



MUSICAL NOTES FOR YOU

MAY 2019 | VOL. 7 | ISSUE 5

IN THIS ISSUE

- Special Invitation 5
Annual Meeting
- New Music 5
Director Search
- Five Finalists 7
- Membership 10

THE LEAGUE'S WSO 35TH ANNIVERSARY GALA RAISES \$40K

The fantastic support from The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's (WSO) strongest and most steadfast supporters provided a record-setting \$40,000 plus for the WSO educational and performance programs at the WSO 35th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Kingsmill Resort. While the 140+ attendees were not the largest group we have had for our annual galas, those attending provided over 50 bidders and donors to give us the most we have raised in the last four gala fundraisers.

Beginning the evening reception with lovely background music provided by Jack Wagner at the piano, attendees viewed seven posters showing the history of the WSO from 1984 to the present. During the evening, WSO League President, Ken Mitchell, introduced one of the founders of the League (then called Symphonia Obbligato), Georgianna Avioli, who continues to support the WSOL as Chair of our Encore Affairs Committee.

Our Principal Sponsor for the evening was Lions Bridge Financial Services who, along with 13 Primary and Major Sponsors, contributed a significant amount of base funding support for this event and the WSO. Nearly 20 Supporting and In-Kind Sponsors also contributed to make the evening a

Left Pictured: The Gala Committee; Doug Wood, Marie Mamikonian, Ken Mitchell, [Gracie and Lacy], Paul Try, Eloise Branden, Cecie Adolphi, Joan Brockenbrough

Right Pictured: Gracie and Lacy



FINISHING WITH
A STANDING
OVATION, THEY
PROVIDED
A ROUSING
END TO THE
EVENING OF
CELEBRATION
FOR 35 YEARS
OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE
WSO TO THE
WILLIAMSBURG
AREA.

very special event. See [Williamsburg Symphony League](#) for the full list of our generous sponsors.

The Gala Committee (Shown below with Gracie and Lacy), chaired by Paul Try, was composed of Ken Mitchell, Cecie Adolphi, Marie Mamikonian, Eloise Branden, Joan Brockenbrough, Doug Wood and Roy Femenella. While everyone on the committee assisted in all planning areas, Eloise led the graphics and fantastic decoration efforts with Marie handling the detailed registration activities and Ken organizing the banking support. Our auctioneer for the night was Aaron Williams, CEO of Williams Landscape & Design, who expertly handled raising funds with the live auction and paddle raise.

Introducing the paddle raise was Jaysen Kang, student violinist, who told the audience about his experience and the benefit he received from the WSO Masterclass followed by an enjoyable violin performance. During the evening, local professional photographers Audra Simsic (Simple Soul Photography) and Jean Wines roamed the area collecting photos of guests that are posted at [Gala Photos](#) for viewing and downloading by all (use "password" as the password).

A highlight of the evening was the terrific entertainment provided by the Charleston, SC sister act of Gracie and Lacy. They captivated the audience with their show called "Lady Legends", singing, dancing and showing off their many sequined costumes with the songs of Liza Minnelli, Barbara Streisand, Whitney Houston, and others.

Finishing with a standing ovation, they provided a rousing end to the evening of celebration for 35 years of contributions by the WSO to the Williamsburg area.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

[Lions Bridge Financial Services](#)

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Linda Baker

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Doug and Janis Wood

MAJOR SPONSORS

Eloise and Dennis Branden

Joan and Tom Brockenbrough

Song and Hi-Sung Kang

Alan and Elizabeth Melton

Ken and Brenda Mitchell

SUPPORTING SPONSORS AND IN-KIND SUPPORT

Cecie and Ron Adolphi

(Decorations)

Eloise and Dennis Branden

(Graphics and Decorations)

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(Live Auction)

Bonefish Grill *(Live Auction)*

Joan and Tom Brockenbrough

(Student Sponsor)

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Allan and Debbie Finger

(Live Auction)

Precious Gem *(Live Auction)*

Carol and Ken Radtke

(Live Auction)

Kingsmill Resorts *(Live Auction)*

Bruce Rodin and

Sandra Sauer-Bernard

Sue Ruhle

Richard and Mary Ann Sleece

Brenda Snow and Oliver Portmann

(Live Auction)

Akemi Takayama *(Live Auction)*

Union Bank & Trust

Waypoint Seafood and Grill

(Live Auction)

Carolyn Ward

The Williamsburg Symphony

Orchestra *(Live Auction and Raffle)*



Gala

Celebrating 35 Years as Williamsburg's Musical Treasure
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019
SIX O'CLOCK PM AT THE KINGSMILL RESORT
JUST \$135 PER PERSON • LIMITED SEATING



35th Anniversary Gala
A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Sponsors and Supporters



SPECIAL INVITATION

Please join Fellow League Members for the

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019 at 12:30 P.M.

Two Rivers Country Club at Governor's Land
1400 Two Rivers Road

MENU FEATURES

Display of Fresh Fruit and Berries | House Cured Salmon with Red Onion, Crème Fraiche and Bagels | Scrambled Eggs | Buttermilk Pancakes-Maple Syrup | Applewood Smoked Bacon and Link Sausage | Cheese Blintzes with Fruit Sauce | Breakfast Potatoes
Cheese Grits | Variety of Danish and Scones | Juice, Coffee and Tea

\$35.00 per person (*cash bar available*)

RSVP BY JUNE 5, 2019

Make checks payable to Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League

Mail to: Marie Mamikonian, 6564 Wiltshire Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188
Phone: (630) 390-6170 or Email: mariemams@hotmail.com

THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR!

During the summer of 2018, the search for our new Music Director began. WSO board member and Vice President of Administration, Jon Krapfl, headed up the Search Committee. The committee, consisting of four musicians, three board members and two community members was formed and the Music Director position was posted on the national job boards at the League of American Orchestras, Musical Chairs and on the WSO website. The WSO received over 190 applications, consisting of a personal letter of interest with a link to conducting samples, a short biography and a Resume/ Curriculum Vitae (CV), from candidates worldwide.

THE SELECTION PROCESS CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING STEPS

FIRST ROUND:

The search committee was split into 3 groups, each consisting of a Board Member, Musician and Community Member. Each group reviewed 60-65

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THE COMMITTEE
COLLECTIVELY
ENGAGED IN
NEARLY 7,000
HOURS OF
WORK;
REVIEWING
LETTERS OF
APPLICATION
AND RESUMES,
LISTENING
TO HOURS OF
CONDUCTING
VIDEOS
FOLLOWED
BY HOURS OF
DISCUSSION
OF EACH
CANDIDATE'S
MERIT.

applications, including sample videos, and sorted their choices into Yes/No/Maybe files. The qualities each group sought in a candidate included Artistic Excellence, Conducting Skills, Music Director Experience, Personality, Leadership Qualities and the ability to relate to the audience and orchestra. Each group then presented to the full committee their top candidates. Individual committee members could at this point make a case for a candidate to be moved to Yes/No or Maybe.

SECOND ROUND:

Each group then reviewed the Yes and Maybe candidates and ranked them to select a top ten list to present to the full committee. At the end of this process, each committee presented their top 10 candidates in order of first to last preference. At every point in the process, any candidate could be reviewed and either brought back for consideration or eliminated.

From the 30 top candidates, the committee as a whole selected 15 initial candidates for a personal interview.

THIRD ROUND: INTERVIEW

The candidates were notified by the head of the search committee and interviews were conducted via Zoom, a video conference. Each candidate was asked a similar set of questions. At the end of each interview, the committee rated the candidate and ranked them in order of first to last preference.

FOURTH ROUND: REFERENCES

Board, Executive Director and Musicians called references for 15 candidates. The Board contacted a Board Member from the conductor's current or past orchestra, the Executive Director contacted the Executive Director and the Musicians contacted Musicians in the orchestra.

FIFTH ROUND: FINAL SELECTION

The search committee reconvened to share facts learned about the candidates and a slate of five finalists and two alternates were selected.

