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VIRTUAL MUSICAL TUTORIALS

by Jack Wagner
 Williamsburg Music Association VP Education

In 1984, a dedicated group of local musicians wanted to bring free concerts to children who might otherwise be denied the inspiration and joys of classical music. Their first concert was Sergei Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* at the Williamsburg Regional Library on May 6th of that year. This group blossomed into our local Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO), a professional orchestra that recently celebrated its 35th anniversary. Following in the footsteps of many former and current Ford’s Colony residents, I joined their Board of Trustees a few years ago and became their VP Education. We continued to focus on student musician programs featuring Masterclasses with acclaimed guest artists, Instrumental Coaching sessions, Side-by-Side concerts, Instruments for Kids (instrument loan program), and in-school performances. Everything was progressing smoothly.

ALONG CAME “COVID-19”

In the near-term, the Coronavirus had an immediate impact on these musical programs as all schools were closed to minimize its spread. In the longer term, WJCC has projected an \$11 million-dollar shortfall in revenues due to expected sharp declines in meals, hotel and sales tax revenues, as well as uncertainty regarding property tax and business tax revenue. If this budget gap cannot be met, ongoing programs for the Arts may be impacted, as they are typically the first to be cut.

“ZOOM” VIRTUAL MASTERCLASS AND INSTRUMENTAL COACHING

To address this issue in the short-term and perhaps going forward under a “New-Normal” scenario, the WSO has initiated a series of online Virtual Masterclasses and Instrumental Coaching Sessions attended by local and regional student musicians. Our objective is to encourage and inspire student musicians from across the region to participate in this unique, virtual learning opportunity, and continue to foster their passion for music.

Students are enrolled in these classes through a partnership with The Williamsburg Youth Orchestras (WYO) and Virginia homeschooling family networks. In the first session, the classes catered to middle school and intermediate level student musicians. The format of face to face instruction through Zoom technology allowed for WSO's professional musicians to meet with small groups of students to virtually work on technique and mastery of their instrument in real-time. Initial classes included the Violin, Viola, and Clarinet, with more instruments to follow. Not only are these classes fulfilling an academic need, but the students are also finding a necessary emotional & creative outlet.

FALL MASTERCLASSES



This fall Masterclasses will be offered **one time per week, for 6 weeks**. The classes will begin the week of **October 4th**. Days of the week and class times will vary based on instrument: Cello, Clarinet, Violin/Viola, All Brass Class. Student musicians interested in taking a masterclass, who play an

instrument not listed above, please reach out to jb@williamsburgsymphony.org to discuss class options.

Registration for the Masterclasses will begin on September 13th, details and class fliers will be found on our website [Williamsburg Symphony - Education](http://WilliamsburgSymphony.com) and on Facebook and Instagram @WMBGSymphony. Inquiries should be completed and sent via email to jb@williamsburgsymphony.org.



Steve Devan

MEET STEVE DEVAN

League Board Member

I was born more years ago than I care to think about almost in Poughkeepsie, NY. My parents had just moved there, my mother did not trust the “hick” doctors, so she actually went back to Manhattan to give birth, stayed there for two days, and then went back to Poughkeepsie. To this day, I have some documents that have me born in two different places. I am justifiably proud of that.

I graduated from New York University with a degree in English and have advanced degrees from Syracuse University and William & Mary. My early career found me teaching elementary school in Utica, NY followed by a clinical job at William & Mary and then a short stint at Lafayette

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williamsburgsymphony.org/league

High School in Williamsburg. Most of the rest of my career has been on the technical side of public education. I managed Newport News Public Schools' desktop computer systems from the ground up. After retiring from the public school system, I went to work for Symantec (the makers of Norton Anti-Virus) and ended my career at NASA, working in the data center that accumulates and stores climate data from a wide variety of sources for use by and safekeeping for climate scientists.

I've been married to the same woman for 40 years come this October. My wife Shirley is widely known in the area for her work with birding groups, Master Naturalists, and butterfly tracking. Everyone who knows her knows that she spends a lot of time outdoors.

I've always been a music lover and misspent my youth spending lots of money on high-end audio equipment. In addition to music, I cook, read lots of books, take lots of walks, and when the pandemic once again allows, Shirley and I will start traveling again.

Currently, as a member of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League, I have been managing the ushers for all Symphony concerts. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the dedicated and delightful volunteers who guide the traffic for our patrons.

2020-2021 LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS



Top to bottom, left to right: Debbie Monark, Carolyn Keurajian, Marie Mamikonian, Cathy Reed, Sue Klepac, Ken Mitchell, Paul Try, Steve Devan, Georgiana Aviole, Donna Herman, Eloise Branden, Cecilia Adolphi, Joan Brockenbrough, Doug Wood, Diane Carr

SWEETHAVEN LAVENDER FARM

Tour and Picnic Lunch 🗓️ May 19, 2021

.....who can resist a beautiful day in May out in the countryside filled with the heavenly scent of lavender, billowing clouds, and peaceful pastures?

Hopefully, not you...since the League has scheduled a fabulous day at Sweethaven Lavender Farm as one of our spring Encore

Affairs! This delightful event will feature a personal tour of the farms and their various crops plus a delicious picnic lunch in Sweethaven's rustic barns. You'll also be able to pick a lavender bouquet to take home as a special gift.



Additional information will be forthcoming as the new year approaches. So mark this date on your calendar. It will be a relaxing, charming respite to enjoy this spring!



STAY AWAY!

