

Making MUSIC

an integral
part of life

Thank you for supporting the Richmond Symphony. This review of the 2021/22 season contains many high notes that you helped accomplish. The future is full of potential and with your continued support, together we change lives through the power of music.

*Music Director, Valentina Peleggi conducts the Richmond Symphony's season finale concert, Beethoven's Ninth.
Photo credit: James Loving*

**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**

VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR



OVERVIEW

In yet another unique season with new challenges, your Richmond Symphony was grateful to share innovative and extraordinary concerts with more Richmond area residents than ever before during the 2021/22 season.

The Symphony is truly reaching people – connecting listeners with artists and young players with mentors, celebrating Youth Orchestra Program alumni leading national orchestras around the country as well as those coming “home” to work with us, providing authentic platforms for diverse composers to be heard, and uplifting our community with the joy of music from parks to concerts halls.

Your support enables the Richmond Symphony to become an integral part of the lives of those living, working, and learning in central Virginia and beyond. We appreciate your generosity and commitment and hope you enjoy the expanded upcoming season!

“The entire experience was life changing for us. The power & emotion was greater than I could imagine! What an experience!”

- Ravishing Rachmaninoff audience member

This book is interactive! When you see a QR code, use your phone camera to scan it for digital extras from the Richmond Symphony.



*Richmond Symphony and Richmond Symphony Chorus
conducted by Music Director, Valentina Pileggi.
Photo credit: James Loving*

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Assistant Conductor, Chia-Hsuan Lin conducts the Symphony in the Carpenter Theatre. Photo credit: Jay Paul

RICHMOND SYMPHONY FOUNDATION

Growing Endowment Resources for the Orchestra

The Richmond Symphony Foundation was established in 1989 by forward-thinking leaders with a vision for the future of Richmond and its orchestra. Through the generosity of our community, the endowment provides substantial support each year to Richmond Symphony operations. The endowment provided **\$750,000** to the Symphony's operating needs in the 2021/22 season.

Patrons continue to make enduring gifts to support the Symphony's endowment, which stood at **\$22,488,945** at the end of December 2021. Generous contributions from patrons over the fiscal year totaled **\$1,229,576**.

The endowment provides support for artistic and educational programs including music education, community engagement, specific chairs in the orchestra, the music library, general operations support, and more. A new fund was created this fiscal year to support the Symphony's music education programs and scholarships.

RENNOLDS SOCIETY

The Richmond Symphony's Rennolds Society acknowledges those committed individuals who include the Symphony in their wills or estate plans. These donors carry forward the legacy of support established by the Rennolds family and other benefactors.

Members enjoy special events while helping to secure the future of the orchestra. In May, Rennolds Society members celebrated the success of a triumphant orchestral season at the Robins Tea House at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, enjoying time with Music Director Valentina Peleggi, orchestra musicians, and Richmond Symphony leadership. Six new households joined the Rennolds Society this season.



Rennolds Society members Susan Rowland and Mark Flynn.
Photo credit: VIP Talent & Events LLC

"Sue and I believe strongly in the Symphony's mission of classical music performance and education for our community, particularly for those who are underserved. Including a bequest in our will was the most important way we could leave a legacy of support for the Symphony's work." – Mark Flynn and Sue Rowland



Members and guests of the Rennolds Society gathered with members of the Richmond Symphony community at Lewis Ginter.
Photo credit: James Loving



Members of the Richmond Symphony Chorus at Carpenter Theatre for Haydn's Creation.
Photo credit: James Loving

RICHMOND SYMPHONY CHORUS

This season was bittersweet as it was the end of Chorus Director Erin Freeman's fifteen-year tenure with the Richmond Symphony Chorus. Under her steady baton, the Chorus became an award-winning, all-volunteer ensemble of 150 auditioned vocalists who traveled from Richmond, to Carnegie Hall, to Paris, France and more; recorded on a Grammy-nominated album; started the Richmond Symphony Chamber Chorus, featuring stand-alone choral ensembles in venues throughout the Richmond area; and continued to perform with the Richmond Symphony in regular season performances.



Erin Freeman conducting Haydn's Creation.
Photo credit: James Loving

Erin's leadership sustained Chorus members through the pandemic until they made their triumphant return to the stage for beloved staples such as Let It Snow!, as well as fantastic performances of Beethoven's 9th in the finale Symphony Series weekend and at the much-anticipated return of the Big Tent concert, A Tribute Concert to Healthcare Workers. The 2021/22 season also featured the first ever stand-alone Chamber Chorus performance, which was Erin Freeman's final appearance.

