

## **Alessandro's Galleria art benefits Oregon Symphony in Salem.**

By Sara Wiseman

If you've seen the recent program covers for the Oregon Symphony in Salem's latest concerts, you might be surprised—and impressed.

All the season, the covers utilized artwork from Alessandro's Galleria, a world-class art gallery that just opened last year in Salem leading fine-dining restaurant.

“It's a wonderful marriage of art and music,” said Roger Yost, owner of Alessandro's Ristorante & Galleria and three other landmark buildings in Downtown Salem. “We were very happy to participate in this venture. It shows what can happen when the arts community in Salem puts its heads together.”

The idea for the program cover began with Nancy Stockdale, Executive Director for the Oregon Symphony Association in Salem. “Actually, it was kind of a fluke. Roger Yost came to ArtSmart, which is a monthly meeting of all the arts in Salem, and he made a presentation on his vision for the arts in Salem...and he brought several original oils,” said Stockdale.

“One canvas had just arrived from the Czech Republic, and he unrolled it in front of the group. It was Autumn Sunrise, by Taras Loboda. As I saw it, I remembered one of the descriptions of a Mozart Clarinet Concerto that I'd heard that said ‘where else can you hear colors like this.’ And it just clicked,” Stockdale said.

Using original art as the cover for the symphony program has been a boon for Stockdale. “I've struggled every year over what to use for the cover art; usually we've used the same cover all season. But this way, we can choose art that really evokes the feeling of the concert.”

The artwork is also used for promotional postcards that the Oregon Symphony in Salem uses to advertise its concerts.

“It's really amazing to have a partnership like this,” said Stockdale. “Roger Yost has gone out of his way to make this work.”

And the response? “We have people who are taking the programs home and framing them,” Stockdale laughed.

The Oregon Symphony in Salem will use a total of nine artworks from the Alessandro's Galleria for this season, she said. “We hope to do the same next year, as well,” Stockdale added.

The Oregon Symphony Association in Salem is now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> season. Concerts are held at Smith Auditorium on the Willamette University campus. For more information, visit [www.orsymphonysalem.org](http://www.orsymphonysalem.org).

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