

## **Auburn Symphony Orchestra hires New Staff Member**

### *J. Woody Lotts joins as Individual Giving Director*

**Auburn, WA:** Auburn Symphony Orchestra (ASO) is pleased to announce that J. Woody Lotts was hired as the new Individual Giving Director. In October 2023, ASO was selected as a recipient of a prestigious capacity-building award from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust to hire the third administrative staff member of this impactful organization. Lotts is tasked with leading the fundraising and events for the Orchestra.

“I’m so pleased to have Woody on board to share his expertise and enthusiasm with the Auburn community,” Executive Director Rachel Perry said. “ASO has already grown so much since our founding in 1996 and with this additional staff position we are poised to serve even more of our beloved community.”

A seasoned bi-lingual (English & Spanish) arts leader, Woody most recently served as the Executive Director of the Numerica Performing Arts Center in Wenatchee, WA. He helped successfully reopen the Numerica PAC in August of 2021 during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Lotts also served as the tour manager for Seattle’s Book-It Repertory Theatre and as a producer for the Driftwood Players Theatre and Phoenix Theatre in Edmonds. He holds a master’s degree in arts leadership from Seattle University. Lotts’ career includes numerous professional acting credits and time as the Drama Program Coordinator at Colegio Lord Byron in Arequipa, Peru.

The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust has been supporting the growth of Pacific Northwest nonprofits since 1975. With a mission to strengthen the region’s educational, social, spiritual, and cultural base, the foundation leverages its endowment for grantmaking, enrichment programs, and convenings. In their 40-plus years, the Murdock Foundation has partnered with more than 3,000 nonprofits serving the diverse needs in the communities of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

In 2022, Auburn Symphony Orchestra created a 5-year strategic plan with an aim of expanding the organization’s services in the South King County community. A few main points of the plan are to

- Diversify artistic voices to present a breadth and depth of orchestral music,
- Grow the board, staff, and audiences to better reflect and represent the population of the community,
- Continue to pay musicians a competitive wage,
- Expand education programs to serve more students and community members throughout South King County.

The Murdock grant is crucial to meeting these goals for this small but mighty non-profit. Currently, ASO welcomes more than 3,000 patrons to the concert hall every season, reaches more than 1,000 community members through outdoor concerts throughout the summer, and more than 2,500

# Auburn Symphony Orchestra

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students through free education programs annually. You can learn more about the upcoming 2024-25 Season online at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org).

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Auburn Symphony Orchestra changes lives and our South Puget Sound community through the shared experience of live orchestral music performances and by nurturing the relationship between our audience and our artists. Learn more at [auburnsymphony.org](http://auburnsymphony.org) and social media pages [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#).

Auburn Symphony Orchestra is a registered nonprofit organization: 91-1719873  
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