

From: [Cynthia Idell](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Subject Line: Agenda Item No. 61
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 7:24:33 PM

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Honorable Chair LaVere and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in strong support of funding for the New West Symphony under agenda item No. 61.

My husband, Paul, and I have been subscribers since about 2009, when my son, then in high school, asked to attend the concerts. He had a strong interest in music. My son suffered from severe anxiety issues growing up and had a very hard time through middle school. He was subject to bullying. After middle school, he attended Westlake High School and found his niche in the music program. His confidence grew and he was given leadership opportunities in the music program. He graduated UCLA in 2012 (Phi Beta Kappa) and is now a band director in the Conejo Valley Unified School District. It has been very rewarding for my husband and I to have his students' parents tell us how much of an inspiration our son is to their own children.

I see how much music and the school programs were important to my son's growth and development. The New West Symphony provides vital music education outreach. I have been actively volunteering with the New West Symphony League since 2011. I have been impressed with their educational outreach with the Laby Harmony Project and Symphonic Adventures - a program introducing elementary school students to musical concepts and an orchestra. My husband and I were lucky to have resources to provide our son with music lessons and concerts. I know many people are not able to do this. When I volunteer with Symphonic Adventures, teachers tell me this was the first concert that many of their students had ever attended. We need music and arts in our schools and community. Isn't it wonderful that this opportunity was here?

It is not only the education programs we support. My husband and I so enjoy the beautiful concerts and are so grateful to have a world-class orchestra in our own community. Music Director Michael Christie has done an amazing job curating the music and is able to reach a diverse audience. I have heard world-renowned guest soloists commenting on the high caliber of the New West Symphony orchestra. My husband and I are in our late 60s now, and it is

very difficult to drive into Los Angeles with the heavy traffic. Music brings people together and really soothes the soul (very important in these turbulent times) - that is my true belief.

As you know, it is extremely costly to fund an orchestra and its outreach programs. I will continue to volunteer and do what I am able to help the New West Symphony, however, I do not have the resources to provide much monetary support.

You are to be commended for sowing a seed for arts and culture in Ventura County in this first crucial step. Please consider supporting the New West Symphony directly today.

Sincerely,

**Cynthia (and Paul) Idell
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