

GREAT NEWS FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY

Marie Haugen and Clifford Haugen have established an endowment for classical music at the North Dakota Museum of Art with a first gift of \$10,000. Devoted fans of music in its many guises, the Haugens understand that classical music is not disappearing as traditional audiences gray but going through an exciting period of great historic change. Through such a gift, they extend their own enjoyment of music to future generations.

Transformations in music are constant. For example, the pipe organ appeared in the third century BC. It was superseded in the 14th century by the clavichord and then the harpsichord, which reigned supreme in Western music until the 18th century, only to be replaced by the piano. In the latter years of the 20th century, keyboard-style synthesizers chased the piano into the shadows—everywhere except in China where a piano frenzy has swept the country. A Steinway grand piano is among the county's highest status symbols. In 2012, 76.9 % of all pianos were made in China—and not because Made in China signifies “cheap.” Proof: an estimated 40 million Chinese children are taking piano lessons. Musical history continues to rewrite itself, a repeating cycle well understood by the Haugens who farm near Arvilla.

Museum Director Laurel Reuter thanked the Haugens profusely for beginning the drive to sustain classical music in Grand Forks County and the surrounding region. Importantly, the Museum is able to bring in top musicians from the Americas, Europe, and Asia through its series “Myra Presents” because of support from people like the Haugens and the Myra Foundation, and because Mayville State University collaborates with the Museum. Sunday winter afternoon concerts at the Museum are followed by Monday evening performances at Mayville.

Stay tuned for news of a new music series that will be inaugurated at noon on
December 5, 2014, at the North Dakota Museum of Art.