



MUSICAL NOTES FOR YOU

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOL. 9 | ISSUE 2

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Members,

As you can imagine, these difficult times require a lot of creative ideas and hard work to keep the League engaged in its mission. As such, we are constantly in need of members to step forward to serve on a committee, chair a committee, or serve on the board. One of the most important and most difficult duties I have as your President is to identify members who might be open to taking a role in League activities, especially as leaders. We will lose several board directors next year as they complete their terms of office and we will need to replace them.

We use the information you supply on your membership registration form as a starting point for finding volunteers for our many activities, but it takes more effort to find leaders. I am asking you to think about your talents and interests and to consider taking on more responsibility to help the League grow and prosper. Please contact me or any member of the board to start the conversation. We would love to talk with you about opportunities just waiting for your particular skills!

Ken Mitchell, President



Ken Mitchell

DID YOU KNOW...

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League, originally called the “Symphonia Obbligato,” began in 1987 as an auxiliary group organized to provide financial and volunteer support for the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra’s performances and other activities.

In 1991, the Symphony Obbligato became a separate tax-exempt organization with its own by-laws, Board of Directors, and Officers. In 1994 and 2016, its name was changed to reflect the Symphony’s name change and to clarify its mission; it is now The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League. The League and its volunteers remain an important part of the orchestra’s operations providing more than 4,000 hours of volunteer services annually.



News! News! Read all about “THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE MISSING ENCORES...”

WELL! WELL! WELL! Dangerous Dan was not successful in stealing the GENEROUS donations of those who Stayed Away from Encore Events because of the COVID-19. If you have forgotten details of our story, please reread (see July 2020 newsletter) the thrilling story as told by Lynda Sharrett, Executive Producer of “A Cheesy Novel Radio Production”. Because of his obsession with his hair, he was captured and jailed. YAY! So why am I writing this? You have other things to read and your time is valuable; however, Dangerous Dan is s-o-o-o-o-o sorry for his misdeeds and asked forgiveness from all the dedicated supporters of the tenderhearted Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra. What does he want? **BAIL! He must be kidding.**



Dan seems truly sorry (I have visited him in jail; even took him a cake and some hair mousse). He has promised to donate his hair (we may not accept) and to stay away from Encore Affairs forever.

So, let’s do it! After all, we are kind and forgiving. Whatever you can send is most appreciated. \$10. \$25. \$100. \$1000. After we collect the bail, I will let you know how much it was and if we received enough. (Dan is not the only wily person around here.)

Please send to: WSO League Encore Affairs 📧 P.O. Box 1665 📧 Williamsburg, VA 23187-1663

With much gratitude,
Georgianna S. Avioli, Chair, Encore Affairs



First Baptist Church of Williamsburg performance

BEHIND THE SCENES...

Despite the Pandemic, Our Musicians Stay Busy!

What an honor to have been included in the historic September 6th prayer vigil and announcement of the efforts to excavate the structure of the original First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. The WSO String Ensemble (**Akemi Takayama, Adrian Pinteá, Timothy Judd, Alana Carithers, Jeannette Jang, Arkady Heifitz, Fitzhugh Gary, Jena Chenkin, Neal Cary, Peter Greydanus, and T. Alan Stewart**), under the direction of Reginald Fox, a nationally known conductor and accompanist, featured commissioned works – “Devotion” and “Suite in F” – composed by Jeraldine Herbison, a local Black artist and composer. We were deeply honored to have been asked to play for this monumental occasion. You can watch on YouTube at [WSO Performs for First Baptist Prayer Vigil](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

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Akemi Takayama had a lot of fun recording as a member of the New Orchestra of Washington under the direction of Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez at Strathmore (a nonprofit multi-disciplinary arts center and presenting organization in North Bethesda, Maryland). The acoustics were so great that it felt like the sound was floating in the air.

Richmond Symphony musicians Alison Hall and **Schuyler Slack** (also of the Williamsburg Symphony) have partnered with Charlottesville Symphony concertmaster Daniel Sender and Williamsburg Symphony Principal Viola **Danielle Wiebe Burke** to give a socially-distanced performance of living Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov's 'Tenebrae.' To enjoy, click [Golijov's 'Tenebrae'](#).



