

# RICHMOND SYMPHONY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Richmond Symphony Welcomes Fourth Music Director Candidate, Valentina Peleggi

Richmond, Va. (Jan. 30, 2020)—The Richmond Symphony is pleased to host its fourth **Music Director Candidate, Valentina Peleggi**, from March 7-14, 2020. Peleggi will lead a series of Symphony concerts and pre-concert talks in the community, including:

- Altria Masterworks concerts on **Sat., March 7 at 8 p.m.** and **Sun., March 8 at 3 p.m.** at Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre, with Angela Cheng, piano; pre-concert talk with Peleggi at 7 p.m. on Sat. and 2 p.m. on Sun.
- Atlantic Union Bank Lollipops concert on **Sat., March 14 at 11 a.m.** at Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre

Peleggi is a current Mackerras Fellow at the English National Opera and guest music director with the Theatro Seo Padro in São Paulo, Brazil, serving previously as resident conductor of the OSESP- São Paulo Symphony Orchestra. She has led orchestras from around the world, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Orchestra of Wales, Norrköping Symphony (Norway), Orchestra della Toscana, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, among many others. The first Italian woman to enter the conducting program at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Peleggi graduated with distinction and was awarded the DipRAM for her outstanding final concert.

Peleggi is the fourth of five music director candidates leading the Richmond Symphony in the 2019-20 season and being considered to follow former Music Director Steven Smith, who stepped down from the position at the end of last season. The other candidates are Roderick Cox, who appeared with Symphony October 17-27, 2019; Ankush Kumar Bahl, who appeared January 11-18, 2020; Laura Jackson, who will appear Jan. 31-Feb. 9, 2020; and Farkhad Khudiyev; who will appear April 18-26, 2020.

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The Richmond Symphony search committee, comprised of symphony musicians and board members, received more than 200 applications before selecting the final five candidates. The committee is considering various criteria for each candidate, including musicianship and commitment to the community, but mutual chemistry between the audience and the orchestra will be paramount, according to David Fisk, executive director of the Richmond Symphony. The announcement of the new music director is expected in May 2020.

**Interview opportunities with Valentina Peleggi are available, and all events are open to the media.**

For more information about Valentina Peleggi, please visit:

<https://www.valentinapeleggi.com/>

For more information about Angela Cheng, please visit:

[http://www.schmidtart.com/artists/angela\\_cheng](http://www.schmidtart.com/artists/angela_cheng)

### **About the Richmond Symphony ([www.richmondsymphony.com](http://www.richmondsymphony.com)):**

Kicking off its 62nd Season in September 2019, 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](http://www.richmondsymphony.com) for more information.

### **Full concert listings:**

<https://www.richmondsymphony.com/calendar/>

**Sat., March 7, 2020 at 8 p.m.**

**Sun., March 8, 2020 at 3 p.m.**

**Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre  
(600 E. Grace St., Richmond)**

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***Altria Masterworks- Valentina Peleggi conducts Uncommon Women:  
C. Schumann & Tower***

Valentina Peleggi, conductor and music director candidate  
Angela Cheng, piano

Rossini: Overture to *La gazza ladra (The Thieving Magpie)*  
Tchaikovsky: *Francesca da Rimini*, Opus 32  
Joan Tower: *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman, No. 2*  
C. Schumann: Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 7  
Respighi: *Pines of Rome*

Discover Music Director Candidate Valentina Peleggi as she leads the Richmond Symphony in a program giving a nod to her Italian heritage, including Rossini's overture to the opera *La gazza ladra (The Thieving Magpie)*; Respighi's beloved *Pines of Rome*, inspired by the Roman landscape; and Tchaikovsky's *Francesca da Rimini*, Opus 32, a tone poem based on Dante's *Inferno*. The program also celebrates women in music, with pianist Angela Cheng performing Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto in A Minor, Opus 7, celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birthday, and Joan Tower's *Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman*, No. 2, dedicated to Aaron Copland and "to women who take risks and are adventurous."

Tickets are \$10-\$80 for adults, and free for active members of the military and children ages 3-18. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.richmondsymphony.com](http://www.richmondsymphony.com) or call 804.788.1212.

**Sat., March 14, 2020 at 11 a.m.**  
**Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre**  
(600 E. Grace St., Richmond)

**Atlantic Union Bank Lollipops: Appalachian Spring**

Valentina Peleggi, conductor and music director candidate  
The School of Richmond Ballet ensembles, guest artists

A pleasure for both eyes and ears, this Lollipops program features dancers from the School of Richmond Ballet ensembles, performing a newly choreographed work set to music from Aaron Copland's timeless *Appalachian Spring*—a ballet containing the beloved Shaker melody, "Simple Gifts." A pre-concert festival in Rhythm Hall will take place at 10 a.m., featuring our instrument petting zoo, the Greater Richmond Children's Choir and Puppets Off Broad Street. All Lollipops concerts run an hour-long and are sensory-friendly.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$10 for college students and children ages 3-18. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [www.richmondsymphony.com](http://www.richmondsymphony.com) or call 804.788.1212.

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