

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

CHARLES ROHDE, KING'S MATERIAL

If you have lived in or visited Eastern Iowa for any length of time, it is likely that you have seen the big red or yellow concrete mixers that are used by King's Material and Hawkeye Ready Mix. These trucks deliver ready-mix concrete to residents and businesses throughout the area for industrial, commercial, infrastructure and residential construction projects. This is only one facet of the company, however. King's Material is also one of the leading providers of masonry, stone and landscaping products to the members of our community. You may have called on King's to help construct your patio, retaining wall or even your recent landscaping project.

Founded in 1882, King's Material is nearing its 135th year of serving Linn County and the surrounding areas. Throughout that long span of time, King's Material has succeeded in remaining a family-owned and operated business. Today, a man named Charles Rohde, along with Sara and Jim Sauter, his sister and brother-in-law, lead King's Material and Hawkeye Ready Mix. King's Material continues to be an important member of the Cedar Rapids community because of Mr. Rohde's commitment to serving its residents and fulfilling their building needs.

Mr. Rohde is also a strong and avid supporter of the arts in the Creative Corridor. Just as King's Material has an important role in the community, he believes Orchestra Iowa has an equally important role. "When people visit or consider moving somewhere, they need culturally stimulating things to do." Orchestra Iowa is "well run, entertaining, first class and is a huge part of our community." Mr. Rohde believes that Orchestra Iowa's performances and events provide great opportunities for the area that help make us a desirable place to live and work.

In addition to the symphony's programming, Mr. Rohde supports Orchestra Iowa because he believes its educational outreach programs are essential to the local schools.



"As education funding gets cut, arts and music are the first to go...Orchestra Iowa is becoming increasingly important in teaching students about music and providing enriching learning opportunities."

As a supporter, Mr. Rohde is a regular attendee of Orchestra Iowa concerts. When asked about his most memorable Orchestra Iowa concert experience, he thought of the patriotic concert played on the weekend following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He felt safe and at home at the Paramount Theatre with the Orchestra playing. A close second was when his sister, Sara, gifted him a spot to guest conduct the Orchestra during one of the annual Holiday Pops concerts.

Rohde is proud that King's Material and Hawkeye Ready Mix are family-owned and that they have been in business for nearly 135 years. Likewise, Mr. Rohde said that he is extremely happy that he can "speak with pride about the quality of the Orchestra we have in our community." Successful businesses and strong arts and culture organizations seem to go hand in hand. Across Eastern Iowa, strong support for the arts by our local business leaders, like Mr. Rohde, continuously helps make our community a better place to live, work and raise families. ■

Article by Justin Gingerich
Photo provided by King's Material