



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - ANNOUNCEMENT

Richmond Symphony announces a season of innovation starting this Fall, with hybrid in-person and live-streamed concerts complemented by open-air family-friendly performances.

Richmond, Va. (July 23, 2020) — The Richmond Symphony announces today innovative and adaptive plans to enable its musicians and audiences to safely enjoy live concerts together again in the Fall 2020, with increased diversity to its programming and presentations.

Through its current Summer Recital Series in July and August, the Richmond Symphony has been successfully practising socially distanced performances to a sold-out live audience in the Dominion Energy Center with the alternative option provided for patrons at home of participating via livestream. Excellent audio and video quality, added online content, and the option to re-watch has greatly enhanced the digital experience for its listeners. Hundreds of new subscribers have signed up for the online option, far more than the Symphony anticipated; and the experiment is attracting widespread attention from performing arts groups across the nation and overseas. The Fall season's adapted programming will now include affordable digital subscriptions for main stage concerts as well as safely spaced in-person seating.

The Richmond Symphony will also be launching a new digital music school for the region's school systems, home-schooled families, college students and adult learners, as part of the organization's pivot to online service provision. The pilot phase will be unveiled on July 29, with a full launch in September. The vision is that this online school will ultimately develop into a bricks-and-mortar community music school - one of a handful in the USA providing online and in-person music training for all instruments and all levels.

Programmatically the season includes a greater number of diverse artists and composers, and marks the beginning of the Symphony's involvement in New Music USA's *Amplifying Voices* partnership. *Amplifying Voices* seeks to increase support and promotion of composers of color, bringing them to the table in artistic planning at major national orchestras, and ensuring orchestras' engagement with new repertoire, past and present. The Symphony will perform new works this season from five of today's most exciting composers, two of which appear in the Fall: *Banner* by Jessie Montgomery and *Jazzalogue* by Joseph Turrin.

The Season opens with two open-air concerts, the first being a one-day Big Tent Festival at Maymont on Saturday September 12, supported by the City of Richmond. This will be the first time the orchestra has played together since the pandemic hit. Music Director Valentina Peleggi will open her first season with a program theme of *African American Voices*, recognizing the perspectives of the Black employees of the Dooley family who originally lived at Maymont,

which is represented through the new Below Stairs exhibit at the Dooley Mansion. This program will resonate with all those looking to come together for community and unity. Proceeds from this event support the purchase of musical instruments for elementary and middle school students in Richmond Public Schools' 5th District. The second concert will be held at Pocahontas State Park, sponsored by Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department, on Saturday, September 26 at 7pm.

Blazing the trail for the theatrical experience are the Masterworks series concerts for September, October and November. Music Director Valentina Peleggi and the Symphony's artistic team have reinvented the programs to allow for sufficient distancing between players on stage, without sacrificing guest artists or key themes and composers, on the assumption that live orchestral performances remain permitted and are possible under evolving CDC, State and City directives.

Key elements will be:

- The capacity of the Carpenter Theatre at the Dominion Energy Center will be reduced from 1,800 to fewer than 400 attendees to allow 6 feet + of distance between seats.
- Stringent health and safety protocols will be followed to ensure the safety and comfort of in-person attendees, with mask-wearing and temperature checks required, following best practice venue procedures developed at a national level.
- To meet the demand for in-person seating for subscribers and single ticket buyers, additional performances on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon will be added.
- For the added comfort of those who prefer a shorter concert, Friday evening performances will be less than 80 minutes, presented without intermission.
- Saturday evening Masterworks concerts will be live-streamed.

"Our 2020-21 season is an inspired tribute to Richmond's spirit of resilience, hope and connection as we navigate these unprecedented times. Now more than ever music has the power to heal, to inspire and to connect all of us. We are excited to bring music on stage once again and have risen to the challenge of reimagining the program to make the live experience meaningful and enjoyable while as safe as possible. We are excited to be offering live events and livestream experiences to connect us together in these isolating times and hope you will be surprised and delighted by the program as it unfolds." *Valentina Peleggi, Music Director*

Fall Season Listing Information

On sale dates:

- **Livestream** tickets will be on sale Monday August 10 from 10am
- **In person tickets** will be on sale from Monday August 31 from 10am

SEPTEMBER

Community - Maymont Big Tent Community Festival

About: The Richmond Symphony collaborates with government and civic organizations to present community festivals under the Big Tent that will make a significant impact on participating neighborhoods by combining the power of music with community investment.

