

**From:** [noreply](#) on behalf of [Ian Whitman](#)  
**To:** [Regional Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** KW Symphony Outreach  
**Date:** November 27, 2023 9:40:30 PM

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**\*\*EXTERNAL ALERT\*\*** This email originated from outside the Region of Waterloo.

Thousands of Waterloo Region residents (and many from beyond) have attended KWS concerts and know first hand (and "first ear"!) the incredible and diverse programming that is brought to the stage of Centre in the Square and other venues each season. With this in mind, I hope Council will remember just how far into our community our music reached. Each year, KWS Outreach events took place in school libraries, retirement homes, community centres, and parks. Like my musician colleagues, I'm passionate and committed to making our home richer by sharing music with neighbours in as many ways as possible. Countless studies show the benefits of live classical music and I would like to share two anecdotes from May 2023 which will help to highlight the importance. The KWS sent two musicians to visit a class whose bus had not shown up to bring them to hear the full orchestra the week before. The small class of children with special needs were able to enjoy and respond to the music in their own ways all in the comfort of their own safe and supportive classroom. Another concert was held at the Grand Valley Institution for Women. At our concert, inmates were invited to move and dance along to the music, which included selections by Taylor Swift, among others. Neither of these groups could attend our concerts at the Centre but their reaction to our music was moving, to say the least.

Finally, it's important to remember the hundreds of amateur artists of all ages that are invited to perform on the Centre in the Square stage every season. The ever-popular Yuletide Spectacular will be silent this year and therefore, hundreds of young dancers, choristers, and the like have been robbed of the chance to perform on the stage of our world-class concert hall alongside a professional orchestra.

Without support for a full-time orchestra by the local governments, the chance for our our neighbours, friends, and family to have experiences like those above will be no longer possible.

Ian Whitman  
Principal Bass, (former) KW Symphony  
Conductor, KW Youth Orchestra

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Origin: <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/regional-government/communicate-with-council.aspx>  
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