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Letters To Editor

Letters From Readers, 10-31-08

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Music's importance

These are certainly unusual times that we are going through, and obviously the uncertainty is going to be as nebulous for non-profits such as the Racine Symphony Orchestra as for any other parts of our society. These times seem, to me, to need seriousness, and along with its Board of Directors, staff, and musicians, I look to maintain the Racine Symphony Orchestra's core values and purposes: to enrich, educate, and entertain. To me, that means presenting the great works of music played with as much commitment and purpose as we can muster.

In times of travail, great music has been a source of solace and inspiration to people of all circumstances in all civilizations. As we all strive to figure out what is happening in our changing society, and to understand the changes so that we can ride them and control them, I think it is important to remember that we do not really understand music, and all attempts to quantify and predetermine it have led into blind alleys.

We are the grateful recipients of the genius of the great masters, who themselves usually did not really know what it was they were doing. The joy of music is that we open ourselves to it with our instincts and feelings and it pays us back a thousand fold. At some deep level, we cannot command it, and that grants the benefaction of releasing us from the limitations of our own desires to predict and control.

So at this time, we are fortunate, I believe, to have the tested and emerging masterpieces available for us to bring forth and offer to people. Music is going to be even more important to people than many thought. This is a great time, if a difficult one, to refocus on the essence of the matter - the mystery of truly great music.

With that in mind, I invite all to hear the RSO's all-Mozart performance in the wonderfully enhanced First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 1 at 7 p.m., featuring pianist Fumi Nishikiori. It is going to be a highlight event for the season.

Andrew Massey
Music Director
Racine Symphony Orchestra