

RICHMOND SYMPHONY

Artistic Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Location: Via Zoom

Date & Time: Tuesday, Jan 25, 2022 @ 4:30PM

Attendees: Lacey Huszcza, Roger Neathawk, Juan Pablo Contreras, Ellen Cockerham Riccio, Zoe Thomas, Jen Arnold, Ismar Gomes, Valentina Peleggi, Mary Boodell, Patrick Murtaugh, Gary Flowers (chair), Elizabeth Cabell Jennings (RS Board President), Kamran Raika, Juan Pablo Contreras

Regrets: Devin Gossett, Sam Huss, John Braymer, Priscilla Burbank, Lynette Wardle, Alana Carithers

Agenda Items:

I. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- A quorum was not present.

II. Review of minutes

- The minutes were not reviewed.

III. 22/23 Season Overview (Valentina Peleggi)

- Valentina Peleggi offered a “sneak peek” with highlights from the upcoming season; full season announcement will happen at the Board Meeting.
- 22-23 Has a mix of works by living composers (including two exciting commissions), works that are fan-favorites from well-known repertoire, and wonderful lesser-known pieces that provide variety in programming and arc to the season. Balancing artistic growth and connection for the orchestra, excitement for the audience, and powerful programming that tells a story.
- We again have a great set of guest artists joining the season, including Maria Dueñas (Menuhin senior first prize winner). We will also be joined by two guest conductors during the season.
- The Chorus is featured prominently on two programs – and one of these programs include significant work as well as one of our two commissions for the season. Chorus
- Discussion ensued:
 - *Question:* Are we meeting our DEI goals with this season

programming? *Answer:* we don't have specific DEI goals but we have made thoughtful choices to highlight people of diverse backgrounds on each program and throughout the season. We have a combination of living composers, black composers, guests artists of color, female representation etc.

- *Question:* how do we envision communicating the diversity of this season with the community? *Answer:* Each program has a story that guided us through the choices we made in terms of artists and pieces and there is an arc to the season. As we start to announce the season, the press will want to focus on the things that are unique and exciting about our programming. We can use press releases, program book stories, and social media to share about lesser-known composers.
- Gary Flowers added that his radio and Facebook TV platforms are available for use to promote the upcoming season and guest artists.
- Musicians commented:
 - Thrilled about the season, especially the living composers and commissions. Performers are looking to play something new and explore new ideas.
 - We always want to seek to do better in terms of DEI, but also good to note that we are doing a lot of good things with newer composers.

IV. New Business

- *Question:* what's happening with Metro next season? *Answer:* Metro is definitely happening next year. We are working on format and planning – and recognizing that consideration of performance venue is

V. Meeting Adjourned