

# Opening the holiday season

By GABRIELLE GONZALEZ Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, December 11, 2016 5:19 pm

La PORTE—La Porte County Symphony Orchestra Conductor Philip Bauman began to raise his arms high in the air.

The auditorium of music enthusiasts, already excited from hearing the band Cripple Creek perform, silently watch, anticipating the first note from the hometown orchestra. Suddenly, with a flick of a baton, the room fills with the music of Christmas, all part of the 22nd annual Holiday at the Pops concert.

More than 20 Christmas and holiday-themed songs were performed for the annual tradition. Four solo vocalists, the North American Brass Company and the LCSO Children's Choir entertained the crowd with warm vocals and a joyful sound. Vocalists for Saturday night's performance were Kyrie Anderson, Tim King, Genevieve Hayes and Maddi Reese Ames.

"Please make room for more guests coming, we are completely sold out," said a coordinator of the event when families filtered in the La Porte Civic Auditorium on Saturday night to find a seat.

The La Porte Hospital Foundation put on the event with all proceeds donated to the Children's Fund. The fund helps support programs supports programs like the Lil' F.I.S.H. Club and Get Active, Get Fit program that promotes health and wellness.

"This has been here every year and it is such a special way to open up the holiday season," said President and CEO Maria Fruth of the La Porte Hospital Foundation. "Just look at all these happy faces. Families are helping children and getting to hear music sang by children. It's such a special connection."

The audience sang along and tapped their feet to songs like "Silent Night" and "Jingle All the Way." Bauman, who has been conducting this event for the past 20 years, said this event is the largest performance of the symphony's year.

"It's always spectacular," said Bauman. "We are very grateful in helping the youth of the county. It's inspiring."



## Opening the holiday season

Photo by Gabrielle Gonzalez Music Director and Conductor Philip Bauman gives a introduction with the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra for the 2016 Holiday at the Pops concert at the La Porte Civic Auditorium on Saturday night.

