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A LETTER FROM THE LEAGUE PRESIDENT

Whew! How the world has changed since our last newsletter in March. That upbeat issue was all about plans for upcoming League and orchestra events, as well as recent successful Encore Affairs events. We were looking forward to another spectacular Gala, planned for March 21 at Kingsmill Resort, and the annual meeting and delicious brunch at lovely Two Rivers Country Club June 14th, as well as continuation of Masterworks concerts directed by esteemed music director candidates.

Then COVID-19. Everything changed in a flash. The Gala Committee made the difficult decision to postpone until October 17 and the annual meeting was held via Zoom (whoever even heard of Zoom). The remaining Encore Affairs events were canceled along with the rest of the orchestra's spring season. Early optimism evaporated. That is the bad news.

Now for the good news. Patrons who bought tickets to the Gala dinner graciously allowed us to hold their reservations for the new date. 100% of our generous sponsors allocated their funds to the new date. Even with the shortened season, Encore Affairs reported record income due to patrons converting their tickets from the canceled events to donations. Own your Own Orchestra continued strong. Although reduced from last year's banner amount, the Leagues' contribution to the orchestra ending June 30 this year was still significant. We are most fortunate and most grateful to all of you for this outpouring of support. Thank you.

In conjunction with the leadership of the orchestra, we continue to closely monitor events as we move into our new fiscal year. If it becomes necessary to change the October 17 Gala date, we will move it to Spring 2021. Be prepared for an exciting new twist on future Encore Affairs! You will find more information to pique your curiosity further along in this newsletter! We pledge to keep you well informed as we work to support the WSO. The number one priority for both the orchestra and League are the safety and health of our staff, musicians, and patrons.

This year will no doubt be challenging for all of us. Please keep the League and orchestra in mind as you prioritize your financial support for the arts in

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Williamsburg. In these difficult and uncertain times what could be more refreshing and uplifting than the next performance by our beloved WSO? Please help us make that happen.

Ken Mitchell



ANNUAL MEETING

Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League 2019–2020 Annual Meeting was conducted via Zoom on June 14, 2020.

In the President's Report, Ken Mitchell, League President, recounted that the 2019–2020 season began in the fall with the Encore Affairs (EA) events being well attended. Donations to Own Your Own Orchestra were also at a high level. COVID-19 changed everything with several EA events canceled and the Gala postponed. Despite these setbacks, the League stayed committed to providing financial and volunteer support for our orchestra.

League Members continued to provide volunteer hours. Sue Klepac and Cindy Southworth worked in the Symphony Office for the Masterwork's concerts, Cabaret & Cocktails, and Holiday Pops. Sue also headed the volunteers who marked seats, aisles, and entrances for all performances at the Williamsburg Chapel. Steve Devan took the lead for our group of ushers as they assisted concert patrons with programs and seating. Linda Kligman-Try worked with League members to provide transportation and flowers to soloists at all concerts. League Board members greeted concert-goers at the League table and provided them with information regarding League activities.

The League hosted six EA events this year. Due to COVID-19, three events had to be canceled. Patrons donated their tickets back to the League which allowed the committee to exceed its budget with a net income of over \$17,000. Thank you to our generous patrons. The Own Your Own Orchestra (OYOO) fundraiser has raised \$5,270 to date. Patrons donate to sponsor instruments, performers, or orchestra activities.

Ken gave special recognition and thank-you to Lynda Sharrett for her service on the Board for 9 years. Ken listed her countless contributions to the League over many years.

Diane Carr, Steve Devan, Donna Herman, and Marie Mamikonian were elected as Directors for a 3-year term.

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“THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE MISSING ENCORES...”

A Thrilling “STAY AWAY” Radio Mystery sponsored by the
Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League and Radio Station WSOL

INTRO MUSIC: *DRAMATIC MUSIC VIBRATES FROM THE VIRTUOSO VIOLINS, CELLOS AND VIOLAS OF THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (WSO)....*

ANNCR: and so we come to a final installment of our peripatetic program! Previously, our heroine and hero, Angelica and Dudley, fought off the nefarious deeds of Dangerous Dan – whose sole purpose in life was to abscond with Angelica’s millions - **which had been promised to the WSO!** But Dan has reappeared in all his nasty nefariousness.