The Richmond Symphony is grateful to Erin Freeman for wonderful years of dedication and passion. In celebration of her achievements, **Chorus members gifted \$26,342** to the Richmond Symphony's Annual Fund in her honor.

Visit the Chorus website if you want to audition!



RICHMOND SYMPHONY
CHORUS
EST. 1971

RICHMOND SYMPHONY LEAGUE

The Richmond Symphony League had a great year – winning a prestigious **Gold Award of Excellence from the League of American Orchestras**. Their delectable **Champagne and Chocolates** series returned in full force, as well as classic events such as the sales at **Crossroads Art Gallery** and **Swing for the Symphony** golf tournament – with a newly added tennis tournament! The Richmond Symphony is grateful to the generosity of the League, its members, and especially their President Alison Eckis, who steered the League so kindly through the pandemic. The League welcomes its next President, Julie Brantley, and looks forward to some fantastic events on the horizon, including a highly anticipated **Designer House!**



Sungu Flottman
Photo provided by Richmond
Symphony League

Congratulations are in order to the winners and participants of the **51st Annual Student Concerto Competition**, hosted by the Richmond Symphony League. Seventeen students participated in the event, with first prize being awarded to YOP student Sungu Flottman. Sungu brilliantly performed Concerto No. 2 in D minor by Henryk Wieniawski and received a cash prize, along with the opportunity to perform with the Richmond Symphony during the LoliPops concert on May 8.

Allene Cahill and Julie Brantley attended the Gold Award for Excellence ceremony at the League of American Orchestras annual conference in Los Angeles.



Members of the Richmond Symphony League at events throughout the season.
Photos provided by Richmond Symphony League

2021/22 SYMPHONY SEASON



The season began with participating in the poignant **“Violins of Hope – a Community Collaboration to Educate & Inspire”** exhibition through partnering with the Virginia Holocaust Museum, Virginia Museum of History and Culture, and the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia. What started as one featured concert became three, with our Symphony musicians – including Concertmaster, Daisuke Yamamoto – playing several restored violins brought to Richmond to bring to life music that honors the musicians, people, and stories of the Holocaust.

The Symphony Series grew to double the number of Sunday performances and now those afternoons are as popular as Saturday nights! The stunning artistry and programs are too numerous to mention but without doubt every performance was thrilling. Audiences and subscriptions have surpassed totals from before the 2019/20 season and the trend is continuing upwards. We look forward to next season’s programs engaging even more subscribers through an expanded Pops series; the continuation of showcasing female composers, conductors, and musicians; and more premieres, including the newly-commissioned *MeChicano* by Juan Pablo Contreras through **New Music USA’s Amplifying Voices program**. In October 2022, audiences will also be able to delight in the artistry of a one-night only special concert with legendary cellist, **Yo-Yo Ma**.

An array of performances happened across the region, including expanded chamber performances through Metro Series concerts from Randolph-Macon College to Perkinson Center for the Arts, Hardywood Brewery programs, and performances at St. Christopher’s School and the VMFA. The Symphony also performed in Kilmarnock as part of the Rappahannock Foundation for the Arts’ On Stage season and with the Stage Alive Community Concert Association’s local programming.





The Symphony continued its commitment to connecting artists with audiences and uplifting Virginian voices. Two **artist residencies** brought musicians into the community – first, Norfolk-based cellist Sterling Elliott delivered a week-long residency reaching school children to retirement homes and participated in **#ArtsHuntRVA** – a unique and interactive scavenger hunt experience from our partners at RPAA that explores arts and culture in the Richmond area! The Symphony’s second residency featured violinist Stefan Jackiw, who played pop-up solo concerts at local businesses and taught masterclasses for aspiring violinists. Well-known Richmond trumpeter Rex Richardson premiered two new pieces, one by local composer, Trey Pollard and the orchestra continued to champion the work of Virginian composer Adolphus Hailstork.

A seminal moment in the year was the launch of the **Loving v. Virginia** collaboration with the **Virginia Opera**. This new commission will premiere in 2025 and signals a deeper connection between music and Virginia stories and artists.

This season the Symphony dedicated time to creating a **new strategy** – bringing together musicians, Board members, Foundation Trustees, and staff to collaborate and produce an exciting and ambitious path for the future.



