



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Richmond Symphony Announces its 2020-2021 Season

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Celebration of Beethoven's 250th Birthday with Symphonies 5, 7 and 9
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of Richmond Symphony Chorus with Choral Masterpieces
- Inclusion of Works by Eight of Today's Most Sought-after Composers, alongside Classical Favorites
- Richmond Symphony Debuts of Seven Acclaimed Guest Artists
- World Premiere of Work for Trumpet by Richmond Native, Trey Pollard
- Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) family cultural celebration featuring Latin Ballet of Richmond
- Metro on the Move Concerts added in Chester, Va.

Richmond, Va. (Feb. 12, 2020)—The Richmond Symphony announced its 63rd Season today, highlighting a range of programming, renowned guest artists, and commemorations as part of its five concert series: Altria Masterworks, Metro on the Move, Rush Hour at Hardywood, Symphony Pops, and Atlantic Union Bank Lollipops.

The announcement comes as the Symphony wraps up its Music Director search with five candidates being considered to replace former Music Director Steven Smith. The announcement of the new Music Director and his/her participation in the 2020-21 season is anticipated later this Spring.

"Our 2020-21 season marks the beginning of a fresh, new chapter in the Symphony's great story," said David Fisk, executive director of the Richmond Symphony. "Not simply are we celebrating our heritage by honoring the major anniversaries of Beethoven and of our Richmond Symphony Chorus; we are excited to be programming works by some of today's most dynamic composers and presenting diverse guest artists. Leading the orchestra in the year ahead will be our new Music Director, whom we look forward to introducing to our audiences next season, with the warmest of welcomes."

ALTRIA MASTERWORKS

The eight-program Altria Masterworks series, performed at the Dominion Energy Center's Carpenter Theatre, is comprised of new and traditional symphonic repertoire, engaging some of the best classical artists in the industry today. The following are highlights of the 2020-21 Masterworks season:

- The **Symphony's Opening Weekend** will take place on Sept. 19-20, 2020, with "**A Century of American Sound,**" showcasing musical contributions that helped define American classical music. Aaron Diehl, known for classical and jazz piano, will perform Gershwin, alongside works by Ellington; William Grant Still, a groundbreaking black composer and conductor; and acclaimed Leonard Bernstein Award recipient Jessie Montgomery.
- The Symphony will celebrate the **250th Birthday of Beethoven** by performing the composer's iconic Symphony No. 9 (Nov. 14-15, 2020) and Symphony No. 5 (April 17-18, 2021) on the Altria Masterworks series.
- The Symphony will honor the 50th anniversary and contributions of the **Richmond Symphony Chorus** through the performance of beloved choral works, including Faure's *Pavane* (Nov. 14-15, 2020); Dvorak's *Te Deum* (Feb. 6, 2021); and Haydn's *The Creation* (May 15, 2021).
- The Symphony will perform **contemporary works from five of today's most cutting-edge composers** on this series, including *Coincident Dances* by Jessie Montgomery (Sept. 19-20, 2020); *Oscillate* by Andy Akiho (Oct. 17, 2020); *Umoja, Anthem for Unity* by Valerie Coleman (Jan. 16, 2021); *Maslenitsa* by Guillaume Connesson (March 6-7, 2021); and *Abstractions* by Anna Clyne (April 17-18, 2021).
- Altria Masterworks will feature **classical music favorites**, including Ravel's *Bolero* (Jan. 16, 2021); Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 (April 17-18, 2021); Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 (Nov. 14-15, 2020); Saint-Saens' Symphony No. 3 "Organ" (Feb. 6, 2021); Grieg's Peer Gynt Suites, Nos. 1 and 2 (Jan. 16, 2021); Barber's Violin Concerto (April 17-18, 2021); Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 (March 6-7, 2021); among others.
- Exciting **guest artist debuts** with the Richmond Symphony will happen on Altria Masterworks, including **pianist Aaron Diehl** (Sept. 19-20, 2020); **violinist Melissa White** (Oct. 17, 2020); **pianist Gabriela Martinez** (Mar. 6-7, 2021); and **violinist Rachel Barton Pine** (April 17-18, 2021).