How will our hero and heroine thwart Dan’s dastardly deeds? Where are the missing Encores...?? Why do we have to **STAY AWAY** from our favorite, exciting Encore Affairs? When will they return... and **HOW can we support our WSO in the meantime???**

Stay tuned to this station and check your emails and your snail-mailboxes for the next thrilling chapter in which all your questions will have answers!!!

MUSIC: *DRAMATIC MUSIC SOARS AND TIMPANI CRASHES...FADING AWAY TO A MURMURING WHISPER...*

A Cheesy Novel Radio Production/Producer: Lynda Sharrett

WSO

Music Director Search to Continue with Andres Lopera and Two Additional Candidates in the New Season

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra announces the Music Director Search will continue into the 2020–2021 season. Last season, four of the five finalists each conducted one of the WSO’s Masterworks concerts. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the audition for Andres Lopera, the fifth finalist, was postponed. The WSO plans to bring Lopera in for the previously scheduled Masterworks concert to finalize his audition. The WSO has announced two additional candidates: Chia-Hsuan Lin, currently serving as the Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and Michael Butterman, the Music Director of the Boulder Philharmonic, Shreveport Symphony and the Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestras. As with the previous four candidates, these candidates will conduct a Masterworks concert as part of their audition. WSO will schedule concerts when it is safe to do so, possibly in the spring of 2021. The organization also plans to announce the WSO’s new Music Director in the spring of 2021.



Chai-Hsuan Lin

CHIA-HSUAN LIN

Additional Music Director Candidate

Hailed by the *Virginia Gazette* as “a rock solid” and “animated” conductor, Chia-Hsuan Lin delights audiences throughout the world with her trademark energy and command. Formerly the Assistant Conductor of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, she currently serves as Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. Highly sought-after, Lin debuted with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2020 and recently led performances with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Richmond Ballet, Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra, Academy of Taiwan Strings and Taipei Philharmonic Chorus. In praise of her Brahms Fourth Symphony with RSO, *Letter V* wrote, “I’ve never heard a more compelling live performance than this one.” Lin is a trained percussionist and holds a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern University.



Michael Buttermann

MICHAEL BUTTERMAN

Additional Music Director Candidate

Michael Buttermann is the Music Director of the Boulder Philharmonic, Shreveport Symphony and the Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestras, and developed a national reputation for innovative programming and audience engagement during his nearly two decades as Principal Conductor for Education and Community Engagement with the renowned Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. His success in making the Boulder Philharmonic a leader in community-centered programming led to an invitation for that orchestra to open the inaugural SHIFT Festival of American Orchestras at the Kennedy Center in 2017. As a guest conductor, Mr. Buttermann has led many of the country’s preeminent ensembles, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, and Houston Symphony and is a regular guest with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center.



WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH ORCHESTRA

by Debbie Monark

The Williamsburg Youth Orchestras held their Winter Concert on Sunday, February 15, 2020, at Hornsby Middle School. The concert featured performances by the Junior Concert Band and Wind Ensembles conducted by Jordan Stehle; String Orchestras, conducted by Rebecca Nixon; and the

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THE
WILLIAMSBURG
YOUTH
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ELEMENTARY
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Youth Symphony, conducted by David Grandis. The symphony performed several selections including Mendelssohn's Concerto in E minor, Op. 43, featuring Yunseo Chung on violin, and Lalo's Concerto in D minor, Op. 31, featuring Beg Figgs on cello. Both were winners of the annual Concerto Competition held by WYO.

The Williamsburg Youth Orchestras provide students from elementary grades through high school with music education programs and offers the opportunity to develop their full potential as musicians through performances. The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra provides outreach to the youth orchestras through Masterclasses with guest artists, instrumental coaching from professional musicians, and also through the Instruments for Kids program, helping to provide new or gently used instruments for students.



