



Name
Street
City, State Zip

February 2013

Dear [name],

Celebrating a 20th anniversary for a chamber ensemble is quite a milestone, particularly in these times. We are thrilled to be reaching this milestone with our 2012-2013 season, which is a celebration and tribute to the music we have made and shared over the past two decades.

An Orion trademark is its unified sound, achieved by playing together over a long period of time with a shared artistic vision and commitment. A reviewer recently said: "The Orion will celebrate its 20th anniversary next season, and the musicians continue to balance their individual voices impeccably." (Dennis Polkow, *Chicago Classical Review*). Another observed: "Orion is...what chamber music should be all about: Individual personality melded into a group personality." (*Peter Schickele, composer*).

It is more than just the musicians on stage who play a vital role in our artistic endeavors. YOU, our audience members and supporters, are critical to our ability to bring music from the page to the stage. To reference a common metaphor, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

We are grateful for your past involvement and invite you to continue to "play your part."

Sales of tickets and recordings provide less than half the income the Ensemble needs to operate. Sustaining Orion depends on contributions from friends like you. Besides providing immediate support, your gifts are essential in attracting funds from foundations, where a strong base of individual supporters is a prime indicator of an organization's health and sustainability. The financial contributions of individuals such as you enable the bold music-making of Orion to continue and thrive.

On behalf of the Board, I invite you to play this critical part by making a generous donation to The Orion Ensemble. Please know that every gift you give, in any amount, is much appreciated and plays a vital role in Orion's ability to present both little known works and classic gems to loyal supporters and new audiences.

Thank you for your continued support of Orion. I hope to see you at a concert soon!

Musically and with gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les Sommers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Les Sommers, Board Chair