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## **NEW TEAM LEADS SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL INTO A BRIGHT FUTURE**



SUNRIVER, ORE – It started with a COVID lockdown. Now fires threaten much of Oregon. But throughout this unprecedented year, there has been a seamless transition to a new Sunriver Music Festival office team ensuring that the Festival not only survives but continues to thrive in this challenging world.

“Reimagining our vital Festival Faire fundraiser, auditioning and featuring this year’s batch of Young Artists Scholarship recipients, finding creative ways to safely bring live music to the community, not to mention interviewing and selecting new Artistic Director candidates, has kept our focus on the future of the Festival,” newly named Executive Director Meagan Iverson shares.

Meagan joined the Festival in 2015 and has held a variety of advancing positions including Operations Director during the difficult 2020 season. A graduate of Southern Oregon University (Ashland) in Piano Performance and Music Theory as well as Technical Theatre and Production, Meagan brings a diverse skillset to the Festival.

“We are so grateful to have had Meagan in place and her willingness to step up to handle even more challenges in one of the most difficult seasons in our 42-year history,” explains Board President Phillip Ruder. “To change management and not miss a beat, that takes dedication, skill, and commitment by everyone - Board and staff and volunteers.”

Meagan brings both corporate and nonprofit experience to her new assignment. She ended her long tenure as Enterprise Taxonomy Manager for Guitar Center headquarters when the opportunity to join the Festival team arose, delighted to

serve her Sunriver community. Prior relevant experience includes Theater Manager of the Crater Performing Arts Center in the Rogue Valley producing innovative concerts and fundraisers and coordinating all administrative and public aspects of a nonprofit performing arts venue.

In both Southern Oregon and now in Central Oregon, Meagan has shared her talents as a pianist, musical director, and audition coach for many theater companies and individuals. She recently resigned from Cascade School of Music as piano faculty and Performance & Ensembles Manager to focus full-time on Sunriver Music Festival's mission and activities.

Joining Meagan is new Ticket Office Manager Julie Webber. Julie took over from long-time manager Robin Burford upon her retirement. Julie brings a diverse career managing community service programs working with all age groups, from youth to adult seniors, to her new assignment. A multi-decade Sunriver homeowner, Julie and her husband Kevin relocated from Portland three years ago to enjoy the unique lifestyle of the area. "I am thrilled to continue the amazing work that Robin provided for years," adds Webber. "Robin was with the Festival for 14 years and her contributions to the organization are immensely valuable," adds Iverson. "The connections Robin was able to make with Festival patrons, donors, and musicians will always be remembered fondly."

Rounding out the team at the Festival office is Production Assistant Alisa (A.J.) Jimenez. A.J. worked seasonally for the Festival in 2018 and 2019 and has been teaching the Festival's after-school "Otter Orchestra" class at Three Rivers School for three years. A Conservatory Music graduate from the University of the Pacific, A.J.'s career as director of orchestras and bands, has taken her around the world working throughout Europe, Malaysia, Japan, Lebanon, Egypt, and China. Her passion is activism in the promotion of music education.

If you haven't met the team yet, stop by the Festival Office in the Village at Sunriver to say hello! Perhaps you'll discover you've spotted Meagan peeking behind trees and signs on her quest to find every geocache in Sunriver. Or perhaps you'll discover you've played ukulele with Meagan at the lively jams led by husband Jeff Woodruff, or attended one of the various local churches when she's behind the piano. The Festival Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 9:00-4:00. Stay tuned for future concerts, events, and even a new music class! [sunrivermusic.org](http://sunrivermusic.org)

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