METRO ON THE MOVE

The four-program Metro on the Move series is made up of chamber orchestra favorites, featuring Richmond Symphony musicians as soloists in more intimate settings. The following are highlights from the 2020-21 Metro on the Move series:

- In addition to Sunday performances at Randolph-Macon College's Blackwell Auditorium, the Symphony will perform three **Saturday concerts at the new Baxter Perkinson Center for the Arts & Education in Chester, Va.** The first concert will be on Jan. 23, 2021.
- The Metro on the Move series will feature **Richmond Symphony musicians** Thomas Schneider, principal bassoon, performing Rossini's Bassoon Concerto (Oct. 25, 2020), and Concertmaster Daisuke Yamamoto (Feb. 20-21, 2021), leading Bach's Brandenburg Concertos No. 1 and 3.
- This series will include contemporary works from **four of today's most dynamic composers**, including *Harp of Nerves* by Hilary Purrington (April 24-25, 2021); *Variations on an Unheard Theme* by Zachary Wadsworth (April 24-25, 2021); *Little Moonhead* by Melinda Wagner (Feb. 20-21, 2021), and *Entr'acte* by Caroline Shaw (Jan. 23-24, 2021).
- **Classical favorites** will be heard on this Metro on the Move series including Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 (April 24-25, 2021), honoring **Beethoven's 250th birthday**; Bach's Brandenburg Concertos No. 1 and 3 (Feb. 20-21, 2021); Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 "Italian," (Oct. 25, 2020) and more.
- **Acclaimed guitarist JJI** will make her **Richmond Symphony debut** with Purrington's *Harp of Nerves* (April 24-25, 2021).

RUSH HOUR AT HARDYWOOD

The four-program Rush Hour series is made up of casual, one-hour concerts that take place at 6:30 p.m. in the tasting room of **Hardywood Park Craft Brewery- Scott's Addition**. Patrons can relax and enjoy craft beer and food, while listening to small-ensemble favorites by the Richmond Symphony. Rush Hour at Hardywood will continue this season, incorporating programs similar to those of the Metro on the Move series (see highlights above).

SYMPHONY POPS

The four-program Symphony Pops series features popular guest artists performing favorites in pop, jazz, classical, Broadway repertoire, and more, alongside the Richmond Symphony at the Dominion Energy Center's Carpenter Theatre.

Highlights from 2020-21 Symphony Pops series include:

- VCU Professor of Trumpet and Jazz **Rex Richardson** will debut a **world-premiere work** for trumpet by **Richmond native Trey Pollard**. The premiere is part of a program celebrating the **100th birthdays of Charlie “Bird” Parker and Dave Brubeck** (Feb. 27, 2021).
- Warner Bros. presents ***BUGS BUNNY AT THE SYMPHONY***, 30th Anniversary Edition-LOONEY TUNES and all related characters and elements © & TM Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. (s20). This concert will bring the world’s favorite classic LOONEY TUNES projected on the big screen, while the Richmond Symphony performs the exhilarating, original Carl Stalling scores LIVE! (Oct. 3, 2020 at Altria Theater). The program is conducted by George Daugherty, created by George Daugherty & David Ka Lik Wong.
- **“Frank & Ella: A Night of Jazz”** will feature vocalists **Capathia Jenkins** and **Tony DeSare**, reliving the magic of Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald (April 10, 2021).
- Family favorite **Let it Snow!** is back again to celebrate the start of the holiday season (Dec. 5-6, 2020).

ATLANTIC UNION BANK LOLLIPOPS

The four-program Atlantic Union Bank LolliPops series is made up of short, sensory-friendly concerts for the entire family. Taking place at Dominion Energy Center’s Carpenter Theatre, the LolliPops series includes pre-concert activities for kids, including an instrument petting zoo.

The following are highlights from the 2020-21 Atlantic Union Bank LolliPops series:

- The Symphony will celebrate the Mexican holiday **Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)** by performing works honoring the tradition, in collaboration with a performance by the **Latin Ballet of Richmond** (Oct. 31, 2020). The concert will be presented in both English and Spanish.
- The Symphony will also bring back **LolliPops favorites**, *The Snowman* (Nov. 28, 2020), “The Life and Times of Beethoven” (Feb. 27, 2021), and the timeless tale of *Peter and the Wolf* (April 10, 2021).

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription packages are now on-sale for the Richmond Symphony’s Altria Masterworks, Metro on the Move, Rush Hour at Hardywood, Symphony Pops, and Atlantic Union Bank LolliPops series concerts.

Subscribers enjoy a variety of benefits, including priority seating, 20% off single ticket prices, flexible ticket exchanges, pre-sale opportunities for special events and concerts, and much more.

To renew your subscription or to become a new subscriber, please call 804-788-1212, or visit www.richmondsymphony.com.

SPONSORS

The Richmond Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of the following season sponsors: **Altria**, presenting sponsor of the Masterworks series; **Atlantic Union Bank**, presenting sponsor of the LolliPops series; and the **E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation**. The Richmond Symphony is partially funded by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts; CultureWorks & the Arts and Cultural Funding Consortium -- supported by City of Richmond and the Counties of Hanover and Henrico.

***Also included in a separate document is the full calendar by concert series.**

***Interviews available with Richmond Symphony Executive Director David Fisk.**

***High-res photos available of guest artists and composers.**

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