ANNUAL REPORT

Sunriver Music Festival

2020 / 2021

SEASON 44

WHAT A SEASON

IN 2021, THE MUSIC RETURNED!

This report shares the efforts and results of Sunriver Music Festival during its 2021 fiscal year of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

1,571

Summer Festival Tickets Sold Summer Festival Outdoor Concert Series August 14-23, 2021 (100% sold-out at covid capacity levels)

759

participants attended additional live and online events throughout the year



ESTABLISHED IN 1977,

Sunriver Music Festival has a two-fold mission:

- ☐ To present quality performances of classical music in the cultural interest of the community
- To support music education programs for the youth of Central Oregon



44TH SEASON

New Artistic Director & Conductor BRETT MITCHELL appointed 9/23/21

After a national search, audition and interview process, Maestro Brett Mitchell was selected as Sunriver Music Festival's new Artistic Director & Conductor.

BIG NEWS!



MAESTRO MITCHELL'S MESSAGE:

What a thrilling time this is in Sunriver Music Festival's history! Having worked with the sensational musicians, staff, and audience in beautiful Central Oregon this past August, I can't tell you how excited I am to be coming on as the Festival's next Artistic Director & Conductor beginning summer 2022. Before we look ahead, a quick look back at our 2021 Summer Festival –

After Kelly Kuo led the first two orchestral performances of our season, he and I both took to the piano and joined forces with some of our musicians for an evening of Pops chamber music at the SHARC, with my selections all featuring music of John Williams. The first of my two classical concerts at Besson Commons opened with Music for Movies, a suite of five movements from various film scores by the dean of American composers, Aaron Copland. After one of the great concerti in the classical repertoire—Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 featuring Daniel Hsu—we performed Stravinsky's charming neoclassical masterpiece, Pulcinella Suite, featuring the principal strings of the Festival Orchestra in solo roles. Our season finale featured the newest work on our season: the explosive and colorful Starburst by Jessie Montgomery. We were then joined by Festival favorite Amit Peled for Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1 before closing with "the apotheosis of the dance," Beethoven's Symphony No. 7.

While this season's Summer Festival was very different than in years past (pandemic! wildfires! multiple conductors!), I know how much we're all looking forward to getting back to a more regular routine for our 2022 season. I've already begun work on programming for next summer, and can't wait to share specifics with you all very soon. For now, please know how much this native Pacific Northwesterner is looking forward to making beautiful music for and with you all in Central Oregon in 2022 and beyond!

<u>brettmitchellconductor.com</u>

TRUSTEES & STAFF

SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL IS GOVERNED BY A DEDICATED BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The volunteer Board of Trustees serves in all matters of fiscal oversight and strategic planning.

Board of Trustees for the 2020/2021 Season:

Clyde Thompson, President Mal Murphy, Vice President Jack McDonnell, Treasurer Ron Carver, Secretary Jodie Bischof George Blankenship Bergen Bull Christian Clark Dan Flaxman **Richard Frazier** Phillip Ruder Ezma Hanschka Susan Evans Inman Jean Maina Jim McCormick Steven Runner Heather Sherfey Rosalie Tank Carol Thomas Orchestra Representatives: Heather Blackburn, Wendy Cushner, Doug Walter

Festival Office Staffing Update:

Meagan and AJ and weekly volunteers Carol Thomas and Jean Maina continue to hold down the fort in the Festival Office. 2020 and 2021 have been seasons of constant change in our one other staff position: In March 2020, Julie Webber was hired as long-time Ticket Office Manager Robin Burford's successor and, because of covid, didn't start until Sept. 2020. Due to family needs, Julie had to resign in March 2021 and Mardy Hickerson joined the staff through the busy summer season and moved staff away in early October 2021. We are currently recruiting for a new Patron Services Coordinator to join the staff.

Admin & Production Staff:

Meagan Iverson, Executive Director

AJ Jimenez, Production Assistant

OPEN, Patron Services Coordinator

Canda Kastel Bookkeeper (contract)

Pam Beezley, Development (contract)

Mark Dennett, Marketing (contract)

Kayla Eisler, Summer Intern (seasonal)

Tim Cogswell, Stage Manager (seasonal)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Music Returned!

