

# RICHMOND SYMPHONY

---

## Artistic Advisory Committee

### Meeting Notes

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Date & Time:** Monday, Nov 8, 2021 @ 4:30PM

**Attendees:** Lacey Huszcza, Roger Neathawk, Pete Mathis, Juan Pablo Contreras, Sam Huss, Ellen Cockerham Riccio, Zoe Thomas, Jen Arnold, Ismar Gomes, Valentina Peleggi, Mary Boodell, Lynette Wardle, Gary Flowers (chair)

**Regrets:** John Braymer, Devin Gossett, Priscilla Burbank, Elizabeth Cabell Jennings, Patrick Murtaugh, Kamran Raika, Alana Carithers, Ismar Gomes

---

## Agenda Items:

### I. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

### II. Review of Artist Residency

- The Symphony had the first of its two guest artist residencies in October. Sterling Elliott spent the week with the Symphony and participated in a variety of programs and conversations.
  - Educational connections included: VSU presentation with Naima Burrs, violin faculty for students at VSU' and a Masterclass with three Richmond Symphony youth orchestra students
  - Media participation included three Radio interviews; participation in the social media event ArtsHunt, spearheaded by RPAA; two Social media interviews (2). Overall, during this engagement, Facebook and Instagram net followers increased by 383%, engagement increased by 40%.
  - Musicians appreciate knowing about artist residency but wish they knew about the artist in residence schedule earlier and in more detail. This is a great note, and we will pursue ways of sharing more information.
- During January, we will hold our second guest artist in residence, and during that time we will also have visitors from the [Global Leaders Program](#).
  - Richmond Symphony will host two Global Leaders to participate in field-work, shadowing Stefan Jackiw, our January Artist-In-Residence. During their visit, they will meet with Valentina, Richmond Symphony Leadership, and

Stefan. And they will deliver a report and recommendation on artist residency work for future planning purposes.

- Our two Global Leaders will be: Mauricio Pena and Adrian Najera-Coto

### **III. Introduction of Juan Pablo Contreras**

- The committee welcomed composer Juan Pablo Contreras to the conversation. Juan Pablo is the composer of one of our two commissions during the 23-24 season, and as part of his commission is also participating in the symphony more broadly. This commission is part of the New Music USA Program, Amplifying Voices. This long-term program aims to increase the support and promotion of under-represented composers, create space for their contributions to artistic-planning at major national orchestras, and make major strides toward transforming the classical canon for future generations. As part of this program, Juan Pablo joins the Symphony for artistic discussions, and will also be physically in Richmond twice during the compositional process and premiere of the work.
- The committee discussed with Juan Pablo ways of including composers more broadly in conversations and activities, so that they are seen as living creators. It is a wonderful way of connecting musicians to the composers, as well as connecting audiences to the music being performed in a more personal capacity.
- [New Music USA Amplifying Voices](#)

### **IV. Season Overview of Works By Living Composers**

- Jen Arnold walked through the current season with an overview of living composers being presented in 21-22, and the connections of those composers to the city of Richmond and the story of the music we present to the community.

### **V. Commissioning Club**

- The committee discussed the possibility of starting a commissioning club to galvanize supporters around new music and create relationships with composers. Lacey shared a program she experienced in Los Angeles, where each year the orchestra commissioned a new work, and participants, called investors, joined in the experience through membership. Membership included participation in conversations throughout the commissioning process, and at the premiere. The result was strong both financially and socially. Juan Pablo also shared his experience as one of the Sound Investment composers.
- [Sound Investment](#)
- This kind of club would also help deepen the commitment to multi-year commissioning.

- The committee agreed it was something to consider and possibly plan for in the years ahead.

## **V. New Business**

- Next meeting: Jan 25, 2022, 4:30PM