

ON STAGE COMMENTS AT NOV. 2-4 CONCERTS AFTER WILDFIRES & OUTAGES

Alan Silow, President & CEO, Santa Rosa Symphony

We are so deeply thankful for you being here tonight.

We are also thankful for the heroism and dedication of our first responders involved in the Kincade Fire and so we will offer them complimentary tickets to any of our classical series concerts this season.

Following the stress and tension of this past week of wildfire tragedy and outage and evacuation upheaval, I took a moment and asked myself - Why were we working so hard to insure we are able to perform for you this weekend?

The answer was clear -It is to touch the common chord among all of us, especially during such turbulent times. I'm sure many of you recall the emotional connection, if not healing, that took place when we performed after 9/11, after Hurricane Katrina, and after the Tubbs Fire.

For I believe that our music is not a luxury, not an amusement or a pastime. Our music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds.

Coming together in a public setting, our music can restore a sense of deep compassion, connection and community. So tonight let our music be a beacon of light for you, and instead of fear, anger and resentment, let us choose gratitude, and by doing so - no matter what your situation - create the possibility for joy.

So let me conclude by simply saying- Welcome home Sonoma County.