Years of Dedicated Service to Our Community" at its Annual Awards Breakfast. This was accompanied by a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from NY Congressman Thomas Reed, and a New York State Legislature Proclamation from NY Senator Thomas O'Mara, Assemblyman Christopher Friend, and Assemblyman Philip Palmesano. A second New York State Legislature Proclamation was received "in appreciation and recognition of the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes on the occasion of the Orchestra's Silver (25th) Anniversary, and the 10th Anniversary under the leadership of Conductor and Music Director Toshiyuki Shimada."

The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes has awarded funds for the OSFL to conduct a master class with aerial violinist, Janice Martin, which will take place at Corning-Painted Post High School. Martin will be performing grounded and in-air with the OSFL on May 3 for Music + Aerial Dance: OSFL's 25th Season Grand Finale at the Clemens Center.

The OSFL has received a second award from NYSCA, this an Individual Artist Grant for the commission of a new work. To be composed by Polina Nazaykinskaya, the work will celebrate the OSFL's 25th anniversary and will premiere in late 2020. The OSFL will be performing Nazaykinskaya's *Fenix* side-by-side with the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes on March 8 for Music + Ballet Theatre: Peter and the Wolf at the Clemens Center. While here in March, Nazaykinskaya will teach a master class on beginning music composition, thanks to a grant from the John G. Ullman Foundation.

A summer series of free educational outreach concerts at Tioga County, NY public libraries will be funded in part by a grant from the Floyd "Vic" Hooker Youth Fund of the Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers, made possible by generous donors since 2003. Additionally, this collaborative project is made possible, in part, with public funds from NYSCA's Decentralization Program, administered regionally by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.



Rich Preston, OSFL board member, accepts the grant from Suzanne Lee, CEO of the Community Foundation of the Twin Tiers.

The Anderson Foundation has once again awarded funding for the OSFL to provide free concert tickets for children under 18 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season. For the third year in a row, the Corning Incorporated Foundation has awarded funding for general programming and human resources support.

"We are thrilled to receive these awards, grants and community support as the OSFL celebrates its 25th anniversary season and 10 years under the baton of Maestro Toshiyuki Shimada," states Karen Dusek, Managing Director of the OSFL.

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA OF THE SOUTHERN FINGER LAKES (OSFL)

Under the guidance of distinguished Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada, the OSFL celebrates its 25th season during the 2019-2020 concert year which also marks the 10th season under the baton of Maestro Shimada. This season of "Perfect Pairings" highlights partnerships with other art disciplines for each of the four main orchestra concerts. The popular Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series showcases each instrument section of the orchestra throughout its four concerts this season.

The OSFL currently offers four regular season full orchestra concerts, including a side by side Youth Orchestra and professional musician collaboration, a Musicians' Choice Chamber Music Series, concerts by the Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes, several concerts by the Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble, as well as smaller ensemble concerts for children. The OSFL is a strong supporter of highlighting the musical achievements of young musicians with its own Youth Orchestra and Junior String Ensemble programs, as well as the Hertzog Concerto Competition for young artists in grades 9 – 12.

The orchestra collaborates with regional cultural partners, artists, and like-minded organizations to advance our mutual artistic growth in the greater Elmira-Corning region.

General support for the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes comes from Corning Incorporated Foundation and Hilliard Corporation. The OSFL programs are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew M. Coumo and the New York State Legislature.

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