

## The League's Annual WSO Gala Raises ~\$40K

(Paul Try, Chair, Gala Committee)



Left Photo: (L-R: Donna Herman; Doug Wood; Joan Brockenbrough; Paul Try; Eloise Branden; Ken Mitchell)

Right Photo: (Truetone Honeys & 504 Supreme Jazz Band) (Photos by Corey Miller Photo)

The remarkable support from The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's (WSO) strongest and most steadfast supporters raised approximately \$40,000 for the WSO educational and performance programs at the WSO Annual fundraising Gala, "Puttin' on the Glitz". After three postponements due to COVID-19, the League held the long-awaited Gala (originally scheduled for spring 2020) on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at the Kingsmill Resort. While the nearly 100 party-goers was not the largest attendance we had for our annual galas, due to the delays and overall situation, attendees provided over 40 winning and contributing bids to provide an enormous start for our fundraising year.

Beginning the evening reception, the lovely background music provided by Jack Wagner at the piano, set the tone for the evening. Attendees reviewed the eleven amazing live auction items being offered with a private concert by the WSO's celebrated Concertmaster, Akemi Takayama, raising a record \$5000! Our 13 Primary and 8 Major Sponsors contributed a significant amount of base funding support for this event and the WSO. The 12 Supporting and In-Kind Sponsors provided substantial contributions to make the evening a very special event. See [www.williamsburgsymphony.org/league](http://www.williamsburgsymphony.org/league) for the full list of our very generous sponsors.

The Gala Committee (shown above), chaired by Paul Try, was composed of Ken Mitchell, Donna Herman, Eloise Branden, Joan Brockenbrough, and Doug Wood. While everyone on the committee assisted in all planning areas, Eloise led the printed materials, graphics and fantastic decoration efforts with Joan 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 and entertaining the crowd with the live auction and paddle raise.

Introducing the paddle raise was Christopher Kirby-Saunders, 17, student vocalist. He was selected to perform during one of the WSO's Vocal Masterclasses and gave the audience a wonderful performance of *Non Piu Andrai* from WA Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. During the evening, local professional photographer Corey

Miller (Corey Miller Photo) roamed the area collecting photos of guests, entertainment and glitter of the Gala that can be viewed and downloaded at [2021 WSOL Gala by Corey Miller Photo \(pixieset.com\)](https://pixieset.com/2021-WSOL-Gala-by-Corey-Miller-Photo), our gift to you all.

A highlight of the evening was the terrific entertainment provided by the local Truetone Honeys (Anna Perkins, Caroline Scruggs, and Cailin Crane) and the 504 Supreme jazz band. With Matt Fattal leading off with his trumpet virtuosity, the Truetone Honeys opened up with a great version of “Sing, Sing, Sing”. When the audience applauded the smooth solo of trombonist Carl Lundgren, most didn’t realize that this jazz artist is currently the Acting Principal, Trombone, for the WSO and had just performed in the Masterworks concert the afternoon before. This jazz ensemble and trio captivated the audience with their show, inspired impromptu swing dancing in the audience and finished with an exciting rendition of “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B” to provide a rousing end to the evening of celebration and fundraising in support of Williamsburg’s musical treasure, the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra.