

# Symphony orchestra one of the cultural assets of Sioux Center'

## Organization awarded for community service

Whether it's bringing an audience to their feet with a Beethoven overture or giving 1,000 students their first taste of Mozart, the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra delivers the joy of excellent music in our community.

The locally-founded symphony orchestra, made up of musicians from the tristate area, has been combining serious music with a passion for education the past 32 years. Today, NISO boasts 80 musicians. It gives community members, professional musicians, college students and talented high schoolers an opportunity to learn from each

other and play a level of music above and beyond their school experience. NISO presents three concerts each year, plus a Concert for Children reaching more than 1,000 fourth, fifth and sixth graders. NISO also runs a youth orchestra, giving advanced middle and high school musicians an opportunity to play at a higher level.

Made possible by a partnership with Dordt College, local support and grants, NISO keeps ticket prices low so the music is accessible to all. NISO's work supports and expresses community values of excellence. When realtors are assisting new community members, they speak of NISO as one of the cultural assets of Sioux Center.

NISO operates on the belief that symphony orchestra music is a wonderful cultural heritage to be enjoyed by players and audience alike, and we are all the beneficiaries. Their music stimulates our minds and connects us with humanity across time. All of that marks NISO as the organization receiving this year's Community Service Award.