Check out this article by *Opera Wire*
about **Loving v. Virginia**



EDUCATION



Assistant Conductor Daniel Myssyk works with a Youth Orchestra Tuba player during a dress rehearsal. Photo credit: James Loving

Richmond Symphony School of Music (RSSoM)

RSSoM maintained pre-college and adult digital offerings, including our second **Future Music Educators Symposium**, as well as our first **Companion Course** which together, enrolled students from the state. We were also excited that our Youth Orchestra Program resumed in-person instruction and performances – opening up our free concerts to family and friends, and the public! We instituted the inaugural **Honors Program** this past season with eight participants in the first cohort, who expanded their Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra experience by attending concerts and performing in a formal recital. And in an effort to recognize the area’s music educators, we invited them to a concert with free tickets for the first in-person **Teacher Appreciation** event!

Youth Orchestra Program

As the premier orchestral training program of central Virginia, students participate in weekly rehearsals, coachings and masterclasses by Richmond Symphony musicians, as well as chamber music performances and other musical and social activities. Congratulations to the first prize winners of the **Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition** Samantha Flottman, violin and Sungu Flottman, violin – each performed at the final concert of the season to an excited and receptive audience. And this season, not only did the ensembles perform at the Carpenter Theater but at a new venue as well: Collegiate School’s Hershey Center for the Arts. It was a great way to bring students beyond the hall and into the community.



Sungu Flottman
Photo provided by Flottman Family

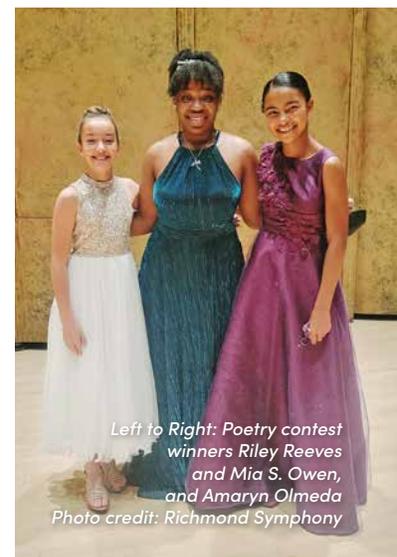
Samantha Flottman
Photo provided by Flottman Family

Musical Ambassadors

Ensembles from the Symphony resumed in-school performances over the course of several weeks at the end of April-beginning of May to the delight of music teachers and students in Henrico and Hanover counties. Additionally, the **RSSoM Digital Library** of instructional performances enhanced and remained available to the region’s public school teachers.

Family Concerts

Our family programming, designed to engage and delight young children also resumed in 2021/22. The January concert, **“Dreams of Freedom”** offered an introduction to the dream and message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., created especially for young listeners. The concert featured the recent winner of the Sphinx Junior Division, dazzling 12-year-old Amaryn Olmeda, as well as the two winners of the “What Does Dr. King’s Legacy Mean To You?” Youth Poetry Contest. Two other shows bookended the season with a fun **“Spooktacular”** Halloween-themed concert, and then finished with **“Peter and the Wolf,”** featuring guest artist Michael Boudewyns who gave a lively and entertaining introduction to the orchestral experience.



Left to Right: Poetry contest winners Riley Reeves and Mia S. Owen, and Amaryn Olmeda
Photo credit: Richmond Symphony



Discovery Concert attendees in 2019.
Photo credit: Ashley Moore

Discovery Concerts & Community Strings

Thanks to generous donations this season, we are very pleased to look ahead to two different programs enhancing music education. **Discovery Concerts** are returning to Carpenter Theatre in fall 2022! These concerts – serving city, county, private and home-schooled students, are created to engage young minds through exciting full-orchestra performances that correlate with Virginia Standards of Learning. Now in development, **Community Strings** is a social impact program from Richmond Symphony School of Music coming in 2023/24. Our aim is to offer high-quality, free-to-low-cost beginner strings education to children in the Richmond metro area. This 5-days-a-week after school program focuses not only on musical training, but also on personal growth and community.

Scan the QR code to visit the Richmond Symphony
School of Music YouTube page!

