

WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BRINGS PROKOFIEV'S *PETER AND THE WOLF* TO LIFE FOR THOUSANDS OF LOCAL STUDENTS

Extensive arts education and outreach initiative receiving praise from educators and parents alike.

Williamsburg, Va. (January 1, 2020) - **Beginning on Jan. 6**, an ensemble of 21 Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra Musicians and narrator, Jim Gandolfo, will perform Prokofiev's *Peter & the Wolf* for thousands of elementary school children in the WJCC school district. An acclaimed group of WSO principal musicians will bring the performance to life, including Concertmaster, Akemi Takayama.

Conducting **15 performances in nine schools over a two week period of time** is the acclaimed David Grandis, Director of Orchestras at the College of William & Mary.

Jim Gandolfo, narrator, is a veteran performer and director with over 300 titles to his credit and is currently an adjunct instructor in theatre at CNU. Jim trained with Groundling's founder, Barbara Contardi at First Amendment Improv of NYC, New York's first improv troupe. He founded the comedy troupe In All Seriousness, distinguishing their brand of performance improv while performing with Ellen DeGeneres, Lewis Black, Sinbad, Jeff Dunham and others.

David Grandis, Director of Orchestras at William and Mary, recently earned his D.M.A in orchestral conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A native of France, Dr. Grandis has worked as a guest conductor with such orchestras as the Bordeaux National Symphony Orchestra, Nice Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia New Symphony Orchestra and Minsk Philharmonic Orchestra. He is regularly Assistant Conductor at the Lyon National Opera. He is also the conductor for the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras.

These concerts are funded by the "Peter & the Wolf" fund at the Williamsburg Community Foundation created by the late John C. Jamison. John Jamison was a philanthropist, who was so inspired by his own experience hearing Peter & the Wolf as a young child- that his dream was for EVERY child to hear the piece at least once in their lifetime. When Mr. Jamison narrated the score, he observed how the students became mesmerized by the characters' sounds as portrayed by the instruments in the orchestra. "Exposure to classical music and musicians creates an indelible link in a child's mind," he said. Through the generosity of Mr. Jamison district-wide school concerts were given twice over the past 15 years and before his passing from cancer, his fund was established formally with the Williamsburg Community Foundation to help finance future concerts.

Community members interested in sustaining Mr. Jamison's vision should contact the Williamsburg Community Foundation to find out how they can contribute at williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org

Interested in viewing the performance at a local school, contact JB Crowley for a detailed list of locations and performance details. jb@williamsburgsymphony.org