The committee collectively engaged in nearly 7,000 hours of work; reviewing letters of application and resumes, listening to hours of conducting videos followed by hours of discussion of each candidate's merit. The committee painstakingly compared the artistic quality, experience, personality and skills of each candidate and did their best to select candidates that would fit with the needs of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, the Executive Director and the audiences. Strong consideration was also given to the candidate's potential to build the reputation of the WSO.

The Search Committee is absolutely delighted with the results, and can report that not only were they unanimous in their selections, but we are also convinced that each candidate selected could take our orchestra to new heights, building on what Janna has done over the past 15 years.

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ONCE ALL FIVE
CANDIDATES
HAVE
COMPLETED
THEIR
AUDITION
CONCERT,
THE FINAL
SELECTION
WILL BE
MADE AND
ANNOUNCED
IN THE SPRING
OF 2020!

Each candidate was asked to submit three musical programs for the consideration for the 2019-20 season. The newly formed Artistic Review Committee then selected one musical program which the candidate will conduct next season as part of their audition.

FINAL SELECTION:

After every Masterworks concert next season, the audience, musicians, board and selection committee will fill out a survey about the candidate. Once all five candidates have completed their audition concert, the final selection will be made and announced in the Spring of 2020!



INTRODUCING THE FIVE FINALISTS!

JAMES BLACHLY

Current Position: Music Director - Johnstown Symphony 2017–present
Music Director - Experiential Orchestra
Music Director - Geneva Light Opera

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Education: Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting, Univ. of Illinois, 2013
Master of Music in Composition, Mannes College of Music, The New School

James Blachly is a conductor dedicated to artistic excellence and broader accessibility. He currently serves as Music Director of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, Experiential Orchestra, and Geneva Light Opera. With the Experiential Orchestra, he has invited audiences to dance to Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, sit within the orchestra at Lincoln Center, and engage with *Symphonie fantastique* and *Petrushka* with circus choreography. His work to advance the field has recently been highlighted in *Symphony Magazine*. A strong supporter of composers of our time, Mr. Blachly has commissioned and premiered more than 50 new works. Dedicated to music education, he regularly conducts workshops for the New York Philharmonic, and he is the co-founder of Make Music NOLA, a thriving El Sistema-Inspired program in New Orleans.

ANDRES LOPERA

Current Position: Assistant Conductor - Columbus Symphony 2017–present
Music Director - Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra

Residence: Columbus, Ohio

Education: Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting, New England Conservatory of Music 2012
Bachelor's Degree Trombone and Orchestral Conducting, Universidad EAFIT, Columbia

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One of the most universally celebrated Latin American conductors in the United States, Andrés Lopera recently completed a successful three-year tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Colorado Symphony and is now completing his first season in the same role with the Columbus Symphony. Lopera has directed intricate performances with principal orchestras such as the Oregon Symphony, Toledo Symphony, New World Symphony, and Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra, as well as summer festivals, including the National Repertory Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. In October 2017, Lopera covered a celebrated series of concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the direction of Gustavo Dudamel and Carlos Miguel Prieto. Lopera received his Master of Music in Orchestra Conducting from New England Conservatory.

PAUL POLIVNIK

Current Position: Music Director - New Hampshire Music Festival
1992–2009/2012–present

Guest Conductor - Symphonies around the world

Residence: Clearwater, Florida

Education: Juilliard School of Music - Violin and Conducting

Maestro Paul Polivnick is a leading figure on the world stage, having guest conducted over 80 orchestras in Europe, North America and Asia including the remarkable London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Lille, France, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra, and the sumptuous Seoul, Moscow and Los Angeles Philharmonics. He is former Music Director of the Alabama Symphony and Oberlin Conservatory Orchestras, Associate Principal Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony, and current Music Director and Conductor Laureate of the New Hampshire Music Festival. He received his training at Juilliard School of Music with degrees in violin performance and conducting.

WESLEY SCHULZ

Current Position: Associate Conductor - North Carolina Symphony
Music Director - Auburn Symphony (Washington)

Residence: Raleigh, North Carolina

Education: Doctor of Music in Orchestral Conducting, Univ. of Texas
Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance with minor
in Cello Performance, Ball State Univ.
Bachelor of Science in Music Education, Ball State Univ.