Even though we have to STAY AWAY from our Encore Affairs, you can still help the League support our orchestra right now! HELP IS ON THE WAY!..yours. Click here! **STAY AWAY!**

DID YOU KNOW...

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra was founded as The Williamsburg Symphonia in 1984 by Carl Andersen, Elnore Andersen, Marian Harding, Mary Selby and the late Rebecca Siegel for the purpose of presenting educational programs for children. These programs featured classical music; *Peter and the Wolf* was featured at the first concert. Their initial performances were so well received that the founders planned a schedule of concerts for the general public. It was their vision, leadership and hard work that resulted in Williamsburg's own professional orchestra.

In April 2016, The Williamsburg Symphonia officially changed its name to The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO). Ingrid Brown, president of the Board of Trustees, announced the change on April 18 and 19, 2016 at the Kimball Theatre, prior to the final two concerts of the season. The name change reflects the group's evolution into the vibrant, professional, and internationally recognized orchestra it is today.

The Williamsburg Music Association (WMA) is comprised of The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League and The Williamsburg Youth Orchestras. The vision of the WMA is to entertain, inspire and educate diverse audiences of all ages through musical excellence.

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra will pursue its vision by:

1. Building on its Core Orchestra to offer superior orchestral performances
2. Providing innovative, diverse, and dynamic programming of Classical and Pops concerts
3. Extending educational efforts through partnerships with area schools and encouraging orchestral opportunities for students through the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras
4. Strengthening community support and commitment through the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League
5. Building strong supportive relationships with local organizations through the Board of Trustees and Management.

The WMA is governed by a Board of Trustees who serve for a 4 year term. The current Board is comprised of the following members:

Executive Committee

Ronald J. Monark | **President**

Marc Sharp | **Treasurer**

S. Jane deSolms, PhD
Assistant Treasurer

Cindy Southworth | **Secretary**

Jon Krapfl, PhD
VP Administration

Linda T. Baker | **VP Governance**

JoAnn Gora, PhD
VP Strategic Planning

Charles (Chuck) McConnell
VP Marketing

Terry Murphy | **VP Resources
Development**

Jack Wagner | **VP Education**

Ken Mitchell | **President, WSOL**

Song Kang | **President,
Williamsburg Youth Orchestra**

Carolyn Keurajian
Executive Director

Trustees:

Donald K. Bartholomay, EdD

Ingrid S. Brown

Jane Carty

Reginald A. Fox

Connie Harshaw

Donald C. Hill

Leigh Houghland

Denise W. Koch

Alvin N. Puryear, PhD

Norb Smith

J. Vance Stallings, Esq.

Paul D. Try, PhD

R. Hugh Van Brimer

REMEMBER WHEN... SYMPHONIA WOWS BERMUDA!

And Celebrates the Jamestown-Bermuda Link

We were invited to the Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts in January 2016. Despite Delta Airlines damaging Principal Alan Stewart's bass violin, the Bermuda trip



was an overwhelming success! The late composer/arranger Michael Williamson's composition "The Sea Venture: Songs of the Early Settlers of Bermuda and Jamestown," was an overwhelming success. The tour to Bermuda was exciting and an important learning experience. Most important, this tour was a testament to our high level of playing and professionalism.

The comments from regular concert-goers, the reaction from the Festival directors and the applause of the audience prove we are a hidden gem!

 THE WILLIAMSBURG
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
League

Puttin' on the
GLITZ

NEW DATE: JUNE 6, 2021

Same great cause, just a new date to celebrate! Please support the WSO and join us for the new Gala date, June 6, 2021. We've got you covered, your current reservation for October will be honored plus we will also take new reservations in March 2021.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA  SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021  KINGSMILL RESORT
See www.williamsburgsymphony.org/league for details

WELCOME TO NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

Welcome to the following people who have recently joined the League!
And thanks to all of our renewing members. We are ever grateful for your continuing support. We couldn't do it without you!

Rose Marie Butz
Rodham & Betty Delk
Reginald & Antonia Fox
Patricia Warner Grogg
Bill & Donna Herman
Laurie & Leigh Houghland

W. Melville & Miriam Jones
Song & Hi-Sung Kang
Denise Koch
Chuck & Nancy McConnell
Jack & Terry Murphy
Alvin & Catherine Puryear



2020 AWARD FOR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

At the WSO League Board of Director's meeting on August 17, 2020, two longtime League members were nominated and accepted as Lifetime Members.



Left: Betty Z. Williams
Right: Georgianna S. Avioli

Georgianna Avioli has been a member since the late 1980s and is one of the founders of Symphonia Obbligato which began in 1987. The purpose of this group was to provide financial and volunteer support for the orchestra's performances and other activities. Today, the organization continues and was renamed the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League. Through the years Georgianna has been an active League member and a great supporter

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of the Symphony. For the past two years, she has been the chair of Encore Affairs which has provided many interesting outings for League Members and non-members.

Betty Z. Williams, a member since the early 1990s was also active in the Symphonia Obbligato. She was instrumental in setting up and running the Boutique, a gift shop open during Masterworks concerts at the Kimball Theater selling accessories and jewelry in support of the League's fundraising goals. A special presentation was made to Betty at the May 2018 League Annual Meeting for her 15 years of dedicated service in support of the WSO.

We thank both these women for their continuous support and passion on behalf of the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra and the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League.



COMING SOON

First Annual Report from the WSO to help stay up-to-date with the symphony!

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