



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond Symphony Altria Masterworks concert

featuring Mozart: Mass in C Minor

Saturday, November 11 at 8pm

Sunday, November 12 at 3pm

Carpenter Theatre, Dominion Arts Center

November 1, 2017 – Richmond Virginia - Music Director Steven Smith will lead the Richmond Symphony and the Richmond Symphony Chorus in Mozart: Mass in C Minor on Saturday, November 11 at 8pm and Sunday, November 12 at 3pm. Joining the Symphony on stage will be the Richmond Symphony Chorus under the direction of Erin R. Freeman with guest soloists Laura Strickling (soprano), Arianna Zukerman (soprano), Nathan Bick (tenor), and Robert Harrelson (bass). Both concerts will be held at the Dominion Arts Center's Carpenter Theatre.

The program includes Wagner's Prelude to Act I of *Tristan und Isolde*, Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture* and Mozart's Mass in C Minor.

The legend of Tristan and Isolde—that tale of intense romantic yearning—is probably of Celtic origin, but it was the decidedly Teutonic composer Richard Wagner who re-invented it for the world of opera. He was in the midst of writing his monumental four-opera *The Ring of the Niebelung* when he first read the legend of Tristan. He was also in the midst of an intense

relationship with the very-much-married Mathilde Wesendonk. Soon he was taking a sabbatical from *The Ring* and working on a new opera: *Tristan und Isolde*.

Romeo and Juliet begins with a solemn introduction: Friar Laurence intoning his forebodings. The body of the work begins with an angry and pointed theme representing the tension between the Montagues and the Capulets. The second theme is the love theme of Romeo. It leads to a gently-rocking theme representing Juliet. After a short development, Tchaikovsky brings back all three themes. This time, the warring first theme engulfs the love themes. The piece ends with a tender statement of the love theme and then tragic, final orchestral chords.

Mozart's Mass in C minor, K. 427 was never completely finished...it was a labor of love. The Mass was first performed by Mozart with his wife Constanze as the soloist on "Et incarnatus est," which he wrote for her to sing. He uses excerpts from his previous works to finish the piece which was also featured in the film, *Amadeus*. The Richmond Symphony and the Richmond Symphony Chorus will be performing the Mass and more next weekend featuring special guests: Laura Strickling (soprano), Arianna Zukerman (soprano), Nathan Bick (tenor), and Robert Harrelson (bass). This is a rare and unique performance highlighting two soprano soloists — not to be missed!

Adult tickets for Altria Masterworks performances start at \$10, College student single tickets are \$7, and Child tickets are free for individuals under the age of 18. Purchase tickets online at richmondsymphony.com or by calling 1.800.514.ETIX.

The series sponsor is Altria. The media sponsor is Richmond Times-Dispatch.

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Steven Smith, conductor
Richmond Symphony Chorus (Erin R. Freeman, director)
Laura Strickling, soprano
Arianna Zukerman, soprano
Nathan Bick, tenor
Robert Harrelson, bass

WAGNER *Prelude to Act I of *Tristan und Isolde**

TCHAIKOVSKY *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*

Intermission

MOZART *Mass in C minor, K. 427*
Kyrie
Gloria in excelsis
Laudamus te
Gratias
Domine
Qui tollis
Quoniam
Jesu Christe - Cum sancto spiritu
Credo in unum Deum
Et incarnatus
Sanctus
Benedictus
Laura Strickling, soprano
Arianna Zukerman, soprano
Nathan Bick, tenor
Robert Harrelson, bass
Richmond Symphony Chorus

[About Steven Smith](#), conductor

[About Erin R. Freeman](#), Director of the Richmond Symphony Chorus

About the Richmond Symphony

Kicking off its 60th Anniversary Season in September 2017, the Richmond Symphony is the largest performing arts organization in Central Virginia. The organization includes an orchestra of more than 70 professional musicians, the 150-voice Richmond Symphony

Chorus and more than 260 students in the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra programs. Each season, more than 200,000 members of the community enjoy live concerts and radio broadcasts. The Symphony also provides educational outreach programs to over 55,000 students and teachers each year. The Symphony was recently named one of 21 American orchestras selected as a leader in orchestra innovation by the League of American Orchestras through its Futures Fund Initiative. The Richmond Symphony is partially funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Visit www.richmondsymphony.com.

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