<https://www.richmondsymphony.com/community/forest-hill-big-tent-community-festival-2/>

Conductor: Valentina Peleggi

Booking Info: Free but pre-registration is required with a limited number of walk-up tickets. Patrons are seated with their pod/family unit within painted areas in the grass with 6' spacing between pods.

Date / Time / Price: Saturday September 12 from 2pm to 7.30pm. Free.

Venue: Maymont Park, Hampton Gate entrance

Community - Pocahontas State Park Americana Festival Concert

About: Commonwealth Bluegrass Band with the Richmond Symphony and Chia-Hsuan Lin, the Symphony's Associate Conductor.

Booking Info: Free but spaces are limited

Date / Time / Price: Saturday, September 26 at 7pm. Free

Venue: Pocahontas State Park

Classics - A Century of American Sound

About: *Showcasing musical contributions that helped define American classical music. Aaron Diehl, known for classical and jazz piano, will perform Gershwin, alongside works by Copland; award winning composer Joseph Turrin; Adolphus Hailstork, a groundbreaking Virginian composer and Old Dominion University professor; and acclaimed Leonard Bernstein Award recipient Jessie Montgomery.*

Program: includes works by Hailstork, Turrin, Gershwin, Montgomery and Copland

Conductor: George Manahan

Guest Artist: Aaron Diehl, piano



(c)Maria Jarzyna*

Booking Info

Livestream Date / Time / Price: Saturday September 19 at 8pm. \$20 (+ booking fees) or \$55 for 3 Classics Masterworks concert subscription (no fees) Group screenings \$200 or \$550 for all three.

In person Date / Time / Price: Friday September 18 at 7pm, Saturday September 19 at 8pm, Sunday September 20 at 3pm. \$28 - \$82 (+ booking fees)

Venue: Carpenter Theater

OCTOBER

Classics - Hymn to a New Beginning

About: A mainly strings program, inspired by the purity of Mozart's music. Acclaimed violinist Melissa White will perform with Music Director Valentina Peleggi the beautiful Violin Concerto No. 5 in A major, K. 219, "Turkish", along with Vaughan Williams' dreamy Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis.

Program: includes works by Mozart, V. Williams.

Conductor: Valentina Peleggi

Guest Artist: Melissa White, violin

Booking Info

Livestream Date / Time / Price: Saturday October 17 at 8pm. \$20 (+ booking fees) or \$55 for 3 Classics Masterworks concert subscription (no fees) Group screenings \$200 or \$550 for all three.

In person Date / Time / Price: Friday October 16 at 7pm, Saturday October 17 at 8pm, Sunday October 18 at 3pm. \$28 - \$82 (+ booking fees)

Venue: Carpenter Theater

NOVEMBER

Classics - Metamorphosen

Program: includes works by Strauss, Wagner and Schubert

Conductor: Valentina Peleggi

Booking Info

Livestream Date / Time / Price: Saturday November 14 at 8pm. \$20 (+ booking fees) or \$55 for 3 Classics Masterworks concert subscription (no fees) Group screenings \$200 or \$550 for all three.

In person Date / Time / Price: Friday November 13 at 7pm, Saturday November 14 at 8pm, Sunday November 15 at 3pm. \$28 - \$82 (+ booking fees)

Venue: Carpenter Theater

ADDITIONAL CONCERTS

We will be announcing, in more detail, our October, November and holiday concerts in September. This will include in our Classics, Currents and Community programs, our Pops and LolliPops, Metro and Rush Hour, and newly curated chamber concerts. Please note all concert programs are subject to change, especially in light of these extraordinary circumstances.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In person subscription packages have now been modified to include the livestream versions for free, so subscribers can enjoy the concerts at home. Digital only subscriptions to the Classics (Masterworks) in the Fall are also available. We are very pleased to be offering an option for those wishing to screen to a larger group audience (such as a retirement community, hospital ward, community center or school). As long as the screening is free to the public we are charging a fixed fee of \$200 per concert or \$550 for three.

To renew a subscription, become a new subscriber or enquire about group screening sales, call Patron Services on 804-788-1212 or email patronservices@richmondsymphony.com.

SPONSORS

The Richmond Symphony gratefully acknowledges the support of the following season sponsors: Altria, presenting sponsor of the Livestream Masterworks 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 the City of Richmond and the Counties of Hanover and Henrico.

*Interviews available with Richmond Symphony Music Director Valentina Peleggi

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Frances Sterling, Director of Advancement and Patron Communications
fsterling@richmondsymphony.com
804 508 2369

Carrie Thornbrugh, Marketing and Public Relations Manager
cthornbrugh@richmondsymphony.com