Dear friends,

All of us at the Greater Bridgeport Symphony were disappointed to cancel our March 14 concert at the Klein Memorial. Many of you know that, as recently as Thursday morning we had hoped to continue with a variety of modifications and options. By Thursday afternoon, that position became untenable, as the cascade of closings, from major sporting events to the entire cultural life of New York City, joined the growing chorus of solid advice from medical professionals and our own state and local governmental directives, including a forceful directive from the Governor of Connecticut. It was with a heavy heart that we knew, in the interest of public safety, and our concern for the safety of our wonderful musicians, that we had to cancel the concert.

As a small arts organization we rely on our concerts and on the generosity of our subscribers, audience, and donors in order to present wonderful music. In addition we have fixed costs for our March concert that must be paid in spite of its cancellation. We ask for your understanding and your support as we develop policies for dealing with the tickets sold for this concert.

Here is a summary of our policy:

1. You may consider the face value of your ticket as a tax donation. The GBS is a non-profit organization and all donations to it are deductible on your federal tax return.

2. For those who had a voucher or an individual ticket for this concert, you may exchange it either for our April 18 concert or for one of our scheduled concerts next year. We have not advertised the 2020-2021 season at this time but information about it will be available soon on our website (gbs.org).

3. For our subscribers, we will be developing a variety of options depending on your desire to subscribe for the 2020-2021 season. We understand you are the core of support for our organization and we want to reach out to you. We ask for your patience over the next week as we consider how best to proceed given your loyalty to our organization.

4. The Greater Bridgeport Symphony is working to keep all of our patrons satisfied, despite the crisis we are all facing. If you have questions or comments, please contact Mark Halstead, our Executive Director, at opsgbs@gmail.com or (203) 576-0263

Finally, all of us at the Greater Bridgeport Symphony wish each of you and your families a safe and healthy journey through this new landscape we find ourselves in. The music that we play sometimes seems to me a message of comfort and consolation in difficult times. Perhaps for that reason so many of us fought so hard to keep the doors open. May we soon be together again, enjoying the music that is our reason for existing.

Every good wish,

Orin Grossman
President, Greater Bridgeport Symphony