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the opportunity to see these talented young people perform at the March Chamber Music Concert had to be canceled. The final concert of the year, the biennial Side by Side concert with the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra scheduled for May also had to be canceled. But WSO musicians have been hard at work reaching out to keep our young artists engaged and playing their instruments even during these very trying times.

For more information, visit www.wyomusic.org or www.williamsburgsymphony.org.



DONNA HERMAN

League Board Member

A native of Houston, TX, Donna holds a degree from California State University at Long Beach, CA, and worked as a Social Worker in CA, WV, and PA, specializing in Family and Child Protective Services, and Senior Rehabilitation.

Encouraged and mentored by a professional musician cousin, she has been involved in musical activities since the age of five, singing in church, school,

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williamsburgsymphony.org/league



Donna Herman

and college choirs and studied the piano. After a company move to VA in 2001, she eventually joined the Williamsburg United Methodist Church's (WUMC) In Nomine Dei Bell Choir and rings with the recently formed Koinonia Belles Quartet.

Active in community theatre, she was producer of numerous productions in WV and OH and has produced several WUMC Maundy Thursday dramas. As WUMC's Messiah Manager since 2011, Donna serves as the Music Librarian and was a former board member of the Early Childhood Music School. Elected Williamsburg Music Club Corresponding Secretary in 2012, she was named the club's Speaker Bureau Chair and has organized music club youth recitals throughout the Williamsburg area. Elected President in 2016, she still enjoys organizing youth recitals for various events. A member of the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra Board since 2017, supporting and nurturing the growth of talented young artists remains a very strong passion for Donna and husband Bill. In 2015, they donated the first instrument (Bill's high school trumpet) to WSO/Williamsburg Music Club's LIKE program (aka Instruments for Kids), enabling a young Toano middle school student to discover the joy of music and his talent while taking trumpet lessons.

When not rehearsing, ringing, or attending meetings, Donna enjoys researching family history, studying WWII, and traveling abroad with Bill to experience many diverse cultures and magnificent music!

INSTRUMENTS FOR KIDS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) has a program with the James City County school system called "Instruments for Kids". The program is helping to grow the next generation of musicians and enriching local kids' lives by partnering with local schools to identify students in need of specific instruments. The process begins with the student's teacher initiating a request for an instrument. We then consult our instrument inventory to find the appropriate instrument. The larger our inventory is the more students we can serve!



The Symphony also enriches local children's lives by bringing musical programs to local schools to promote interest in orchestral music and providing master classes and instrumental coaching to kids without charge.

YOU CAN HELP!

If you have an **INSTRUMENT TO DONATE**, please contact the Williamsburg Symphony office at info@williamsburgsymphony.org or 757.229.9857. All instruments must be in useable condition. Your thank you letter from the WSO can be used for tax purposes.

WSO PROVIDES VIRTUAL MASTERCLASSES AND INSTRUMENTAL COACHING



Thanks to the paddle raise money donated by the WSO League, and, grant funding from The Huston Foundation, the WSO is continuing with its educational programs.

The WSO has sponsored and conducted a two-week series of Virtual Masterclass and Instrumental Coaching sessions which began on Thursday, May 14th. These classes were scheduled as a ½ hour coaching session on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 3:00 pm. Depending on the class, Tanya Song, WYO Executive Director and Jordan Stehle, Band Teacher, sat in to monitor and provide feedback for future consideration as the WSO goes forward with this concept. Classes were taught by the following musicians with class sizes varying from two to eight students each: Clarinet – Edna Huang and David Lemelin; Violin – Alana Carithers; Viola – Danielle Wiebe-Burke. Special thanks to JB Crowley for coordinating the classes with Zoom technical support from WMA Board member, Reggie Fox.

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR WSOL 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.

Please become a Member by August 1st to assure that your name appears in the Directory. You can renew your membership or join the League by clicking [League Membership Form](#). Please complete the form 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.

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