The world-class musical experiences you've come to know and love returned for this 44th season. Within this era of heartbreaking cancellations, our commitment to the mission of Sunriver Music Festival holds strong, nestled within a grateful spirit of creativity and flexibility.

I often get asked "How does Sunriver Music Festival consistently attract such high-caliber musicians?" Here's how: We strive to create exceptional experiences by keeping the focus on the mission – Does this endeavor benefit the production of world-class musical experiences for Central Oregon residents and visitors? Does this activity nurture the next generation of musicians? These two questions are constantly at the forefront, safeguarding the mission. We treasure the music and the community and, in doing so, that which is inconsequential fades as the mission remains in focus.

Thanks to a diligent Board of Trustees, The Festival is held to its highest standard. The fact that our Board, staff, volunteers^{*}, and sponsors[^] were able **to pull off the feat that was 2020/2021** was sincerely a blast and a nonstop edge-of-my-seat adventure. In the midst of it all, the music was mighty, and will continue to be a powerful force in the community.

Festival Friends, it's an honor being on this musical adventure with you. *Your presence matters.* Thank you for this season of powerful music and creative resilience!

With much gratitude, Meagan Iverson



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Dear Sunriver Music Festival family,

This past year was challenging, to say the least. Thanks to the tireless efforts and skills of our Executive Director Meagan Iverson, staff members AJ Jimenez and Mardy Hickerson, and a legion of volunteers, we were able to return to live music-making this past summer in spite of Covid, smoke, heat and cold – while also managing to follow through with our audition process to select a new Artistic Director. Musician hosts, drivers, ushers, those who provided refreshments during rehearsals, everyone who helped set up and take down tents and stages – **all of you made this possible**.

Almost all our concerts and events this past season were held outdoors, though we did present a very successful virtual Fireside Christmas Concert with concert rock violinist Aaron Meyer and Jean-Pierre Garau; the camera brought us up-close and personal to them for a warm, intimate concert in front of the grand fireplace in the Great Hall.

Our Festival Orchestra collaborated this summer with world-class artists: the Eroica Trio, concertmaster and violin soloist Ruth Lenz, pianist Daniel Hsu, and one of our favorite returning soloists, Amit Peled, cello. In addition, we were treated to an intriguing pops chamber concert that was put together by our two guest conductors: Brett Mitchell and Kelly Kuo created a fascinating program of popular music that featured several of our own Festival musicians.

Our decision to go ahead with a 2021 Summer Festival was not without considerable risk, and we were prepared to absorb significant financial loss due to Covid. But thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors and sponsors, and to our audiences who returned in force to hear live music, we are now beginning our new fiscal year on remarkably sound financial footing – in fact, more solid than ever.

We're grateful to the Sunriver Resort for their continuing support, and to Jodie Bischof for shepherding the Young Artist Scholarship program through its 26th year, unimpeded by the pandemic. In June, twenty students were awarded a total of \$33,200 in scholarships. The YAS program continues to have a tremendous impact on the future of young Central Oregon musicians, and on the future of classical music itself.

In the past year and a half we've suffered two great losses: long-time Board members Bill Taylor and Jim McCormick both passed away after years of exceptional service to the Festival; they are dearly missed. Five Board members are now retiring after their extensive tenures: Jack McDonnell, Bergen Bull, Fred Kinyon, George Blankenship, and Ezma Hanschka all brought unique skills and perspectives; we are indebted to them as they pass the baton to new Board members stepping up to take their place.

Sunriver Music Festival is strong. At this moment in our long 44-year history, we're poised to embark on a whole new chapter, as vital and fresh as ever, under the leadership of our our new Artistic Director & Conductor, Brett Mitchell. *This is an exciting time for the Festival.*

Clyde Thompson President, Sunriver Music Festival Board of Trustees







Summer Festival 2021 featured soloists, from left: The Eroica Trio; Ruth Lenz; Pops chamber ensemble Dan Skidmore, Leah Latorraca, Kari Caldwell, Nadine Hall, Holland Phillips; Daniel Hsu; Amit Peled







FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

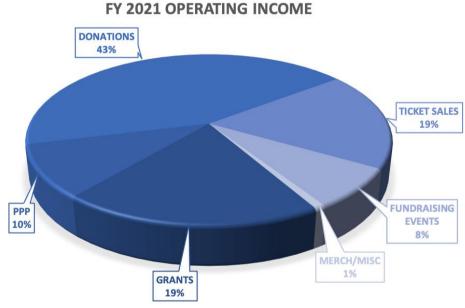
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Friends of the Festival members in 2021

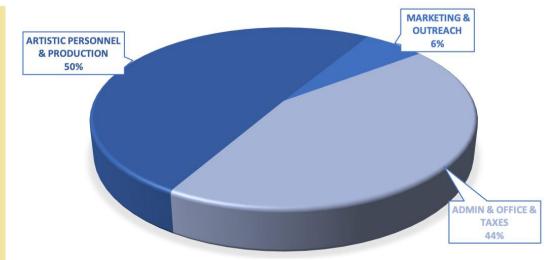
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Friends of the Festival members in 2020 In the 2020/21 fiscal year, the Festival returned an operating surplus thanks to strong community support and one-time government relief funding due to the pandemic. The 2021 surplus funds will assist in adjusting to the financial demands throughout the uncertainty of the upcoming year. With the continued concerns about covid and its financial impact, we are in a positive position to carry forward funds and steward donations received in the 44th season on into the 45th season for their intended purpose.

TOTAL INCOME: \$447,908 (73% contributed; 27% earned) TOTAL EXPENSE: \$336,094 (50% Summer Festival artistic personnel & production) NET OPERATING INCOME: \$118,814 at fiscal year-end 9/30/2021



FY 2021 OPERATING EXPENSE



173

Friends of the Festival members in 2019

Restricted/Invested Funds

Balances as of 9/30/2021:

- Endowment Funds: \$1,097,537
- Scholarship Fund: \$56,668
- Music Education Fund: \$21,736
- Piano Fund: \$32,278
- Sawyer Fund: \$49,566
- Advisory Fund: \$106,776

The above accounts are managed at Oregon Community Foundation or Tallus Capital Management and are conservatively invested.

CONCERTS & ACTIVITIES OF THE 44TH SEASON

A most creative season with the return of some beloved traditions, the cancellation of others due to covid considerations, and the major reshaping of many others! In chronological order, here are some highlights of how Sunriver Music Festival kept the music playing throughout the fiscal year of Oct. 2020 through Sept. 2021.

BACKSTAGE WITH "ART OF THE BASSOON" - 10/10/2020



Sunriver Music Festival principal bassoonist, Anthony Georgeson shared conversation, demonstration, and performance for Festival Friends via Zoom. This sweet gathering provided insight into the technique and repertoire for this unique instrument, provided perspective on the life of a professional musician and orchestras during Covid, and welcomed questions and discussion from participants.

MUSICAL GREETINGS VIDEO - 10/16/2020



At the beginning of this fiscal year, as it became apparent that pandemic-related cancellations were continuing, we assembled a video of heartwarming greetings to Festival Friends from several of our orchestra musicians. Shared memories, intimate musical performances, and long-distance hugs and hellos shaped each segment. Email information@sunrivermusic.org if you would like us to re-send it to you.

TRADITIONS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 12/5/2020



Our annual Traditions Christmas Concert pivoted at the last minute to a livestream broadcast from the twinkling Great Hall. Concert Rock Violinist Aaron Meyer's creative spirit, willing nature, and love of performing shone brightly and provided an array of holiday music to an enthusiastic online audience who were able to type in the YouTube chatbox throughout the concert and thereby share the experience with each other in real-time. Young Artist Scholarship recipient John Fawcett, violin, opened the show.

HOLIDAY CHEERS WINE SALE - 12/2020



Last December, the Holiday Cheers Wine Sale was born. Wine packages such as "Rudolph Reds", "Naughty & Nice" and "White Christmas" made for a festive and successful sale. Pop in to a Holiday Cheers Open House outside the Festival Office this December 9, 17, or 21 for the 2nd annual wine sale and to warm up with cozy beverages, tasty treats, and friendly company!