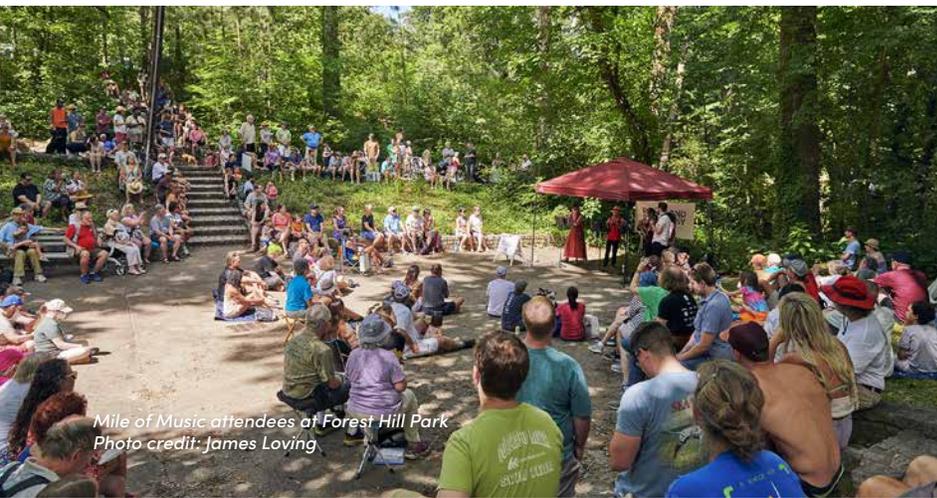


**RICHMOND
SYMPHONY**
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

The Big Tent

The Symphony returned to Chimborazo Park to an audience of **1,500** with A Tribute Concert to Healthcare Workers Memorial Day weekend. This heart-warming, open to all Richmond Symphony performance was a collaboration with the **VCU Health Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Chorus**, as well as **One Voice Chorus**, and was conducted by Music Director Valentina Peleggi. The evening concluded with a side-by-side presentation of the final movement of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, including "Ode to Joy" with all on stage. We thank the audience for supporting us and reflecting on the importance of music to heal and connect us during challenging times.



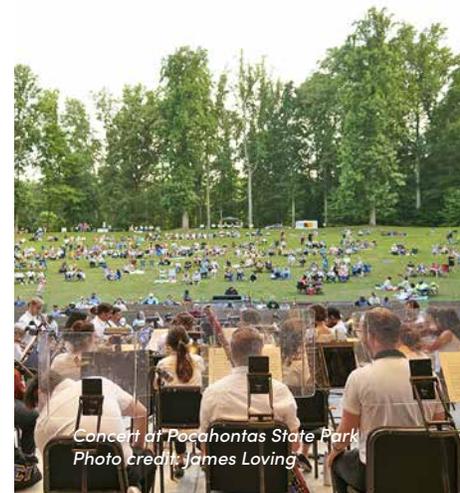
Mile of Music attendees at Forest Hill Park
Photo credit: James Loving

Mile of Music

The **second annual** Mile of Music took place in the City of Richmond's beautiful Forest Hill Park hosting over **1,000 attendees!** This trail-walk concert event features ensembles from different sections of the orchestra in locations around the park – engaging audiences with mini-concerts along a one-mile route.

Concerts in the Community

The Symphony regularly collaborates with counties in the region to share music in public parks and other communal, outdoor spaces. In June, musicians took the stage at **Pocahontas State Park** to open the 2022 Pocahontas Premieres concert series through the organization's relationship with Chesterfield County. Henrico County's **Red, White, and Lights** celebration at Crump Park on July 4th this year featured the Richmond Symphony once again. After a booming performance alongside local group No BS! Brass, the Symphony served as the live soundtrack to a laser show for audiences.



Concert at Pocahontas State Park
Photo credit: James Loving

GALA & SPECIAL EVENTS

The Richmond Symphony was delighted to bring back a host of in-person special events this season! Your support through ticket purchases and more went directly to support the Symphony's artistic, education, and community engagement programs.



Left to Right: Board of Directors Chair, Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, Executive Director, Lacey Huszcza, and Music Director, Valentina Peleggi
Photo credit: James Loving

Festa di Carnevale

February's Annual Gala honored and welcomed Music Director Valentina Peleggi. A night full of cocktails, dancing, and joy, the Festa di Carnevale raised **\$212,668** thanks to your generosity through sponsorships, ticket purchases, and live and silent auctions! Festa di Carnevale continued into the week with a post-Gala VIP party celebrating Martedì Grasso. Held in a secret cocktail bar with bespoke cocktails and delicious food – guests were treated to a New Orleans style micro-concert presented by a trio of Symphony brass musicians: Sam Huss, Principal Trumpet, Erin Lano, Associate Principal French Horn, and Mason Soria, Principal Tuba.

Season Finale After-Party

Following the tremendous finale performance of Beethoven's 9th by the Richmond Symphony and Richmond Symphony Chorus on May 22nd, musicians, and audience members joined together for drinks and delicious local food to share in the magic of ending yet another wonderful, unique season. The Symphony extends its gratitude to Keiter CPAs for sponsoring this event and all who purchased tickets and were able to join us to celebrate!

