Own Your Own Orchestra!

Or part of it anyway, thanks to

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA League
...at six, he toured western Europe, sight-reading concertos on the clavier, improvising on fugues and astounding audiences;...at nine, he wrote his first symphony;...at twelve, he wrote his first opera.

When Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756, the historic “Seven Years’ War” conflict in Europe exploded between every powerful country of the time, ultimately spanning five continents. It seemed the entire world was mired in violence. As the war subsided and treaties were completed, western Europe was finally primed for civility and peace.

Enter one of the greatest musical geniuses the world had ever seen - then or ever.

Mozart’s father, Leopold, a competent musician himself, took his young son and Mozart’s older sister on a whirlwind tour through the courts and concert halls of Europe. Tutored and managed by his exacting and demanding father, Mozart was “on the road” performing continuously for the first fourteen years of his life. Emotionally dependent on his father, over-praised and feted during these formative years, Mozart was ill equipped to meet life as an adult. Even in his own day it was noted that “...just as this rare being early became a man so far as his art was concerned....he always remained, in almost all other matters, a child.”*

Playing the clavier with the keyboard covered with a cloth, sight reading difficult pieces, improvising, harmonizing melodies at first hearing, demonstrating perfect pitch, Mozart amazed and astounded his audiences and critics. He met every important musician of the day
and retained the essence of every kind of music he heard. As he grew older, his arrogance and temperamental outbursts did not serve him well. He quickly spotted the musical mediocrity around him and spoke out tactlessly about it, often right to the face of the hapless musician responsible.

Mozart should have had no trouble landing a lucrative position at court or with a generous patron. Many wealthy people supported musicians and maintained their own orchestras. But this financial safety net eluded him all his life.

**Mozart needed a patron...and our own symphony does too!**

Hardly any of us own an orchestra these days ... but many of us feel The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is our very own orchestra right here in our community. You CAN “own” part of “our” symphony for a season. Choose an item from the list on the last page and you’ll “own” that item this season. And:

- your name will be listed in the program
- you can meet the musician who plays your favorite instrument
- your gift is tax deductible.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This very special year, each Masterworks concert will be conducted by one of the several diverse and exciting candidates chosen from nearly 200 applicants competing for our future WSO music director/conductor position!

Should you sponsor this item for the season, you can meet one of these outstanding conductors in person and also receive a special gift. Their names and bios will be on the WSO web site by late-February (www.williamsburgsymphony.org): See the first listed item on the back page.

*Source: “The Lives of the Great Composers” by Harold C. Schonberg*
ITEMS TO SPONSOR

1. Music Director/Conductor Candidate, (includes special gift and personal meeting) ... $1,000
2. Concertmaster ... $500
3. Principal instrument (1st Chair) ... $350
4. String section ... $250
5. Wind section ... $250
6. Brass section ... $250
7. Percussion section ... $250
8. Keyboard/Harp ... $100
9. One individual instrument of your choice ... $100
10. Conductor’s baton ... $100
11. String player’s bow ... $50
12. Music stand ... $50
13. Mute ... $50

All proceeds benefit The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. Just make your selection and send in your check or credit card info! You will help augment the orchestra’s costs for every concert.

Mozart spent his short life searching for a patron...Now you can be a one-time “patron” for our own Williamsburg Symphony!
Here’s how you can help. Make your selection below and return this form with your check to:

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League
P.O. Box 1665
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665

- Music Director/Conductor Candidate, *(includes special gift and personal meeting)* ... $1,000
- Concertmaster ... $500
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- Music stand ... $50
- Mute ... $50

*Please print clearly*

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______________

METHOD OF PAYMENT
- By check, payable to: The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League

- Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Security Code: ______

Credit Card No: _______________________________ Exp Date: ___________

Signature: __________________________________________________________________________