BACKSTAGE WITH SUNRIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL - 2/18/2021



February 18th provided another opportunity for Festival Friends to connect online, thanks to the magic of Zoom. A panel of Festival Orchestra musicians shared musical happenings in their lives, related newfound musical interests, and how their musicmaking was affected during the pandemic. We also shared a sneak peek at the Summer Festival planning in progress.

MUSIC MATTERS SERIES - 5/24-6/28/2021



For 6 weeks in early summer, Executive Director Meagan Iverson facilitated MUSIC MATTERS - A "Sunriver You" Series on Zoom. Each class in the series drew inspiration from the programming for the upcoming Summer Festival and was designed to inspire participants beyond passive listening and into active experience of classical music.

SWINGS FORE STRINGS GOLF TOURNAMENT - 6/6/2021



A beautiful crisp morning at Sunriver Resort Woodlands golf course welcomed 93 golfers for the 12th annual Swings fore Strings Tournament. Scholarship recipients Kimberly Santaguida and Matthias Santucci provided musical entertainment before and after the tournament. See page 11 for the generous Swings fore Strings sponsors and hardworking volunteers who all helped this important fundraiser bring in over \$9,000 for the Summer Festival and for scholarships!

YOUNG ARTISTS SCHOLARSHIPS AUDITIONS & RECITAL - 6/12/2021



In 2021, 20 students were awarded a total of \$33,200. Overall in 26 years of the YAS program, \$619,450 has been awarded to classical music students in Central Oregon. A select variety of 2021's fine recipients performed live to an invited audience of recipients, their families, and YAS supporters. More at <u>sunrivermusic.org/about/education-scholarships</u>.

A brief interjection: Due to covid, our in-school programs halted this season. In keeping with our mission to support South Deschutes County, the Festival's music education fund this year was focused on repairs and upgrades for music classes at Three Rivers School and supplying several new keyboards for La Pine High School so that even while singing and playing brass/wind instruments was on hold, the music education could continue!

FESTIVAL FAIRE FUNDRAISING AUCTION & GALA - 7/24/2021



This year's premier fundraiser - "Outdoor Overture" - was an open-air celebratory reunion. Together, we renewed our commitment to the future of music by raising almost \$40,000 for Young Artists Scholarships and the Summer Festival. Performances from YAS recipients Eponine Bell (soprano), John Fawcett (violin), Taylor Hulett (soprano), Jacob Nenow (piano) made the event extra special. See page 11 for acknowledgement of the fabulous Festival Faire volunteers and sponsors.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY PARTY & PRESENTATION - 9/25/2021



The exclusive party at Flights of Fancy farm is a popular Festival Faire auction tradition. This year, Sunriver Music Festival Board of Trustees President Clyde Thompson gave a presentation exploring music as architecture in time and architecture as music in space. The presentation along with an open bar and catered BBQ dinner was the perfect event ushering in the Fall season!

Wait, wait...what about August? What happened in AUGUST??? See next page!

SUMMER FESTIVAL - 8/12-23/2021

And, in 2021, the landmark Summer Festival returned, yet now as an all outdoor concert series! Summer Festival 2021 offered the unique opportunity to experience our two outstanding Artistic Director finalists KELLY KUO and BRETT MITCHELL in action.



Thank you to our devoted patrons for making this most unusual year possible. Your willingness to adhere to new ticketing and seating protocols allowed us to design safe and accessible musical experiences for all ticket purchasers in a time of limited capacity.

Mother nature was angling to be a soloist for several of the concerts but in the end she relented.

The celebrated **Eroica Trio** performed Beethoven's Triple Concerto with the Festival Orchestra conducted by **Maestro Kelly Kuo** for opening night at the Sunriver SHARC amphitheater. Reserved seats were separated into named patron "pods" and general admission patrons spread their blankets and chairs throughout the spacious lawn area.

Sunriver Resort Besson Commons hosted three concerts this season. The musicians in the tented stage played directly to the intimate gathering throughout the grassy dell. The program for Classical Concert II conducted by Kelly Kuo featuring concertmaster **Ruth Lenz** in the Barber Violin Concerto beautifully distracted us from the smokiness of the evening.

