



LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

OWN YOUR OWN
ORCHESTRA!

OR PART OF IT ANYWAY.

THANKS TO



THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

League

VIENNA, LATE MARCH, 1827....

...A tremendous thunderstorm rattles the windows...a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder stuns the visitors surrounding a deathbed. The dying man opens his eyes, raises a fist, shakes it at the heavens, and expires.

Beethoven went through life defying everything else in his world – why not, at the end of his struggle, defy the very heavens themselves? This romantic, ‘possibly-believable’ account of his death certainly defines the man who was one of the most powerful musical thinkers in the world.

Often considered a bridge between Classical and Romantic periods, he actually began in the Classic tradition. However, he ended up forging his own innovative and explosive music. Admired by the Viennese as a great eccentric, his fame was universal, and people came from all over the continent and England to visit him.



Beethoven’s hearing loss did not prevent him from composing. As his deafness progressed, he was depressed but unbowed, creating some of his most magnificent music: the Eroica symphony, piano concertos, the Missa Solomnis chorale and the unequalled Symphony No. Nine. He also continued to

play the piano and conduct his own music. However, while conducting, he often threw off the orchestra with wild gestures. The players learned to look to the first violinist for cues, rather than to Beethoven. Yet, he followed the strings’ bows with his eyes and was able to judge the smallest errors of tempo and rhythm and correct them instantly.

During this time, Beethoven's income came from publishing and performances of his works and from various aristocratic patrons.



Perhaps the most important of these was Archduke Rudolf of Austria, the youngest son of Emperor Leopold II. The archduke studied piano and composition with him and they became friends.

A few days before Beethoven's death, he commented to the visitors surrounding his bed "Plaudite, amici, comoedia finita est" ("Applaud, friends, the comedy is over").

Like so many composers of this period, Beethoven's constant flow of financial security was mercurial. He needed consistent patrons... and our own symphony does too!



Photo by Kim Keily

Many of us feel The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) is our very own orchestra. And you CAN become a patron to "own" part of our symphony for a season. Choose an item from the list on the last page and you'll "own" that item for a year!

- And:
- 🎻 your name will be listed in the program
 - 🎻 you can meet a musician who plays your favorite instrument
 - 🎻 your gift is tax deductible

Everyone is extremely excited for our new music director, Michael Butterman, to begin the 2022-23 season this fall. If you choose to "own" the first item on our list, 'music director & conductor,' you will have the opportunity to meet and visit with him in person next season!

ITEMS TO SPONSOR

Make your selection from the list below and return the enclosed form.
Checks may be written to:

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra League
P.O. Box 1665
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1665

1. New Music Director/Conductor (*includes special gift and personal meeting*)... **\$1,000**
2. Concertmaster... **\$500**
3. Principal Instrument (*1st chair*)... **\$400**
4. String Section... **\$300**
5. Wind Section... **\$300**
6. Brass Section... **\$300**
7. Percussion Section... **\$250**
8. Keyboard/Harp... **\$150**
9. One Individual Instrument of Your Choice... **\$100**
10. Conductor's Baton... **\$100**
11. Music stand & other stage necessities**... **\$75**
12. String Player's Bow... **\$50**
13. Mute... **\$50**



Photo by Kim Keily

***This includes such items as chairs, carts, plexiglass sound shields, etc.*



All proceeds benefit The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra.
Make your selection and send in your payment as you desire. Your
generosity will help pay the orchestra's costs for every concert.





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- Mute... **\$50**

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METHOD OF PAYMENT

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- Visa MasterCard American Express Security Code: _____

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