Photos Left to Right: Akemi Takayama recording, Golijov's 'Tenebrae' performance, Rachel Velvikis, and Tressa Gold porch performance.

Seraph Brass, a dynamic brass ensemble drawing from a roster of America's top female brass players, performing primarily as a brass quintet or sextet, plays Mozart, Rondo Alla Turca, arranged by Jeff Luke, Piccolo Trumpet: Mary Elizabeth Bowden, Trumpet: Jean Laurenz, Flugelhorn: Raquel Samayoa, Horn: **Rachel Velvikis**, Trombone: Elisabeth Shafer, Tuba: Gretchen Renshaw James. Click [Virtual Mozart](#)

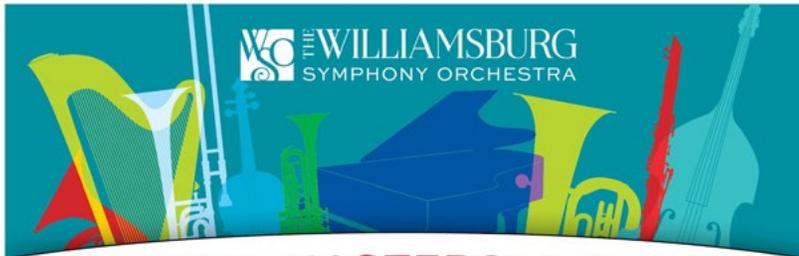
As part of our virtual participation in Williamsburg's An Occasion for the Arts, the WSO asked Akemi Takayama, Concertmaster, to create a video that would run during An Occasion for The Arts, 2020. We hope you enjoy it! Click [An Occasion for the Arts](#)

Violinist, **Tressa Gold** hosts Porch Concert #5 Bach Double. She's playing on the porch almost every day! Lucky neighbors!



Donated a string quartet performance

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra donated a string quartet performance as part of its ongoing community outreach efforts. The free performance took place on October 17 at The Antique Mall in Lightfoot and was organized to help raise donations for the food bank. Quartet members are **Adrian Pinte**, **Jeannette Jang**, **Schuyler Slack** and **Fitz Gary**.



THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIRTUAL MASTERCLASS AND INSTRUMENTAL COACHING

To further support the student musicians of the Peninsula, The WSO is continuing to build **virtual** content and offer **FREE** classes! With much anticipation, we bring you...

WSO Virtual Advanced Level/High School Cello
Tuesdays at 7pm, October 20nd- Nov 24th

WSO Virtual Intermediate Level/Middle School Cello
Wednesdays at 7pm, October 21- Nov 25th

WSO Virtual WSO Intermediate Level Clarinet
Mondays at 7pm, October 19th- Nov 23rd

WSO Virtual Advanced Level/High School Violin
Tuesdays 6pm, Oct 20th-Nov 24th

WSO Virtual Intermediate Level/Middle School Violin
Mondays 7pm, October 19th-Nov 23rd

WSO Virtual All Brass Masterclass
Wednesdays 6 PM, Oct 21st -Nov 25th

6 Class Series– 1x/week/6wks
Class Topics: Foundation, Technique, Practice, Audition Prep
(Class syllabus and selected practice pieces provided upon registration)

To register, email JB Crowley: jb@williamsburgsymphony.org



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The WSO Has GONE VIRTUAL!

Our unique offerings of virtual student learning opportunities and academic resources are benefiting student musicians across the Peninsula. Our goal is to bring engaging lesson plans, virtual field trip opportunities, masterclasses and instrumental coaching via live technology and pre-recorded segments. Families and educators have come to rely on The WSO for creative content and educationally relevant material.