2021 was a fluid year full of decisions to accommodate safety considerations. Moving the Pops concert to SHARC turned out to be a brilliant solution. This season's largest audience enjoyed both conductor candidates at the piano accompanying soloists and ensembles from the Festival Orchestra in popular pieces ranging from John Williams to Queen.

Featured soloist **Daniel Hsu** wowed us all at his Solo Piano Concert. The Cliburn medalist delivered a performance that was at once intimate and extraordinary. The following night, conducted by **Maestro Brett Mitchell**, he played a Mozart piano concerto with the Festival Orchestra for Classical Concert III.

By the evening of Classical Concert IV featuring cellist **Amit Peled**, mother nature was appeased and we had worked out the timing, process, and arrangement needed to build the venue to the advantage for both the listening and viewing audience. **THANK YOU** to all who volunteered their time, talent and energy to build, tune, correlate, arrange, tape, seat, and strike only to do it again and again!

SUMMER FESTIVAL TICKET SALES STATS

"Sold out" is a misnomer this year due to pandemic guidelines. Wisely, we did not increase capacity in the early days of summer; COVID came roaring back in August. The unusually early concert sellouts demonstrated the growing population of the region and the growing desire to return to live music.

- 25% of all tickets sold to Sunriver/La Pine residents
- 38% of all tickets sold to Bend/Redmond residents
- 15% of all tickets sold to Oregon residents outside of Central Oregon
- 15% of all tickets sold to states outside of Oregon

24% of all ticket holders were new to the Summer Festival.

Read on to learn about a few of the vital behind-the-scenes aspects necessary for the music to happen!

MUSICIAN REFRESHMENTS



Festival Orchestra musicians are provided an impressive buffet of refreshments at every morning rehearsal. Coordinators Dr. Ron and Mary Carver are instrumental in scheduling and setup to rival any catered event! Special recognition also goes to Shirley Smith who organized all dry goods in advance and to Pat and Pam Klampe who provided refreshments at every single rehearsal this summer! See page 11 for acknowledgement of all the delicious refreshments providers.

ADOPT A MUSICIAN



Thanks to the generosity of host families for opening up their homes or donating funds to "Adopt a Musician" this year, the Summer Festival was able to accommodate 46 musicians, conductors, soloists. Whether people could host or not, there was a creative adoption option and always an opportunity to become involved in the Adopt a Musician program. We welcome your creative contributions in taking good care of the world-class musicians traveling here! See page 10 for acknowledgement of all the gracious musician hosts.

ADOPT A MUSICIAN HOSTS & DONORS

Bennington Properties Bill & Julie Ortman Bob & Darlene Cusick Bob & Sue Black Carol & Tom Woodruff Carolyn & Ray Maxwell Clair-anne & John Wood Clara Smith Clyde & Jo Ann Thompson Don & Bea Hatler Donna & Gary Wolf Donna Farnam Dottie Meilink Greg & Michelle Brenholdt Jan & Bergen Bull Janice Dost Jodie & Bruce Bischof Ken & Brita Stern Mal Murphy & Jane Boubel Marjorie & Stu Mathison Matt & Connie Ivers Meagan Iverson & Jeff Woodruff Pam Beezley & Gene Bennington Phillip & Ruth Ruder Quoc & John Illige Robin Burford Ron & Jackie Schmid Rosalie Tank Richard & Rose Meyer Scott Gillies Sue & Bob Black Sue Vordenberg Susan Thurman Tom & Maggie Gunn Yvonne & Jay Smith

CONCERT USHERS & FRONT OF HOUSE



Ushering this summer was definitely a team sport! Led by the wonderful and calming Jo Ann Thompson, ushers adapted to changing venues, seating arrangements, and environments at every concert. Before every concert, Mitch & Cheryl Cooney anchored the seat-signage crew, and even before that, Jean Maina worked closely with Mardy in the office ensuring every patron had a seat. Ushers this year went above and beyond by helping setup shade tents, lending an arm on uneven ground, and so much more. See page 11 for acknowledgement of all the mighty ushers.