Broadly acclaimed, Schulz holds the Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair as Associate Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony where he conducts over one hundred concerts annually. Additionally, he is the newly appointed Music Director of the Auburn Symphony Orchestra. Previously, Schulz served as Music Director of the Bainbridge Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Festival Orchestra, and in 2014-2015 Schulz was the Conducting Fellow at the

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Seattle Symphony Orchestra. Schulz graduated magna cum laude with Bachelor's Degrees in both Percussion Performance and Music Education from Ball State University, followed synchronously by Doctorate & Master's degrees in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin.

STEVEN WHITE

Current Position: Associate Conductor, Metropolitan Opera - New York

Residence: Copper Hill, Virginia

Education: Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (ABD), Univ. of South Carolina

Master of Voice (ABD), Univ. of South Carolina

Praised by Opera News as a conductor who “squeezes every drop of excitement and pathos from the score,” Steven White is one of North America’s premiere conductors of both symphonic and operatic repertoire. Among the many orchestras Maestro White has conducted are the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Moscow Philharmonic, the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, the Utah Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony Orchestra, the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, the Colorado Symphony, the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. He is currently an Associate and Cover Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and Artistic Director of Opera Roanoke.

THANK YOU!

A big thanks to Jack and Sue Wagner, Chairpersons of the Ushering Committee and all the volunteer ushers who help make the season successful. For each Masterworks Concert and the Holiday Pops, Jack and Sue are ‘on the job’, recruiting and training ushers and ensuring that all concert goers quickly and easily find their seats.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



THE
WILLIAMSBURG
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
HAS JUST
CELEBRATED
35 YEARS IN
OUR LOVELY
COMMUNITY.
LET'S MAKE
THE NEXT 35
YEARS EVEN
BETTER!

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR WSOL MEMBERSHIP!

by Marie Mamikonian, League Membership Chair

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra has just celebrated 35 years in our lovely community. Let's make the next 35 years even better! Please join the League or renew your Membership today.

The League has been supporting the Williamsburg Symphony since the late 1980s by providing support to the symphony through volunteers, service, outreach and fundraising activities. Members receive priority notification for such events as "Encore Affairs," the Annual Meeting and Brunch and a copy of the "Membership Directory." The WSOL Board has also been busy in developing more benefits for members such as large and small impromptu social events which will be announced in the coming season.

NEW THIS YEAR! ADDITIONAL SAVINGS FOR WSOL MEMBERS

Season WSO subscribers who are also WSO League members may purchase additional single tickets for friends and family for \$42 and \$52 per ticket after July 1, 2019, a savings of \$6.00 per ticket from the standard price. This new benefit for WSOL members has been generously provided by the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra.

Please become a Member by August 1st to assure that your name appears in the Directory. Please complete the attached form (on last page) and return it along with your check to Marie Mamikonian.

Being a Member of the WSOL League offers a variety of opportunities to volunteer and make friends while you support the WSO – a true cultural jewel in Williamsburg.

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League
PO Box 1665 📍 Williamsburg, VA 23187
757.229.9857 🌐 williamsburgsymphony.org/league

Sue Klepac, League Newsletter Chair
sklepac@att.net or 757.378.2779



Membership - 2019-2020

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email* _____
Phone: _____ Email* _____

- Single Membership (\$25.00)
 Dual Membership (\$40.00)
 Additional Supporting Contribution for League activities (please specify amount)

Please make check payable to: **The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League**

Mail to: Marie Mamikonian
6564 Wiltshire Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188
E-mail: mariemams@hotmail.com

Preferred name(s) for printed recognition: _____

Each member of the League is encouraged to participate with time, talent or ideas. Please indicate how you would like to assist; helping hands are always appreciated!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Symphony Office Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinating Concert Flowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Activities/Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistance with Receptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hosting/Driving Guest Soloist | <input type="checkbox"/> General Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering at Concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Special skills or expertise you can provide for the League:

*Email addresses are for the internal use of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League and are not shared with other organizations or businesses. Email is our most effective and timely method for membership communications.