Musicians from the Williamsburg Symphony are offering virtual instrumental coaching this fall to work on technique and mastery of their instrument. Classes are free of charge and offered for grades 5–12. This fall’s classes include:

WSO ALL BRASS MASTERCLASS

taught by WSO Acting Principal Trombone, Carl Lundgren

WSO ADVANCED LEVEL/HIGH SCHOOL VIOLIN

taught by WSO Principal Second Violin, Alana Carithers

WSO INTERMEDIATE LEVEL/MIDDLE SCHOOL VIOLIN

taught by WSO Musician, Alyssa Evans

WSO INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CLARINET

taught by WSO Acting Principal Clarinet, David Lemelin

WSO INTERMEDIATE LEVEL/MIDDLE SCHOOL CELLO

taught by WSO Musician, Peter Greydanus

WSO ADVANCED LEVEL/HIGH SCHOOL CELLO

taught by WSO Musician, Peter Greydanus



REMEMBER WHEN...

World-renowned Grammy Award-winning cellist **Zuill Bailey** was the guest artist at our May 11, 2016 League Gala Event. In May of 2105, Mr. Bailey appeared as the WSO's guest soloist at Masterworks concert #5. A man of boundless energy, he conducted a Masterclass for 6 cello students and set up a 'stage' outside of the Kimball Theater where he performed an alfresco concert!

The League held several **Pink Elephant Sales** in 2016 and 2017. In case you have forgotten, this fundraiser collected and sold donations of fine clothing, jewelry, art, kitchen items, furniture, and more. All to benefit the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra.



Photos Left to Right: Zuill Bailey outside of Kimball Theater, Pink Elephant, and Christmas Brunch Encore Affair photos.

The wonderful **Christmas Brunch Encore Affair** was hosted in 2013 by the amazing Mary Lou Smullen. Her parties were the ultimate in not only Christmas decor but delicious homemade food and sparkling camaraderie. How much fun it was to wander through her house encountering a new Christmas surprise behind every door! – *submitted by Pattee Schlatter*

If you have pictures of past Symphony or League events and would like to share them in a future newsletter, please send them to me! Sue Klepac, sklepac@att.net Include photos in JPEG format and a brief description of the event.

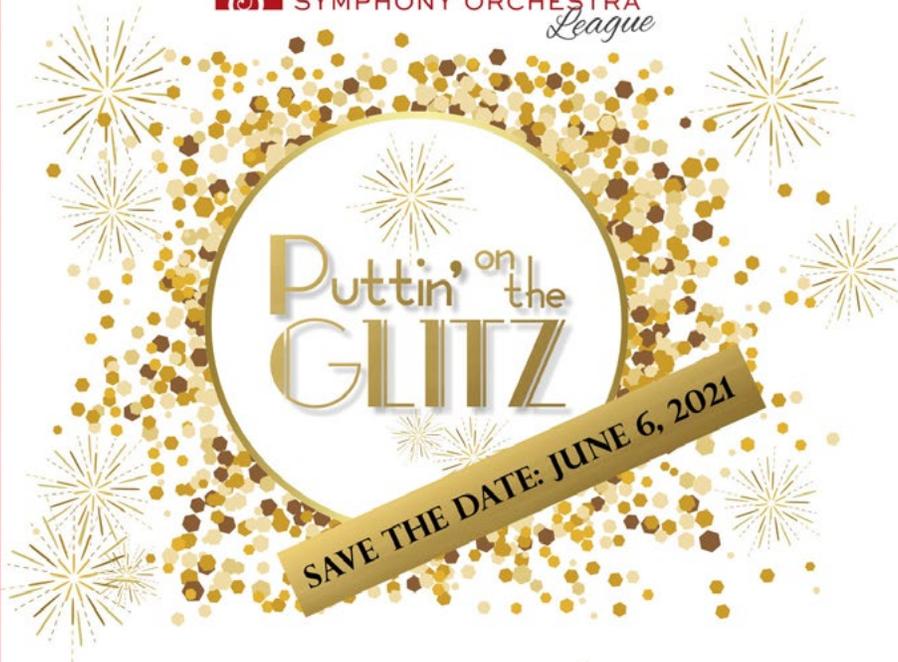


WELCOME TO NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

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

Bonnie Cooper
J. Michael & Connie Matthews Harshaw

Nancy Pledger
Brooks & Buket Rembert



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
For details, go to www.williamsburgsymphony.org/league

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