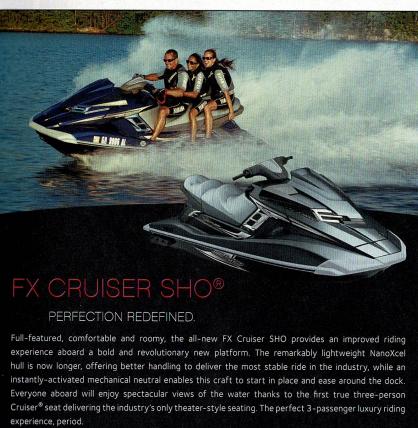
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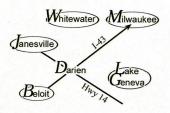




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"That was our way to get our name out past our immediate local area."

However, Anderson points out they are happy to draw a local audience. "We are able to exist because of the generosity of several local businesses and civic organizations," Anderson says. Two of LGSO's sponsors for the 2012-'13 season are Bella Vista Suites and Voyager Capital Management, both in Lake Geneva.

A few years ago, LGSO made strides to further connect with the community by instituting its now-annual Gala fundraiser, scheduled for March 16, 2013. "We are lucky that we are able to make the music we do on a small budget," says Frazier. "It's one of the things that make our organization what it is — it has kept its character."

LGSO is funded primarily through ticket sales, sponsorships and the annual Gala. "We've done a lot in the past year or so to spread the word and increase public awareness of the LGSO," says Anderson. "And we're beginning to see that pay off in community support."

Frazier is encouraged by the audiences he sees. "We seem to be catching the interest of the community. I think we're getting a lot more people interested for the sake of the music."

A glance around the audience in Flatiron Park supports this analysis. Sitting with family, waiting for the orchestra to begin its first piece, Terrie Strickler of Lake Geneva proves the point: "It's my first time hearing the orchestra. I've been meaning to come for a few months now, and it just seemed like the perfect time to come out and enjoy the evening."

Sheri Sampey of Powers Lake has brought her two young daughters to the concert and tells a similar story. "We were just picking up some dinner in Lake Geneva, and we drove by and saw this. It's really a wonderful thing to have in the area."

But perhaps more importantly, both women indicate they'd be eager to hear more of the Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra in the months to come.