

## A Lasting Legacy of Sound: The Grandon Foundation's Commitment to the Arts in our community

Orchestra Iowa is proud to recognize The Eugene and Carleen Grandon Charitable Foundation as a steadfast supporter of Orchestra Iowa and music education in our community. Guided by Mrs. Grandon's passionate belief in the power of the arts, the Foundation has played a vital role in making transformative musical experiences possible for audiences of all ages.

The Grandon Foundation was established with a mission to fund programs in three key areas, one of which is Cultural Arts. Mrs. Grandon firmly believed that thriving arts organizations are essential to a community's health and vitality. As a long-standing cultural pillar in Cedar Rapids, Orchestra Iowa exemplifies the kind of artistic excellence and community engagement that the Foundation seeks to uplift. Through support of our concert season and educational programs, the Grandon Foundation ensures that symphonic music continues to resonate throughout our region.

One particularly meaningful moment for the Foundation was witnessing the impact of the *Video Games Live* Pops Concert. "Seeing so many kids and first-time attendees in the audience was truly inspiring," said Andrea Orth, Foundation President. "It was a powerful example of how symphonic music is deeply woven into many aspects of our lives—especially in video game scores. The performance, with its soaring operatic vocals and choral arrangements, demonstrated how classical music can meet audiences where they are and leave a lasting impression."

While the Foundation traditionally supports Orchestra Iowa's Masterworks Series, it recognizes the importance of innovation and access in the arts. "The most rewarding part of supporting Orchestra Iowa is seeing the range of people we're reaching—young and old, newcomers and long-time fans—and knowing that Mrs. Grandon's vision is alive in every performance."

When asked what piece of music might best represent the spirit of the Grandon Foundation, the answer speaks to their values: something bold, moving, and deeply rooted in community—much like the mission they carry forward.

"The Cedar Rapids community benefits enormously from accessible, high-quality cultural programming," Andrea notes. "But this kind of programming doesn't happen by accident. It relies on a network of supporters—individuals, businesses, and organizations—who believe in the power of the arts to educate, inspire, and connect us. We are proud to be part of that network and hope to encourage others to join us."

Through their unwavering generosity, The Eugene and Carleen Grandon Charitable Foundation has helped Orchestra Iowa grow not only in sound, but in spirit—ensuring that symphonic music continues to thrive for generations to come.