Project Overview
The Beaverton Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is a 70-member, all-volunteer community orchestra in Beaverton, Oregon. Over its 30+ year history, the organization has acquired a large collection of sheet music, but has never had a catalog system or comprehensive inventory of the collection. For my capstone, I assessed the collection, identified a catalog system, developed cataloging standards, and input a sample set of the collection into the system.

Assessing the Collection
A team of dedicated volunteers inventoried the collection, counted every part, and recorded findings on tracking sheets for entry in the future catalog system. With more than 220 works, that’s thousands of individual parts! We also found misfiled parts and identified missing parts for replacement.

Cataloging the Collection
After speaking to the BSO librarian and music director, I identified the key fields—beyond title, composer, etc.—that we needed to capture. I developed the appropriate metadata schema and started to input the collection. Musiclibrarian.net offers exportable reports and summary sheets with parts lists and other relevant information.

Finding a Solution
In search of the right system for the BSO, I conducted research online and interviewed professional and amateur music librarians. I identified three key criteria:
- Free
- Online
- Customizable

With those criteria in mind, I found musiclibrarian.net, an independent website that offered everything we needed. The BSO board selected it from a range of options and I signed up for an account.

Serving the Community
BSO’s mission is to provide quality, live classical music at affordable prices, and to give local musicians a place to play together. The symphony is also dedicated to classical music education and enriching the community. Having an online music catalog will make it easier for the organization to access its existing music collection, as well as freeing up more time to expand its mission to serve the community.

Next Steps
The BSO recently received a large collection of chamber music, which has not yet been cataloged. This music will be inventoried and added to the catalog in the future for symphony members to use in the BSO’s annual chamber music concert and at other performances in the community.

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