

## **WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CREATES MUSICIAN RELIEF FUND AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENTS TO MUSICIANS**

Williamsburg, Va. (April 24, 2020) – The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees voted at its April 23, 2020 board meeting to issue relief payments to musicians who would have performed in the final Masterworks concert of the season.

The concept of a Musician Relief Fund, created from single ticket and subscription ticket donations, was unanimously supported by the Board. The Board members assisted in making phone calls to ticket holders. During the process, the Board expressed how much they enjoyed the interaction with the ticket holders, often talking on the phone for 30 minutes at a time. “The WSO is incredibly grateful for the generosity of our ticket holders,” said Carolyn Keurajian, Executive Director of the organization.

The musicians were notified of the fund on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> through a surprise communication. One musician wrote in response “Receiving the relief fund was not expected...you and the other members of the Board have been so thoughtful and generous that I have no proper words to express this gratitude. It’s not surprising why I love coming to work in Williamsburg. It’s a special place because of the people who create it.”

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra is a per-service orchestra based in Virginia. Now in its 36th season, the orchestra offers a five-concert Masterworks series, Pops concerts, and a series of educational initiatives. An active search is currently underway for the organization's new Music Director.

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