



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Menuhin Competition Richmond 2020 passes  
the \$2M mark in fundraising -  
The 44 international competitors to be announced soon!**

Richmond, Va. (Dec. 20, 2019) — The Menuhin Competition Richmond 2020, the ‘Olympics of the Violin’, is pleased and grateful to announce that fundraising for the project has just surpassed the \$2 million mark in cash and pledges, and is approaching its \$2.5 million goal to cover the costs of hosting the prestigious international event.

“We are thrilled that Richmond 2020 has garnered broad community participation and support. We hope that all the region will embrace the Competition and take part in this international celebration of youth and music as audience members, volunteers, patrons and cheerleaders, for all eleven days next May. We continue to seek ways to involve as many community members as possible, as the eyes of the world will be on the City,” said David Fisk, executive director of the Richmond Symphony.

To date, Richmond 2020 has attracted 60 community partners and funders. The organization of the Competition is being led by the Richmond Symphony with co-hosts University of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University and VPM PBS and NPR, in partnership with the City of Richmond. In this season of thanks, the hosts would like to appreciate and recognize the individuals and organizations who have extended their support for the project to date (see complete list below).

For more information on how you or your school or organization can get involved or contribute, please contact Miriam Fogel, project manager, Menuhin Competition Richmond 2020 at (804) 788-4717 x 123 or [mfogel@richmondsymphony.com](mailto:mfogel@richmondsymphony.com)

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**On January 22, 2020, Richmond 2020 will announce the names and nationalities of the 44 young competitors coming to Richmond to compete, selected from the record number of 321 applicants from 32 countries and five continents, as well as the full list of competition and community events.**

To reserve your free seats for the preliminary rounds of the competition and to purchase tickets for the main events, please visit: <https://2020.menuhincompetition.org/program-tickets>

### **List of Partners, Funders and In-Kind Contributors *as of 12/19/2019***

#### **Co-Hosts**

City of Richmond  
Richmond Symphony  
University of Richmond  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
VPM PBS and NPR

#### **Civic & Community Partners**

Asian American Society of Central Virginia  
The Byrd Theatre  
ChamberRVA  
Chesterfield County Public Schools  
CultureWorks  
The Graduate Richmond  
Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU  
The Jefferson Hotel  
Quirk Hotel  
Richmond Jazz Society  
Richmond Region Tourism  
VCU School of Business  
Venture Richmond  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Virginia Museum of History and Culture  
Virginia Repertory Theatre  
Virginia Union University  
The Woman's Club at the Bolling Haxall House

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**Corporate Sponsors**

Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU / VCU Health  
Covington Travel  
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Richmond Area Rotary Clubs  
Richmond Association of REALTORS  
Weinstein Properties  
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**Foundations**

Nicholae Bretan Music Foundation  
E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation  
Community Foundation for a greater Richmond  
The Henri Moerel Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
The R.E.B. Foundation  
Richard S. Reynolds Foundation  
The Robins Foundation  
Virginia H. Spratley Charitable Fund

**Individuals**

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis M. Dunkum  
Mrs. Margaret Freeman  
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hartough  
Dr. Eugene W. and Mrs. Katharine Pauley Hickok  
Ms. Sheila Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Kuhn  
Dr. and Mrs. John R. Nelson  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Pauley  
Mr. Robert E. Rigsby  
Mr. Rick Sample and Ms. Celia Rafalko  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Shutterly  
Mr. Robert Smith  
Ruth & Richard Szucs  
Fred and Roddy Tattersall  
Mr. and Mrs. Hays T. Watkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Webber

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Often hailed as 'The Olympics of the Violin', the Menuhin Competition and festival has established itself as the world's leading international competition for young violinists. For more than three decades the Competition has established a reputation for fairness and integrity, with each new Competition year accepting hundreds of applicants for 44 coveted spots. Founded in 1983, the Menuhin Competition has served countless aspiring concert violinists as a major catalyst for initiating the trajectory from the very early days of their international solo and orchestral careers into household names. On April 22, 2018, Richmond was announced as the host city for the 2020 Competition.

Named after the famed violinist and conductor Yehudi Menuhin, the eleven-day festival attracts the greatest young violinists under the age of 22 from around the world to compete through recitals, chamber concerts and showcase performances with the Richmond Symphony. Competitors are judged by a jury of some of the world's most celebrated musicians who also perform in recitals and other concerts throughout the festival.

The Competition will take place May 14 - 24, 2020 in venues throughout the city including the Modlin Center for the Arts at University of Richmond, the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts at VCU and in the Carpenter Theatre at the Dominion Energy Center. Throughout the Competition 44 of the best young violinists in the world will compete for top awards in performances ranging from solo recitals to concerts with chamber groups and full orchestra. While the Richmond Symphony will be the primary accompanying orchestra for the festival, the Sphinx Virtuosi ensemble - made up exclusively of 18 of the nation's top Black and Latinx classical musicians - will also participate in accompanying the Junior Finals and in performances and workshops with local public schools.

In addition to the vast international exposure and unique cultural and learning experience of participating in the most coveted competition offered to young violinists, contestants are offered a variety of invaluable opportunities during the eleven-day

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event. They have the chance to interact with fellow competitors as well as the distinguished roster of judges, each of whom lead masterclasses and offer feedback to the violinists regardless of their advancement in the Competition.

### **About the Menuhin Competition Trust:**

The Menuhin Competition is the world's leading international competition for young violinists, held every two years in a different city (most recently in Geneva in 2018, London in 2016, Austin, Texas in 2014, Beijing in 2012 and Oslo in 2010). Founded by Yehudi Menuhin in 1983 the Competition attracts hundreds of entries from over 40 countries, choosing only 44 of the world's very best young violinists to participate. The Competition discovers, encourages and nurtures exceptionally talented young musicians from all corners of the globe under the age of 22 to develop into the next generation of great artists.

As one of Yehudi Menuhin's most valuable legacies, the Competition continues to uphold his status as a cultural ambassador and true world citizen by creating an exceptional family atmosphere of learning and exchange. Collaborative in its spirit, the focus is placed on participation and learning rather than winning the 1st Prize.

Creating a stimulating environment in which talented young violinists may learn and grow has always been and will remain at the heart of the Menuhin Competition. This is not limited to the Competition period and the Menuhin Competition Trust strives to provide prizewinners with a variety of performance opportunities to develop their musical careers.

### **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

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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.

### **About our Co-Hosts:**

City of Richmond: <http://www.richmondgov.com/>

University of Richmond: <https://www.richmond.edu/>

Virginia Commonwealth University: <https://www.vcu.edu/>

VPM PBS and NPR: <https://vpm.org>

#MenuhinCompetition #Richmond2020

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