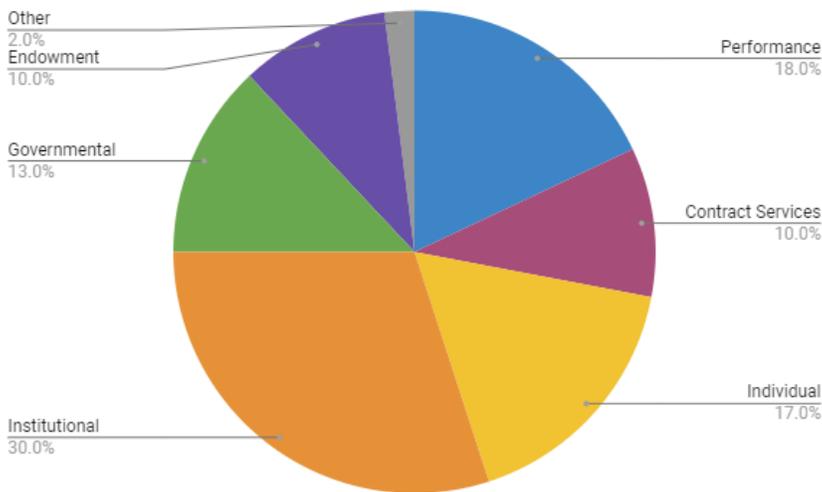


Season Finale Celebration attendees, including Richmond Symphony musicians, enjoyed local beverages and light bites after the Sunday Beethoven's Ninth performance.
Photo credit: James Loving



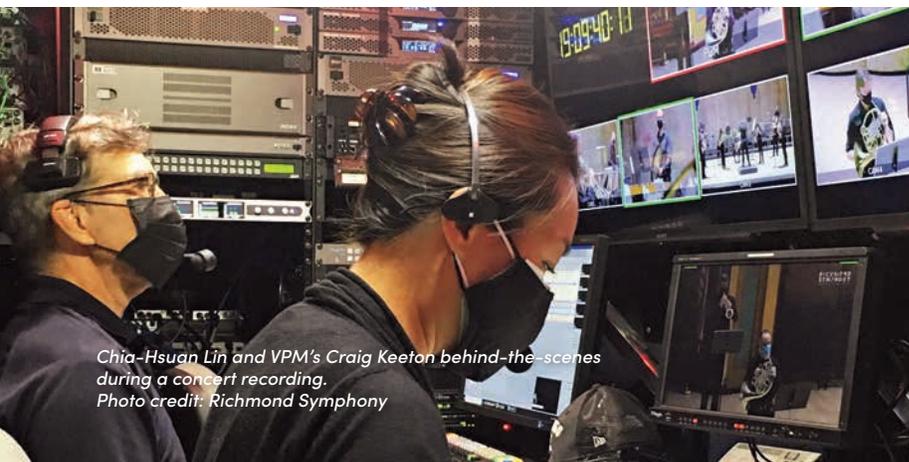
Symphony musicians on stage at the Altria Theater for *Star Wars: The Empire Strike Back*.
Photo credit: James Loving

FINANCIAL REPORT



2021/22 Highlights

1. More than **35,000 audience members** attended concerts and performances
2. Performances ranging from **Midlothian to Kilmarnock** and from **Ashland to Chesterfield**
3. **3,500 households** from Richmond, Brazil, Canada, Italy and as far as South Korea viewed concerts online
4. First-time donors contributed over **\$140,600** to the Annual Fund



Chia-Hsuan Lin and VPM's Craig Keeton behind-the-scenes during a concert recording.
Photo credit: Richmond Symphony

Thank you to the donors who supported the 2021/22 season. View our most recent listing here!





- 5. Ticket sales outsold pre-COVID numbers by **more than 25%**
- 6. **100% of Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra students** successfully re-auditioned at the end of the season
- 7. **New free concerts** at the VMFA and Kingsway Church
- 8. Began a **residency** with local visual artist Matt Lively
- 9. A **new composition** partnership with VCU students using **Artificial Intelligence**
- 10. Joined Oakwood Arts in training students in **film scoring** and **sound design**
- 11. Outdoor concerts attracted over **10,000 attendees**



Artist Matt Lively and Valentina Peleggi at a rehearsal painting session. Photo credit: Richmond Symphony

SOCIAL MEDIA



201,723
people reached



20,616
people reached



46,700
impressions

/richmondsymphony
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MISSION

The Richmond Symphony performs, teaches, and champions music to inspire and unite our communities.

STRATEGY

Create a learning organization.
Advance artistry and innovation.
Work as a community partner.

RICHMOND SYMPHONY

VALENTINA PELEGGI, MUSIC DIRECTOR

For information regarding our 2022/23 season please visit RichmondSymphony.com

