



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Richmond Symphony Welcomes Second Music Director Candidate, Ankush Kumar Bahl

Richmond, Va. (Dec. 19, 2019)—The Richmond Symphony kicks off 2020 by hosting its second **Music Director Candidate, Ankush Kumar Bahl**. The Indian-American conductor will lead a number of Symphony concerts and pre-concert talks in the community, including:

- Altria Masterworks concert on **Sat., Jan. 11 at 8 p.m.** at Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre, with Anthony McGill, clarinet; pre-concert talk with Bahl at **7 p.m.**
- Community concert on **Sun., Jan. 12 at 3 p.m.** at Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Glen Allen with Anthony McGill, clarinet
- Pops: Journey into the Cosmos concert on **Sat., Jan. 18 at 8 p.m.** at Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre

Bahl is a protégé of former New York Philharmonic Music Director Kurt Masur and served as his assistant conductor of the Orchestre National de France, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. He has also served as assistant conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra under Christoph Eschenbach and has guest-conducted some of the world's most prestigious orchestras and festivals, including most recently the New York Philharmonic.

Bahl is the second of five music director candidates leading the Symphony in the 2019-20 season and auditioning to follow former Music Director Steven Smith, who stepped down from the position at the end of last season. The other candidates are Laura Jackson, Valentina Peleggi, Farkhad Khudiyev, and Roderick Cox, who led the Symphony in multiple concerts last October.

The Richmond Symphony search committee, comprised of symphony musicians and board members, received more than 200 applications before selecting the final five candidates. The committee is considering various criteria for each candidate, including musicianship and commitment to the community, but mutual chemistry between the audience and the orchestra will be paramount, according to David Fisk, executive director of the Richmond Symphony. The announcement of the new music director is expected in May 2020.

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**Interview opportunities with Ankush Kumar Bahl are available, and all events are open to the media.**

For more information about Ankush Kumar Bahl, please visit: [www.ankushbahl.com](http://www.ankushbahl.com)

For more information about Anthony McGill, please visit: [www.anthonymcgill.com/](http://www.anthonymcgill.com/)

**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 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. Visit [www.richmondsymphony.com](http://www.richmondsymphony.com) for more information.

**Full concert listings:**

<https://www.richmondsymphony.com/calendar/>

**Sat., Jan. 11, 2020, at 8 p.m.**  
**Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre**  
(600 E. Grace St., Richmond)

**Altria Masterworks**

Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor and music director candidate  
Anthony McGill, Clarinet

John Adams: "The Chairman Dances: Foxtrot for Orchestra"  
Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622  
Bruckner: Symphony No. 7 in E Major

**Sun., Jan. 12, 2020 at 3 p.m.**  
**Mount Vernon Baptist Church**  
(11220 Nuckols Rd., Glen Allen, Va.)

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## **Community Concert**

Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor and music director candidate  
Anthony McGill, Clarinet

John Adams: "The Chairman Dances: Foxtrot for Orchestra"  
Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A Major, K. 622  
Bruckner: Symphony No. 7 in E Major

**Sat., Jan 18, 2020 at 8 p.m.**  
**Dominion Energy Center, Carpenter Theatre**  
(600 E. Grace St., Richmond)

## **Pops Series: Journey Into the Cosmos**

Ankush Kumar Bahl, conductor and music director candidate

The orchestra will perform music from Holst, John Williams, and many others as it explores outer space and celebrates NASA's six-decade journey to connect humanity to the cosmos.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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