STAGE BUILDING & SECURITY CREWS



Yet another volunteer opportunity unique to this summer in the great outdoors was the BUILDING of STAGES! We did hire actual professionals (whew) to build the stages and tents at both venues and they requested volunteer support to help keep costs down. 43 Festival volunteers staffed 7 different hard-working shifts in all manner of wee hours of nights and mornings. Volunteers also helped out with security on-site before and after the security guard's 11pm-6am shifts.

All this and then some...all for the music...worth it!

FRIENDS! Thanks to YOU, the music returned!

VOLUNTEERS

This year of Sunriver Music Festival would have been literally impossible without the names listed below. Volunteers with feet on the ground and brains in the game helped in the Festival Office, with Festival Faire, at Swings fore Strings, and by hosting musicians, providing refreshments, ushering at concerts, setup/teardown for concerts, on the YAS committee, and in countless ways of ensuring the future of music thrives!

Amanda Windlinx Anne-Marie Daggett Asher Komraus Bergen Bull **Bevalee** Runner Binnie Kinvon Bonnie Smith Bob Hann Bob Stillson Brian Baker Bruce Bischof Candice Cobb Carol Thomas Carole Elsbree Carolyn Barr Cheri Wells Cheryl Cooney Christian Clark Chuck Mattox Cindy McCabe Cindy McConnell Clyde Thompson Cooper Ottum Cynthia Stedfield Dahniel Barney Dan Flaxman Darlene Cusick David Kreitzer Deb Coulter

Diane Bridge Donna McDonnell Doug Seator Eric Wyman Erika Spaet Ezma Hanschka Elouise Mattox Franny Buel Fred Kinyon Gene Bennington George Blankenship Gina Rosbrook Ginger Remy Grace Neumaier Greg Brenholdt Greg McCumsey Heather Sherfey Jack McDonnell Jackie Kreitzer Jacob Fatooh Jan Bull Jan Cigoy Jane Boubel Jean Maina Jeff Woodruff Jo Ann Thompson Joan Hann Jodie Bischof Joe Rohrbacher

John Fawcett Jude Fulghum Juliana Cartwright Karen McKnight Kent Elliott Kerry Brock Krishna Kathiresan Kristine Thomas Marjorie Mathison Mark McConnell Mary Carver Mary Condy Meg Voedisch Marty Rudolph Michael Javins Michaele Grabenhorst Michaelia Morgan Mitch Cooney Mitzi Putney Nicole Eisler **Oliver Bennington** Pam Beezley Pam Klampe Pat Klampe Patti Iverson Patti Petersen Peggy Lindsay Peggy Scherrer Peter Gustavson

Phillip Ruder Randy Iverson Richard Frazier Rick Komraus Rob Pearson Robin Burford Ron Carver Rosalie Tank Ruth Ruder Ryan Duley Salli McDonald Sandy Young Sarah Peter Sarah Viens Shirley Smith Skip Smith Stefanie Bright Stephanie Seed Steve Runner Stu Mathison Stuart Young Sue Black Susan Evans Inman Susan Huseonica Tanya Bruce Teresa Bowerman Terri Cichosz Tiffany Carter Urszula Fawcett Wanda Coil

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TRADITIONS CHRISTMAS CONCERT SPONSORS



SWINGS FORE STRINGS **SPONSORS** SUNRIVER[®] RESORT BND AM 1110 BUSINESSNEWS The Bulletin REE SUNRIVER AREA FOLD MOREROOFLIFE Mal Murphy & Jane Boubel **Phillip Ruder**

Bend Picture Framing 2020/2021 was an amazing season for financial support from one-time government relief and ongoing foundation support due to the pandemic. We are grateful for the following foundations and funds for recognizing the value of Sunriver Music Festival within the arts & culture community.



Donors, Volunteers, Musicians, Patrons, Friends,

Together, we continue to envision new and effective ways of honoring Sunriver Music Festival's commitment to expand the audience for classical music by nurturing the next generation of artistic talent and by presenting world-class musical experiences for Central Oregon residents and visitors.

Mailing Address: PO Box 4308, Sunriver, OR, 97707 Physical Address: 57100 Beaver Drive, Building 13, in the Village at Sunriver Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9:00-4:00 Office: 541-593-1084 / Tickets: 541-593-9310 information@sunrivermusic.org

Sunriver Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization / Tax ID #93-0736403

Junriver Music Festival

