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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BOISE PHIL OPENING NIGHT CANCELLED; ENCORE BALL POSTPONED

September 12, 2021

Boise, ID – **Boise Philharmonic** announced today that the Saturday, September 18, Opening Night: *Sounds of Celebration* concert at the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts has been cancelled and its Encore Ball fundraiser will be postponed.

Throughout the pandemic, Boise Phil has been committed to ensuring the safety of our community, musicians, staff and crew. Due to the surge of COVID-19 cases overwhelming local hospitals and the high transmission rates in the Treasure Valley, the Board of Directors voted to cancel the concert.

“Live music will return to our community, but we need your help,” shares Executive Director Laura Reynolds. “We need our community to get vaccinated, wear masks to help slow the spread of this virus, and ease the burden our healthcare workers are facing. Our musicians are eager to perform and we do look forward to presenting live concerts for you safely in the future.”

Laura Kendall, Morrison Center’s Executive Director, says, “All of us at the Morrison Center support the very difficult decision the Boise Phil has had to make on their first concert. We are ready to support all our local arts organizations as they work to return to live performances with additional protocols for audiences, shifting of dates, easy ticket returns, and timely communications on what to expect. We have implemented a number of practices to ensure a safe space for performers, staff, volunteers, and audiences. We thank our audiences for their patience and support as we reopen.”

In preparation for upcoming concerts in the fall, the Boise Phil will adopt additional safety protocols for audiences including requiring proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results, mask requirements, and reduced capacity in our venues. Additionally, for those that prefer to watch from the comfort of their home, the Boise Phil continues its [Digital Stage](#) which offers on-demand concerts streamed from your mobile, smart TV and computer devices.

“This concert season invites you to get lost in the music and we cannot wait to share these special moments with you this fall,” said Reynolds. “We are grateful for the Morrison Center and all the creative ways they have ensured that the arts can continue to thrive during the pandemic.”

Opening Night and Encore Ball ticket holders will receive an email regarding all the options available and can contact the Boise Phil Ticket Office by emailing tickets@boisephil.org or calling (208) 344-7849.

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ABOUT BOISE PHIL

As Idaho's largest performing arts organization, the symphony performs for more than 50,000 people annually. Made up of 77 musicians hailing from some of the top music schools in the world, the Boise Phil is proud to offer world-class music throughout the Treasure Valley. Led by Music Director Eric Garcia, the Boise Phil's mission is to reflect the energy and heartbeat of our communities through invigorating musical experiences that touch the human spirit.

ABOUT THE VELMA V. MORRISON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Located on the campus of Boise State University, the 2,002-seat Velma V. Morrison Center for the Performing Arts is Idaho's home for the arts. Nestled on the banks of the Boise River, with a panoramic view of the city, parks and foothills, the Center's 10-story stage house is a recognizable fixture of the Capitol's picturesque skyline. The realization of a life-long dream of Harry W. Morrison, and championed by his widow, Velma, the Center opened its doors on April 7, 1984.

Today the Center is recognized as a major destination for arts and culture, annually hosting hundreds of live entertainment and arts education offerings that serve to enrich the lives of patrons of all ages. As a Boise State affiliate, the Center's budget is supported by ticket sales, facility rentals, donations, grants, and the generous support of the Morrison Center Endowment Foundation, Inc. The latest economic impact study for the Morrison Center shows the generation of \$27.9M in value to the local and state economy.