



USUO Military Veteran Outreach 2019-20



For many years, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera has partnered with VetTix, a national non-profit organization that works with cultural and sports organizations to provide complimentary tickets to events for American Veterans and their families. When tickets are available beyond sales for particular upcoming events, our Ticket Office distributes small numbers of tickets to organizations like VetTix, most of them based locally.

During the 2016-17 season, we had a special publicized and larger ticket donation project as part of our Arts in Service to the Military Cultural Festival: we donated up to 100 tickets per performance for 3 special pairs of performances (one Masterworks concert, one Pops or Family concert, and one Opera production). We have continued that donation each following season, as a legacy.

In addition to working with VetTix to make tickets available throughout each season (local Veterans claimed a total of 712 tickets in the complete 2019-20 season), USUO included recognition of the special influx of tickets to three concerts for Veterans in our printed program as well as in our stage announcements at each of these events. It was especially exciting this year to invite Veterans, and publicly acknowledge and thank them, at performances of the World War I-themed opera production *Silent Night*. This season Veterans and their families were also invited to the Utah Symphony Sketches of Spain masterworks and *Women Rock* pops concert. Veterans claimed 333 tickets to these three events (almost half of the total year's distribution). Here are some of the enthusiastic responses they sent back to VetTix:



Utah Opera *Silent Night*



Thanks so much for the opportunity to see *Silent Night*. What a touching, impactful production! I loved how you grew to care for the soldiers on all sides by humanizing them and showing their connections to family and comrades. What a genius idea to show the three sides on different levels. The music was fabulous, and I liked the historically accurate props. It was also touching to read the tribute to the WWI soldiers from Utah. I appreciated the opportunity to do something fun and meaningful with family that I otherwise could not afford. Thank you for your support of veterans and their families. It means a lot to us!

Jill - United States Army Veteran 1986-2009

What a thought provoking adaptation of a wonderful story. True, when we see the humanity of the enemy it changes our perspective. We were totally taken in by the performance. Thank you for bringing this piece to Utah.

David - United States Army Veteran 1986-2007

Thank you, Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, for this great experience. What a beautiful, powerful, Opera! I loved the message and my friends and I had a great history discussion afterwards.

Melissa - United States Army - Currently Serving

Utah Symphony *Women Rock*



Just like one of the songs, "Simply the Best!" Women Rock was such a non-traditional symphony experience, it further opened my eyes and ears to the musical wonders that the instruments brought together in symphony can do. A big thank you to Utah Symphony | Utah Opera for having the Veteran/Valentine's events.

David - United States Army Veteran 1986-2007

Thank you so much for the tickets! It was a great concert, maybe our favorite Utah Symphony yet.

Geoffrey - United States Air Force - Currently Serving

Thank you Utah Symphony | Utah Opera and VetTix for the awesome tickets to this extraordinary event! We all had a good time listening to the great music put on and the singers were excellent! We hope to attend more events like this!

Brandon - United States Army Veteran 1999-2002

Utah Symphony Sketches of Spain



Very beautiful, very relaxing, very nice. Thank you Utah Symphony | Utah Opera for partnering with VetTix and making these opportunities available to our military and veterans.

David - United States Army Veteran 1986-2007

Thank you for a most enjoyable evening, Utah Symphony| Utah Opera! We had great seats and listened to fabulous music by great performers. There is nothing like the power of a live performance.

Peter - United States Army Veteran 1995-1998

Thank you Utah Symphony | Utah Opera for the donation to the symphony. My wife grew up playing violin and it is one of her true loves to attend your concerts! She was blown away by the guest violinist! Thank you!

Kelly - Emergency Medical Technician - Active First Responder

